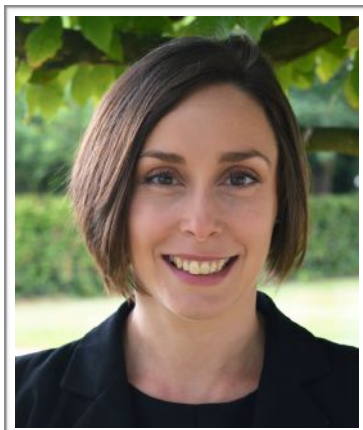


Dame Alice Owen's School newsletter



Letter from the Head

Hannah Nemko

Dear All,

As the calendar year and first term of school draws to a close, I would like to thank you all for your continued help and support; when we are able to work together, we can achieve powerful things for your young people.

We were delighted to welcome record numbers of parents to our most recent open day tours showing that Dame Alice Owen's School remains the school of choice for so many. We were, once again, rated as the top non-selective school in *The Times* listings, something the whole school community should be very proud of.

By the time we return from the Christmas holiday, the landscaping work around the new teaching block will be finished and the site team will have moved on. We would like to thank Evers for their fantastic work and for the thoughtful way in which they considered the working needs of the school. We hope you take a moment, next time you are on site, to enjoy our new facilities.

This term has seen a huge number of activities, visits and learning opportunities which you will be able to read about in greater depth inside this newsletter.

The geography department has been busy offering an orienteering opportunity for students in Whippendell Woods with Mr Payne and Mrs Sach whilst Mr Macdonald with Miss Ahmed, Miss Papalouca, Mr Simpson and Mrs Friel were lucky enough to see the Northern Lights and some other wonders in Iceland over half term. We thank you for giving up so much of your time to open that 'Window on the world' for our students.

Miss Lowe, Mr Nolan, Miss Martin, Ms Lord and Mr Dugan also have our thanks for giving up their half-term holiday to take students to Holland on a Netball and Rugby tour. Students benefited from some fantastic coaching, the opportunity to play against some challenging teams as well as from visiting the country itself.

Whether they have had the chance to travel or not, our students have shown how knowledgeable they are about the world around them and recently beat off a number of prestigious rival schools to win the 'World Wide Quiz' (again!).



Issue highlights...

Year 13 visit Stratford-upon-Avon [page 8](#)



Musicians enjoy busy term of concerts [page 11](#)



Sports successes and team highlights [page 17](#)



The student-led jAmnesty gig, which took place just before half term, was another roaring success with this, together with other fundraising initiatives, raising over £1,300 for Amnesty International. Congratulations go to all of our performers as well as to Miranda Gibbons and Alice Wood who organised the whole event and to Wesley Wilson and the entire Tech crew for a fabulous afternoon of music.

We were able to commemorate Remembrance Day on the 11th of the 11th this year and once again were able to learn a little more about some of our alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice during the wars.

Some of our Year 8 computing wizards enjoyed their time at the Amazon Boot camp, which offered training and advice that will help them build an app to be entered in Amazon's competition later this academic year.

We were all treated to another fascinating evening, run by Mrs Wilson and our Year 13 students who have prepared for their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). For this qualification – worth the equivalent of half an A Level – students must research a topic, prepare an extended essay to demonstrate their findings along with a presentation that must describe what they have learnt about the organisation skills needed to complete such a task. Students this year spoke on a wide range of subjects from 'To what extent does corruption inhibit economic growth?' to 'To what extent did the cinematic landscape of 1965-75 accurately represent the zeitgeist of the time?' via 'Advancements in Cancer treatment: Is there a new viable treatment option, through the use of oHSV, that could replace chemotherapy and radiotherapy in the future?'. The evening was as informative and stimulating as ever; the students presented with gravitas and confidence and we hope that their meticulous preparation is reflected in their final grades in the summer.



The winter term has also brought us the Gym and Dance show which seems to improve in quality each year. An explosion of movement flew from the trampette and over the box whilst other groups told wonderful stories through their dance and movement. Thanks go to Miss Martin, Ms Lord, the PE Department and our student choreographers as well as to our fantastic performers for two wonderful shows.

Staying with sport, special congratulations go to Oliver Almond in Year 10 who recently won Bronze at the Under 18 British Judo Championships and to Alexandra Lockett who retained her title of Under 14 National Longbow Champion and came second in the National Junior Longbow competition (open age).

Our talented musicians have kept us entertained this half term with a concert a week. From the large scale orchestras, ensembles and choirs to the smaller chamber groups, the standard of music produced also seems to improve year on year. Thank you to Ms Bamber, Ms Jenkins, Mr Grimstead, Mrs Jones as well as to all of the Principal Consultants and visiting music teachers who all work so hard to help our students reach such heights.

