

Dame Alice Owen's School newsletter



Letter from the Head

Hannah Nemko

Dear All,

We have come a long way since the end of the Autumn term 2020 where we were ripped away from school and thrown back into lockdown days before our scheduled break up. Although we have missed some of our end-of-term-favourites again this year and have

faced a ramping up of restrictions just as we were doing our best to feel festive, we have much that we have been able to enjoy and celebrate together this half term. There has been the senior play, a packed calendar of concerts and a host of competitions and visits as you will be able to read about on the pages that follow.

The end of term often brings a few sad goodbyes and this year is no exception. Mr Dodd has been with us since 2007 and has brought smiles (and acronyms) to all those he has taught. We wish him all the very best on his retirement.

The school's very worst kept secret of the moment is Dr Mitchell's intended retirement at the end of this academic year. We recently advertised for his replacement and were delighted to be able to appoint Mrs Blackburn, currently a member of the Senior Leadership Team at St Alban's Girls' School, as his successor. Mrs Blackburn will be joining us in April.

Thank you to all of you who participated in our uniform consultation. There was overwhelming support, from all stakeholders, for a more fluid approach to uniform. We will write in full about this in good time before the start of the new school year but in essence, from September, all students will be allowed to choose between a skirt or straight legged, black, school trousers; a shirt and tie or open necked blouse. Students in Years 7-11 will also be expected to wear a red jumper, blazer or both. For environmental and financial reasons, no uniform will need to be changed or amended until a student has grown out of their last piece.

An enormous thank you also goes to the OSA and all those who have supported its events over the last year. As you will be able to see in this newsletter, the committee's hard work and your support meant that we were delighted to receive a cheque for over £36,000 from the OSA which is just incredible! We have been



Issue highlights...

Owen's artists selected for competition [page 5](#)



Musicians perform in front of live audience [page 9](#)



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



able to buy an enormous number of resources and pieces of equipment to support curricular as well as co-curricular opportunities. Without these funds, we would not have been able to afford to buy any of them so a huge thank you to all.

As we now move into the Christmas holiday, I would like to thank those of you who have taken the time to share kind words with us over this difficult term, they have meant a lot and have really kept us going at times!

We are continuing to do all we can to slow the spread of the virus on campus and we appreciate your support in ensuring that your young person carries out a lateral flow test twice a week, ideally Monday and Wednesday mornings, during term time and certainly before leaving for school after the winter break. Term will recommence on Wednesday January 5th 2022 where all students will be asked to take a lateral flow test before lessons.

Wishing you a restful break, a happy Christmas and a healthy 2022.

Hannah Nemko

SCHOOL DATE CHANGE

The Government's contingency plan for public examinations relies on various school assessments being sat by Year 11 and 13 students throughout the academic year. The first round of assessments will be taking place after the Christmas holiday. In order to allow staff the time required to complete the additional moderation necessary, the Governing Body has agreed that the afternoon of **Friday 21st January** may be used to support this work. As such, the **school will close to students at 12:35pm on this date**. More information regarding buses will follow in the new term.

PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH

It is becoming increasingly well known that our mental health is as important to our wellbeing as our physical health. Being mentally healthy is more than just the absence of illness, rather it is a state of overall wellbeing. Our goals at Dame Alice Owen's School are to educate and to increase awareness of healthy, positive strategies such as the [5 ways to wellbeing](#) (see below) and our robust Learning for Life programme that support good mental health, along with signposting and practical sessions to help our community when they may be struggling.

Our recent experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic have highlighted and magnified some mental health issues for our whole community, both inside and outside of school.

Mrs K Wheatley is the Senior Mental Health Lead, supported by Mrs J Van Thal, Miss C Surry and Mrs T Jackson, and we are pleased to welcome Miss Hannah Duncan who is an Educational Mental Health practitioner trainee. As a team we are committed to securing the best outcomes for all of our young people by building an ethos of positive mental health. As a school we already have extensive links with mental health professionals, for example CAMHS as well as other external agencies in order to provide holistic support for our young people. If you wish to contact our team, please email JacksonT@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk. For urgent concerns outside of school hours, please contact 111.

If you want to know more about supporting your child's wellbeing, please look at the links below.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/>

<https://www.annafreud.org/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/self-help/guides-tools-and-activities/five-steps-to-mental-wellbeing/>



Sixth Formers practise medical school interviews

This year we have 24 Owen's students hoping to embark on medical degrees, and the competition for medical school places is more fierce than ever. We were delighted therefore that Dr Pippa Vincent offered to run lunchtime sessions to help support students with their applications, applying a forensic approach to each medical school's admissions policy and helping the students to choose institutions that best suited their academic profile.

