



Dame Alice Owen's School

Newsletter December 2022



Letter from the Head

Hannah Nemko

Like many areas of the public sector, you will be aware that teachers are dissatisfied with the pay award that has been granted this year. There was no financial recognition for what teachers went through to support our young people during the pandemic last year and this increase, like that of many others, falls way

below inflation. The two largest teaching unions, the NASUWT and the NEU, are balloting their members to judge whether there is an appetite to strike or take action short of striking. The ballots close in early to mid-January and, if the decision is to strike, we can reasonably expect that action to be taken within 6 months of the vote. Unusually, even the Association of College and School Lecturers (ASCL), a union whose members are predominately those who make up the senior leadership of schools and Multi Academy Trusts, are consulting on whether to ballot for strike action too.

Initial communication from the NASUWT and NEU is that if the results of their preliminary ballots were repeated in the formal ballot, they would meet the government's legal criteria for a national strike, which requires at least 50% of a union's total membership to vote in favour.

According to a report by Income Data Research, for the NEU, teachers' starting pay in England remains behind that of graduates by 8.2%. Graduate pay of those not in teaching is still significantly higher at three and five years into their careers than teachers at the equivalent point. Whilst no one goes into teaching to get rich, the profession will only be able to attract excellent graduates if terms and conditions for employment remain competitive. The DfE reports that there has been a 20% drop in the number of graduates signing up for teacher training this year and that they have only attracted 59% of their target number of



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS...

NON NOBIS SOLUM

Look Beneath the Surface (page 6)

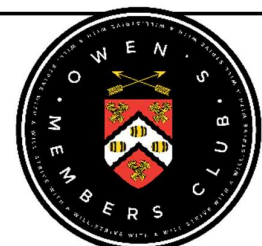
BE THE CHESS PLAYER,

not the chess piece (page 9)

EXCITING HALF-TERM

What we've been up to in education & sports (pages 11-43)

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



people to secondary school teacher training; this target that has been missed for 9 of the last 10 years.

At Dame Alice Owen's, the wider funding crisis is hitting us as hard as any other school and we are waiting to hear how the 2.3 billion pounds promised to education filters down to us specifically. The Worshipful Company of Brewers contributes significantly to the school but core education funding is not within their remit, they also have significantly less money, post Covid, to distribute to the school; we are having to cut our cloth accordingly in a number of areas.

So, what are we doing about this?

Dame Alice Owen's continues to work with a wide range of universities and institutions in order to help train and attract the highest quality teachers for our young people, though it proving difficult to recruit at every level. We also work with a number of organisations such as the Confederation of Schools' Trust and the ASCL who represent our views to the government and work with decision makers to try and bring about positive resolutions to difficult problems. We are also speaking to our MP, the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden, and are delighted that he will be coming into school at the end of January to speak to us more fully about a number of challenges we currently face at Owen's and in education, not least appropriate pay and adequate funding.

We hope that appropriate steps and changes will be taken and made which mean that the unions do not feel that striking is the only option left for them but we will be sure to keep the school community updated as this unfolds.

Whilst all of this is going on in the background, I am proud to say that our staff have been working as hard as ever to ensure that our young people still have access to as many of the teaching and wider opportunities we have always striven to give them as possible. In the pages that follow you will be able to read reports of sporting and public speaking success, of concerts, drama productions and a plethora of visits, home and abroad which have been taking place to educate, inspire and extend our students. It remains a privilege to be part of this wonderful community and heart-warming to see that *The Times* has, **once again placed Dame Alice Owen's as the top performing comprehensive school in the country.**

I would like to thank the staff, teaching and support, for their incredible work this term, for their dedication to providing the very best outcomes and opportunities that they can for our young people and to wish you all a merry Christmas and a bright New Year.

Hannah Nemko

The Owen's School Association is a committee of volunteer parents which supports Dame Alice Owen's School in many ways such as but not restricted to:

- Organising Fund Raising Activities and Events such as quizzes and Summer Fete to purchase much needed equipment;
- Providing refreshments at school plays, concerts and parents' evenings – over 40 events a year;
- Providing an opportunity for parents to meet and get involved with the school community;
- Providing an email notification service for OSA events and activities.

On Saturday, 19th November, the hall was packed with 200 parents and a few tables of 6th Formers – all gathered to put their brains against each other in the Autumn Supper Quiz. Entertaining questions set by parent Alex Gilbert kept everyone on their toes. Simi and her fabulous team prepared and served the delicious food and the bar was well stocked by Tony & Co.

In addition to the traditional raffle and silent auction, there were a few innovations with spot prizes handed out between rounds for those who were quick off the mark. Quiz participants – veterans and debutants alike – were delighted to find that the quiz was narrowly won by a table made up of the school's Senior Leadership Team. It is heartening to know that our children are taught by some very clever people.

Thank you to everyone who played their part. Below are some pictures of what you might have missed and hopefully they'll encourage you to book early for the next one. See you there!



NEWS FROM

OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



NEWS FROM OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

On Monday, 28th November, the Committee met more informally for a quiz debrief and to see in the seasonal festivities with a catch-up and 'bring and share' at the Old Owen's Social Club. As it was school night the merriment did not go into the wee hours.

Nearly New Uniform: An online sale was held on 11-15 November. This was another success. Many thanks to the organisers and buyers!

We will inform you of the next sale in due course, meanwhile here's a gentle reminder 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.

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.

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 the school community. The next 2 meetings will be held on 9th January and 6th February 2023. 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 £16,130 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.



Hertfordshire Just Talk Week – November 2022

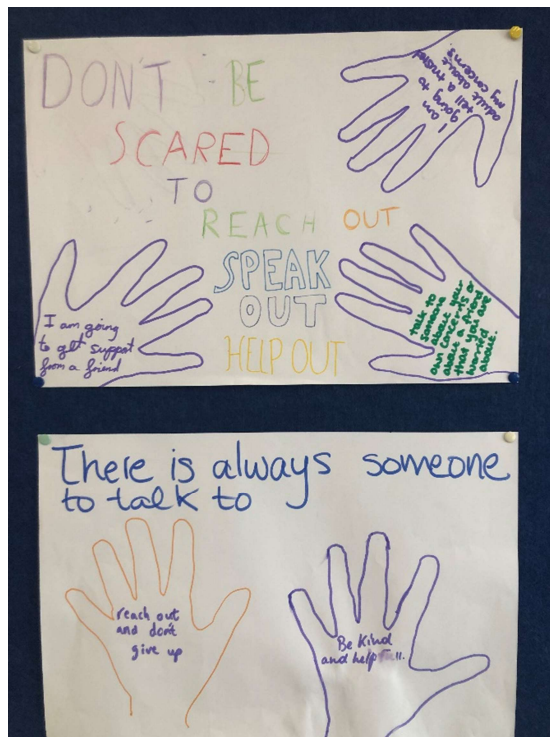
Look Beneath the Surface

Have you ever shouted or snapped at someone because you were feeling upset or worried?

Keeping emotions like sadness, fear or frustration locked up inside can sometimes cause them to come out in other ways, like outbursts of anger, being grumpy, or isolating yourself from people you care about.