This year's winter production was another real treat with students presenting Ms Govier's original script, *Sherlock Holmes & the Strange Case of the Circassian Dagger*. The acting was superb and the comic timing was faultless leading to a magnificent evening of feel-good entertainment. The Tech crew brought further professionalism and atmosphere to the stage and at the end of the run we were sorry to say goodbye to Wesley Wilson as he stands down from his position as Director of Tech Crew to focus on his A Levels. We cannot thank Wesley enough for all he has done for the school over these years helping with or running the tech for our big events as well as for the more mundane day to day needs of the school. Wesley will be succeeded by Harry Liddamore and we wish him all the best in his new role.

At Owen's, the Christmas season does not officially begin until our Nine Lessons and Carols Service, which took place on Monday 16th December at St Mary The Virgin and All Saints church, Potters Bar. We were treated to a wide array of beautiful brass and vocal music which always sounds fantastic in the church. Matthew Mayes's

original carol was a noticeable highlight. Thanks go to Mrs Coles who arranged this whole event and to the OSA who provided mulled wine and mince pies to finish off the evening with even more festive cheer.

The school was delighted to receive a cheque from the OSA for £37,000 which will go to pay for a range of facilities for your children that we would not otherwise be able to afford including kitting out a new gym, replacing our old minibus, providing resources for lunchtime clubs and societies and subsidising some of the online resources our teachers and students rely on so heavily. We cannot thank the OSA enough for all that they do to support the school and we thank all those parents who have participated in events or helped out where they could for their support too. Look out for the date of the next quiz and see how you can help your children to have an even better experience at school!

As the term draws to a close, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Nichols who has worked as part of the school's administrative team for over 40 years and has decided to retire in order to devote more time to her tennis habit! We wish Mrs Nichols all the very best for her new adventures and look forward to welcoming her back into school as a volunteer in due course.

Also dipping her toe in the sea of retirement is Mrs Whiter, who will remain at the school as Head of UCAS on a part-time basis while Mrs Scurlock takes over as Head of Careers. We are delighted that Mrs Whiter is not leaving us altogether and look forward to working with her for many years to come.

It simply remains for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and to wish all of you who are revising for mock examinations the very best of luck.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2020.

Mrs Nemko

NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT



Well done to Edie Bower and Max Bhowmik both in Year 9, who won the House Christmas Card competition. Their fabulous designs were printed and sold in school for charity to raise funds for [The Rainforest Trust](#). Thank you to all those who contributed their designs. There were lots of fantastic entries and the Art Department enjoyed looking through them all and feeling festive.



DAOS new house system latest scores

Since September, students have been contributing to the School's new house system, with the four houses of Clerkenwell, Goswell, Hermitage and Isledon all competing for the magnificent trophy (pictured left) which was first awarded in 1912.

It is more than 50 years since Dame Alice Owen's School operated a house system and the current students have embraced the introduction of the new system fully.

The aims of the school's house system are:

- To reward effort, attainment and commitment in lessons – 'Attitudes to Learning'
- Promote student leadership through the House Captain and House Prefect system
- Utilise and expand traditional house competitions across all curriculum and extra curricular areas

LATEST SCORES	
Clerkenwell	4,661 pts
Goswell	4,508 pts
Hermitage	4,482 pts
Isledon	4,420 pts

During lessons and as part of daily school life, students earn points individually which are tallied for their own house. These house points are now incorporated into the new school commendation rewards system.

Attitude to Learning League Table	
<i>Not including sports or house competitions</i>	
Clerkenwell	3,500 pts
Hermitage	3,450 pts
Goswell	3,350 pts
Isledon	3,350 pts

Current Inter House Sports Competition	
1ST	Goswell
2ND	Isledon
3RD	Hermitage
4TH	Clerkenwell

The following students have earned a **Silver** commendation for their accumulation of house points:

Ava Thacker	7Clerkenwell2
Emily Roberts	7Isledon2
Flora Gaete	7Hermitage1
Lauren Lisk	9Hermitage2
Omead Haque	7Clerkenwell1
Zackaryaa Ishraq	7Clerkenwell2
Jack Fu	7Clerkenwell1
Emma Dawson	7Goswell2

Sports winners during last half term					
The winners so far in the various inter-house sports competitions are:					
CROSS COUNTRY		FOOTBALL		NETBALL	
Year 7	Isledon	Year 7	Isledon	Year 7	Isledon & Goswell
Year 8	Goswell	Year 8	Hermitage	Year 8	Clerkenwell
Year 9	Goswell	Year 9	Isledon	Year 9	Isledon
		Year 10	Goswell	Year 10	Hermitage
HOCKEY		RUGBY			
Year 7	Goswell	Year 7	Goswell		
Year 8	Isledon	Year 8	Hermitage		
Year 9	Isledon	Year 9	Goswell		
Year 10	Isledon	Year 10	postponed until Monday 16th Dec		

The Year 7 chess competition was won by Clerkenwell.

Owen's teams compete in Youth Speaks competition

Wednesday 20th November saw the first round of this year's [Youth Speaks](#) competition, run by the Rotary club of Great Britain and Ireland. The regional heat was held in the School's Main Hall.



