



Dame Alice Owen's School

Newsletter July 2022



Letter from the Head

Hannah Nemko

What a term this has been! It was the first term that has felt even slightly 'normal'. Not *the new normal*, just normal. It has been a term full of concerts, plays, competitions – be they sporting, scientific, mathematical or other. A term in which public examinations have resumed, a term which has allowed us to celebrate achievement through the art and textile exhibitions, as well as the

opportunity to look through the *window on the world* by participating in a range of expeditions and visits, all of which you can read about inside this newsletter.

A highlight of this half term came on 14 July when we ran the first ever Dame Alice Owen's Cultural Day led ably by Tami O and a fantastic committee of students. This day saw students share and celebrate something of their heritage with their peers through the cultural fair. A superb mixture of languages, alphabets, music, film, arts and history was shared creating a greater sense of understanding and openness amongst our community. We hope to be able to build on this model in years to come.

Special thank you goes to the OSA, Alumni manager, music department enabled by our magnificent site team and starring our very own young people who, together, ran the most amazing Owen's festival, in the glorious sunshine, on the 3rd of July. The vibe was most certainly more music festival and beer tent than school fete, further enhanced by the amazing barbeque which had us all salivating until we could get our fill. DAOS's very own Rob Biddulph ran a live *Draw with Rob* event which those lucky enough to get a ticket enjoyed thoroughly. It was amazing to see Rob still signing books a good two hours after his set had finished as he took the time to speak to every child who wanted to meet him about their art and love of reading. As a school, we cannot thank the OSA enough for all they do for the school and I cannot believe how much fun we have putting it all together! If you would like to be part of this most amazing team, please email chair@theosa.org.uk for more information, you would be most welcome.



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS...

NOTA BENE

School uniform & non-negotiables (page 5)

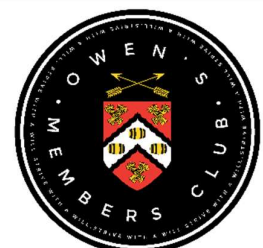
OWEN'S FEST

Feel the vibe (page 12)

SCIENTIA NON OLET

What and how students have been learning and achieving this half-term (page 17)

...and so much more! It's our school!



Sadly, it is this time of year when we get to say goodbye to staff who are leaving us. This year is no exception and indeed brings an exceptional goodbye.

At the start of July, Mr Peter Martin stepped down as Chair of Governors to the school. Peter, an Owenian himself, had joined the governing body as a parent governor in 2001 before taking up the reins as Chair of Governors in 2009. A truly wonderful leader, Peter has seen us through many happy, sad and difficult moments at the school including academisation, changes to the Senior Leadership team and alike. In most recent times, we are particularly thankful for his calm support throughout the pandemic. Whilst Peter will be greatly missed, we are delighted to congratulate Mr Gary Haigh on his election to Chair. Gary, previously MD of Asahi UK which owns Peroni Nastro Azzurro, Grolsch and Meantime, joined the Governing Body in March 2018 before becoming Vice Chair of Governors in June 2019. Gary will be succeeded in this role by Mr Adrian Sykes.

Within the wider school staff, we say goodbye to Mr Yianni who joined the Network support department for a year to help ensure that things ran smoothly as the department went through some changes. He is famous for creating the brilliant Owen's screen saver, much coveted by the Worshipful Company of Brewers themselves, as well as for being a safe pair of hands in an IT crisis. We wish him all the very best as he moves on to his degree.

Mrs Ramadan joined the cover and then the learning support team which have both benefited from her vast previous experience as an English teacher. Unfortunately, we have given Mrs Ramadan back the taste for teaching. We hope that we may be able to lure her back into the classroom here at Owen's one day and we wish her all the best for her next ventures.

Those of you who have been involved with public exams or upper school exams will have seen Mrs Pocock busily making sure that things run smoothly for you from behind the scenes. Previously a member of the cover team, we have all enjoyed her sunny smile and her supreme competency with everything that she does. We are sorry that she has to leave, but we hope our paths will cross again soon.

Mr Robins has made a short but powerful impact on the PE department and has increased the sales of basketballs by about 300%. We are so sorry that he is moving away from PE teaching and wish him every success in his new ventures.

Miss Daniels has been a superb addition to our English department giving every lesson her all and inspiring many of our students (and staff) to read more and write more eloquently. We are so sorry that she is having to relocate and so leaves us as a result. We hope that things go well for her and that she always keeps in touch.

Mr Davies has worked as an LSA for the last two years bringing a firm but gentle approach to all that he does. We will remember him for his kindness and the way in which he can make every student feel special and we wish him all the best as he continues his own education.

Mr Miller is moving to become Head of Politics at another school. We will miss his encyclopaedic knowledge of politics – especially American, as well as his golfing skills and we wish him every success in his new school.

Miss Epstein is also moving too far away to be able to continue working at Owen's. She will, however, be able to leave knowing that she has firmly ingrained her passion for women in STEM in the science department and the wider school body. Thanks to her, we have also all learnt how to be 'just a little bit more dog' not to mention seen an improvement in our understanding of physics!

Mrs Lawrence is also moving on. Mrs Lawrence has brought kindness and love to everything she has done at Owen's. She will certainly be remembered for some of the amazing activities she did with her form over lockdown and for her bubbly personality and warmth. We wish her all the best in her new school.

Mrs Price has been a member of the Owen's community since she first started teaching and, although she has only been with us for three years this time, she had worked with us for six years before then. Mrs Price has always been an incredibly dedicated teacher who has given her job her all, all the time. We hope that her new school is everything she hopes for.

Mrs Hill has worked as a technician in the D&T department for 7 years supporting our young people and the teaching staff before, during and after lessons. She now feels that it is time for her to pursue her own artistic ventures which we have no doubt will be very successful indeed. We thank Mrs Hill for everything she has done for us over the years.

Mrs Pearce joined us when she stepped down from classroom teaching and has worked at Owen's in the cover department ever since. 12 years later, she has decided that the time is now right to retire. We will miss her jovial manner, her knowledge and her care for every student. We wish her every happiness.

Mrs Whiter may be less well known to those in the lower years, but Mrs Whiter, who has been slowly stepping down from school as she moves towards retirement, has been a lynchpin in the 6th form and careers department for 19 years, serving on the SLT for most of those. Her knowledge and understanding of career paths to follow, brilliant and quirky university courses and how to write a winning UCAS reference, will always be remembered. We have been slowly weaning ourselves off of her support but she will leave a gaping hole as an incredible colleague and a superb friend to so many.

Mr Whelan has been at Owen's for 38 years so we can only assume that he has quite enjoyed working here. A truly gifted teacher whose dry sense of humour and sharp wit has kept us all laughing through many a dark moment, he has also brought great fun and rigour to language learning; his ability to pass his love for languages on to others will be sorely missed.