Just Talk Week's theme for 2022 was to 'Look beneath the surface', to be patient with others, as we can't always know the challenges that someone may be facing.

That's why, more than ever, it's so important we don't jump to conclusions about people or judge them unkindly.



It's important to understand that if you see a friend, family member or someone else you know acting unusually or not their typical self, they may be having a bad day or going through a difficult time.

Just Talk Week 2022 explored the different ways to help - it's often as simple as just talking and listening. Our excellent Social Action captains presented an assembly to their forms and encouraged them to speak out and ask for help and support when they need to. To remind us of this important message, some of our form rooms are now decorated with great posters made by the students.

You can access more information and resources for parents and students [here](#).

Mrs. Wheatley
Mental Health Lead



DAOS ECO COMMITTEE

By Melissa Knight

With the help of Terry Wells, our school's managing groundskeeper, students from the Eco Committee, as well as other students, have been planting trees around the school during the months of October and November.

These trees were gifted to the school by the Woodland Trust in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration. With the last of the 29 trees now planted, we look forward to seeing these grow into the spring and beyond! Thank you to everyone who participated – you've helped to make the school grounds more biodiverse!



NEWS FROM DAOS PROGRAMMES



CHESS CLUB NEWS

This term has been a really exciting time in the world of DAOS chess. We have been lucky that quite a few keen students have joined in Year 7 who really want to play chess and improve their game as well. Not only that, we also have a couple of superstars that have really bolstered the school team.

During COVID, ECF Schools set up an online system whereby schools and students could play against each other using an online system called Lichess. At the start of this year, they set up a National League that is played after school on a Monday night every two weeks. So far, we have had great success in the league, winning the last 3 times that we have played. Check out the final league table of the most recent event!

National League R6 Div 1 Team Battle			
1	DAOSChess	someguy11 13+13+12+9+7	54
2	Tiffin A team	ronush 13+10+10+8+7	48
3	Tiffin B team	Taha727 9+8+8+7+7	39
4	Taunton School	FfGod 13+8+8+6+4	39
5	Eltham College (League A)	nightmarefreddyUSA 12+8+7+6+5	38
6	STRS A Team	Fhitch 10+9+9+6+3	37
7	GSAL	VishnuVadlamani 8+7+6	21
8	Tiffin C team	Zl_Tang 5+5+4+3+1	18
9	King Edward's School Birmingham B Team		0

The team that regularly play in that event are Rufus J, Daniel G, Stephen G, Rock Yu, Rachel G and TaoHai Kh. They are also the team that have been involved in the National Schools Chess Championships.

Over 250 teams entered from 147 schools, and I'm proud to say at the final Repechage Event, we managed to secure our place in the regional stage next term. It was an excellent effort from all involved and we should be very proud of them.

As you can see, the Goodlad family are quite the chess players and I am delighted to report that Mr. Goodlad has been offering coaching sessions at the time that the team have been taking part in the online Chess League. It has been lovely to see a number of students turn up and get enthused over chess and get better as a result of the tutelage of Mr. Goodlad. We really appreciate his effort.

Outside of school, I am also aware that students from DAOS have been involved in the Ivan Gromov league and have been performing very well, recently beating Tiffin B School in Round 4. Thanks to Robin Yu for keeping me informed of all of these activities.



On Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime, Chess Club has been very full and it has been lovely to see so many students, across all year groups enjoying their chess. Long may this continue!

Mr. Simpson
Director of Chess

"Avoid the crowd. Do your own thinking independently. Be the chess player, not the chess piece." – Ralph Charell

All our students have been striving hard in all aspects of school life to earn “attitude-to-learning” house points this year. Here’s a summary of the points awarded since 31st October.

OVERALL STANDINGS FOR THIS HALF TERM

Isledon	5768
Clerkenwell	5678
Hermitage	5599
Goswell	5400

Top 10 Students Across School from start of this half term

1. Andrew F, 9Clerkenwell2
2. Zoe J, 8Goswell2
3. Akshay M, 9Isledon1
4. Zainab A, 8Isledon1
5. Ada H, 9Isledon2
6. Ammiel G, 8Goswell2
7. Maya A, 9Hermitage1
8. Tiana M, 9Isledon2
9. Zander Y, 9Goswell2
10. Excel E-O, 9Goswell2

Top 5 Tutor Groups

7Clerkenwell1	903
7Hermitage2	844
7Isledon1	830
9Goswell2	791
9Hermitage1	773

Headteacher's Commendations

Zoe J, 8Goswell2
Zainab A, 8Isledon1

Top Tutor Groups by Year

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
7Clerkenwell1	8Hermitage1	9Goswell2	10Clerkenwell1	11Isledon1
7Hermitage2	8Isledon1	9Hermitage1	10Goswell2	11Clerkenwell2

Top Students per Year Group

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Daniel G 7Hermitage2	Ammiel G 8Goswell2	Maya A 9Hermitage1
William H 7Isledon2	Isabella X 8Clerkenwell1	Tiana M 9Isledon2
Gabriella H 7Hermitage2	Mya N 8Isledon1	Zander Y 9Goswell2
TaoHai K 7Isledon2	Siri S 8Isledon1	Excel E-O 9Goswell2
Alexander K 7Isledon2	Harrison C 8Isledon1	Aaryan G 9Goswell2
Year 10	Year 11	
Ava M 10Hermitage2	Andrew A 11Isledon1	
Bella O 10Clerkenwell1	Layla P 11Isledon1	
Patrick S 10Clerkenwell1	Joe M 11Clerkenwell2	
Shania G 10Goswell1	Ola O 11Hermitage2	
Jenna K 10Hermitage2	Anya D 11Isledon1	

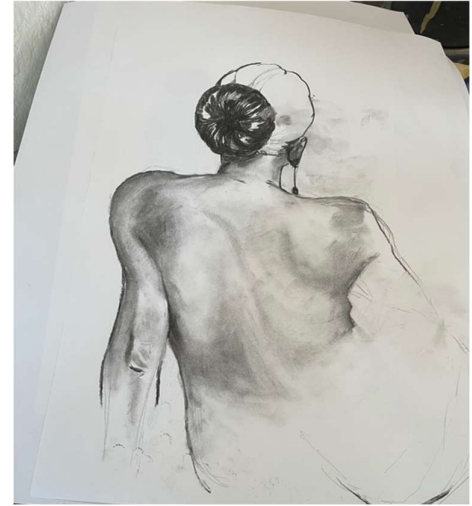
Gold Certificates

Ammiel G, 8Goswell2	114	Andrew F, 9Clerkenwell2	105
Excel E-O, 9Goswell2	109	Phoebe G, 7Hermitage1	105
Akshay M, 9Isledon1	108	Zoe J, 8Goswell2	103

A LEVEL LIFE DRAWING SESSION



On Friday, 18th November, Years 12 and 13 A Level Art students attended a life drawing workshop. The morning consisted of a succession of drawing a model in different poses starting with quick, 3-minute charcoal sketches and worked up to a half an hour detailed drawing.