Dr Vincent then rallied other Owen's parents and colleagues from her practice to offer each of the 24 students an interview experience. For medicine, this is often a gruelling three-hour process called an 'MMI' where the candidate goes from station to station being quizzed on everything from medical ethics to their own leadership skills. With so many students taking part, these practice interviews were held over a number of evenings and weekend days, and we are immensely grateful to all the doctors involved who gave so freely of their time to support our students' aim to join their ranks.

We aspire to offer a mock interview for any student who needs one, wherever possible with a professional from the field. We have called upon our alumni and contacts to offer the same for potential lawyers and architects this year, but would love to be able to offer more. If any parents or alumni are interested in giving up *one to two hours a year* to support a student in preparing for a University or apprenticeship interview, we would love to hear from you. No experience of higher education interviews is necessary, just a willingness to talk and quiz about your field of interest.

Please contact the Sixth Form office via furlongl@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk if you would like to know more.

Jeni McClean, Head of Sixth Form

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC STUDENTS ATTEND RALEIGH LECTURE

On November 9th, a group of Year 12 Business and Economics students attended the 'Raleigh Lecture', hosted by the Company of Entrepreneurs in London's Drapers Hall. Two students give their opinion of the event:

"We were able to explore concepts of globalisation and the lecture also explored the significance of political decisions and their influence on the economy. The small group sessions we participated in before the actual event were particularly interesting as we were able to have open conversations with some leading businessmen and entrepreneurs.

"We were also able to socialise with members of other Sixth Forms and hear their opinions on matters being discussed as well as gain new perspectives on our shared subjects. Overall, it was a fun and interesting night and we'd like to thank the Company of Entrepreneurs for inviting us."

Adi Mehta and Siya Shah

Year 12

CAN YOU HELP? VACANCY FOR VOLUNTEER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dame Alice Owen's School is looking for a volunteer editor for its school newsletter. The newsletter is currently published six times a year and the editor's role includes collating and editing information provided by teachers, students and the wider school community, and creating the newsletter in a style and layout of their choice. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact the school at admin@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk

Attitude to Learning house points update

House points – top 10 students

Adam Singer	7Goswell2
Mordecai Sosanya	9Hermitage2
Rahee Doshi	7Goswell1
Vanshika Reddy Tummala	8Isledon1
Artian Kastrati	7Hermitage1
Agapi Mema	7Clerkenwell1
Perla Mettias	8Hermitage1
Shoy Chamadia	7Hermitage1
Emer O'Sullivan	7Clerkenwell1
Eliz Ismail	7Hermitage1

House League Table - overall

Clerkenwell	2,211 pts
Isledon	2,193 pts
Hermitage	2,071 pts
Goswell	2,032 pts

Top 5 Tutor Groups

7Hermitage1	441 pts
7Clerkenwell1	439 pts
7Goswell2	378 pts
7Goswell1	376 pts
7Clerkenwell2	374 pts

House Points by Year

YEAR 7

Clerkenwell	813 pts
Goswell	754 pts
Hermitage	727 pts
Isledon	668 pts

YEAR 8

Isledon	563 pts
Clerkenwell	437 pts
Goswell	429 pts
Hermitage	390 pts

YEAR 9

Hermitage	481 pts
Goswell	463 pts
Clerkenwell	443 pts
Isledon	428 pts

YEAR 10

Clerkenwell	348 pts
Isledon	306 pts
Hermitage	266 pts
Goswell	227 pts



YEAR 11

Isledon	228 pts
Hermitage	207 pts
Clerkenwell	170 pts
Goswell	159 pts

YEAR 7 D&T INTERGALACTIC ATHLETE COMPETITION

Well done to all the students who entered the Saturday Club competition which tasked Year 7s to design and create an intergalactic athlete, who may be taking part in sports activities in outer space. Congratulations to Alex Brady whose 3D model (right) won first place. Runners up prizes were awarded to Bryan Xu, Adam Singer, Junaid Issa and Nova Eshun – and D&T awards were presented to:



Harvey Theodoro	Dhruv Vaghela	James Wilson	Murat Erdgen	Mia Nemko
Anaya Pattni	Kavita Runpuria	Joshua Thomas	Nicole Christou	Ria Nuckchedee
Agapi Mema	Yashvini Prabakaran	Eloise Nash	Haruna Starling	
Cailen Patel	Zeinab Abdellatif	Sienna Johal	Reubem Kotey	

NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

Owen's art students selected for National Dryad Competition

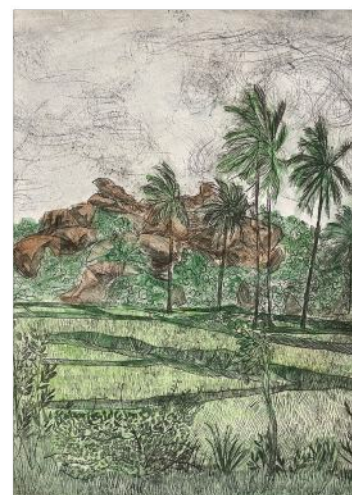
The Art Department were delighted to hear that the work of three of our students, Alice Banks, Nikki Bhat and Nicole Di, was successfully selected as part of the National Dryad Catalogue Competition.