The evening started off with the Intermediate round consisting of three Year 9 teams each giving 15 minute presentations debating an issue.

Aisha Choudhary, Gaia Siddle and Sasha Robertson debated the absorbing topic of whether boarding schools are a valid means of educating children; Lauren Lisk, Simran Misir and Ella Connolly passionately presented on 'Should abortion stay legalised?' and Nikola Polit-Jones, Anna Pritchard and Edie Bower discussed whether the monarchy is still relevant.

All teams performed superbly and the competition was extremely close. In the end, Nikola, Anna and Edie won out and will progress to the next round, to be held in January.

Senior competition

After this, the Senior competition took place, again with three teams from Owen's contesting. We started off with a debate entitled 'We shouldn't kill animals for food' delivered by Anish Shah, Benjamin Fall and Nashita Karim (Year 10).



The other teams were Anna Partridge, India Jordan Jones and Bella Mak (Year 11) who knowledgeably discussed whether animal testing was ever justified, and Sophie Walk, Daniel Thomas and Eleanor Vincent (Year 12) who went through a very interesting analysis on whether the UK's parliamentary system is fit for purpose.

Again a great array of knowledge and debating skill was on display and Sophie, Daniel and Eleanor edged out the other teams to progress to the next round of the competition.

All the teams were a credit to the school and rose to the challenge of debating and discussing amazingly. Well done to everyone.

Ms Lawson

Year 9 pupils take part in FutureChef competition

On 10th December 2019, we were lucky enough to compete with other participants from different schools at Whitefield School, London in the regional finals of the [FutureChef competition](#). Although we didn't win, we had an amazing time. The competition involved the challenge of making a main meal and a dessert for two with a budget of just £7.00.

The task was challenging and required creative thinking. We were judged on practical skills, the ability to work in a methodical manner, menu costs and showing an awareness of nutritional balance.

We made the following dishes:

Edie: Thai Chicken Wings served with Stir Fry and a Chocolate Mousse Tart

Connie: Mozzarella & Spinach Tart and Chocolate Meringue.

We had an amazing time! Practice was the key – we revised our recipes until they were perfect and on the day, all our hard work paid off. We'd like to thank Mrs Kerim for coaching and supporting us and Whitefield School for hosting.

Edie Bower and Connie Datta

Year 9



ROYAL INSTITUTION MASTERCLASSES IN ENGINEERING



Congratulations to Year 9 pupils Emilia Pantiledes, Jasmin Mac, Anna Pritchard, Benjamin Mansfield and Matthew McDonald for completing the prestigious Royal Institution Masterclasses in Engineering this term at Leonardo in Luton. These classes took place on Saturday mornings over a period of six weeks during October and November with the aim of bringing engineering to life through a range of interesting topics. Among the highlights was the opportunity to use an original Enigma encoding machine while learning about encryption technology.

NEWS FROM THE MFL DEPARTMENT

French A-Level students enjoy a film study day

On Friday 22nd of November, 20 Year 12 and Year 13 French students travelled to the [British Film Institute](#) on London's Southbank for a French Study day.

During the morning we were given a whistle-stop tour of some of the most important films in French cinema, developing a greater understanding of concepts like 'auteur' cinema and the very influential 'Nouvelle Vague' movement of the 1960s.

We also learned more about how techniques such as different camera angles and use of sound subtly affect the viewers understanding of the film.

In the afternoon there was a rare treat – an opportunity to watch *La Haine* (Hate) – the film we study in Year 12 – as it was intended: on a big screen with proper sound. This in itself was a mind-blowing experience for students, many of whom came away from the experience with a much greater understanding of the film... and lots more questions! Many thanks to Mrs Gillingham for organising this excellent outing.



Year 12 and 13 German pupils visit Southbank's BFI

Mr Robinson organised for our Year 12 and Year 13 German students to spend Thursday 12th December at the [BFI](#) on London's Southbank for a German film study day.

In the morning, our students gained an overview of German film from the silent movie era through to the propagandist films of the Nazi regime all the way to contemporary films dealing with Germany's more recent past.



The session was delivered mainly in German by a lecturer from a London university who engaged students in considering about how sound, camera work and editing are used as powerful techniques in filmmaking.

After lunch our students enjoyed the viewing of *Goodbye, Lenin* and took part in a discussion about the film. It was a valuable experience enriching our students understanding of German film as well as learning about a more analytical approach to studying film at A-Level.

NEWS FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Year 13 pupils take study trip to Stratford-upon-Avon

The weather may have been 'dreich' but the plays were not. The annual Year 13 pilgrimage to Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, took place later in the term than usual owing to the strange scheduling at the [RSC](#) but the plays on offer were fascinating.

Friday night's viewing was *The Museum of Baghdad*, a modern play exploring the complex issue of where artefacts should be kept: with the discoverer or with the country of origin.