Mr Godfrey is another member of staff who has been slowly stepping down from school these past years. Mr Godfrey was Deputy Head, in charge of Teaching and Learning when I first joined the school and has been here for (a mere) 18 years. Mr Godfrey's passion not only for getting his OWN teaching right, but for helping everyone else think about how to continually improve theirs was second to none. Although he stepped down from his role as Deputy Head a few years ago, Mr Godfrey has revelled in doing what he loves – teaching German – ever since. Now, with his last A level class behind him, he really is going to retire and enjoy all the things he has not had as much time for. We know he will be filling his days with amazing adventures but we hope that he will look back as fondly on his time and his friends here, as we will when we think of him.

Mrs Perrett has been working at Owen's for 21 years and served as Assistant Headteacher for the last 15 of them. Mrs Perrett has an incredible talent for pastoral work, safeguarding our young people with sensitivity and compassion. Dealing daily with some of the most emotive and complicated issues we have at the school, she has led her team brilliantly. When you mention Mrs Perrett's name to people, they smile – not just because she taught them how to make a range of fantastic delicacies or to fix their clothes in her role as a teacher of food and textiles, but because she always made time for them – staff or students – time to share a kind word or some sensible advice when things were getting tricky. We wish her every happiness and delight in her next chapter but we will miss her very, very much.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Archeou into the Social Sciences department as teacher of Economics, Mr Hodgson, teacher of Physics, Mrs Kilbey and Mr Tuton as teachers of Maths, Ms Stavrou, teacher of Food and Textiles, Mr Thompson, teacher of Business Studies. Mrs Winborne, Mrs Mavrokordatos and Ms Webb will be joining the Learning Support department and Mrs Turner will be replacing Mr Festa as our PE technician as he will now be joining the department as a fully qualified teacher of PE.

We are all looking forward to starting the year as we mean to go on, out of the shadow of Covid and ready to embrace all the opportunities a 'usual' year at Owen's would afford. All that remains for me to do is to thank our staff for all their hard work, our students for theirs and our parent body for all your support over this past year.

Wishing you all a restful summer break,

Hannah Nemko

IMPORTANT REMINDERS: UNIFORM AND NON-NEGOTIABLES

As mentioned in the school letter of 14 July, uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps allow students to feel pride in and belonging to their school. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for work or comply with a certain dress-code.

The uniform policy is available on the website, and the guidance below is for your quick reference:

Skirts: Skirts must be on or approaching the top crease of the knee. If your child has a skirt which is not of uniform length you will be informed and requested to replace it without undue delay.

Trousers: all students will be allowed to wear straight leg, regulation school trousers. Trousers which are of a different shape (bootleg, wide leg, flared etc) or which are not of regulation material such as jersey or denim, will not be allowed. Trousers must be full length and worn to the ankle.

Socks: Must be ankle length and black or white

Footwear: Plain black leather / leather effect footwear must be worn and must have a flat heel. Canvas shoes and boots are not allowed.

A small amount of natural make up is permitted, this should be subtle and not obvious. False eyelashes, nail varnish, false nails / gel nails must not be worn for school. Items of jewellery which are not in line with the policy will be confiscated. If ears are already pierced, only one small, plain gold or silver coloured stud may be worn in each earlobe. All studs must be removed for PE





THE GREAT OWEN'S BAKE OFF

Bake me a cake as queenly as you can!

Tuesday 5th July saw the welcome return of our Lower School Baking Competition. 38 keen bakers from Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a 2-hour competition to bake an item worthy to be served to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

As always, the standard was incredibly high and the students worked very well under pressure to produce an incredibly creative range of dishes that not only looked good, but also tasted delicious!

This year we were delighted to welcome Mrs Welsford and Mr Freedlander as our guest judges who did a great job of tasting all 38 different dishes!

The winners were as follows:

Year 7, Anvi A: Chocolate Souffle served with crème anglaise and fresh raspberries, decorated with a chocolate piping of the Queen's crown and a message to celebrate her 70 glorious years.

Year 8, Chisom M: Earl Grey Tea Cake with a vanilla bean filling.

Year 9, Taylor H: Apple and Blueberry Pie with red apples and blueberries representing the red and blue on the Union Jack.



Owens Star Baker 2022 -

Lyla M: Crispy cookie tart cases sandwiched with a sweetened cream and cream cheese filling, decorated with royal meringues, fresh fruit, fresh flowers and gold dusted cookie crowns and Union Jacks.

Very well done to all of the competitors!



Brewers' Award

By Tim Leake, Science

This year we launched the Brewers' Award to offer a further opportunity for Year 12 students to engage in independent research. With the aid of video tutorials students conducted further reading aimed at deepening their knowledge of areas with links to their future studies. Over the past few weeks they have been presenting their findings. The following three exemplar titles highlight the range in topics addressed:

'Can universal basic income overcome the poverty trap?'

'What is the best treatment for Ewing Sarcoma?'

'How effective is the UN in preventing conflicts?'

All participating students are to be commended on their efforts and engaging presentations and the winner of the overall award will be announced at Upper School visitation.

Distribution of Beer Money Ceremony

Mrs Sarah Lofthouse, Year 7 Pastoral Director

On Monday 11th July, Year 7 cohort went into London to visit Brewer's Hall for the Distribution of Beer Money Ceremony. The students learnt about the history of the Brewer's company and the special relationship Dame Alice had with the Brewer's, after which each student received their crown. This year the students were given a commemorative coin celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

After the formal ceremony students were given the opportunity to view valuable and exquisite historical artifacts including Dame Alice's death mask!

To learn more about Dame Alice Owen's legacy please visit [here](#).

"At Brewer's Hall, we learnt about how the tradition of giving beer money has been going on for a very long time. The tradition started when water was not clean enough to drink and children would be allocated beer to drink!

We also learnt that the hall has been rebuilt many times, from the Great fire of London to World War 2.



We feel very privileged to be a part of this school and it's traditions and we all plan on keeping our coin as a memento."

By Siri, Elsie and Sethuni, Year 7



Cultural Day Fair

On Thursday 14 July, over 800 Dame Alice Owen's students participated in the school's first Cultural Day Fair where students from a variety of backgrounds shared and celebrated traditions, foods and history with each other. It was wonderful to see our young people come together to educate their peers about that which they feel to be at the heart of their traditions and cultures.



It was Year 12 student Tami O who initially approached the school with the idea of running the day. Together with a committee of excellent young people, Tami worked enthusiastically to bring the day to reality. "I wanted to introduce a day where people could learn not only about other backgrounds, but about themselves," said Tami. And this is exactly what happened.

People really took the chance to connect with others they maybe hadn't done before, to ask questions and to learn from each other. This was a truly positive and powerful day which we look forward to building on in years to come.





Reading Week 2022

This term culminated in the inception of an Owen's Reading Week. Ms Beaumont orchestrated a host of exciting visits and activities to promote the importance of reading across all subjects. Novelist Carolyn Kirby gave an engaging talk to Year 10 students about her historical novel, *The Conviction of Cora Burns*. Poet Ash Dickinson hosted the Poetry Reading Competition and led a series of creative writing workshops that inspired students through his sharp and original poetry.