The annual competition, which receives hundreds of entries from students across the UK, gives young artists the opportunity to display their work in public through the Dryad online gallery and specialist catalogue.

Congratulations go to all three students on their well-deserved achievement.



Above: *Dimensional Coffee Break* by Nicole Di; Top right: *Night-time Owl* by Alice Banks; Right: *Rural Space 2* by Nikki Bhat



A-Level arts students enjoy life drawing trip to London

The Art Department were delighted to once again be able to offer a life drawing trip to our A-Level students. So on Friday 26th November, we visited the sky loft at [Candid Arts](#), Angel, London. For some of the students it was their first time drawing from a model.

"We all thoroughly enjoyed our life drawing session at Candid Arts, and learnt so much. For starters the studio was the perfect setting, and everyone was made to feel comfortable and relaxed from the beginning.

I personally found the

experience very rewarding, as we managed to produce such a large body of work in a relatively short period of time.

"The tutor was also a massive help, as in my previous experiences of life drawing I've been completely left to my own devices, and having someone there to help not just with technique and proportion but to help turn my drawings into actual art pieces was very useful. I could feel my drawing skills improving with each drawing, and I am so grateful to have been able to enjoy this experience."

Claudio, Year 12

"I found that my life drawing was an altogether amazing experience. It is an activity that requires a lot of concentration and focus but without any





pressure so having an empty mind and focusing on the model and the paper. It really showed me that I don't need to keep my artwork so small and neat and that by going big and free you are able to capture the shape and mood of the model. Overall, I would definitely recommend anyone to try it as it's a great experience." *Olivia, year 12*

"Having never attended a life drawing class I was initially unsure about how difficult it would be considering the short amount of time we were given per drawing and drawing from a live model, but I found instead that this really allowed me to bring more freedom and fluidity into my work. As the session progressed I think we all grew in confidence and ended up really enjoying the session.

The feedback from the tutor was extremely helpful in gauging the figure and perspective as well as trying out new techniques. I feel a lot more confident in my drawing skills and will definitely be going to do more!" *Jess & Maddie, Year 13*



WHATEVER BECAME OF THE DAME ALICE OWEN'S TRAIN?

It may not be as famous as *The Flying Scotsman* or *The Orient Express*, but many pupils may be unaware that our school also has a train: *The Dame Alice Owen's*. It was unveiled on 11th November 2013 by First Capital Connect to commemorate the school's 400th anniversary and sported a shiny plaque that read: "Dame Alice Owen's School 400 years of learning." Our then-head teacher, the late Dr Alan Davison, called it "a momentous occasion... that recognises the success of our school!"



The four-carriage, class-321 train, which ran between London Kings Cross and Peterborough, carried pupils between Finsbury Park and Potters Bar. The following year, Great Northern rail took over the franchise but only changed the livery and logo. Then, in 2017, our beloved school train disappeared.

Four years later, while I was observing test trains at Stratford station, an ageing '321' operated by Greater Anglia pulled up in front of me. On its side was the Dame Alice plaque. (Was the school chasing me for late homework?) Instead of bringing Islington pupils to Potters Bar, it was now taking commuters from Southend to Liverpool Street station! But why?

Great Northern had modernised its fleet, returning its ageing 321s to their owner, Eversholt Rail, which then re-leased some of them, including our train, to Greater Anglia. The Anglian company was also upgrading its trains and needed a temporary fix until its new fleet arrived. If it wasn't for this need, "The Dame Alice train might well have been scrapped back in 2017," says Jonathan Denby, Greater Anglia's Head of Corporate Affairs.

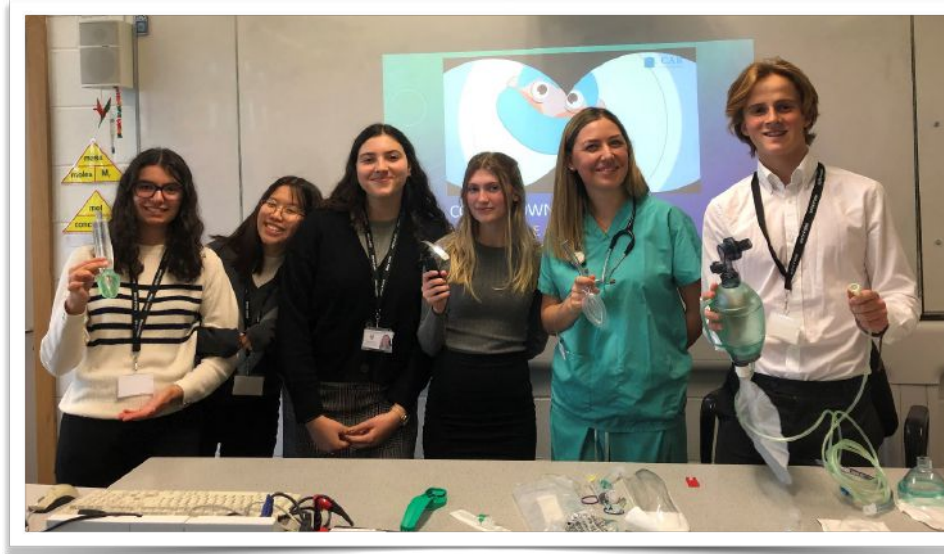
Sadly, *The Dame Alice Owen's* days are now numbered. It will return to Eversholt Rail by Christmas to be scrapped, converted for freight, or used to help test new hydrogen trains. It may pass Potters Bar on its final rail journey.