On Saturday night we saw a rare performance of *King John* with the actor Rosie Sheehy making her debut as the lead character. The performance and direction were innovative and gripping – the exploration of the pursuit of power and its consequences felt very relevant in the modern world.

We also visited places of historic interest and saw the courting stool where the young Will Shakespeare is believed to have wooed his older bride. An excellent weekend and huge thanks to Mr Simpson for driving the minibus, writing sonnets and tweeting the actors to commend their performances.



Year 9 enjoy performance of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

Year 9 were entertained with a one-hour performance of *A Christmas Carol* by [The Globe Players](#) on Wednesday, 4th of December.

The dramatization was engaging with students enjoying the comical yet accurate portrayal of Dickens' characters.

It has become an annual event for Year 9 students, whilst studying this Dickens masterpiece, to experience a performance which aids their understanding and appreciation of Victorian literature.

Accompanied with soundscape and imaginative set, students were transported through Dickens' festive favourite. The actors captivated the audience with their swift change of costumes and faithful presentation of the characters, even adding some humour, just as Dickens wished!



Pupils' work published in Young Writers competition

Congratulations to all students who recently took part in the Young Writers Competition and had their work published in the Hertfordshire anthology.

A total of 37 students, from KS3, used the theme of *Mission Chaos* to write a story relaying their perception of chaos while facing the challenge of using just 100 words to convey their ideas.

A reminder that the Creative Writing Club runs on Thursdays in B7 from 1pm and provides an enriching and rewarding environment in which to develop reading and writing, drafting and editing skills.

Mrs Friel



NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

Senior Maths team win UK Maths Trust regionals

On Thursday 28th November 2019 at the City of London School, the Senior Maths competed in the regional heat of the UK Maths Trust team competition – and won! The team consisted of Sebastian Kreuzt-Wellsted, Aron Thomas, Oscar Siddle and Rhys Leung. This was an amazing achievement by the boys and they will now compete in the National finals in February next year.

KS4 and 5 pupils visit London for Maths in Action days

The Maths Department took students on two educational visits this half term.

On 26th November, 25 Year 12 Further Mathematicians went to the Emmanuel Centre in central London for a Maths in Action day.

The day consisted of a number of talks/demonstrations on topics ranging from Fermat's last theorem (by author and broadcaster Simon Singh pictured right) to fighting disease with mathematics.

A couple of days later, it was the turn of 25 Year 11 students. Their Maths in Action day at the Emmanuel Centre on the 29th November featured talks and demonstrations on a range of topics including the challenge of measuring space, the movement of crowds and code breaking (by mathematician James Grime pictured right).

All the students involved had enjoyable, challenging and fascinating days.



NEWS FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Year 12 pupils review Dr Guy Sutton's Brain Day lecture

Three Psychology students share their thoughts on Dr Guy Sutton's annual Brain Day lecture, which took place at the school on 5th November. An expert in neuroscience and genetics, Dr Sutton discussed the biology of the human brain and how it works, including contemporary research on a range of issues, such as the effects of drugs, illness and trauma on the brain, all of which are related to the A-Level Psychology course that the pupils are studying.

Review 1: "Before going to the lecture, I thought there was no way I would be engaged for three hours but Guy managed to capture the whole room's attention. Guy's knowledge was very impressive and his enthusiasm for his work really helped his delivery. Particularly interesting topics included the effects of 9/11 and PTSD, the criminal mind, effect of child abuse, are they to blame?, methods of treating epilepsy (living with half a brain). I would highly recommend it to the school's younger years and I look forward to attending the Year 13 lecture day."

Review 2: "Everything I learned was delivered so well. Guy was engaging and very passionate. The brain dissection was amazing. Without its meninges, the brain was quite soft and the meninges, which surrounds it, is very tough. We learned so much about how the formation of the brain can go wrong, for example cyclops syndrome (failure of two eyes to develop in an embryo), holoprosencephaly (where the forebrain of a foetus doesn't develop into two hemispheres) and anencephaly (the absence of a major part of the brain). Guy also

told us about the most amazing recent developments in neuroscience, that of organoids and whether if they could develop into brain tissue with primitive eyes should they be considered to be alive and the ethical implications this has."

Review 3: "I was sceptical beforehand due to the length of the talk but it was so interesting to learn about long-term effects of childhood experiences and how psychology fits in with other fields. The brain dissection was actually very helpful in understanding the different parts of the brain, holding it and seeing the hippocampus (concerned with memory) which is what we will be studying. Guy spoke with passion about different conditions from a 7-year-old bilingual girl who was born with half a brain to a man with a brain tumour which made him turn abusive. This made us think whether people are actually responsible for their actions or whether they are governed by their brain. The good old nature vs nurture debate."



NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Chamber Concert showcases Owen's musical talent

A busy half term for Owen's musicians kicked off in November with a showcase of the work from some of our Chamber groups, as well as some GCSE Music students' solos.

