



# Dame Alice Owen's School

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12 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half of the Spring term always feels a little sober with the quiet hush of the mock examination period and the reduced opportunity for fixtures and visits due to the early dwindling light. This year, there was a simple joy in the mere fact that we made it back to school after the Christmas break in spite of the Omicron's efforts to derail us. Revelling in this, we have continued to *strive with a will*, cramming as many co-curricular opportunities as possible into this short half term. I am sure that, as you read through this, slightly less glamorous than usual, newsletter, you will agree that we have managed to make a real dent in to the possibilities out there for our young people with more to follow in the weeks and months ahead.

I would like to dedicate this newsletter to Lynn Bath who has worked tirelessly with the school over these last four years to smarten up and brighten up the Newsletter. I am sure that this, comparatively amateur attempt, will make her toes curl but I hope that it will help Lynn realise just what an amazing job she has done professionalising the school's flagship communication. Lynn, I cannot thank you enough!

I am delighted to tell you that Lynn is currently handing the reigns over to another of our wonderful parents, Olena Mankovska, who will be editing and setting the Newsletter from the end of this term. Olena, we are looking forward to working with you and we thank you for giving so generously of your time.

Wishing you all a restful weekend and a safe half term break,

Hannah Nemko

# The Myers Saunders prize for Economics

by Abbie Cook (Year 13)



During the 2021 lockdown, A Level Economics Students were encouraged to take part in the yearly 'Economics Talk Competition.' This gave us the chance to win prize money generously put forward by our benefactor, Tony Saunders. Students had the chance to put together a research paper on any economics topic that interested them and the projects that were presented ranged from the New York Mafia to consumers' habitual behaviour.

It took me a while to decide on the topic that I wanted to research but eventually I chose to investigate the efficacy of international trade as an engine for sustainable development. I really enjoyed analysing data about different countries' exports performance and volatility alongside the impacts of the pandemic on trade. Using my background knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals from my experience in Model United Nations, I researched SDG 17.11 which looked at the share of global exports held by Least Developed Countries. I was surprised to learn that the 42 countries classed as 'Least Developed' had a share of only 0.63% of global exports in 2020 and immediately saw the importance of using international trade and globalisation to promote development. The most interesting fact I discovered was that in November 2021, after being classified as a 'Least Developed Country' for 45 years, Bangladesh graduated to 'Developing' status. To me, this highlighted the significance of international trade and has really proven the importance of this development tool.

I really enjoyed being able to present my research and whilst it was difficult to whittle everything down into a small presentation, it meant I was able to give a consolidated and analytical summary of the efficacy of international trade as an engine for sustainable development. Listening to everyone's talks was fantastic and the depth of research and understanding of complex economic topics amongst the finalists was incredible. The Economics Talk Competition brought the subject to life and meant that we all found our own love for the subject. Also, the competition allowed us all to grow as public speakers and has definitely made us better economists. None of this would have been possible without our very generous benefactor, Mr Tony Saunders, or our economics teachers, Mr Bird and Mr Simpson. On behalf of the other finalists and myself, I would like to thank Mr Tony Saunders for putting forward the prize money and keeping this competition alive each year to inspire more economists - it really was fantastic.

DAME ALICE OWEN'S

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ANNIVERSARY BALL

Saturday 4th March 2025 Drinks, Dinner & Dancing - With entertainment from 7:00pm.

Manager, Anna Welsford, set to be an even bigger and better event than the last... Which is really saying something!

## Owen's Alumni Career Talks

For this, we have arranged for 12 Old Owenians to come “back to school” and give a wide range of stimulating careers talks during the lunchtimes of **Monday 7th March, Wednesday 9th March and Friday 11th March.**



We strongly recommend that students attend at least one talk during the week (they can attend one each day if they like) as feedback from students who have attended in previous

years has testified to how useful these have been in helping guide them in their own study and career paths.