David Lewis

NEWS FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

A welcome return to lunchtime Science Lectures

This term, Dame Alice Owen's hosted a series of lunchtime Science Lectures provided by alumni and DAOS parents. These included the following: *Growth Disorders*; *Kidney Disease Transplantation*; *How to become an anaesthetist*; *Energy Sources and Energy in London Now* and *Cancer: Causes and Cures*.



For the aspiring medics amongst us, Dr. Wood-Gismera's lecture on *How to become an anaesthetist* was of particular interest. She provided us with a valuable insight into the life of

a registrar anaesthetist and detailed her journey from A-Levels (at Owen's) through to medical school and beyond. It was a good opportunity to ask questions and learn about the realities of practising medicine, as well as hearing about the process of applying to medical school. For many of us, it was eye-opening to learn more about the role of the anaesthetist across the various departments of a hospital and there was an opportunity to look at various pieces of interesting equipment used regularly in anaesthesiology.

A huge thank you to all the speakers for giving up their time to come into school to deliver the interesting talks and to Miss Papalouca for organising these great opportunities to learn and hear about potential career paths for all of us science-lovers!

Lila Harman, Year 12

Year 7 Science Club

The Year 7 Science Club takes place every Thursday lunchtime. It is run by the incredible Sixth Formers, with help from fantastic teachers.

We have completed a number of fun and educational activities this term such as creating DNA models, creating a rainbow with different chemicals and using the Bunsen burner to turn flames and coins different colours!

It has been my absolute favourite club and I strongly recommend coming along to it! Of course, the club couldn't happen without the hard work of the teachers and Sixth Formers, so a round of applause to them! I can't wait to see what we're doing next!

Sofia Weaver, Year 7



NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

GCSE students attend an all-day maths lecture

Year 11 students were given the opportunity of an insight into maths in the real world by attending an all-day lecture, led by various experts across different areas of mathematics.

A total of five speakers spoke at the event including James Grime (one of the creators of the Numberphile YouTube channel), Alex Bellos (author of *Alex's Adventures in Numberland*) and Oxford University mathematics tutor Tom Crawford (who has also appeared on Numberphile).

The first two speakers talked about the application of mathematics in computer science; covering a variety of topics ranging from frequency hopping to error detection and correction when transmitting data.

The next two spoke about solving problems. They spoke about puzzles that had gone viral on the internet, such as would you rather have two 12-inch pizzas or one 18-inch pizza and also problems that rely on misdirection such as Lewis Carol's Pillow Problem.

The final speaker talked about the application of maths in sport. This included statistically calculating the best place to aim when taking a penalty shot in football and also when we would expect to break the two hour barrier officially in marathon running.

Overall, it was a great day. There was something to appeal to everyone who attended the talk, and it was an interactive lecture, despite being restricted to stay at school due to Covid-19.

Rufus Jasko and Anna Safdar
Year 11 students

Maths In Action Program promotes study of maths

On Thursday 18th November, A-Level maths students attended the Maths In Action Program where they learnt about the multiple opportunities that the study and application of mathematics can offer.

“It was a truly insightful experience. From aerospace engineering to game theory, the applications of mathematics were endless.

However, it was not just the applications of maths that interested us but also the fun yet abstract concepts that had no association with the real world.

As a bonus feature to the program, the exam technique talk delivered by Dr James Frost helped us to get a concrete understanding of how to approach both revision and exam questions.

Overall, the day was a huge success with all of our peers and we look forward to similar opportunities in the near future.”

Nikhil Mithani and Srushti Khedekar
Year 12 Further Mathematicians



NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Owen's celebrates return of music performances with live audiences

This half term's music performances kicked off with the **Year 11 GCSE Music Ensembles Concert**.

On Wednesday 10th November there was an excited buzz in the EGH as all 42 of the Year 11 Music students performed their GCSE ensemble pieces, to each other and to an assembled audience of family and friends. The excitement of live performance to a live audience after so long was tangible.