For some, it was their first time on stage in a DAOS concert, others were sharing with us the experience of many years.

The Guitar Ensemble, directed by Joe Niesyto, set the evening off to a toe-tapping start with *La Cumparsita*, followed by a soulful rendition of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*. This ensemble includes students from all years and they demonstrated how they continue to go from strength to strength!



The evening featured two of the school's string quartets:

The **Year 8 String Quartet** gave a very assured and communicative performance of the second movement of *Beethoven's Quartet in C minor op. 18, no. 4*, while the **Year 11 (and 10) Quartet** stunned the audience with their performance of the first two movements of Shostakovich's electrifying *String Quartet no. 8*. Written to express the composer's deep despair, either at seeing the destruction of Dresden after WW2, or at being forced to join the Communist Party (depending which version you believe), this performance left the audience pinned to their seats for quite some seconds while the final notes resounded around the hall.

We were also delighted to be treated to some wonderful solo performances: Gabriella Bavetta's deeply moving rendition of Wagner's *Romance for Violin and Piano*, Kayla Nicol's dramatic performance of Eugene Ysaye's demonic *Sonata no.2 for Solo Violin*, Isaac Scheer's commanding and also singing performance of *Concertino for Trombone* by Ferdinand David in which he was very ably accompanied on the piano by classmate, Josh Gearing, and, finally, a delightfully light-touched and dancing rendition of Gershwin's piano version of *I Got Rhythm* from Katya Kirby.

Debussy's elegant *Ballet from Petite Suite* was given a warm and suitably dance-like rendition by the **Advanced Flute Ensemble** conducted, on this occasion, by Katrina Makepeace-Lott.

In the final item of the evening, we saw a group of very experienced Owen's musicians come together for the first time in this combination, in the unique line-up needed to perform the first movement of Schubert's magnificent *Octet*: Eleanor Davis and Jeremy Weinstein on violins, Jemima Atputharatnam on viola, Matthew Mayes on cello, Doraly Gill on double bass, Joe Loveday on clarinet, Jess Brady on French horn and Dora Goudie on bassoon gave us a rare opportunity to hear this piece performed live, with its richness of sonority, ingenuity of ensemble and high demand on all performers. Their breathtaking performance swept us all along in a very fitting finale to a fabulous evening of music that was enormously enjoyed by a highly appreciative audience.

Our thanks go to James Widden, Joe Niesyto, Janna Hunneke, and Katrina Makepeace-Lott for their direction, tuition and accompanying.

Owen's choirs hit the high notes at Choral Concert

More than 300 voices resounded around the Edward Guinness Hall in the remarkable and joyous finale to our November Choral Concert, as all five Owen's choirs, along with audience participation, joined together to sing *Something Inside So Strong*.

This was a fitting culmination to an evening in which Owen's singers had kept the audience entranced and delighted, from start to end. The choirs, from Years 7 to 13, presented a programme of music so varied that there was, for everyone, something comfortingly familiar as well as something new to discover, from jazz standards, to traditional songs, songs from musicals, Abba favourites to Rachmaninov's *Vespers* and much more.

To add even more colour to the evening, not only was there the expert piano accompaniment of Mr Thompson, Ms Gill and Year 12 student, Jonny Rugg, but also a variety of other beautifully played instrumental accompaniment: guitar (Mr Grimstead), electric bass (Maxim Lavrov, Year 12), drum kit (Henry Rugg, Year 9), fiddle (Ella Connolly, Year 9) and cellos (Ethan Brammah and Sophie Chandan, Year 8).

An array of soloists from all year groups added an extra tingle of excitement to choral performances that were exceptional for the commitment of their performers, the blend of voices and the delightfully direct communication to the audience.

Junior Choir, Junior Chamber Choir, Senior Choir, Senior Chamber Choir and the **Close Harmony Group** all re-formed anew at the start of the new school year. It was wonderful to see their tradition of excellence continuing to go from strength-to-strength under the expert direction of Mea Jenkins, Matt Grimstead and Katrina Makepeace-Lott. It was also wonderful to see so many Year 7 students taking to the stage in their first Owen's concert.

Our thanks and congratulations to all the performers for their hard work and superb performances, and to Ms Jenkins, Mr Grimstead and Ms Makepeace-Lott for their encouragement and inspiration. The Music Department would also like to thank the OSA for providing the refreshments, the caretakers and backstage staff, Mrs George (Music Administrator) and Lou Starck (Art technician) for their help.



Junior Chamber Choir



Close Harmony Group



Senior Choir



Senior Chamber Choir

Wind and Brass Ensembles Concert delights audience

Owen's musicians continued their concert season with an evening of fabulous performances given by the **Concert Band** and **Second Band**, along with the **Advanced Saxophone Ensemble**, **Senior Brass Ensemble** and the **Trombone Ensemble**.

With music spanning nearly 500 years, including traditional tunes, songs from musicals, a 1970s disco hit and a pastiche jazz suite, as well as a World Premiere of a specially commissioned piece, this concert delighted all musical tastes.