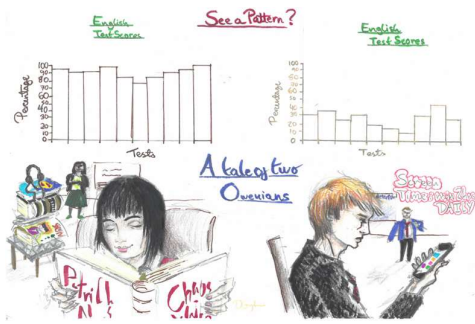
During the week, Year 9 students created literary magazines based on events hosted at school which included a talk from novelist Neal Shusterman, a talk and reading by Ms Cruttenden of her beautifully illustrated debut book, *Bear Shaped*, as well as live recordings from the Hay Literary Festival.

Mrs Wilson and Ms Tsiakli planned and hosted Independent Reading Day for Year 12 students, who discussed novels by Ian McEwan, Shirley Jackson and Charlotte Perkins Gilman and explored a collection of poetry from diverse voices. Students enjoyed a creative writing workshop with our visiting poet Ash Dickinson.

Owen's is committed to championing the importance of reading for pleasure and it was great to see students making use of the Reading Area in Brewer's Garden during the reading week. Some members of the community even went to extreme lengths to get their reading in (see the pictures below). All in all, there were many competitions running throughout the week with our students having produced some excellent work.



Neal Shusterman



Poster Competition Winner (Daniel G, Y8)



Dawn Cruttenden

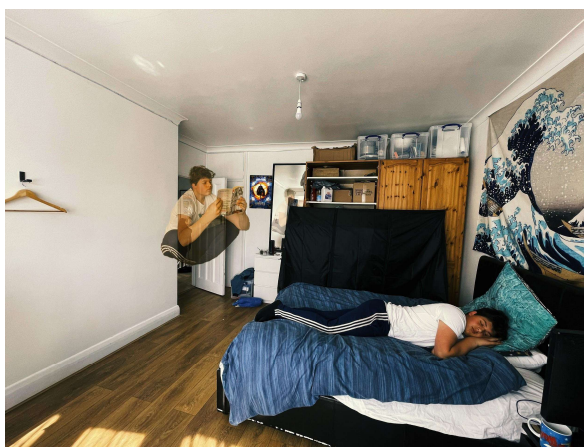
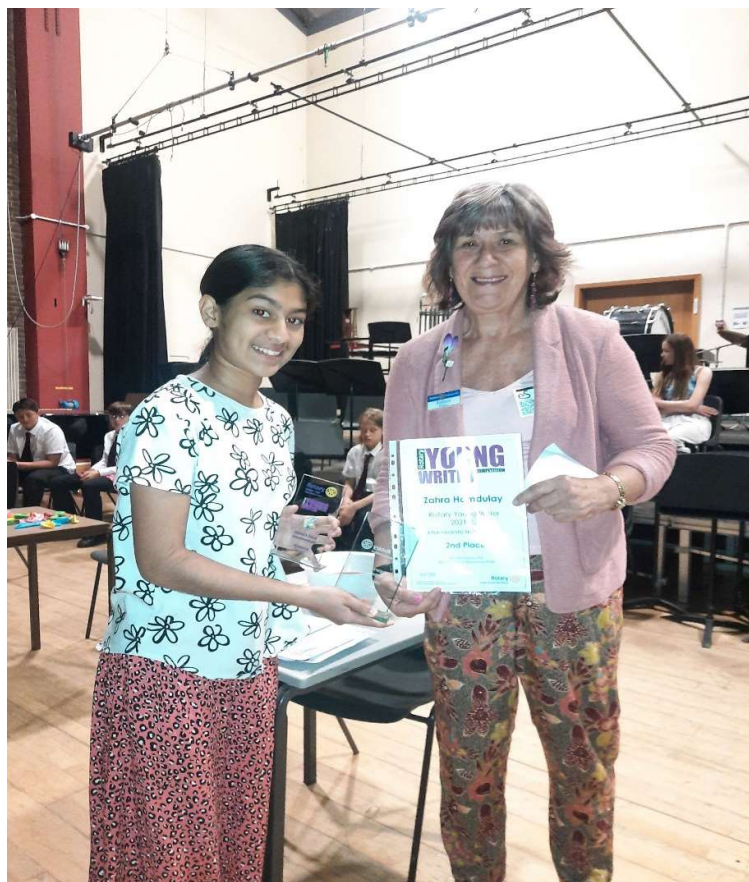


Photo competition: Anthony S (2nd place), Matthias B (1st place), Ms Callis (1st place, teacher)

The Rotary Young Writer Competition

Following on from previous success in this esteemed annual competition, students at Owen's have once more achieved recognition for their continued creative writing accomplishments. This year, we not only won the District Writing competition in two categories but went on to secure runner-up in the National Writing competition!



Zahra H, Year 8, and Zackaryaa I, Year 9, wrote poignantly on the theme of 'Environment' and illustrated their skilful erudition, achieving certificates and trophies as prizes.

They have also been invited to join the Rotarians at their annual conference, taking place on the 1st of October 2022, where they will have the opportunity to read their winning poems out to the Rotarians and guests in the audience.

Photos:

Zahra H receiving her prizes from Barbara Middleton and Zackaryaa I with Barbara Middleton and Margaret Thorpe from the Rotary Club.



I Am Not Alone: Peer Mentoring at Owen's

Dominique Jones, Teacher of Music



Our Peer Mentoring programme has been recognised by national adolescent mental health organisation 'Worth It'. We are a spotlight school for the organisation – an example of good practice in peer-led, early intervention work, promoting positive wellbeing in our school community with a particular focus on the transfer process from Year 6 into Year 7.

It really has been an incredible year. All year 7 pupils have been offered the opportunity to walk and talk on a weekly basis with one of our 75 Sixth Form mentors. In addition to this, the mentors have been into Year 7 form time and assembly and have welcomed pupils to the K7 lunch time drop in space. They have also been working in a more bespoke fashion with pupils in other year groups.

The quality (and quantity) of mentoring that has taken place has led to us being recognised by the national, positive mental health organisation 'Worth It' who work to prevent mental health problems through promoting positive wellbeing in children and young people. You can read on their website a blog post about what we have been doing:

<https://www.worthit.org.uk/examples1/wellbeing-ambassadors-peer-mentoring-for-year-7-transition>

And watch the YouTube interview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pw82G0x40n4&t=41s>



I am particularly proud of the work we have done this year around reducing the stigma of mental health difficulties and removing some of the barriers preventing young people from asking for, or accessing, help with their wellbeing.

We very much want peer mentoring to be a visible part of everyday life at our school: **it is who we are and what we do.** When you come to Owen's, you have the opportunity to be mentored by another student in the community. And also to be a mentor as you journey through the school.