We were treated to a variety of items, such as vocal duets, brass quartets, a wind trio, a cello duet, jazz band, rock band performances as well as Mr Southorn's bespoke jazzy arrangement of Bach's Toccata for saxophone, tenor horn and 2 pianos. With repertoire ranging from Dvorak's String Quintet, to Dire Straits, to Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, to James Brown, Shostakovich and Dave, to mention but a few, the evening really showcased the breadth and depth of the GCSE Music students' talents and musical interests.

In the words of a very long-standing DAOS Visiting Music Teacher, "it was an *excellent* evening of top quality performances" and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

Congratulations to Year 11 GCSE students, and their friends, for giving us such an inspiring set of performances!



Mixed year groups in Orchestral Concert

On Wednesday 1st December, Owen's mixed year-group orchestras filled the EGH stage, for the first time since March 2020, to perform for our assembled friends and family in the **Orchestral Concert**.

First up were the massed ranks of the **Second Orchestra** conducted by Mrs Jo Brady, opening the concert with the Georges Bizet's melodious 'Intermezzo' from *Carmen*.

Their Abba Medley certainly got all our toes tapping and, after so many months, 'Thank-you for the Music' never seemed more pertinent! Following a Christmas wish in *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, they were followed by the **Junior Chamber Strings** conducted by Year 12 student, **Katherine Vincent**, performing, with great aplomb, music by the youthful Felix Mendelssohn, his *Canzonetta*, and Jean-Phillippe Rameau's *Danse des Sauvages*.





The **Senior Strings**, conducted by Mr James Widden, delivered a powerful performance of Michael Tippett's *Concerto for Double String Orchestra* demonstrating that we have, not just one, but two outstanding senior string orchestras at Owen's!

The second half opened with the **Chamber Orchestra**, conducted by Ms Katherine Bamber. They tapped into the range of expression in Mozart's turbulent *sturm und drang* masterpiece, his symphony no. 40, first movement. Following this, the stage was filled again, this time with the **Symphony Orchestra**, conducted by Ms Bamber, performing Tchaikovsky's dramatic depiction of characters and scenes from Shakespeare's play in his Fantasy Overture, *Romeo and Juliet*.

The tumultuous applause for the end of the evening was rewarded with a bit of extra advent cheer: Christmas hats were donned for Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, delivered with big smiles, colourful percussion and a few extra surprises – party poppers!

Our thanks to all our performers, to the ensemble leaders, to Mr Bean for his behind-the-scenes support, to all the Music staff who were central to the organisation of the evening, to Mrs George, the OSA, the caretakers and to our wonderful audience.

Chamber Concert showcases smaller ensembles and soloists

On Wednesday 8th December, the second Chamber Concert of term presented a wealth of music-making from some of our smaller (and some not-so-small) ensembles and soloists.

The **Senior Percussion Ensemble**, directed by Ms Rebecca McChrystal, opened the evening with a thrilling performance on a variety of drums plus cymbals, of a medley of movie marches. Owen's **Cello Ensemble** were up next. Directed by Mrs Laura Dodds, they treated us to the sumptuous sound of 12 cellos in Saint-Saens' *Danse Macabre* and Berlioz' *Shepherd's Farewell*. Following the **Year 7 Drumming Club's** exciting and joyous performance, directed by Ms McChrystal, the **Guitar Ensemble**, directed by Mr Joe Niesyto, transported us to central Europe with their stylish performance of *Three Czech Folk Songs*. Year 12 **Alice Proffitt** on violin with **Jade Brooks** on piano treated us to an expressive performance of Edward Elgar's *Violin Sonata*, first movement before the **Junior Percussion Ensemble**, directed by Ms McChrystal, delivered an exciting performance of *Rather Be*.

The first half of the concert was rounded off by one of Owen's newer ensembles, the **Contemporary Music Group**. Directed by Mr Lance Kelly, they tackle adventurous and often challenging repertoire by contemporary



composers. Their performance of Frederic Rzewski's '*Les Moutons de Panurge*' may have seemed like a courageous choice for a school concert but, in fact, the audience, of all ages, was enraptured by the hypnotic and ultimately beautiful rhythms, harmonies and timbres of the music and the rapport built between the performers and audience.

The second half opened with another new Owen's ensemble making their debut, the **Owen's Jazz Collective**. Directed by Mr Neil Crossley, this group sports a rich array of instruments, from violins and cellos, to oboes, clarinets and saxophones, keyboards, drums, electric guitar and bass. The group's head arrangements of jazz standards, also included a fascinating range of improvised solos, including an electric guitar-violin duel, demonstrating the creative skills they have been developing in their first term.