We always aim to have a broad spectrum of industry and careers represented and this year our talks are set to cover Civil Service, luxury brands design, events management, law, pharmaceuticals, animation and management consulting amongst others.

Students and parents will be provided with the list of confirmed speakers together with when and where they are delivering their talks as soon as this has been finalised; students should then sign up promptly for the talks to avoid disappointment.

If you would like know more about our alumni careers talks or register to volunteer your time, please contact Abigail Stein, Head of Careers at:  
[steina@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:steina@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk)

## A word from the Computing Department



### The Oxford University Challenge 2022

Following on from the fabulous results from the BEBRAS Computing Challenge in November over 200 students from the school have been invited to take part in Round 2 this week. Fingers crossed for some more champions!

### CyberFirst – Girls' Cyber Security Competition

On Saturday 5th Feb Year 8 girls - Keya Patel, Hannah Senior, Tiana Majumder and Paavni Bajpai took part in the finals of the Girls' Cyber Security Competition in Ipswich. They all had a great time, helped by them also coming a brilliant third in the competition! Congratulations to them all.





# Maths Challenge Results



Earlier this term 18 pupils from year 12 and 13 were invited to sit the prestigious UKMT Senior Kangaroo round having achieved excellent results in the Senior Maths Challenge.

Special congratulations go to Pierre Eveson, Daniel Goodlad, Andrew Lockett, Aimi Weightman and Luca Yu who achieved a merit, with Pierre also achieving Best in School.

We have 280 students in years 9, 10 and 11 sitting the Intermediate Maths Challenge this month and eagerly await their results!

## Design and Technology Department

### F1 in Schools Competition

Year 9 students Bhavya Ranawat, Saranya Bhati and Malachy Hitchcock have made impressive progress in their preparations for the national F1 in Schools competition, which takes place in the summer term. The competition is based around the design and manufacture of a model F1 car powered by compressed air - the aim being for the car to travel a set distance in the shortest possible time.

With invaluable support and guidance from Sean Huang in Year 13, the team are well underway with the design and manufacture of their car and with the development of their team branding. As well as gaining experience of teamwork, the students are developing some advanced engineering skills - particularly in terms of Computer Aided Design and Manufacture.

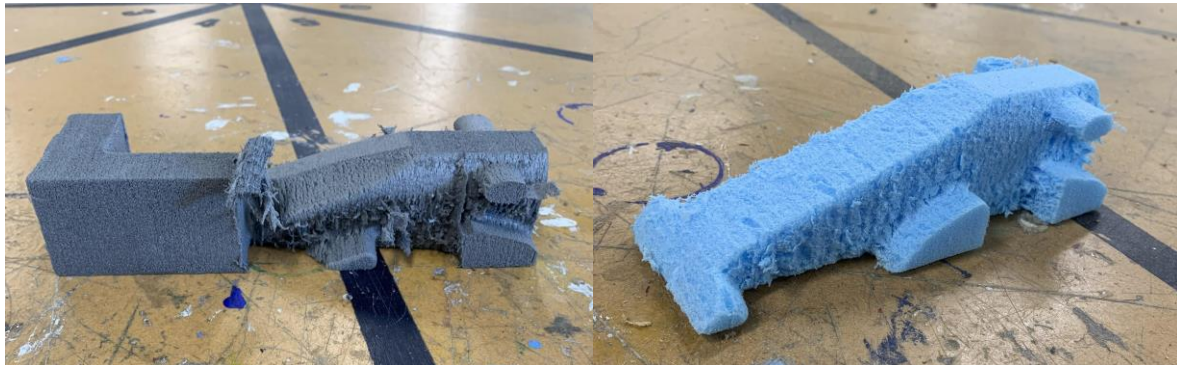
### Team Hydra (by Saranya)

We are Hydra, the F1 in Schools team, and we have an exhilarating task to create a car to race at the competition next term. To create this car, we have had to use a lot of different technology to ensure the model will be as fast as possible. Firstly, to design the car we used a special piece of CAD software called Fusion 360. We used the CAD software to create a 3D visual design of our car:



