



Dame Alice Owen's School

Dugdale Hill Lane | Potters Bar | Hertfordshire EN6 2DU



Dame Alice Owen's School

Est. 1613



WELCOME



**from our Headteacher,
Mrs Hannah Nemko**

At Dame Alice Owen's we are unashamedly proud of our reputation for academic rigour and extra-curricular activity. It was our consistently excellent results together with the wealth of opportunities we afford our students which led to us being awarded the title of *Sunday Times State School of the Year 2017*. Our high expectations help students become the very best individuals they can be. They are supported, encouraged and challenged by their peers, parents and staff who all work closely together in our very special community.

We know that we are preparing our young people for life in a world yet to be invented and that instilling in them our values of tolerance, resilience, ambition, respect, intellectual curiosity and determination will be crucial to their future success and happiness. Our young people thrive because they feel inspired and supported; they are stimulated and encouraged.

We hope that you recognise this school, full of warmth, drive and ambition, as you walk through our corridors and talk to our students. We are all proud to be a part of Owen's and would be delighted to welcome you into our school.

Hannah Nemko



A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Through Form, Teaching and Year groupings, as well as extensive extra-curricular activities that genuinely transcend age profiles, the young people mix and share a common identity with pride and loyalty. Charity fundraising is a prominent goal and there is a strong desire to give back and to serve others. The students love their school and will greet you with an openness and freshness that is infectious.

Visitors to the school will be immediately impressed by the lively, confident, buoyant and happy atmosphere that reverberates around this vibrant community. The students look forward to being here, thrive in their lessons and do their utmost to achieve their personal best. There is a highly respectful ethos that celebrates the value and worth of all young people.

‘What stands out most to us, as parents, is the sheer dedication from all the staff at Owen’s.’

Parent of a Year 7 student



THE OWEN’S WAY

At Owen’s, we have a clear set of guiding principles known as ‘The Owen’s Way’, which shape our work and run through everything that we do.

They were written by the school council and are:

Opportunity for all

– to learn, to participate and to enjoy

Window to the world

– to be outward looking and informed

Excellence in everything

– to strive to be the best that we can

Never stop learning

– to have an enquiring mindset

Supportive community

– to affirm and bolster one another

‘My son has thrived at Owen’s so far. He was always a bright child, but he has been stretched to achieve his full potential. Teachers are engaged and enthusiastic, helping him to explore the subjects that interest him way beyond the curriculum. He is happy and enjoys school.’

Parent of a Year 11 student

‘The Owen’s way is no cheap sophistry; when we say excellence in everything, it’s meant, among the students and the staff, and any pupil ready to learn here knows it.’

Year 12 student



SPORT AND MUSIC

The Music department has a concert hall, three specialist classrooms, numerous practice rooms, a recital and rehearsal studio and a recording studio. More than 500 students receive instrumental lessons and extra-curricular activities include four orchestras and bands, five choirs, an array of ensembles and an annual musical production. Our Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band, and Senior Mixed Chamber Choir have performed at the Royal Albert Hall, The Barbican, The National Festival Hall and the Llangollen International Eisteddfod with abundant awards received. Academic performance is excellent too. Many students go on to study music either at university, including Oxbridge, or the Conservatoires.

The PE department provides opportunities for students to participate in a wide variety of sports including football, rugby, netball, hockey, athletics, gymnastics, basketball and badminton in lessons and as extra-curricular activities at lunchtime or after school. Sport caters for students at all levels and the school has a number of students holding representative honours at district, county and national levels and a number of teams are county champions. Our sports facilities are excellent with a gymnasium, sports hall, all-weather pitch, tennis and netball courts, a sports pavilion and an extensive area of pitches.

400 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Dame Alice Owen founded our school in 1613 in Islington and entrusted the leadership to the Worshipful Company of Brewers who continue to be trustees of the Owen's Foundation today. Originally a boys' school, a girls' school was added in 1886 and we became co-educational when the school moved to Potters Bar in 1973.

The generous contributions from the trustees year on year, allow us to constantly improve the learning environment for our students and ensure that additional opportunities, which would otherwise be prohibitive for a state school, are not lost. Their contributions have allowed us to build our new Science, Maths, Drama and Technology blocks providing our students access to the most up-to-date equipment. With thanks to their generous support we will be building a new Teaching block in 2018.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR

There is a rich, rewarding and really exciting life outside the classroom at Dame Alice Owen's. A variety of clubs and societies meet at lunchtimes including Book Club, Engineering, Eco Club, LinC (Christian Union), Computing, Chess, Debating, Textiles, Art and Science, in addition to the music and sports activities. These all add to the student experience at our school. If we do not offer something that students would like then we encourage them to start up a club themselves. Drama at school is exceptional with three productions per year.

Beyond the school boundaries there are numerous opportunities including language exchanges and visits to our partner school in Tanzania. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Life as a student at Dame Alice Owen's is varied, stimulating and utterly unforgettable.

'I think that Owen's is distinctive in that, whatever your passions may be, (from sport, music, art as well as academic activity) it supports these pursuits, and facilitates their growth.'

Year 10 student



'I am delighted with how my daughter has blossomed since starting at Owen's. Thanks to the supportive atmosphere and inspiring teaching, she has grown in confidence and now enjoys learning.'

Parent of a Year 7 student

'I believe the school genuinely wants all the children to excel, but more importantly it wants them to be happy whilst they do so.'

Parent of a Year 9 student



EARNING YOUR SUCCESS

Pupils' progress and attainment are both excellent. Dame Alice Owen's regularly appears amongst the top comprehensive schools nationally at both GCSE and A level, with GCSE 5 A*–C grades including English and Maths exceeding 90% and A level A*/A grades well above 50%. Between 25 and 30 students receive offers from Oxford or Cambridge every year and the vast majority of our Sixth Form go on to study at a Russell Group University.

The school is a centre of excellence across the curriculum with state of the art facilities. Science is a key specialism with over 150 students taking an A levels in Physics, Biology and Chemistry annually. Between 30 and 40 students take Further Maths at A level each year.

'When you talk to any department be that Teaching, Music, Sport or Pastoral the message is the same – they want our child to be happy whilst they guide him to be the best he can be.'

Parent of a Year 8 student



The school will continue to offer CPD, Leadership Programmes, Forums and ITT via the Advanced Learning Partnership. We will be a lead partner within the Alban Teaching School Hub, through which we will be delivering the Early Career Framework among other programmes.

We look forward to working with all our partner schools in the coming decade.

Teachers are encouraged to participate in professional development activities and action research projects, both to further their classroom practice and to show students that learning is a life-long process.

Our vision is to facilitate outstanding learning across the Partnership and to develop excellent leadership at all levels in order to ensure that students have the best educational experience possible.

'The dialogue with teachers and their lessons are – as they should be – insightful, invested, engaging and challenging.'

Sixth Form student