Our younger students have gained so much from their experience of mentoring. They had this to say to their mentors:

*"I really enjoyed walking around with you and talking. **I was always so excited for the days we got to meet up.** You are so nice and made my day every time =)*

*U have really helped me and have **boosted my confidence a lot :)***

*I **felt like I really connected with you** and I really enjoyed our Friday walks!*

***you were always listening, always there for me. It was so nice to have someone to talk to** ♡*

***It was so reassuring** having someone who knew the school and how it worked to **guide me and to talk to.** Year 7 wouldn't have been as easy as it has been without you!*

*Thank you soo much **for being such an amazing peer mentor.** You have been extremely **supportive and kind** to me and **I loved talking to you so muchhh.***

*Thank you for always **being such a good listener***

Thank you so much for helping me settle into the school. You really helped me become a proper Owenian.

An absolute legend. like, possibly the best person I can meet.

You have been one of my biggest friends and I owe you so much.

I want to be like you when I grow up.

The sixth form mentors have also gained much from the process:

It feels nice to build a relationship and connect with Y7, building a bond, and so rewarding to see their confidence grow.

My mentee says hi to me arounds school which is lovely.

Great to share experience of being new to school" (external 6th form student)



I am so so proud of all the young people who have been involved in the programme this year and so incredibly grateful for the time and energy they have put into supporting our school community.

I would like to say thank you to all the pupils who have been involved, to the younger students for being willing to do this, to give it a go, to be brave, to help raise visibility and to help reduce the barriers, to the mentors for their ideas, time, energy, compassion and brilliance. They truly do care so much and are impacting lives in ways they may possibly never know.

The future is bright!

NEWS FROM

OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Owen's Fest 2022*By Ivan Sheer*

For those of you young enough to remember Love Story film, let me start with the words from its theme song, "Where do I begin to tell the story?" That's exactly how I feel about Owen's Fest held on 3rd July. For the fear to run out of superlatives, I'll just say it was a real success. The school positively sparkled in the fabulous sunshine as it welcomed back the newly named Owen's Fest. The herculean effort by the OSA committee and many Owen's parents was evident through and through. A large turn out and everyone's enthusiasm were heightened by the long gap since the last summer fest event. All this allowed to raise a few thousand pounds for school projects just in one afternoon!

A massive thank you from the OSA committee to everyone who lent a hand in organizing the fest, setting up for the activities and taking down everything at the end. If you happened to miss the Fest, here is a brief recap and some photos for you to enjoy and to get excited about Owen's Fest 2023.

The playground had the performance stage, organised by the tech team, with live jazz provided by school groups and bands too.

This was looked over by typically bucolic English scene of food stalls including the Pimms Van (that was so successful it sold Sangria later in the afternoon), BBQ, Curry, year 7 activities like beat the goalie and the very eye-catching tie dye stall!



The lawn in front of Mrs Nemko's office had the ever popular inflatable, very difficult bungee run and assault course. The atmosphere there was just overflowing with the delightful giggling, screams and chatter of competitive children (and such in heart!).



However, if one felt they'd had enough of the lively music and vigorous activities and were seeking some respite from the sun, there was something to please them too. The silent auction and tombola were held in the dining room equipped with the big screen broadcasting tennis live from Wimbledon.

It was a proper summer festival with a traditional afternoon tea and Owen's pupils playing charming chamber music in the background.



OSA committee were glowing with delight too now that they could be easily identified in their new branded polo shirts which they wore with pride and style.

Success of this Owen's Fest makes us excited about and look forward to next summer. Come and join OSA so you too can experience the spirit the great Owen's community!



Luckily, the owner of the winning raffle ticket was present to collect her prize – PS5! – in person from Mrs Nemko, both beaming with joy.



OSA Website – www.theosa.org.uk – Remember to check the OSA website where you can find all the electronic addresses to which you can send your comments, suggestions and kind offers of help.

Facebook – Are we friends on Facebook? If not, we would like to be – [@theOSA.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/theOSA.org.uk).

Committee Meetings – Committee meetings are typically held on the first Monday of the month (term time), 7:30pm. We meet in a convivial and enthusiastic atmosphere looking for ways to support Dame Alice Owen's school community. We look forward to seeing you there!

Refreshments – If you've been to any of the school events, you must have enjoyed refreshments in intervals and wondered who caters them. Well, it is with great pleasure that OSA can serve the school community in this humble way. We'd like to invite you to serve with us: pick any upcoming event and share your time and smile. It doesn't have to be much time, often it is as little as half an hour (of course, you may enjoy it so much that you'll ask to stay longer). Please email to refreshments@theosa.org.uk.

Match Funding – Are you an Owen's parent who works for a blue-chip or multinational company? You may actually be! Many companies offer a Match Funding scheme as a perk for employees who volunteer their time for charities like the Owen's School Association. We would love to hear from you! Please contact Tabitha at matchfunding@theosa.org.uk.

Easy Fund Raising – Shopping online via the Easy Fund Raising website is a great way to make money for the school without any extra cost (and time) to you. So far this has raised £14,000 for the school. Over 4,300 shops and sites will donate to Owens School Association for FREE when you use easyfundraising to shop with them.

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 the link below:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/owensschoolassociation/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-c20

200 Club – The OSA operates 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 at 200club@theOSA.org.uk.

Nearly New Uniform – In addition to regular sales held at larger school events, we're doing over the weekend online sales with the next one planned for the autumn term. Kindly remember to recycle and donate school uniforms items (containers 'OSA Nearly New Uniform' are located through the main Reception doors on the right-hand side walkway). To learn more about the "OSA Nearly New" or if you would like to lend a hand, please email to uniform@theosa.org.uk.

NEWS FROM

OWEN'S MEMBERS CLUB

Live Jazz Friday

Come and enjoy a relaxed evening of live jazz and soul, performed by some of our most talented Owenians - past and present - along with special guests.

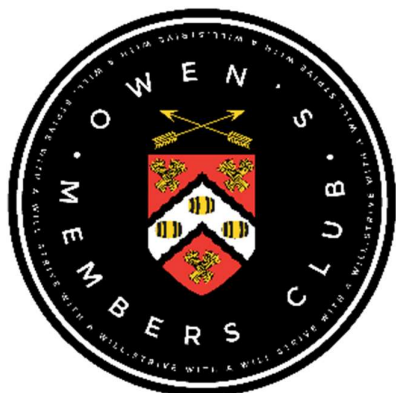
All profits raised will go to the Owen's Alumni Fund, which directly impacts the improvement of Dame Alice Owen's School and associated facilities serving Owenians and the local community. On this occasion, we will also be remembering dear alumni who have recently passed, and raising additional funds to help the charities who cared for them

We are also looking for current students (and alumni) interested in performing at this event (which we hope will be half-termly going forward, so all performers will have the opportunity to play/ sing.)

To sign up, please contact Anna Welsford, Event Organiser, by DM on Instagram @Owenians or email Welsforda@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk by 2nd September.

Tickets are on sale now until 20th September and are expected to sell out.

Tickets can be purchased at www.Owenians.com/events.