We were given plenty of individual tips on perspective, including how to improve proportions and technique. Some of us had never had an experience like this before. I found that this was so much better than drawing from a photograph: the 3D shape was easier to draw as well as being more enjoyable compared to drawing from the flat surface of a photograph.

We have also been given the opportunity to go to regular life drawing classes in the future, which is something I look forward to pursuing.

After the workshop concluded, we were given the chance to go to a gallery and take photographs in London; I decided to go to the V&A. I really enjoyed my experience of going to a life drawing class and will apply the techniques I learned to my artwork and portfolio, as well as recommend the experience to others.'

We'd like to thank Mrs Grigson for organising this Life Drawing experience and Mrs Starck for her support.

Miranda, Year 12



NEWS FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

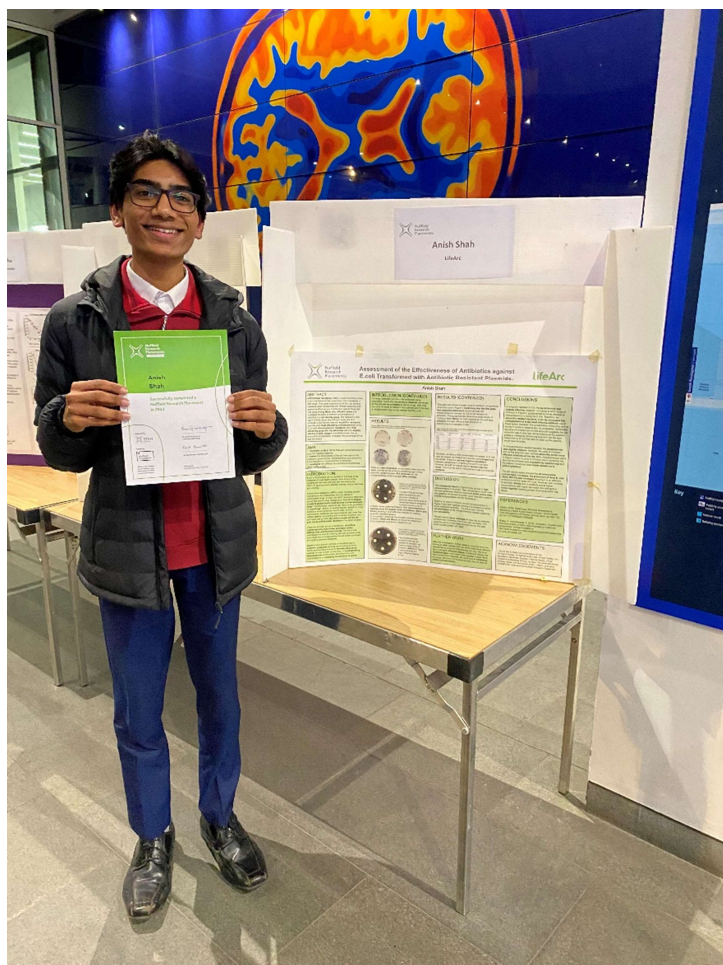
'Biology in Action' Lecture Day

On Friday, 11 November, Mrs. Doust, Mrs. Lofthouse, Mrs. Mukherjee and sixty Year 12 and 13 biologists went to London for the Biology in Action lecture day at the Emmanuel Centre. This allowed them to hear from a wide range of scientists including Nessa Carey (talking about CRISPR gene-editing) and Lewis Dartnell (an astrobiologist!).

We were all captivated and astonished by Tim Underwood's research into oesophageal cancer and enjoyed asking questions about his experiences as a surgeon.

All in all, it was a truly inspirational day that showcased the breadth of biology in the real world and explored the future of research.

Mrs Doust
Head of Biology

**Nuffield Research Celebration Event**

On a wet, windy November night, Anish Shah (Yr13), his parents and I attended the celebration event for students that participated in the Nuffield research placements programme over the summer holiday. The Nuffield programme provides engaging, hands-on research projects, where students have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution towards the work of a host organisation through well-supervised but independent research.

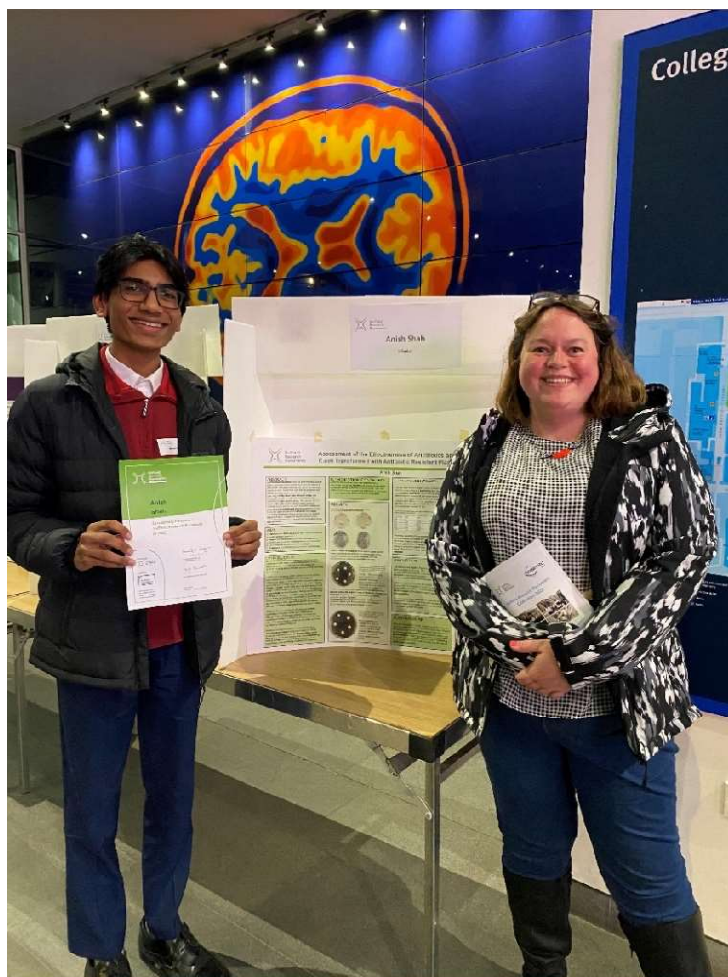
The celebration was held at Imperial College, London, and there were wonderful speakers including a keynote from Dr Jackie Bell (definitely one to watch - I suspect we may see her in space!). The students explained their research projects and wider learning to the assembled academics, families and other guests.

Anish worked at LifeArc, a medical research charity, doing the type of research into antibiotic resistance in bacteria that you would expect to see from third year university students. His project has been presented as both a report and a scientific poster and we are hopeful that it will be published. We are incredibly proud of what Anish has achieved and know that the experience will stand him in good stead for the future!

The breadth of research by the students was astonishing, from the impact of the Covid-19 lockdowns on adolescent mental health to how we may protect corals for the future. There were projects from science, quantitative social science, computing, technology, engineering and maths (and combinations of these!).

Year 12 students can apply now - more information is available at www.nuffieldresearchplacements.org.