The rich variety of the second half also featured two ensembles from the **Strings Chamber Music Programme** directed by Mr Widden, the **Year 8 String Sextet** performing music by Johannes Brahms' and the final item of the evening from the **Year 11 String Quintet** performing music by Antonin Dvorak. There was more music from the contemporary composer Frederic Rzewski; his *Nanosonatas* for solo piano performed by Year 13 **Sohan Kalirai** kept the audience entranced, including the extended use of the instrument, such as striking the internal frame with a metal bangle and tapping the underside of the keyboard. The **Clarinet Ensemble**, directed by Ms Rachel Coe, clearly loved every minute of their entertaining performances of *Scooby Doo* and their own arrangement of the *Kahoot Theme!*

A-Level music students featured once again in the **Year 13 Trio's** performance of Bohuslav Martinu's *Madrigal Sonata* for Flute, Violin and Piano in a performance that was notable for the performers' musical communication as well as their beauty of tone and attention to musical balance. Performing the finale of Max Bruch's virtuosic Violin Concerto in G minor, **Gabriella Bavetta** thrilled her audience as she displayed the outstanding accomplishment that has led to her recent appointment as leader of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

Congratulations to all our fantastic performers for a wonderful evening!

Christmas Choral Concert and Winds Band Concert

The final week of term sees two more concerts: having been postponed from November due to the disarray that Covid restrictions at the time had brought to extra-curricular activities, on Monday 13th December, the Choral Concert has merged with our traditional 9 Lessons and Carols (also not possible due to stringent limits on numbers in the church) to create a Christmas Choral Concert, this year in our own Edward Guinness Hall, featuring performances by the **Junior Choir**, the **Junior Chamber Choir**, the **Senior Choir**, the **Senior Chamber Choir** and the **Close Harmony Group**, with directors Mr Matthew Salter, Mr David Southorn and Ms Makepeace-Lott, accompanied by Mr Robert Thompson, Mr John-Paul Muir, Miss Hannah Gill and Sohan Kalirai. And Christmas carols would not be the same without the **Senior Brass Ensemble**, directed by Mr Lance Kelly!

We will celebrate the end of term with the Wind Bands Concert on Thursday 16th December featuring performances by the **Concert Band** and **Second Band**, along with the **Junior** and **Senior Brass Ensembles**, the **Saxophone Ensemble**, the **Junior** and **Senior Wind Quintets** and the **Jazz Sextet**, with conductors and tutors Mr Lance Kelly, Mr Neil Crossley, Mr Gareth Hunt and Ms Rebecca McChrystal.



NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

RUGBY

Year 8 – The Year 8s have played three matches so far this term and have won each game playing some really impressive attacking rugby but also matched with some tenacious defence when needed. They produced a great comeback in their first game to score two tries in the final three minutes to beat Sir John Lawes 5-4 and followed that up with perhaps their best performance so far winning 5-1 against Roundwood Park. It has been really good to see so many boys training and playing.



Year 9 – The Year 9s have played three matches this half term, including a convincing 5-0 win against Roundwood Park school. They have been competitive in all matches that they have played and commitment to training and matches has been excellent.



Year 10 – The boys have played three very competitive matches but unfortunately lost all three. There has been a great improvement in the students' performances and their skills have improved massively. Hope to see some of the boys involved in the 1st XV next season.

1st XV – A squad of 23 have worked extremely well this term with a stand-out win coming courtesy of a 24-5 win against a strong Roundwood Park side. With some real talent in the side, we are looking forward to more games in the spring term.

BOY'S FOOTBALL

Year 7 – The Year 7 boys reached round 4 of the National Cup, beating two teams before losing out to Doctor Challoners School. They also reached round 3 of the County Cup before narrowly losing out to Aldenham. We have had a half-term of successful Saturday fixtures and will return to Saturday morning fixtures for the Autumn term.

Year 8 – The boys have had a good season so far with many wins and only one loss in our Saturday morning friendly fixtures. In the District Cup, they have had a 4-4 draw with Chancellors and a 7-3 win against Ridgeway. In the County Cup this half term, they have won two games against strong opposition. Round 1 was against John F Kennedy Catholic school where the boys won 6-1 and the second round against Longdean where they won 4-2 after extra time. They now move into the quarter finals after Christmas. A big shout out goes to Excel, who has scored many goals this term so far and we hope he can continue to do this into the spring term.

Year 9 – The boys have had only one game this half term where they played Monks Walk and unfortunately they were beaten 5-4 in a highly competitive game.

Year 10 – The side have moved forward in the County Cup playing extremely well to beat a strong Parmiters side and are due to play their next round just before the end of term

First XI – After a strong start to the season, the first XI faced a tough run of fixtures. Owen's opened their District Cup campaign against a very strong Chancellors team. Chancellors applied a lot of pressure early on to ensure a 2-0 half-time lead and despite Owen's having more sustained periods of possession in the second half, mistakes

led to a 3-0 defeat. The first team travelled to Dr Challoner's, a traditionally tough fixture, for the third round of the National Cup. A brilliant first start for Owen's resulted in an early lead and their sharp passing consistently opened up the Challoner's defence. Despite a couple of momentary lapses of concentration when defending set-pieces, the First XI's dominance was rewarded with a 5-2 win.