LIVE JAZZ FRIDAY

Old Owen's Clubhouse,
📍 Coopers Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 4NF

📅 Friday 30 Sep 2022

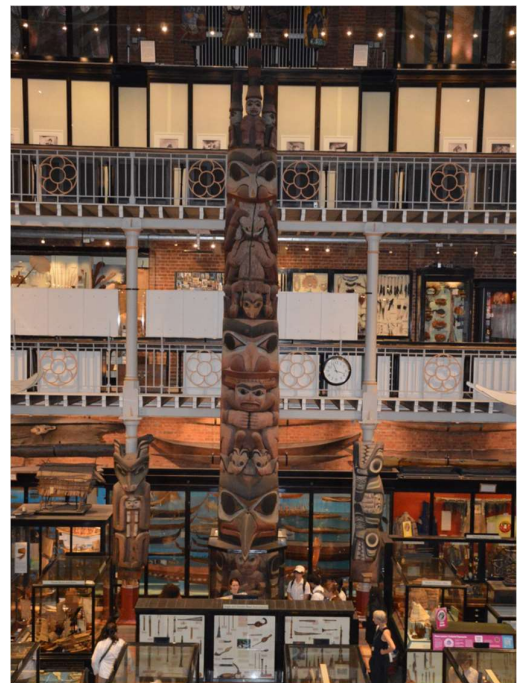
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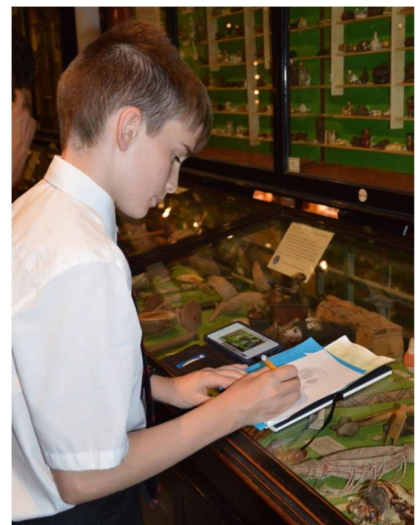
NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT



Art students explored the atmospheric galleries of the Pitt Rivers Museum (Oxford) with over 500,000 photographs, manuscripts and objects of anthropology and archaeology from around the world. Our Year 10 students thoroughly enjoyed the experience producing some wonderful drawings for their coursework. Their behaviour, work ethic and attitude to learning was exemplary.



Thank you to Ms Veerayen for leading a very successful study trip and to Mrs Grigson, Mrs Starck and Mrs Bond for their support.



Summer Production

'Robin Hood' by Ms E Govier

Our Summer Production was written especially for Years 7, 8 & 9 and featured 100 performers, actors, singers, dancers and backstage stage and technical crew. There were many outstanding performances including Rotimi and Kitty in the leading roles of Robin and Marian, Josh as King John, Sami the Sheriff of Nottingham, Bella as Friar Tuck and Theo as Guy of Gisborne. We were really impressed with the atmosphere in the rehearsal room as students were consistently enthusiastic and supportive of one another as a



company.

Anyone who knows me well enough will understand that if there is any kind of stage combat in a play I can't wait to choreograph it, so it was more than a total joy to be able to work with the students once the rules regarding Covid changed.

The final duel at the end between Rotimi and Sami needed to be the most climactic part of the play and I am happy to say that both students were more than capable of adding their own flourishes and sense of energy to the performance. Both these students deserve a special mention, Rotimi in the way he holds the stage with such presence and Sami for his ability to both act and direct his peers with such maturity.

As the play began its journey back in the Easter Holidays, this meant that our Year 13s were no longer able to choreograph, handing over this responsibility our Year 10 students; Katya, Connor, Daisy and Sam who were more than happy to create dances that evoked the Medieval era. Our soloist Solomia more than impressed us as she held the stage at the end of the dance of the forest spirits.

Our fabulous lead from the Spring musical Eliza also came back after completing her exams to help out with coaching our singers providing our talented soloists Seth, Bella and Eden with her experience and gentle guidance.





Our Merry Men, Tabitha, Toby, Eden, Seth and Michael were second to none in their camaraderie, providing much needed comic relief from the more serious court room scenes. Their musical accompaniment also provided by Tom, who picked up his guitar (imagine it's a lute!) and helped to create the authentic sound whilst masquerading as a travelling minstrel as well as one of Guy of Gisborne's henchmen in other scenes!

I created some new characters including the demanding Lady Isabelle, played by Neha, the mysterious and skilled bodyguard Nash played by Bhavya and Marian's brother Robert played by Teddy; all roles were skilfully executed with pace and infectious energy.

The roles of Herne and Diana, often mentioned in folklore were beautifully embodied by Ada and Zach and the chorus of spirits worked hard to create effective messages about how people must work together to create change. However, the biggest surprise for our audience was the entrance of King Richard played to great aplomb by our very own Mr Henshaw who gave a sense of gravitas to the close of every night.

The Prioress was based on a real life character who was supposed to have betrayed Robin and poisoned him; however, in our adaptation, Solomia played her brilliantly as an assassin in disguise.

We also applaud our Year 7 performers, many of them treading the boards at Owen's for the first time both in *'The Story of the Golden Brothers'* and in the dances. We were very



impressed by your ability to hold the stage and recognise your potential as future lead performers.

Our Stage and Technical Crew were as fantastic as ever led by Oliver, Hannah and Lottie who made sure that everything ran smoothly onstage, I know that they were more than happy to be faced with some hefty challenges involving time travel and the SFX of arrows and sword play.



Finally a massive thank you to our members of staff Mr Henshaw and Miss Khan who assistant directed on the production, Mr Anastasi and Creative Crew who painted our set, Mrs Cruttenden who took the Dress Rehearsal photos & Mr Stensel who took the show photos.

I know that everyone cannot wait for the next production in the Winter Term and will be more than excited to start the process again in September.

Ms Govier, Director of Drama



Intermediate Maths Challenge: Follow-on Rounds

We had a record number of students – 75 in all – invited to sit the follow-on rounds this year. Congratulations to them all!

Special congratulations go to Melissa K (Year 9), Stephen G (Year 10) and Eiden I (Year 11) who achieved best in year, with Eiden also achieving Best in School. Melissa was invited to sit the Cayley Olympiad, Stephen was invited to sit the Hamilton Olympiad and Eiden was invited to sit the MacLaurin Olympiad along with Rufus J.

The following students were invited to sit the next which took place this month:

Grey Kangaroo (Year 9)

Jack B
 Jamie L
 Oliver K
 Jack F
 Emmanuel A
 Jafar A
 Kat A
 Evie C
 Conrad G
 Josie G
 Phoebe H
 Ben I
 Zackaryaa I
 Sally J
 Adam K
 Neha K
 Isabelles L
 Anisa M
 James McC
 Dhruv McE
 Lucia M-G
 Lyla M
 Akshadha M
 Niamh M
 Ourania N
 Rhea P
 Isabella R
 Ashvin R
 Bhavya R
 Melanie R
 Emily R
 Jonah R
 Rahil S
 Sophie S
 Esme S
 Amvi S
 Shashivar T
 Marco T
 Alice W
 Joshua W

Pink Kangaroo (Year 10)

Alex B
 Sophie C
 Uju E
 Amira E
 Elizabeth H
 Charlie I
 Vincent L
 Leo N
 Matei P
 Nathan P
 Jacob R
 Indira S
 Felix S

Pink Kangaroo (Year 11)

Luca A
 Freddie A
 Max B
 Jessica B
 Miranda D
 Charlie F
 Nathaniel G
 Arvin H-F
 Claire H
 Zoe L
 Kian L
 Jasmin M
 Thomas M
 Lyra P
 Ishika S
 Thomas S
 Sam S
 Sonia S
 Ryoma S
 Joshua T
 Alice T
 Maarten V-W

The results of the Intermediate Maths Challenge follow-on rounds have almost all come in.