Mrs Doust
Head of Biology



We have had a variety of fascinating STEM talks from parents and guests this term. Some of the lunchtime lectures included the following topics: 'A Smart, Sustainable London: TfL's Vision for the Future of the World's Greatest City', 'A career in Dentistry: What you need to know', 'Motor Neurone Disease' and 'Can artificial intelligence be creative?'

Many thanks to all our guests who came in to deliver a Lunchtime Lecture and inspire us!

I went to see the 'Career pathway in Engineering with Emma Knowles' lecture and I thought it was great because I got a real grasp on what the concept of engineering was, and she talked about her experience working as a chemical engineer, which was helpful to me especially as that's the discipline that I'm most interested in studying at university.

I also thought it was really good to see just how broad the engineering sector is, as you can choose whatever field is most interesting to you, whether that's working with aircraft or pharmaceuticals - and it was inspiring to hear from someone who demonstrated what a fulfilling career a chemical engineer can have. She talked about her day-to-day life as a chemical engineer, but emphasised the fact that she uses transferable skills from all disciplines. I love chemistry, physics and maths so I really enjoyed this lecture and towards the end she even discussed possible engineering internships and degree apprenticeships that were available at her current company which I'll look forward to applying for in the future.

Taofeeqah, Year 12



I attended the talk 'Motor Neurone Disease – a guide for budding neurologists' delivered by Dr Roberts. The lecture was very informative and interesting. My favourite part of the talk was when we learnt about why you may be more likely to develop motor neurone disease and how the disease progresses. I also found it very interesting to learn more about the brain in general. Also, learning about different treatments for motor neurone disease was very enlightening because I didn't know that any treatments even existed, I thought it was an untreatable disease. The talk was really great and I would definitely like to learn more about diseases of the brain.

Polly, Year 10



NEWS FROM

THE COMPUTING DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to the team MellowChai consisting of Ayana B & Haruna S (Year 8) who took part in the CyberFirst Girls Challenge. They have made it to the finals which will take place in February 2023.

Our students also took part in the BEBRAS computational thinking competition in November. Congratulations to all the students who took part, emails have been sent to those in the top 10% nationally. Here's a special mention to the top 12 in each year group (200 is the top mark):

Year 7:

Katherine McC & Mayuri M (200), Laura J, Theofilis P-T, Rachel G, Kayne S & Cameron G (194 marks), Charles W (183), Gabriella H-A & William H (178), Riduan Z (177)

Year 8:

Eleanor B (188), Haruna S (186), Cason Y (179), Sienna J (178), Atticus L (176), Dasha V & Joseph H-S (172), Ava G (167), Dhruv V (166), Sam R (163), Sofia W (162)

Year 9:

Hannah S (200), Hayden C, Andreas E & Vanshika T (184), Nuen W (178), Akshay M (176), Ben L & Jacob Sh (173), Raphael J, Ben P, Kian T & Aaron T (172)

Year 10 & 11:

Victoria K & Amelia R (200), Emma H (184), Fahima A S (178), Shaya Jh, James R, Jack F, Zackaryaa I, Charlie I (173), Jafar A & Alice W (167)

Year 12 & 13: Henry Ch, Pierre E, Ryoma S & Matthew P (top 10% nationally).

A Joshi

Computing Teacher

NEWS FROM

THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT

There are things that you only experience if you are a Drama teacher; for example, on leaving my house on Saturday morning to do some errands I saw that something was stuck to the bottom of my trainer...a stick-on moustache!

This I believe is the sign of being the director of a production: it follows you everywhere, morning, noon and night, the soundtrack playing in your dreams until the last night.

As we draw into the last week of term and reflect on all we have achieved it has been pretty impressive; Year 11 and 13 performing Devised Exams in November followed by the Winter Show.



Since September Year 11 have been working hard to produce their Devised Pieces exploring a range of topics that demonstrated their maturity and creativity. All the groups excelled in their individual pieces, using a range of theatre practitioners such as frantic assembly, verbatim and Brecht. Beginning with the stimulus of a Doll's House they went in all sorts of different directions including: PTSD after a terrorist attack; the different forms of domestic abuse including coercive control; the way in which parenting styles effect a child's outcomes and the reality of romantic relationships.

The pieces were well received by our audience of parents and friends in the evening in our Drama Studio and there was lots of positive feedback.

Year 13 were inspired by their stimulus play-text *'Anna Karenina'* and the theatre practitioner style of Shared Experience; creating a clever exploration of the role of female writers through different decades. The piece opened with Flora as a female playwright struggling with writer's block which only increased as each of the characters in her play rebelled against the way they were written.

The group's chosen practitioner style enabled Annalisa, Edie, Isla and Hollie to both act and dance, the latter being a way of expressing their characters' inner thoughts and emotions. I believe they enjoyed choreographing the Tango the most; a clever interpretation of reversing a woman's role in 19th century writing through its twist at the end.



Greta created beautiful costume designs for the piece which enabled the actors to move between the different decades. Her designs, along with the content of the piece was well received by our audience of parents and friends.



My adaptation of *'Much Ado About Nothing'* began in the Summer Holidays of 2022, inspired by my Year 11 students talking about the Shakespeare plays they liked the most. Daisy declared that *'Much Ado About Nothing'* was her favourite and as I thought about the potential actors in Years 10 – 13 I thought that actually this would be a perfect choice.

By September I'd written at least two drafts and we began rehearsals in earnest, including lunchtimes for the dancing choreographed by Lottie. As our brilliant choreographers in Year 11 really didn't have the time to both act and dance due to their preparation for January mocks, the students in the Year 8 Drama Club were invited to join the cast and became our fantastic dance troupe.



The set was designed and painted by Mr Anastasi, Lottie and Zoe recreating an image of Messina in the early 1960s in order to establish the play's location in sunny Sicily.

Stage and Technical crew were led by Oliver who did a fantastic job of organising all of the rigging and set up of the sound, lighting and properties. He gave a really thoughtful speech on the last night ensuring that every single member of his team got a mention including the technical leads; James on lighting, Alex on sound and Hannah as stage manager.

The dancing was also choreographed by Lottie and she also managed the properties, ably assisted by her sister Izzy whom Miss Khan noted as always being expertly laid out for every performance on the props table.

Although a show is almost three months of rehearsals, all of these take place after school and on Sundays compared with a professional production where you rehearse all day, which is why it never ceases to amaze me what we finally produce onstage. It looks effortless, yet that is because we have all worked so hard to make it appear like that. And of course, no one knows about the page jumps, the mayhem when someone forgets to come on or the loss of an important prop, but that's what makes up all those hilarious stories that the cast love retelling years later.

This was a perfect cast, a group of students from a wide range of ages and at different stages in their learning as performers, however the thing that united them was that they all love being on stage.

Anyone who gets involved in the Drama Productions will build a group of lifelong friends and allies who are always there to support one another and cheer them on. Many members of staff have praised individual performances, however in my head everyone has played an important role in *Much Ado About Nothing* from the Year 8 dancers up to our fantastic romantic leads; Anjali & Rotimi (Beatrice & Benedict), Sam P & Daisy (Claudio & Hero).