There were performances that wooed the audience with their beauty of tone, others excited with their ambition, and others had us toe-tapping and singing along. The smaller, chamber groups showed the joy of working in close communication with fellow musicians, while the **Second Band** and **Concert Band** were electrifying in the panache of so many musicians working together to deliver committed and exciting performances to their audience.

The **Second Band** were celebrating 25 years since their formation and, to honour the occasion, their Director Neil Crossley, commissioned a new piece by professional composer, Mark White. The band had also been lucky enough to rehearse with the composer himself when he visited school in October. The first half of the concert finished with Visiting Music Teacher, Bernard Bean, who founded the band 25 years ago, returning to conduct them in a piece from that very first concert.



Second Band with Bernard Bean



Senior Brass Ensemble



Advanced Saxophone Ensemble



Trombone Ensemble



Concert Band



Second Band

The evening was notable for the range of musicians, from those who were taking to the DAOS stage with their instruments for the first time, to those who have been sharing their talents with us for several years now.

All in all it was a wonderful evening of music, and enormously enjoyed by the audience.

The musicians would like to thank the Musical Directors, Bernard Bean, Neil Crossley and Lance Kelly, and the supporting staff, Rebecca McChrystal and Stephen Burke, for all their inspiration and guidance. We would also like to thank the OSA for providing refreshments, Ms Bamber, the caretakers, the backstage staff and Mrs George (the Music Administrator) for their help in the production of the concert.

Junior Ensemble and orchestras set festive mood

With the strike of a solo drum, the DAOS Junior Ensemble opened the Orchestral Concert on 3rd December playing a 450-year-old piece, *Danserye*, with the confidence and aplomb that marked out all of their performance. This is a new ensemble and it was exciting to see many musicians take to the stage for the first time, some having taken up their instruments only weeks earlier. Their conductor, Ms Dominique Jones, was clearly enormously proud of her musicians' fabulous achievement!



Junior Ensemble

The evening continued to showcase the school's orchestras: the **Chamber Orchestra**, **Junior Chamber Strings**, **Senior Strings**, **Second Orchestra** and the **Symphony Orchestra**. The audience was treated to a wide range of styles, moods and emotions, ranging from Felix Mendelssohn's joyous *Italian Symphony* and the eastern European dance rhythms of Antonin Dvorak's *Slavonic Dance no.8*, to Richard Strauss' pained despair at mankind's ability to destroy all that is good in technology-assisted warfare: the **Senior Strings'** performance of *Metamorphosen*, conducted by **Mr James Widden**, captured the deeply emotional gravity of this music.



Chamber Orchestra

The enormous **Second Orchestra**, conducted by Mrs Jo Brady, filled every corner of the EGH stage with their personnel and every corner of the hall with their rich sound. They certainly lifted the mood with their joyous performing of a programme that included *The Avengers* and some seasonal fare in a Christmas Festival.

Owen's student conductors were also in impressive form: in the first half, Year 10s Josh Gearing and Katherine Vincent made highly assured debuts at the helm of the **Junior Chamber Strings** in music by Johann Sebastian Bach and Edvard Grieg to great acclaim.

In the second half, the **Symphony Orchestra**, conducted by Ms Katherine Bamber, gave us a journey through the night sky: firstly with Claude Debussy's *Nocturnes* and then Gustav Holst's depiction of the planet *Jupiter*.



Josh Gearing conducting Junior Chamber Strings

Between these two works, Year 13 student, Joe Loveday, conducted the **Symphony Orchestra** in the World Premiere of his own composition, *Elegy in D minor*. The rich orchestral scorings, lyrical melodies and surging climaxes in the piece inspired the orchestra to play their hearts out in a deeply committed performance that was greeted by thunderous applause.



Joe Loveday with Symphony Orchestra

The theme of the night sky ended the concert as, with the sound of Santa's bells, Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride* sent us all off in a festive mood.



Owen's musicians wow in second Chamber Concert

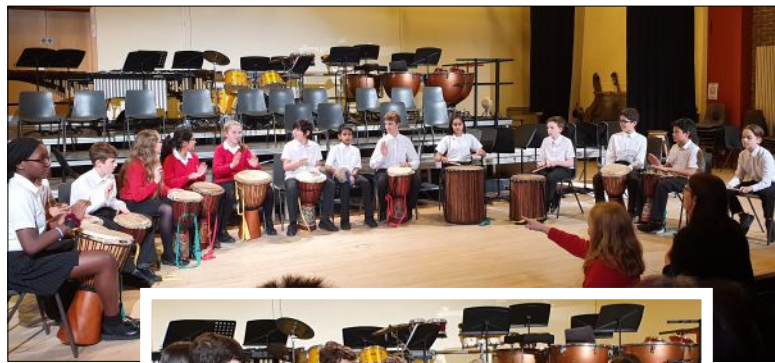
With the fabulous sound of 16 cellos playing *Eye of the Tiger* in close harmony, the DAOS **Cello Ensemble** opened the second Chamber Concert of the term, setting the flavour of an evening of music-making involving around 100 performers from Years 7-13, and that was characterised by its joy and assurance.