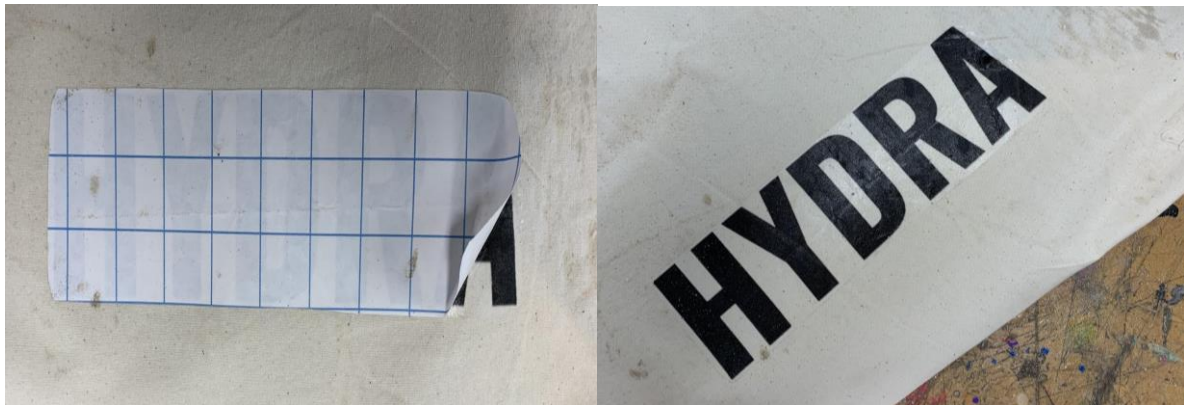
*Initial sketches and CAD model of our design*

Then using a machine called a CNC router, we cut a block of styrofoam by sending the coordinates of our design to the machine via a laptop. Our first try ended in failure but our second try was much better.



*Our first test models using the CNC router*

We have recently had a try at making our team hoodies using transfer paper, which worked surprisingly well. We printed out our design on an inkjet printer and then ironed it onto our testing material. So soon we will iron our final designs onto our actual hoodies.



*Transferring our team branding onto a test fabric using iron-on transfer paper*

We still have a lot to do before the deadline but when we finish all the hard work will definitely have been worth it. We can't wait to race our car and potentially go further in the competition!

## Drama & Music Departments

After an intense and enjoyable week of auditioning we have cast the Spring Musical, *'The Baker's Wife'* which will take place on **Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th and Wednesday the 30th March**. The Book is by Joseph Stein (*'Fiddler on the Roof'*) and the Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schartz (*'The Prince of Egypt'* & *'Wicked'*.) The musical is based on *'La Femme du Boulanger'* by Marcel Pagnol & Jean Giono. Our performers are already busy practising their French accents, singing and dancing skills in order to transport you to the setting of provincial France in 1935.

The action is set in the small village of Concorde in Provence where the inhabitants are engaged in their usual petty arguments, the latest being that there has been no fresh bread since their last baker passed away and his replacement is late. When their new baker Monsieur Castagnet finally arrives, the villagers are delighted to have fresh bread and pastries again, however their joy is swiftly disrupted by the young men of the village who cannot stop flirting with his beautiful wife Genevieve. Although she initially rebuffs him, Genevieve is charmed by the Mayor's handsome chauffeur Dominique who persuades her to run off with him. Stricken with despair the baker refuses to supply the town with any more bread and the villagers work together to try and persuade his wife to return.

If you would like to watch this musical, tickets will be on sale after the Half Term Break.  
Ms Govier, Ms Makepeace-Lott & Mr Southorn

## English Department - Creative Writing Club

This year's theme for *The Rotary Young Writer Competition* was '**Environment**' and KS3 students have worked on creating original pieces of prose and poetry to submit for judging. The competition has now closed and we eagerly await the result of the local heats.