In the second round of the County Cup, Owen's played Monks Walk at home. From the start, Owen's performed well below the high standards they had set themselves. A combination of individual mistakes and a continued failure to defend set pieces left Owen's in a 4-0 deficit. A late revival led to a consolation goal but the game had already been decided. In the second District Cup group game, the first team travelled away to Yavneh College. Despite dominance, luck was not on Owen's side and Yavneh managed to scrape a 2-2 draw, leaving Owen's in a precarious position in the group. The First XI welcomed Sandringham in the fourth round of the National Cup. A strong showing from Owen's included a double from Ben Roberts which assured a 2-0 lead. However, as Owen's picked up a couple of injuries in the second half, Sandringham found a way back to force the game to penalties. Unfortunately Sandringham were victorious after penalties. The first team must now focus on the District Cup for the remainder of the season.

GIRL'S FOOTBALL

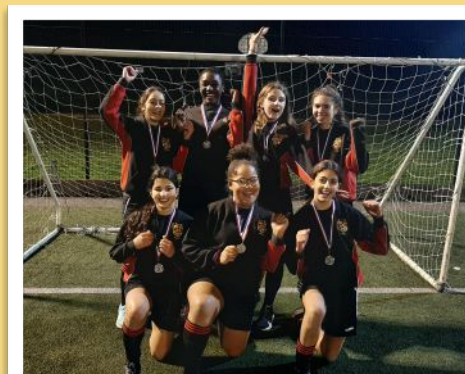
Year 7 – The Year 7 girls have been working hard in training. The A and B sides had their District 6-a-side tournament at Hertswood School on the 8th December. The B team reached the semi finals and the A team finished as runners up. The B squad drew their first group game against Mount Grace 1-1, they also drew their second game 1-1, this time against Monks Walk School B team. They won their final group match 5-1 against Chancellor's School B team to finish second in their group. In their semi final they faced Chancellor's School A team and lost 4-0. All of the B team goals were scored by Dominique Soma who was voted by her teammates as player of the day.

The A team won their first game of the competition 5-0 against Hertswood School thanks to goals from Zoe Gausis, Riya Goyal (3) and Freya Mahendran. In their second game, they defeated Monks Walk School A team 2-0 courtesy of two goals from Riya Goyal. They narrowly lost their final group game 1-0 to Chancellor's School A side and finished second in their group. In their semi final they faced Mount Grace School and won 3-1 thanks to two goals

from captain Freya Mahendran and one from Clara Day. The final saw them face Chancellor's A team again and they were defeated 2-0 after some exceptional play from one astounding player. Freya Mahendran and Riya Goyal were both selected as players of the day.

Year 8 – The Year 8s reached the quarter finals of the County Cup competition by defeating Nicholas Breakspear School 8-1 in the second round. Ellie Johnson scored six goals and Emilie Moudart the other two. Ellie Johnson was voted as player of the match. They now face Ashlyns School in the quarter finals in the last week of this term.

Year 9 – The Year 9 team have reached the quarter finals of the County Cup competition. The girls won their match against Queens' this week, the final score was 3-3 at the end of normal time and then extra-time so the game went to penalties, which the girls won 4-3. Well done to Flora Gaete who was awarded PoM and who scored two goals and to Izzy Lee who scored the other goal. The U14 A and B sides



also played in the District 6-a-side tournament where both teams managed to reach the semi-finals and the A team finished runners up, narrowly missing out on penalties. This was a fantastic result and well done to Jenna Khan who was player of the tournament.

Year 10 and 11– The girls played against a very strong Queens School team in the County County cup and narrowly lost.

Senior Team – The girls have played two matches this half term against Sandringham and Beaumont, both very competitive games.

HOCKEY

Year 7 – The Year 7 A and B squads have shown huge improvements since the start of term. The A team lost a close match against Bancroft's School 4-3 with goals from Riya Goyal, Maeve McCoolle and Evie Zaidi. Riya Goyal was named player of the match. The girls were subsequently defeated by a very strong Royal Masonic School side in the County Cup competition, with Riya Goyal once again claiming the player of the match award. The B team drew 2-2 with Bancroft's School thanks to two goals from player of the match Zoe Gausis and drew 1-1 with The Royal Masonic School, the goal this time was scored by Rhiannon Till and captain Ava Gilbert was selected as player of the game. Both the A and B sides face Forest School in friendly games before the end of term.

Year 10 – The Year 10s played out a 0-0 draw against Aldenham School. Both sides played some great hockey and were very evenly matched. Captain Amba Parmar was selected by the opposition as player of the match. In their next game the girls drew 1-1 with Hockerill Anglo-European College courtesy of a Holly Shelton equalising goal and another player of the match display from Amba Parmar. In a friendly against a very strong Bancroft's School side the girls were defeated 2-0 and Dyllen Bramble was named player of the game, whilst in the County Cup competition they defeated Sandringham School 3-0 with two goals from player of the match Holly Shelton and one goal from Sarah Betton. The Year 10s still have a friendly match versus Forest School to play this term.