Whether it was the **Year 8 and Year 10 String Quartets**, giving professionally assured performances of music by Schubert and Borodin, or the fabulous **Junior and Senior Percussion Ensemble** performances (including some well-disguised Christmas carols!) that fascinated and inspired the audience, or the virtuosic **Scheer/Goodlad Jazz Piano Duo** or the **Drumming Group's** brilliant improvisation, every item held the audience's attention and kept us thoroughly entertained.

We were delighted by the clarity of the assured **Junior Brass Ensemble** performing, the warmth of tone of the **Saxophone Ensemble** and the musical phrasing of the **Flute Ensemble**. With a clear sense of comradeship and fun-filled performances the **Clarinet Ensemble** rounded off the evening and certainly made sure we all went home with a big smile on our faces!

We would like to thank our Visiting Music Teachers, Mrs Laura Dodds, Mr James Widden, Ms Rebecca McChrystal, Mr Gareth Hunt, Mr Stephen Burke, Mr Neil Crossley, Miss Janna Huneke and Miss Rachel Coe for all their hard work and inspiration.

Photos from top left clockwise: **Cello Ensemble; Drumming Group; Saxophone Ensemble; Flute Ensemble; Junior Brass Ensemble; Year 8 Quartet; Junior Percussion and Clarinet Ensemble.**



Congratulations to Owen's music competitions winners

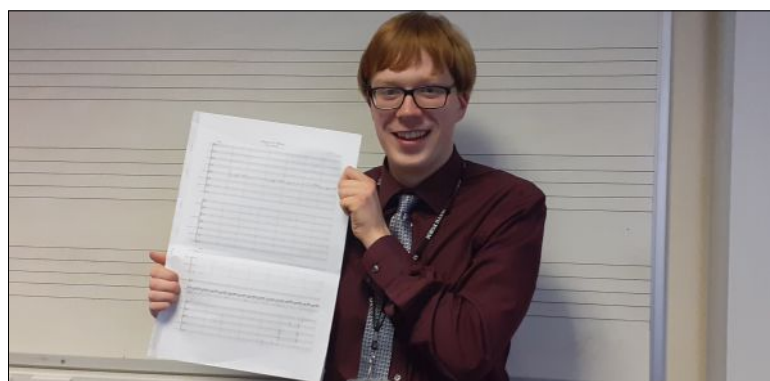
Congratulations to Year 13 student, **Matthew Mayes** (top right), who has won the first Owen's Compose a Christmas Carol Competition. His carol was performed at the Nine Lessons and Carols on Monday 16th December. Professional composer, Mark White, in his adjudication also passed warm congratulations to Highly Commended, **Joe Loveday** (below).



Congratulations to Year 11 student, **Matthew Debnam** (middle right), whose song, *Finding My Way*, was a winner in the Hertfordshire Songwriter Competition. We are very excited that Matthew's song will be performed live at the Royal Albert Hall in March as part of the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala 2020.



Congratulations to Year 11 student, **Sohan Kalirai** (below right), who won the age 16 and Under category of the East Anglian Young Composer of the Year 2019 Competition with his trio for Flute, Cello and Piano. Sohan's piece was performed by a professional trio in a concert in the West Road Music Faculty Concert Hall in Cambridge in October.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

READATHON RAISES RECORD AMOUNTS FOR CHARITY



We were delighted to receive a certificate from [Read for Good](#), in recognition of our outstanding record raising money to provide books for children in hospitals across the UK.

Each year the Library Readathon inspires students to read and raise money for sick children. We would like to thank all of the students who have taken part, and the parents and friends who have sponsored them so generously.

The next Readathon event will take place in the spring term.

Mrs Compton

NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

It has been a very busy term for the PE Department. Over 500 pupils have been involved in over 200 fixtures/competitions across 10 sports. Here are some of the highlights.



During October half term, the PE Department took 64 students to Valkenburg, Holland for rugby and hockey training. Students were coached by specialists and had training sessions every morning to develop their skills. During the day, students did several excursions including Lazer tag (in a cave), tobogganing and bowling. Students then developed their skills in the evening playing local clubs and a tournament at the end of the week. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were a credit to the school.

CROSS COUNTRY

English Schools Cross Country Cup National Final

Following an excellent victory at the regional finals in November, our wonderful U16 girls' cross country team qualified for the National finals, which took place at Mount St Mary's College, Sheffield on Saturday 7th December. This is the fifth time in six years that we have qualified for a National Cup Final, and the team were determined to achieve their highest place finish yet.