Another exciting writing competition, run by Chiltern Bookshops, is open until April 1st so visit the CWC Google Classroom if you would like to find out more information.

<https://chilternbookshops.co.uk/schools-2/childrens-creative-writing-comp-2022/>

## Holocaust Memorial Day 2022



International Holocaust Memorial Day took place on 27<sup>th</sup> January. To mark this occasion, a series of talks took place at our school. We were very fortunate to have two excellent guest speakers from the organisation Generation2Generation. Both speakers are the children of Holocaust survivors and shared their own personal family story. Both speakers were very well received by our students, who found the talks an important, interesting and a memorable experience.

Students in Years 8 and 9 heard Helen Stone, who recounted her mother's experiences during the Holocaust. Helen Stone's mother, Emmy Golding, née Kaufmann, was born in a small village near Cologne in Germany just as World War I was beginning. The twelve Jewish families in her village, who had lived there for many generations, were well integrated and yet maintained their religious identity. The insidious rise of the Nazis from 1933 onwards forced Emmy, her parents and her sister to flee Germany in search of a safe haven. Staff and students were very moved to learn about Emmy's story.

Sixth Form students heard Debra Barnes, the debut author of *The Young Survivors*, which was inspired by her mother, Paulette, who was born in France in 1938. Debra's talk was incredibly moving and provided a fascinating insight into the plight of Jews in Occupied France, as well as the fate of her maternal family.



## D&T Trip to the Design Museum

Earlier this term, the Design and Technology Department took a group of GCSE and A Level students to the Design Museum to see the 'Waste Age' and 'Conran Effect' exhibitions.

The Waste Age exhibition examined the throw away culture. It presented menacing facts and shocking statistics about waste production, all of which makes the visitor feel overwhelmed and disheartened within the first 5 minutes of entry. However, by the end of the exhibition a sense of hope prevails with a variety of inspiring solutions.



The exhibition is split into three sections, Peak waste, Precious waste and Post Waste - each focussing on a different aspect of waste and the role of design. From new developments in Biopolymer materials to Circular economy design, this exhibition highlighted the importance of addressing our relationship with waste and the problem-solving skills required to address this mounting global issue.

This exhibition is only open until Sunday 20th February 2022 but is definitely worth a visit so if you have some time to waste over half term - do check it out!

Students also visited the Terrance Conran exhibit marking what would have been Terrance Conran's 90th birthday with a display that explores his personal and professional achievements.

Memorabilia from the launch of the Conran Design group and Habitat chain stores are displayed. The exhibition explores the way we interacted with design, from the launch of Conran's first store in London back in 1964 where retail staff dressed in Mary Quant designed clothes and the first cookware and home furnishing collections introduced a new chic style to home life. A global brand today, Habitat shaped modern Britain with contemporary design.

Terrence Conran achieved huge success as a craftsman, furniture and textiles manufacturer, property developer, and restaurateur. Being a respected and influential designer, Terrance Conran supported design education and founded the Design Museum, which he referred to as one of his proudest achievements.

This exhibition was fascinating and students left being inspired by how much one person can achieve in a lifetime.

A huge thank you to Ms Chan, Mr Stensel, Mrs Koci and Mr Khan for making the Trip happen.



## News from the German Department

On January the 20th 2022, our Year 12 and 13 Germanists attended an A level German film study day organised by the British Film Institute (BFI) in London and held at their IMAX cinema in near Waterloo station where hundreds of A level German students from around the country came together. The day gave time to exploring more prevalent themes in contemporary German film and specifically the "Legacy of East Germany in German film".

On arrival, students and their accompanying teachers were given a study pack with lots of activities and visuals as well as a glossary which will be valuable beyond the event. Dr Judith Rifesser, a lecturer in language learning and film studies at Goldsmiths University of London, led the sessions wholly in German which in turn encouraged students to voice their opinions and practise their language skills in front of everyone in the auditorium. By no means an easy feat but lbt rose to the challenge a number of times. Hut ab!