Senior – The First XI squad defeated Forest School 6-1 thanks to two goals from Jasmin Mac, one goal from Izzie Young and a hat-trick from Captain and player of the match Maisie Taylor. In their next game, they lost 3-0 against a strong Aldenham School team. Sophia Venter was selected as player of the game for this match.

NETBALL

Year 7 – Netball season begins after Christmas, however Year 7 are looking forward to a few friendly fixtures in the next few weeks. The A team have worked hard and this has reflected in their first two matches against Yavneh and Stanborough with great wins (23-3 and 21-2).

Year 8 – the Year 8s have been very enthusiastic with great numbers attending training, especially due to not



having a netball season last year. The first match Vs Herts & Essex was tough and unfortunately the girls lost. Year 8A team worked together and made a great turn around and won their next match Vs Stanborough (21-9).

Year 9 – The Year 9s have made a great start to the season with winning their first match Vs Stanborough (13-5) and performing very well in the county netball tournament. The Year 9A training turnout has been amazing which reflected well in their last match Vs Yavneh, winning 31-7.

Year 10 – The Year 10s have had a great start to the year winning their first match Vs Chancellors. The two pre-season games mirrored their work in training with winning comfortably against the schools; Yavneh and Stanborough.

Year 11 – The Year 11s performed really well in the County netball tournament however their first friendly fixture was a narrow loss of 17-19 against Chancellors. However, on a very cold night the girls worked well together and won a friendly match against Parmiter's.

1st VII – The first team have had a challenging but good start to the year with participating in the county netball tournament and have a few friendly fixtures coming up. On a very cold night, the full team was out and was strong, this reflected on a great pre-season match against Parmiter's, winning comfortably (26-8).



CROSS COUNTRY

On 9th November it was the annual Mid Herts District Cross Country. All students ran well on the day and showed great determination. Congratulations goes to Niamh Keohane and Ash Fowkes-Gajan who both won their own races. Both the Senior Boys and Girls teams won their races with the Boys becoming overall winners leading to help Owens become district champions.

On 13th November our Senior Girls Team consisting of Niamh and Roisin Keohane, Maisie O'shea and Evie Wootton competed in the Regional Round of the English Schools Cross Country Cup. After great runs by





all the girls, we came first on the day and qualified for the Nationals in Newquay.

At the National's, the conditions were very windy and wet, alongside a very challenging course. The girls all ran very well in a strong field of runners. Well done Girls for your achievement this year and we are now looking forward to challenging next year.

BASKETBALL

It has been really encouraging to see so many students turning up for basketball practises including up to 30 in the Senior session alone. Most games take place post Christmas but most impressively so far was the Year 11 54-39 victory against a Richard Hale Sixth Form side a week ago.

HOUSE SPORT

This half term we have had four competitions where many students have been involved representing their individual form groups and houses. The boys competitions were Football and Basketball and for the girls there was Football and Hockey. It has been great to see so many students involved and taking part.

OTHER STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS

On Saturday 12th November both Luca and Sofia Buonanno competed in the Kanzen International Karate Open Championships held in Dundee.

They were both selected as part of the England Karate squad.

On the day Luca was awarded the Silver medal in the individuals and Bronze in the team competition. Sofia was awarded the Gold in the individuals and Silver in the team.

A big congratulations goes to them both.



NEWS FROM THE OSA

OSA Social – On Monday 6th December we managed to hold a social on the school's Old Library. It was the perfect opportunity to thank everyone who works so hard and with great enthusiasm for the OSA.



During the evening, OSA Treasurer Anthony Osijo presented Mrs Nemko with a cheque for £36,000 – a fantastic sum raised by the OSA.

This will help the school to purchase a wide range of extra resources including a 3D printer and a new trampoline as well as supporting a number of school clubs including the following: guest speakers, expendables, creative writing and Warhammer.

Refreshments – are back! With school events like concerts and plays now up and running, the OSA are delighted to be able to provide interval refreshments. Thank you to Bev and the team. Most events are held in the Dining Hall, but see below a picture of the first smaller one this term which was in the A Block opposite the Edward Guinness Hall. If you are able to help with refreshments please email: contact@theosa.org.uk.



Nearly New Uniform Sale – Following the summer term's hugely popular online sale of nearly new uniform, we ran another online 'pop-up' shop this term, which was very successful. Thank you to all involved. See a picture below taken on pick up day.

We hope to run a live sales event in the Spring term. For further information or if you would like to volunteer to help, please email

uniform@theosa.org.uk.

Auction – Following the hugely successful inaugural DAOS Online Auction last year this year's auction took place on **Friday 10th December**. At the time of writing the results are not yet known, so a full report will be in the next newsletter.

Nearly New Uniform – The OSA provides 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](#).

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.