Our American marines, led brilliantly by Sami as Commander Castillo became more and more like the cast of *Top Gun* as the nights went on with their sunglasses and swagger. Their teasing of Benedict felt like you were watching a testosterone-fuelled movie scene providing the audience with the perfect contrast to Hero and her friends. Sam P was particularly adept at playing the jealous Claudio who was quick to accuse his fiancé of cheating on him and Jed played the villain John with real Machiavellian pride. His followers Tiana and Sam C developed their revenge seeking roles into the indignant and hilarious prisoners of the watch. Meanwhile in the girls' boudoir, Anjali, Daisy, Kat, Katya and Frances' exchanges questioned the double standards of the 1960s with sparkling wit as they argued amongst themselves as to how to navigate the changing narrative surrounding love and marriage.

The audience really loved the interaction between Lottie, Aron, Andrew and Toby who played the leads as the Messina Marina Police force.

Together with 'the watch' played by the ensemble, they pretty much stole the show whenever they came on. A particularly ridiculous moment being when they were sharing what looked like an entire roll of toilet roll as they sobbed along to Toby's rendition of 'Time to Say Goodbye.'



The play is a comedy but it also has great moments of tension in the second half which were beautifully played by Annalisa, Edie, Daisy and Phoebe as they reacted to the deception set up by John. A special mention most goes out to Anjali and Rotimi: their work on stage was truly mature, their duologue never ceased to make me cry; a master class in naturalistic acting.

For some of our students it may well be their last performance after seven years of performances at Owen's.

I would like to thank Annalisa, Edie, Ben and Patrick for taking part in so many of our performances. Finally, I would like to thank Miss Khan and Mr Henshaw who have assisted at rehearsals and backstage on the three nights – I really appreciate your time and efforts. I'm sure that you will enjoy the delicious cakes hand-baked by Sam C and enjoy your well-earned Christmas break.



I'm entirely proud of each and every one of our performers, stage and technical crew and I look forward to next year when we will stage our next production, the Spring Musical 'Chicago'. However, for now I think we all deserve a much-needed rest and I wish you all a very merry Christmas!

Ms Govier, Director of Drama





NEWS FROM THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Year 10 Somme and Ypres Trip

As the rest of us headed into the October half term holidays, a lucky group of Year 10s had the opportunity to travel through Belgium and France on a special history trip.

Due to covid rules and restrictions, the current Year 10s have missed out on many exciting trips, this Somme and Ypres trip being one of them. However, thanks to Mr Davies, Ms Gregory, Ms Smith, Mr Ward, Mr Latham, Mrs Jones and Ms Keating, students were able to deepen and develop their understanding of the events of WW1, visiting cemeteries and former battlegrounds along the Western Front.

Of course, we can never truly understand the horrors of fighting in the trenches, but it definitely gave us a better insight into what the soldiers went through and let us have a deeper connection, especially seeing as it was so close to Remembrance Day. It put into perspective just how many lives were lost, and seeing the hundreds of thousands of names at some of the biggest cemeteries, such as Notre Dame de Lorette and Tyne Cot, was an opportunity to reflect on the history we have learnt and to see it eternalised in front of us. We were able to see just how far the reach of these wars spread as we found the names of old Owenians in the cemeteries and memorials, some of whom we can see on our school memorial every day.



The memories of this trip will forever be a reminder of the bravery and resilience of the soldiers, not only in WW1 but in every war. This includes the current conflict we constantly see in the news and although the context may differ, it is unfortunate how many connections we can make between now and then.

This was a very emotional trip as we reflected on the tragedy of the past, but coming together in remembrance allowed everyone to support each other during the emotional journey. I think we speak for everyone when we say it was a trip we will never forget.

We are very grateful to have had such a knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide throughout the trip who answered all of our questions, giving us an amazing, educational experience.

A big thanks to the whole of the history department and all the staff members that made this trip possible.

Ava and Shaniya, Year 10

Maths Challenge News

In November 144 sixth formers sat the Senior Maths Challenge. Rufus was best in school by getting 94 marks- quite an achievement. 30 people were awarded gold certificates and were invited to sit the Senior Kangaroo.

Congratulations to our Kangaroo candidates:

Zak	Pierre	Srushti	Alice
Katy	Benjamin	Natalie	Ben
Henry	Daniel	Andrew	Simisola
Oli	Claire	Vidyuth	Anna
Vish	Eiden	Rosa	Isaac
Blake	Rufus	Matt	Anish
Joshua	Maarten	George	Aimi
Louis	Wilbur		

Special congratulations to the following students who were awarded a merit:

Zak	Rufus	Simisola	Maarten
Henry	Andrew	Isaac	Aimi
Blake	Matt	Anish	Louis
Pierre	Ben	Joshua	

And especially to Daniel, Eden and Vidyuth who achieved Best in School, each scoring a magnificent 60 points.

'Maths in Action' Lecture Day

On Thursday, 24th November, about 20 Further Maths students attended a 'Maths in Action' lecture day at the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster. It consisted of an array of fascinating lectures on different sub-topics.

'Fighting Disease with Mathematics' by Sara Jabbari covered the more biological side of maths and showed how we could use our knowledge to help combat bacteria. 'Over Analysing video games' by Matthew Scroggs was about how to complete the game 'Pac-Man' in the quickest way possible as well as some different world maps that change the way you view the world.

Personally, my favourite lecture was that by Sophie Maclean, titled 'How to Get Rich Quick', which was based around the idea of trading and the probabilities involved to help get the best trade possible. During the talk, Sophie spoke about her own experience working as a junior trader and how things that she had picked up during that time, such as the trading patterns of different companies, have helped her to become better in her field of work.

Overall, I would say that the trip was an interesting learning experience for us all and I feel as though all of us could take some of the knowledge we have learnt and use it in our futures.

Louis A, Year 12 Further Mathematician

Year 9 Autumn Term Maths Masterclasses

Starting from the 1st of October 2022, the Royal Institution of Mathematics had been running 5 maths masterclasses at the University of Hertfordshire every 2 weeks. Every other Saturday, there was a class lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes on a different branch of mathematics. New visitors came in each time and gave lectures on the field of maths that relates to their jobs and how it made their jobs more interesting.

Over the course of the 5 masterclasses, we had a chance to look at 5 fascinating parts of mathematics. In the first lesson, we looked at permutations and the way different things can be arranged. In the second lesson, we learnt about probabilities and the odds of daily occurrences in real life. In the third lesson, we learnt about quantum physics and how maths applies to that. In particular, we focused on the quantum coin, using circle facts and trigonometry. In the fourth lesson, we learnt about fractals, which are shapes that have a non-integer dimension and can reach zero area but infinite perimeter. They're extremely interesting! Finally, in the fifth and final lesson, we learnt about patterns and puzzles.

The classes were absolutely amazing as they allowed to explore new ways of learning through group activities, practical work and engaging challenges – all this encouraging one to think outside the textbook. Besides, these masterclasses showed how to solve problems quickly and effectively and to feel more confident participating in discussions. In other words, we were not only introduced to some of the most enjoyable aspects of mathematics, but also acquired a wide range of skills to apply in everyday life.