The morning session consisted of clips from four different films: Balloon, Sonnenalle, Goodbye, Lenin!, The Lives of Others and aimed at familiarising students with themes, film-specific vocabulary, how to analyse key scenes with emphasis on critical and analytical skills.

After a lunch break which our students spent at the on-site café, there was a short introduction of the following screening of Goodbye, Lenin!

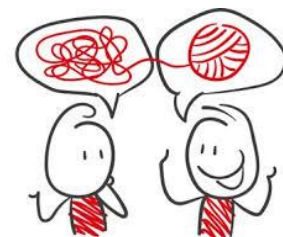
Our students agreed that it was not just a very enjoyable but also an incredibly useful event to hone their skills of really looking and listening when analysing film and to uncover little details that tell us, the audience, so much about the characters, themes, director's intention and messages too. In addition, it became apparent that the (his)story of living in East Germany is ingrained in all four films in various ways and for different purposes.

Apart from our fantastic students, who were impeccably behaved and engaged, I would also like to thank Mr Robinson for joining us on the day.

K. Möller (Head of German)

## Peer Mentors

Our Y12 Peer Mentors have been out and about in the school during form times, walking and talking and mentoring Y7 students.



They have all followed a thorough training course and are currently making a real difference to students in the Lower School. Because they have done such a great job there is now quite a queue of students waiting for a slot to become free!

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in K7 are also set up for students to drop in for an informal chat with the Peer Mentors.

Students say:

I really love it. They were fantastic and have really given me someone to talk to.

I really love K7 as it is calm and we can choose what we do. We like having time to ourselves with no one intruding. We are able to talk to Y12 as well

I really enjoy peer mentoring and it is really nice to have someone to talk to about anything from what your favourite book is to any help you need with work. They are always super nice and it's so much fun.

## Chess News

During the pandemic it has been pretty difficult to get Chess Club going across all year groups but we are up and running now and having fun. The exciting bit of news is that we have signed up to <https://lichess.org/> and we are going to play other schools online.



It's easy to sign up on this site and therefore if your child would like to play for the school, they can come and speak to me, sign up for the DAOSChess team and then come along when the tournaments are. This will normally be after school from 4pm-5pm on a Monday. Everyone can get involved and they then take the top 4 players from each school to decide on the rankings for the tournament. The first one starts very soon, so we'll report back on how we get on!

Happy chess playing everyone!

Mr Simpson - Director of Chess

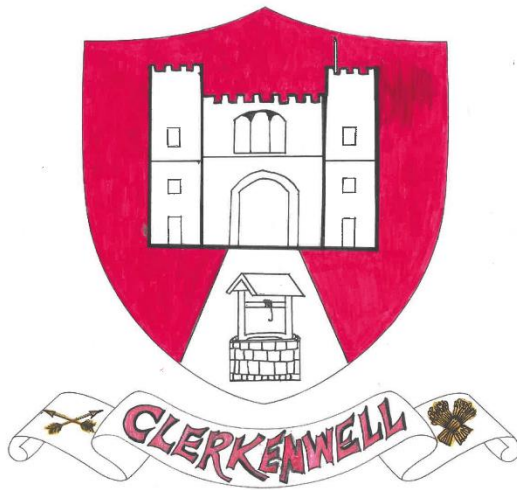
## 2022 House Crest Competition

Please may we take this opportunity to thank everybody who entered the House Crest Competition, there were many wonderful entries and we engaged in many consultations before we could decide upon our winners.

The winners will receive a Head teacher's commendation, congratulations to them all! They also get the kudos of seeing their work used to represent their House!