In the Kangaroo rounds our congratulations go to Jafar A, Jack B, Evie C, Jack F, Conrad G, Zackaryaa I, Sally J, Jamie L, Dhruv McE, Niamh M, Jonah R, Joshua W, Luca A, Elizabeth H, Vincent L, Kian L, Leo N, Matei P, Ryoma S, Joshua T, Alice T and Maarten V- W who were awarded merits.

Melissa K (Y9), Stephen G (Y10) and Eiden I and Rufus J (Y11) were invited to sit the Intermediate Maths Olympiad. Eiden, Rufus and Stephen achieved a merit. Well done! We are still awaiting the results of the Cayley Olympiad.

Junior Maths Challenge

At the end of April, 290 pupils from Years 7 and 8 sat the JMC with stunning results. 214 certificates were awarded, including a magnificent 78 golds! 36 children were invited to take part in the Kangaroo follow-on rounds.

The following students were invited to sit the next which took place in June:

Zainab A	Zahra H	Imogen N
Henry B	Dillon H	Stella O
Ellie B	Jonah H	Cailen P
Ira B	Sienna J	Emilia P
Tom B	Hannah J	Adam Q
Sonny B	Artian K	Siri S
Max B-K	Niam L	Raphael S
Hayden C	Ben L	Hannah S
Aditi D	Ruofu L	Adam S
Andrew F	Ivy L	Haruna S
Tilly G	Sabrina M	Rhiannon T
Zimo G	Akshay M	Ellie Z
Adrian H-T	Ansh M	

Congratulations to Henry B, Max B-K, Hayden C, Aditi D, Hannah J, Aartian K, Niam L, Ben L, Sabrina M, Raphael S, Hannah S and Adam S who were awarded a merit in the follow-on kangaroo. Special congratulations to Harrison C, Andreas E, Vishnu P, Vanshika R-T and Kian T who got through to the Junior Olympiad which has not yet been marked. We eagerly await news of their fantastic results!

Puzzle of the Week 2021/22

Puzzle of the week is a weekly mathematical problem solving competition for Years 7, 8 and 9. This year we had eight amazing individuals who completed every single one of the 37 Puzzle of the Week problems correctly. An absolutely amazing feat! The final placing for prizes was decided by a tie break.

Well done to Sally J who completed the tie break competition in the fastest time.

1st Sally J
 2nd Jack F
 3rd Riya G
 3rd Vanshika R T
 4th Paavni B
 4th Aaryan G
 4th Perla M
 4th Zackaryaa M!

Year 8 Herts for Learning Maths Challenge Final

The Year 8 maths team (Vanshika, Tummala, Akshay, Andreas) had success at the Herts for Learning Maths Challenge on Thursday, 19 May 2022, coming second overall in the competition. They were beaten by one point! They won their heat back in April and made it through to the final with 18 other schools. Overall 76 schools in Hertfordshire took part in the competition.

"The maths competition was an enthralling experience, it was good fun solving the interesting problems and I particularly enjoyed the pressure in the memory round where you had to memorise a poster and describe it to your team members. Unfortunate that we lost our first place by 1 mark." — Akshay

"I found that the maths competition was a very delightful experience. Working together on challenging problems, competing against other schools and just the overall team spirit was a whole new world of excitement for me! Though a little stressful at times, the maths competition was a very interesting and enjoyable event. It was a little disappointing how we were just one mark away from first place, but, in the end, I had a lot of fun. I am very proud of our team's achievement!" — Vanshika

"The maths competition was a thrilling and enjoyable experience. It was an incredible day of difficult maths questions and challenging puzzles. I had a great time solving these with our team. Although we lost out on first place by a point, I learnt a lot from this experience and had a memorable day." — Hannah

"It was great to work as a team and explore the different problems. Combining our efforts into solutions, we uncovered ways to approach the questions. The experience was new and though it lasted two hours, I was absorbed with the maths and did not tire. Throughout the competition, we were engaged in the fun and I was pleased with our result at the end of it all." — Andreas



Owen's Musical Summer!

This half term kicked off with the **Y10 GCSE Music Ensembles Concert** with students putting on a fantastic evening showcasing their ensemble performances with a rich variety, from cello duets, to Irish music to guitar+vocal duets and Argentinian tango. The evening exuded the students' great joy in making music together and left the audience in no doubt of the extent of their talents. Well done Y10s!

The **Junior Summer Concert on 23rd June** was our next musical stop. The contagious energy of the **Junior Ensemble**, fresh with some enthusiastic new faces, commenced the concert with a fantastic performance of 'Scarborough Fair' and 'America' from *West Side Story*. Scarborough Fair featured some creative and engaging improvisation from several of our young musicians. **Junior Chamber Strings** followed on with a performance of Telemann's overture from *Burlesque de Quixote* as well as the beautifully played 'Fantasia' on *Greensleeves* by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Keeping with the theme of folk songs; **Junior Brass** took us to Hungary with a performance of an arrangement of three traditional Hungarian folk songs: 'Now I'm old and bored, Mother, be busy!' and the 'Hungarians quarrel with the Austrians!' Next, **Junior Chamber Choir** came out onto the stage to perform with Year 10 student **Alissa Kh on the cello** in a moving performance of Elaine Hagenberg's 'O Love,' followed by the fast paced setting of William Blake's poem 'The Tiger.' **Junior Percussion** gave us a foot-stomping performance of 'Another Day in Paradise' before the **Junior Choir** rounded out the first half with performances of songs from popular musicals.



After the interval the audience was welcomed back to the EGH with a sumptuous performance of Mozart's 'Allegro' from his *String Quartet in C* performed by the **Y7 String Quartets**. **Second Band** filled the stage in preparation for a delightful mix of pieces from Mexican folk dances to Abba's 'Dancing Queen', where it was hard not to sing and tap along. Finally **Second Orchestra** performed the ethereal 'Morning' from Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite* before whooshing the audience out of the EGH with a swashbuckling performance of 'Pirates of the Caribbean'.



Congratulations to the whole of Year 9 for their performances in the **Y9 Music Festival 24th-30th June** which was a veritable feast of class songs, class instrumental pieces, small group pieces and technology compositions all on stage in the Edward Guinness Hall. This was the first ever **DAOS Y9 Music Festival** and we look forward many more. It was a fantastic week of performances, celebrating the Owen's Music curriculum community!



The **Owen's Jazz** summer events kicked off on **Sunday 3rd July** at the massively successful **OSA Summer Festival** playing outdoors in the top playground to toe-tapping audiences. This was followed three days later on **Wednesday 6th July** by the first ever **Owen's Jazz on a Summer Evening**.