The maths masterclasses turned out to be a great fun enjoyed by everyone with a passion for maths! I would definitely recommend these classes to future Year 9 students, so that they too could unlock a whole new world of mathematics.

Vanshika T, Year 9

Onatti Theatre Visit

On the 9th November, the French Department was host to the Onatti Theatre company. This renowned travelling theatre has been performing plays successfully in French, Spanish and German to all levels of language learners for many years.

All of Year 9, Year 10 GCSE French students and Year 13 were given the opportunity to enjoy a performance of "La maison hantée", a ghost story with comedic qualities and all in French. The two native French speakers were fantastic in their roles of two travellers who had lost their way and had to spend a rainy night in a haunted house. The storyline was enriched by funny improvisation and especially by the audience participation. Toby D (Year 10), in particular, was able to show off both his French and acting skills and nearly stole the show!

The students very much enjoyed the performance for its plot and its comedy but above all it was a wonderful opportunity to put their French linguistic skills to the test and to practise their listening and comprehension skills. Some of the comments from the students include:

"There was great comedy and it was highly enjoyable. Would watch again!"

"Good audience interaction, the actors were magic and the language was understandable"

"It was funny and helped me with my vocab extension"

"It was a fun way to understand/learn French"

"I learnt more vocab and could understand a lot of the words"

"C'était fantastique et très marrant", "C'était très utile et amusant. Ça valait la peine!"

We very much look forward to welcoming the Onatti theatre again to Owen's soon.

Mr C Tanner, Head of MFL



This half term we have been delighted, once again, to welcome our audiences to the Edward Guinness Hall to enjoy the Owen's Autumn Concert Season with two Chamber Concerts, the Choral Concert, the Orchestral Concert, the Wind Bands and Friends Concert and the Year 11 GCSE Ensembles Concert (unfortunately much-awaited Nine Lessons and Carols in St Mary the Virgin and All Saint's Church had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions). In addition, there have been five Performance Platforms, on Fridays at 4pm, where students have performed their solos.

More than 200 musicians from Years 7-13 have taken to the stage at various times, delighting us with their music-making in a range of ensembles of all different shapes and sizes, as well as soloists, sharing the fruits of their term's rehearsals and practice, covering a myriad of styles and genres.

An especially warm welcome to our new Y7 musicians who have taken to the stage for the first time this term, and to their families and friends who have joined our audiences.

Congratulations to all our musicians!

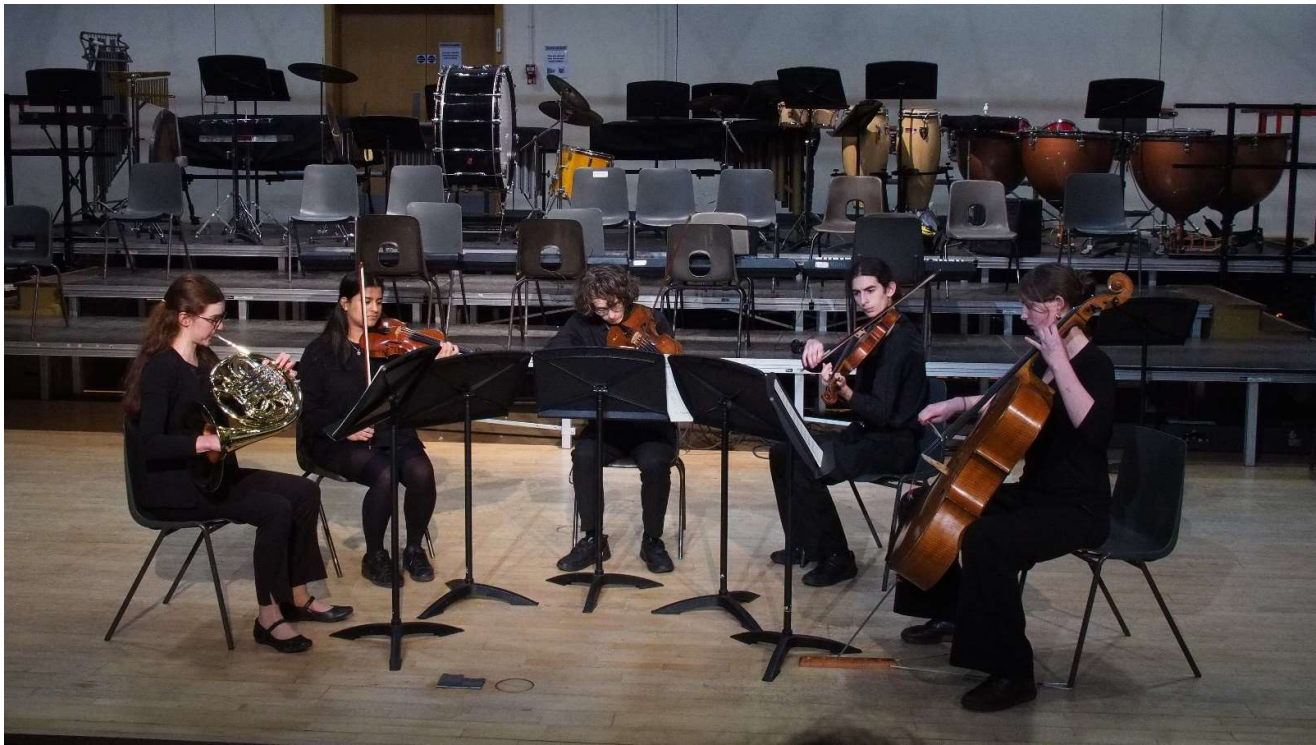


DAOS Chamber Groups:

Barbershop Quartet; Clarinet Ensemble; Drumming Group; Jazz Collective; Saxophone Ensemble; Year 11 Octet; Spiritus Wind Quintet; Les Vents Wind Quintet; Year 12 Horn and Strings Quintet; Year 13 String Quintet; Guitar Ensemble; Year 10 String Quartet; Year 10 Recorder and Strings Quintet; Trombone Ensemble; The Senior Jazz Combo; Flute Ensemble; Senior Brass Ensemble; Junior Percussion Ensemble; Senior Percussion Ensemble.









**DAOS Choirs:**

Junior Choir; Junior Chamber Choir; Senior Choir; Senior Chamber Choir; Close Harmony Group.



DAOS Orchestras:

Second Orchestra; Junior Chamber Strings; Senior Strings; Chamber Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra.

DAOS Wind Bands and their friends:

Second Band; Concert Band; Junior Ensemble and Junior Brass Ensemble.





In addition to these performances, the whole of Year 7 were treated to an assembly performance by our very own **Symphony Orchestra** of *Danse Macabre* by Camille Saint-Saens, a piece of music we had been looking at together in our curriculum Music lessons.

Congratulations to the musicians for transporting us, at 8.45am on a school day, to the spooky happenings in a French graveyard at midnight on Hallowe'en!