**Here are the winners!**

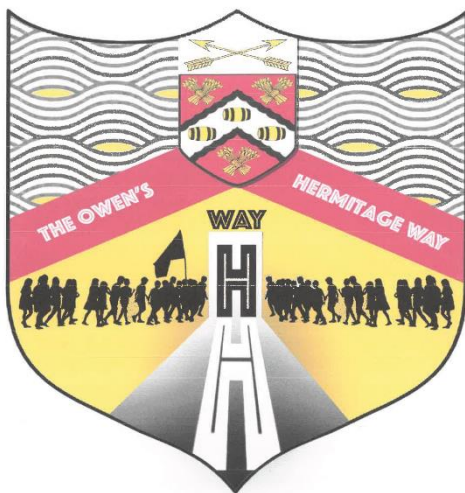
# House Crests



Matthias Bruno 7C2



Ammiel Gull 7G2



Mina O'Sullivan 7H1



Tilly George 8I1

# **News from the Physical Education Department**

## **Hockey**

### **Year 7**

The year 7A team beat Sir John Lawes 9-0 in the group stages of the County Cup competition. Hannah Johnson led the scoring with 3 goals, Riya Goyal and Freya Mahendran scored 2 each and Zoe Gausis and Maeve McCool each contributed 1 goal. Freya Mahendran was voted player of the match. Both the A and B teams faced Parmiter's School in the same competition. The A team ran out 11-1 winners with goals from Riya Goyal (6), Hannah Johnson (2), Freya Mahendran (2) and Emily Diener. Riya Goyal was picked by the opposition as player of the game. The B team won 7-1 thanks to 4 goals from Rhiannon Till and 3 from Sofi Webbing. Rhiannon Till was selected as player of the match. The B team play Presdales School in the final week of this half term.

### **Year 10**

Despite only starting the game with 9 players due to illness and injury the year 10 hockey squad demonstrated excellent team work and drew 1-1 with The Royal Masonic School for Girls in the County Cup group stages. Luna Blaikley-Gomez gave the girls a well-deserved first half lead which they were unfortunate not to add. They were unable to convert chances in the second half to increase their lead and eventually conceded a breakaway goal. Captain Amba Parmar was voted player of the match.

## **Football**

### **Under 12s Girls' Football**

The under 12 A and B Girls' Football squads competed in the District 6-a-side football tournament on Monday 31st January. The B team won 1 of their group games and lost the other 2 to finish third in their group whilst the A team won all of their group matches to top their group and reach the semi-finals. They faced Chancellor's School in the semi-final and won 2-1 courtesy of goals from Dominique Soma and Freya Mahendran. In the final, the girls played Hertswood Academy. The game ended 1-1 after extra time, with the Owen's goal scored by Alikí Kyriakou, but unfortunately the girls lost 3-1 on penalties. The player of the day for the A team was captain Freya Mahendran and for the B team it was Isabella Gough.

### **Under 13 Girls' Football**

The under 13 Girls' Football squad defeated Ashlyns School 2-1 in a very close game in the quarter finals of the County Cup. The goals were scored by Ellie Johnson and Emilie Moudart and Amelia Arthur received the player of the match accolade. They now face Croxley Danes School in the semi-final which is due to take place in the final week of this half term.



### **Year 8 Boys' Football**

The team won 4-0 in the quarter final of the county cup, meaning they now have qualified for the semi-final, which will be after half term. Well done boys.

### **Year 10 Boys' Football**

The team have had 2 cup matches in the past week. Playing away to Croxley Danes school they lost a close encounter 2-1 in the quarter final of the County Cup but then the team played superbly to beat a very competitive Monks Walk 2-1 in the District Cup putting themselves in prime position to top their pool and advance to the semi-final stage of the tournament.

### **Basketball**

The Year 7 team played their first competitive set of matches in the District rally last week- they won all pool games comfortably and then lost in the final minute of overtime to Onslow in the final. They have showed real promise and we are looking forward to the next set of fixtures

### **Rugby**

The Year 8 put in a really strong performance against a very competitive Lochinver side last Friday showing some real skill in attack and tenacity in defence. This has been an excellent warm up game and will prepare them for the group stage of the County tournament after half term.