With the audience seated jazz club style around tables in the dimly-lit Main Hall, this evening showcased the range and depth of jazz at school from the **Jazz Collective**, the **Junior Big Band** and the **Senior Big Band**, as well as a Y12 and 13 jazz small combo. We were delighted to welcome back for this event, alumnus Joe Loveday to join our array of current jazz musicians.



On Saturday, 9th July, the Owen's Concert Band and Owen's Senior Strings gathered at 6.45am to set off for **Birmingham** to perform in the **National Festival of Music for Youth**. The ensembles had been selected for this honour following a video audition submitted from their Spring Concert performances. Performing on-stage in one of the finest concert halls in Europe, **Symphony Hall**, the ensembles sounded proud and excited, had the opportunity to listen to other young musicians' ensembles selected from all round the country and also received some very complimentary feedback from the National Festival of Music for Youth mentors. It was a wonderful day out with all the students.





The final concert of the performing year was the **Summer Senior Concert** on Wednesday, 13th July, in the Edward Guinness Hall. Another feast of music, providing the opportunity for our Senior Strings and Concert Band to share their Birmingham performances with our local audience, this concert also featured performances from the Senior Choir and Senior Chamber Choir with some moving and entertaining performances including John Rutter's moving *Ukrainian Prayer*. A trio of performers from Y7 and Y8 also provided us with an extract from the opera, *Alcina* by Handel. Symphonic music was provided by both the Chamber Orchestra (Haydn no. 44) and the Symphony Orchestra performing movements from Dvorak's *8th Symphony*. The second half of the concert saw a standing ovation for the performance of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* given by Year 13 student Manav Paul with the Symphony Orchestra.



NEWS FROM

THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Year 12 Psychology Trip to the Wellcome Institute and Dans Le Noir (14 June 2022)

We met at the Wellcome Institute and had a brief look around the Medicine Man exhibition before getting into groups to do a scavenger hunt that our teachers created for us related to the Being Human exhibition. Most groups became very competitive. We had to answer Psychology questions related to Wellcome's History of Medicine collection in order to earn clues to unravel a key Psychological term. We learned that Wellcome collected a variety of books, paintings and objects from Charles Darwin's walking stick to shrunken heads (which had actually been removed due to ethical issues). We then had time to 'chill' in the very cool and interesting library space. There was a display of people's drawings of their perception of their health and some of us had a go too.



We then walked for 15 minutes in the hot sun to get to the restaurant Dans Le Noir! Eating in the dark was fantastic but a strange experience at first. It wasn't too scary. Our eyes did not become used to the dark but somehow, we did. Everyone was very loud to compensate for not being able to see and our space awareness decreased so that everyone felt further away than they actually were. The food was good and it was relatively easy to guess what we were eating. Luckily no one could see our table manners. There were some spillages and it was really difficult to eat with cutlery so many of us used our fingers instead. The whole experience and interviewing the blind waiters afterwards gave us an insight into what it felt like to be visually impaired.

A trip we would recommend.

12A Psychology

Royal Holloway University of London National Psychology Competition (29 June 2022)

Nayan P, Ayse S, Marz Al-R and Shaiyla Sh represented their teams most professionally at the Royal Holloway National Psychology Competition. They presented posters which complemented a video on very mature themes: '*How implementing education can reduce sexual harassment in childhood for the benefit of society*' and '*How we can mitigate the psychological effects of the Refugee Crisis*'. Whilst not receiving a podium place, they did, however, learn from and thoroughly enjoyable the experience.

Lower School Psychology Assembly and Competition

Thank you to Nashita K, Bhavya R, Yitong Y and Isabelle L for recording an excellent assembly on optical illusions for lower school students, entitled 'Things are not always as they seem'. There were some excellent entries to the pareidolia competition, where students were taking photos around the school of faces where there were none. Year 12 Psychologists Neeve R and Daisy W selected Mikha P W (Year 8) as the worthy winner.

Wishing you all a lovely and relaxing summer break.

Mrs Rutlin and Miss Saliba



Athletics

On the 11th of June, some of our athletes took part in the annual Hertfordshire Schools Athletics Championships. All students did well on the day and produced some great performances.

In the Year 7 competition, Tia came 2nd in the Long Jump, Albert came 2nd in the Javelin, Hannah came 2nd in Discus. In the Under 15 competition, Fred came 3rd in the Discus, Rian came 3rd in the Hurdles and High Jump and Excel came 1st in the Long Jump with a jump of 5.61m.

In the Under 17 competition, Milo came 2nd in the Javelin. Well done to them all!



On the 13th of June, both our Junior Boys and Girls teams competed in the English Schools Track and Field Cup London North Regional 'B' Final. All students performed well and produced some great results. Our girls won the regional round and the boys came 8th in a hard competition. The students that produced the most points for their teams on the day were Rian with 54 points and Emilie with 40 points. Well done to all students that competed.

On 17th June, both our Inter Boys and Girls team competed in the English Schools Track and Field Cup London North Regional 'A' Final. The students performed very well in scorching temperatures. Our boys team came 3rd and missed out on 2nd place by only 7 points and our girls team came 6th against a very strong field of schools. Well done to all students involved. The students that produced the most points for their teams on the day were Holly with 37 points and both Milo and Jacob scored 43 points. Well done to all students involved.



On Friday, 1st July, our teams competed in the Mid Herts Athletics Championships. We had an unbelievable performance from all of our teams, finishing off as Overall Mid Herts District Winners.

Results were as follows:

Girls:

Year 7 - 1st, Year 8 - 2nd, Year 9 - 2nd, Year 10 - 1st. Overall Girls - 1st

Boys:

Year 7 - 1st, Year 8 - 2nd, Year 9 - 1st, Year 10 - 1st. Overall Boys - 1st

We are very proud of all the students who took part and demonstrated their best!

All 4 of our Athletics teams qualified for the County League A finals on Tuesday, 5th July.

Under 14 Girls finished 5th, Under 16 Girls finished 7th, Under 14 Boys finished 4th and Under 16 Boys finished 5th. All students performed well against a very strong field of schools.



Cricket

The Year 7-10 girls had the opportunity to have a cricket masterclass from Naomi Dattani on Thursday, 14th July. The afternoon consisted of fielding, bowling and batting skills. The girls took a lot away from the session and thoroughly enjoyed it, even having a Q&A after which encouraged the girls to join a club!



U12 Girls

The U12A's and B's had great games against Aldenham in the sunshine. The A team narrowly lost by a few runs, with the player of the game being Freya scoring 20 runs. The B's had a great close game with lots of wickets, the player of the game was Nysa. The girls had a fantastic end to the season, winning against Chancellors and Haileybury, Freya and Riya scored the most runs. The U12B's had a very close game with Haileybury, narrowly losing by 4 runs. The girls have really come together and shown to enjoy the game, I look forward to them excelling next year in cricket!