Thank-you to the directors, tutors and accompanists:

Students: Charlie Th (Y12), Katherine V (Y13)

Curriculum staff: Ms. Bamber, Mrs. Brady, Miss Jones, Mr. Salter, Mr. Southorn

Heads of Section: Mr. Crossley, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Makepeace-Lott, Ms. McChrystal, Mr. Widden

Visiting Music Teachers: Mr. Bean, Miss Coe, Miss Gill, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Muir, Mr. Niesyto, Miss Redshaw, Mrs Smith, Mr Thompson







Celebrating exciting news for Owen's musicians further afield:

We are always very proud of the fact that many of our musicians, who rehearse and perform so wonderfully with us in school, also share and hone their skills with ensembles outside of school.

Thus, in October, a large number of our orchestral players joined up with young musicians from across the UK in an exciting concert at the **Cadogan Hall** in London with the **English Schools' Orchestra**.

In November, Y8 student, **Rafi F**, performed the solo role of Oberto in the **Royal Opera House** production of ***Alcina*** by Handel. This production was also broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Saturday, 3rd December. In school Rafi is a member of the Junior Choir, the Junior Chamber Choir, the Second Orchestra and the Junior Brass Ensemble.



Football

Boys Year 7

The Year 7As are continuing to make great progress and following an incredible 9-0 win against Townsend school, have secured a place in the 2nd round of the County Plate tournament.

The Year 7Bs have performed exceptionally well in the County Cup and following a 2-1 victory over Monks Walk have progressed to the Quarter Finals. They face Richard Hale in the next round.

Boys Year 8

The boys narrowly missed out on progression in the district competition, although they managed to pick up their first competitive win in a 3-0 win against Monks Walk. They have also managed to pick up some positive results in the Saturday morning programme where a number of different students have represented the team this year.

Boys Year 9

The year 9 boys progressed to round 5 of the National Cup and the quarter finals of the county cup. They produced a fantastic performance in a 4-2 win vs Beaumont that put them through to the quarter finals. Having won a string of district matches, they've made through to the semi-finals of the district competition. The boys have exceeded expectations and should hope for some silverware in 2023.

Boys Year 10

The team have continued to be playing well and shown some good performances in their Saturday fixtures. They narrowly lost to a strong Richard Hale team in the county cup but are still competing for the District Cup, which will start again after Christmas.

Boys Year 11

The team continues to be unbeaten with a big win in the county cup against Freman College. They played St Joan of Arc in the next round and narrowly lost on penalties after the game finished 3-3 in normal time. After the break they will continue with their district cup games.

First XI

The team have had a significant change in fortunes and are on a stunning unbeaten 4 game run and are currently top of the District League.

Girls Under 12

In their District 6-a-side tournament the U12 team finished 4th. They lost 1-0 to Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School in their opening game and went on to draw the rest of their matches 0-0. Seraphine was selected as player of the tournament.



Girls Under 13

The girls won their County Cup round two fixture 3-2 against Hertswood School thanks to a last-minute winner from Annabelle. Player of the match was awarded to captain Freya. They faced Sandringham School in the third round and were defeated 5-0, although the score line was not a fair reflection of the match with the girls having an equal share of both possession and shots. Mahdi was voted as player of the match.

Girls Under 14

The under 14 squad are through to the fifth round of the English Schools' National Competition. In round three they faced Alexandra Park School from London. The match had to be played on AstroTurf due to waterlogged pitches but the girls adapted well and ran out 4-2 winners with goals from player of the game Ellie (x2), Emilie and Mia. In round four they played Woodbridge High School and ran out 12-0 victors. Goals came from Ellie (x4), Emilie (x3), Mia (x2), Eva, Iyla and Lucy. Ellie was once again voted player of the game. They now face Kingston Academy in the last 32 of the competition on January 5th.

This team are also through to round 3 of the County Cup having defeated Adeyfield School 14-0 in round 2 with goals from Ellie (x3), Emilie (x3), Mia (x3), Elina, Iyla, Freya, Semi and Ella. Emilie received the player of the match accolade for this game. They now face Marlborough Science Academy in the final week of this term.



The U14A team were also crowned district 6-a-side champions recently, with the B team reaching the semi-finals.

Special mention goes to Emilie for her last-minute winner in the final and her player of the tournament display and also to Lilly who was player of the day for the B team.

Girls Under 16

The U16 girls football team started the season at the 6-a-side District football tournament, both the A and B team played well in difficult conditions but unfortunately did not progress further than the group stages. The girls then had their first match of the County Cup competition against Onslow School and won 6-0! Well done to the goal scorers: Iris (2), Bethan (2), Flora and Evie and to Iris who was awarded PoM.

Girls Under 18

The senior football squad were due to play Chancellor's School in the quarter finals of the County Cup on Thursday 8th December. Unfortunately, the game had to be postponed due to a frozen pitch and will be rescheduled for either the last week of term or when school restarts in January.



Hockey

Girls Under 12

The under 12 hockey squads have shown huge improvements of late and are starting to utilise their skills more accurately and consistently in matches as well as displaying a better appreciation of the game situation. The A team were defeated by a very strong Haileybury team but went on to draw with Aldenham School 1-1 and only narrowly lost to St Benedict's School 4-3 with goals from Adaugo (x2) and Jess, who was player of the match. The B team lost to Haileybury and subsequently beat Aldenham 5-1. Alex was selected as player of the game in this victory.

Girls Under 13

In a tournament at Queenswood School in early November the A team demonstrated how far they have progressed since year 7 playing 6 games, winning 2, drawing 1 and narrowly losing 3 against some strong independent school opposition. In Saturday fixtures they showed that persistence is the key. After losing two of their last three games in the final minute of the match they responded well by defeating St Benedict's School 6-2 with goals from Rhiannon (x3), Riya (x2) and Catriona. Emer was voted as player of the match. The B team narrowly lost to both Aldenham School and Belmont School.

Rugby

Year 7

The team had a great opportunity to play in a competition at the Stonex Stadium, the home of Saracens. The boys won 3 matches and lost 1 on the night.

The boys continued their development in another tournament held at Cheshunt Rugby Club, where they managed to stay unbeaten with two wins and two draws. Well done to all involved!



Year 8

The team played against Ashlyns in the first round of the county cup. It was a definitely hard-fought game by both teams with Owen's winning 7-5 in the end.

Well done lads!

**Year 9**

The Year 9 boys played their first competitive fixture against Sandringham School, losing 32-7. They were competitive in the game, narrowly losing the second half 10-7.

They had the fantastic opportunity of playing in the emerging schools competition against other local schools. The team won 4 out of 4 games, beating Chancellors, Mill Hill, Saracens and Enfield Grammar School. This meant they came away from the event as overall winners, producing an excellent display of rugby. Way to go!

Year 10

The boys played a game vs Mill Hill on Tuesday, 6th December, in a close fought game and narrowly lost 12-5. Keep on striving!

Netball**Year 7A**

The Year 7s had their second game against Bishop Hatfield where they comfortably won! The player of the match was Bailly. We look forward to the netball season after Christmas.

Year 7B

The Year 7B team had their first game against Bishop Hatfield. It was a great start for their netball season where the match was very close in the score, with Owen's just getting the win. Well done to Sophia who was awarded player of the match.

Year 8

The year 8A team have had a busy half term with lots of St Albans league fixtures and county cup. The most exciting game was against St Albans High School, with the girls being 1-7 down after the first quarter, bringing it back to finish 15-15.



Well done to the girls who came together as a team to show determination! The girls have progressed to the quarter final of the County Cup and we look forward to some good outcome.

The Year 8B team have had a few pre-season fixtures this term. They won their district league game against Yavneh, with Sia being player of the match. Well done to the girls who have committed to training and we look forward to continuing their netball season in January.



Year 9

The Year 9s have been working really hard in training and despite a cancelled fixture against Yavneh, they finally played their first match on Thursday, 1st December, against Bishop Hatfield.

The girls got off to a steady start and with an excellent defensive display from Mei, captain Chloe and Amelia, the opposition failed to score any goals in the first quarter. The girls showed great versatility throughout, particularly from Stella, whose shooting was very consistent at long range. Well done to all the girls on winning their first game and special mention to Amelia A who was awarded player of the match.

Year 10

The Year 10A netball team have been busy with lots of fixtures this term, competing in the County Cup, St Albans League and District matches. They had a great start to the term coming first in the district tournament, winning every single one of their matches. In the County Cup the girls beat Aldenham 46-4, with Jenna being awarded PoM but unfortunately were knocked out in the quarter-final recently by a very strong Herts and Essex 29-16. They had some difficult games in the St Albans league narrowly losing against both HABS and STAHS.

The Year 10B team also did very well in the district tournament finishing second, only losing one match to Queenswood. They also played in a District league match against Bishop Hatfield, where they won 14-11 and the PoM was Molly.





Year 11

The year 11 girls had a great start to the season, where they won the district netball tournament. They continued their win at Yavneh with a great result of 33-10, where the girls played out of positions.

1st VII

The 6th Form team had a great start to the season, winning the district netball tournament very comfortably. The 1st VII have had a number of fixtures, home and away this term. The team got through to the second round of the county plate, narrowly losing against Queenswood.

The team have had tough matches in the St Albans league; however, the score has not reflected on their play where they worked really well as a team and their best performance was shown against St Albans School, with Rebecca U stepping in to play goal defence.

Well done to Kachi who received player of the match.



Basketball

Boys Years 9-10

The Year 9 team have played 5 league games where they have won them all. They also played in the district rally where they came 4th on the night.

The Year 10 team have played 5 league games where they have won 4 and lost one game. They also played in the district rally where they came 4th on the night.



Girls Years 7-8

The U13 girls had their first ever competitive basketball game in the County League against JFK school. The girls won 24-14 which is a fantastic result! Well done to Hannah who was awarded PoM!

Girls Years 9-10

The U15 girls' basketball team also had their first County League game against JFK school. The girls stepped up in the final quarter to win the game 24-18! Well done to Corinne who was PoM!

Cross Country

This half term we have had the annual District Cross Country competition event where our teams did very well. Our Year 10 Boys, Senior Boys, Year 8 and Senior Girls all won their events on the day and a special mention to Maisie who won her race!



Our Inter Girls, Senior Girls and Senior Boys all competed in the Regional Cross Country Cup Round on Saturday 12th November with all students running well. A special mention to Aimi who won the Senior Girls race. Our Senior Girls team qualified for the National Finals. Congratulations!





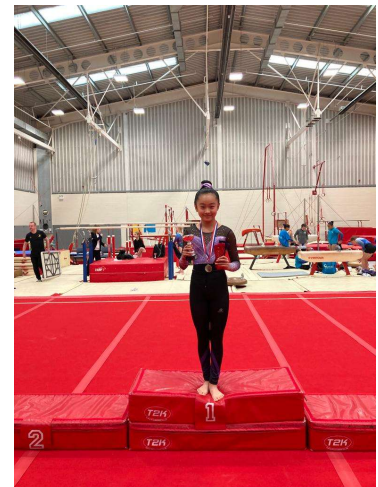
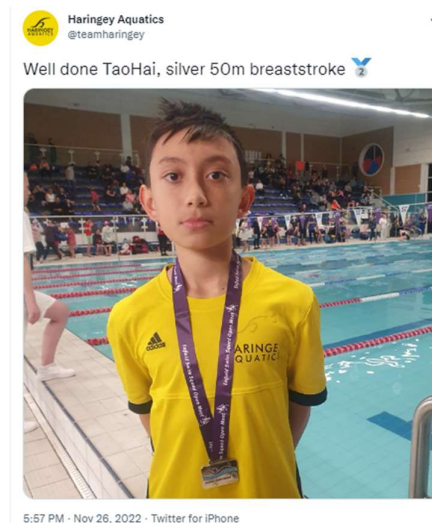
The National Finals were on Saturday, 3rd December, in Leeds. The girls all ran very well and did themselves and the school proud. Again, Aimi had another great run and finished 3rd on the day.

Well done to them all!

Other Achievements and Announcements

Congratulations to Annie, Year 8, who won team gold in the GfA London Gymnastics Regional Floor and Vault competition.

Congratulations to TaoHai who competed in the County swimming qualifiers for all the big London and Cambridge swimming clubs. He swam very well in the 50M breaststroke and will be going to the County Championship Finals at the London Aquatic Centre on 15th January. TaoHai also qualified for the 200 Freestyle at the same event.



25 September 2022: At Hertfordshire County Women's Artistic Gymnastics Zinc & Copper Hertfordshire County Qualifier event, Rona won the gold medal in the Copper level and was selected to be a county representative.

9 October 2022: At Hertfordshire County Women's Artistic gymnastics Copper, Bronze, Silver, Gold Teams event, Dolphina gymnastics club team which Rona was a part of won the gold medal in the Copper level.

12 November 2022: At English Jim Moss Bronze, Silver, Gold Championships 2022, Rona won the bronze medal in the balance beam discipline in the Bronze level.



Congratulations to Excel in Year 9 who has signed a 2-year contract with Luton Town FC.

Congratulations to Maisie and the England Deaf Futsal team, who won the European Championships at the end of October with a 3-2 over Spain.



Congratulations to Ffion J in Year 12 who was recently selected to represent Hertfordshire Ladies U18 Rugby Union Team for 2022/23 season. Her first game was at Hertford and it was a dominant win for Herts against Essex - 36-7.

Next game is in Cheltenham to play Gloucester and then in the New Year to face Kent.



ASK FOR HENRY

We want to give a little helping hand this half term... something our founder Henry Heinz was known for. Just 'Ask for Henry' at a Morrisons cafe and get a warming and hearty jacket potato with Banz on us.



Are you worried about your Gas and Electric bills?

Supplier gone bust?
Problems with your energy bill?
Struggling to pay your bills?
Not sure what 'Energy Efficiency' means?
Problems with your energy supply?
Worried about putting the heating on?
Do you have credit you want to claim back?

If you relate with any of these statements please get in touch with one of our trained advisers.

Turn over for details of how to contact us



Hertfordshire



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- face to face **service availability varies based on your location; to find your closest service call us or visit our website**



Hertfordshire



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