Under 13 Girls

The girls took part in a Chance To Shine Festival all day, the girls had four games throughout the day, winning three and losing one by 3 runs. The girls had a great day in the sun and finished the day off with a great win against Herts & Essex. The team just lost out on making it to the semi-final by three wickets. It was a great day and to see how much the girls have improved throughout the season. The player of the festival was Eva Leahy.



Under 14 Girls

The girls had a great game against Aldenham's U15 team. The girls have shown to really improve their skills and understanding of the game. Unfortunately, the girls narrowly lost by 3 runs, a very exciting game.

Under 15 Girls

The Under 15 girls have played two games to date. Their first ever competitive match was against Highgate School and was played in a Hundred format. Although the girls lost it was a great learning experience. Fielding first, Amba took the first wicket with a catch from a Temidire bowl. Highgate's other two wickets were taken by Neha who clean bowled two of the opponents. Everyone had the experience of batting and the girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Their second match was against St Margaret's School. The girls showed great improvements from their first game in this 20 over fixture. The opposition batted first and scored 167-4 with Alica catching the first wicket from Neha's bowl, Amba catching the second from Sofia's bowl and stumping out the third from Neha's bowl and Neha catching the fourth wicket from Amba's bowl. The team certainly used their experiences from the previous fixture and performed much better in bat, scoring 81. Overall a hugely improved team performance with the girls showing greater confidence. Well done girls!

Year 7 Boys

The Year 7s had a tough start to the year with 3 losses, but have since won their first game vs Enfield Grammar School. Stand out performances in that game from Aayush and Rohan. The boys are starting to grasp the basics of a team performance and have 2 matches left this season.

Year 8 Boys

The Year 8 team have all of their games this year but their only loss came to Watford Boys Grammar in the county quarter final in a closely fought match, hopefully they can improve on this next year and make it through to the final.

Year 9 Boys

The Year 9 team managed to win a couple of games and lose a couple of games, which were close matches. Hopefully they can develop their skills further and then return stronger next year.

Year 10 Boys

The Year 10 team have had a good season with some great wins against traditional cricket schools on their way to the County Final, which has been postponed to the beginning of next school term. Well done to all involved and good luck in the final.

Tennis

Boys

Our district teams had a good first season, with many of them playing competitive tennis for the first time. Shout out to the year 7s who spent the season playing up an age group and competed in all of their fixtures. Well done also to the U14 boys district team who were league winners and progressed to the finals where they faced some difficult opposition.

Our U13 county team did well in the county division, with a notable win against St Albans.

Well done to Max and Marko who played up a year in this competition. Our stand out performers were the U15 county team who won their division by winning all 3 of their games to reach the county finals.



They won both their matches at the finals convincingly to become county champions.

Huge well done to Charlie, Oscar, Dylan, Hayden and Marko!

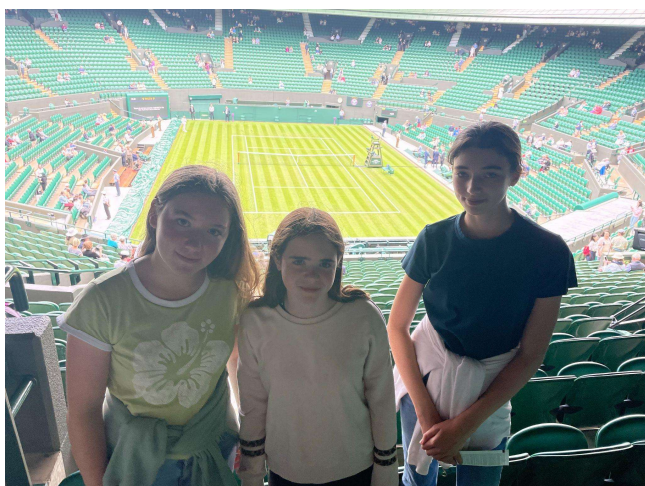
Girls

The district teams had a fantastic first season with both the U13A and U14 teams winning their leagues and progressing through to the finals at Queenswood. Well done to the U13B team who came runners up in the group.

The U13 county team did very well finishing runners up in their county division group with fantastic wins against Monks Walk and Queenswood. Well done to Cami and Hannah who played up a year in this competition. Well done to the U15 county team who also performed brilliantly in their group with a great win against Haileybury. A big shout out to the Year 10's in their final year and who are fantastic players- Alice, Dyllen and Yahvi!



We also had the pleasure of taking some of our Year 8 pupils on a trip to Wimbledon for the day to experience and watch some amazing tennis being played. Some of our pupils even managed to bag themselves signatures from some of the top players.



Sports Day

Another successful sports day with so many students involved across all the activities and events. Year winners were Year 7 - Clerkenwell, Year 8 - Hermitage, Year 9 - Goswell, Year 10 - Goswell.

Well done to all involved in participating and helping the day run smoothly.



Football

Ellie in Year 8 had a weekend to remember at the end of June as she played a starring role in helping Haringey Girls FC win two national titles in two days at the prestigious ACES Competition in Nottingham.

Despite already winning the Junior Premier League U14 Girls' League and the Middlesex County Cup during the season, Ellie - as well as the rest of her teammates - were hungry for more.

On Saturday, 25th June, she was part of the Haringey U14 team that won every game and became U14 National winners. She scored some stunning goals, including an outrageous left footed volley from 20 yards out that flew into the top corner. Furthermore, she netted a crucial goal in both the semifinal and the final.

On Sunday, 26th June, she earned another gold medal, this time as part of the Haringey U15 team who also went on to become National Champions. She displayed excellent skill in 1v1 situations and to play at such a high level after an exhausting day on Saturday speaks volume of the mentality she possesses. Yet again, she scored important goals and defended impressively from the front, helping the team go through the whole day without conceding a goal.

Most people don't win a national title in their whole career. Ellie has won three in one year. Well done Ellie!



Freya (Year 7), Ellie, Emilie, Amelia, Mia, Eva (Year 8) have all been nominated for Hertfordshire Schools Football trials. Good luck girls!

Excel and Isaac (Year 8) and Alfie (Year 9) have all attended the first round of the Hertfordshire County trials and now all have been selected to attend the final trial at the beginning of next term. Good luck to you all!



Other achievements

Well done to Annabelle in Year 7 who qualified first in the London region and attended the English Silver Tumbling Championships in Telford, competing in the 11-12 age category. She came 4th overall! Amazing news considering Annabelle only joined her club in January!

Congratulations go to Albert (Year 7) in being selected to represent Hertfordshire in the upcoming U13 South of England Inter Counties Athletics Championships later in the month. Well done Albert and good luck in the competition!

Congratulations to John (Year 7) who has been selected to attend the London Hockey Player Pathway programme as the first steps of the England Hockey Talent System Framework. Good Luck with your training and development!

Ava (Year 10) is the captain of Hampstead Rugby Club Girls' team. She has been playing rugby, which began as touch rugby, since the age of 6. She was recently selected to play for Middlesex after two trials played at The Grasshoppers Stadium. The level of competition was exceptionally high considering time lost to the pandemic. Congratulations on such an achievement Ava!

LJ (Year 12) was selected to represent Hertfordshire County Schools in the English Schools Athletics Championships on the weekend of 8th and 9th July.