In what was a very challenging course, the team put together a fantastic effort to finish 4th overall – this is an incredible achievement when you consider that over 800 schools enter the competition at the start of the season. Aimi Weightman raced exceptionally well to place 4th, Niamh Keohane followed in 27th, and both Evie Wootton and Maisie O'Shea placed inside the top 50. The team was completed by Roisin Keohane and Anna Pritchard who placed in the top 70 (in a race with 168 runners). 4th in the country is an incredible achievement and we are very proud of all the girls!



District Cross Country Championships

Students from Years 7 to 13 represented the school in the District Cross Country Championships that took place at Queenswood School. There was some excellent runs across all age groups, and for the tenth year in a row, Owen's were crowned overall District champions!

NETBALL

Year 7 – Year 7 have had a fantastic start to the year in regards to attitude and success in their netball. The girls had a huge turn out to house sports and have continued to develop throughout the term. The girls played Monks Walk and won a fantastic 36-3 and both the A and B team beat Mount Grace in a shortened fixture (due to light) 8-4 and 6-3 respectively. We are looking forward to the Saturday morning netball fixtures starting next term.

Year 8 – Year 8 have had a fantastic start to the year. The A team were successful in their County Cup match against Haberdasher's and are now in the quarter final. The B team also had a successful start with a respectful 10-3 win against Mount Grace. We are looking forward to what the next term has to hold for both teams.

HOCKEY

Year 9 – The Year 9 Hockey team have continued to progress this term. The trip to Holland has seen the students grow in both their skill level and confidence. The girls have continued their dedication to after-school and lunchtime practices, along with Saturday morning fixtures, which has enabled them to develop their team work and decision making. The girls have recently played their first County Cup game where they beat RMS 4-1. Well done girls!

KS3 boys hockey will start in January on a Wednesday after-school. Hope to see you all there!



GYM AND DANCE DISPLAY

This half term saw another very successful Gym and Dance display, which was themed Disco's and Divas. There were performances from pupils across all age groups, demonstrating their skills in trampette, box, floor and different styles of dance. Well done to all of the pupils involved for their hard work, attending rehearsals and for two fantastic performances.

BASKETBALL

Year 9 – The Year 9 basketball team have had a successful season. They won a number of matches, scoring over 30 points on many occasions. At the District basketball rally, the boys were unlucky as the games were so short. Overall, however, it's been a good year with lots of positives. Well done to all students involved.

Year 10 – The Year 10 team have had a mixed season, coming across some of the stronger schools in the district. They also participated in the District rally, winning two out of three games.

RUGBY

Year 7 – The Year 7 rugby team have had a brilliant start to rugby at Owen's. The turnout at training has been brilliant with an excess of 30 students attending training on a weekly basis. As the boys have progressed through the season, their results and performances have improved significantly. The highlight of the year was beating a strong Roundwood Park side 6 tries to 2. If the students carry on improving they could become a very strong rugby team. With interest in the sport growing all the time, we hope to play some A and B team matches after Christmas.

Year 8 – After a successful rugby tour to Holland over half term, the Year 8 rugby team have continued to develop. Their performances at Saturday morning fixtures have been excellent, competing well against Enfield Grammar, Sir John Lawes, Roundwood Park and Haileybury. Rugby will continue for this year group after Christmas, with a number of mid-week games taking place.

Year 9 – The boys have shown some improvement in their game play and skills, following on from the tour to Holland in the half term. They continue to work well as a team and this has been demonstrated in their matches, with teachers from opposing schools commenting on the progress that the team has made.

Year 10 – The Year 10 rugby team have had a very strong season so far, with the highlight being a victory over defending champions Hemel in the County Cup. Performances on Saturday mornings have been encouraging, and the team are due to face Tring in the semi final of the County Cup after Christmas.

1st XV – The fixtures have increased for the 1st XV since the half-term break, and after a tough match against a very strong Dr Challoner's team, there was considerable improvement against Roundwood Park, which was followed by a big win over Samuel Ryder. The team are due to face Birchwood in the county trophy on Tuesday 17th December in a repeat of the quarter final from last season.

FOOTBALL

U12 girls – We have had a fantastic turnout on a weekly basis to the girls football club on a Friday lunchtime. The girls had an opportunity to put into practice everything that they had worked on in the District tournament. 11 girls went to Hertswood school and competed against several other schools in the district. The B team did exceptionally well despite only having five players, in a 6-a-side tournament, due to illness and injuries. The girls drew all of their games except one which they lost to semi-finalists Mount Grace. The A team won all their games which advanced them to the semi finals as top of their pool.

The girls played exceptionally well beating Chancellors B team in the semi final to then face their A team in the final (who they beat in the rounds). With it being only five minutes, the girls were against the clock to score as many goals as they could, unfortunately, Chancellors managed to go 1-0 very quickly and followed that up with another goal shortly after. The girls lost the final 2-0 but played exceptionally well and were District runners up.

U14 girls – The U14 girls had their District Football tournament at Hertswood where they played other schools in the District such as Hertswood, Chancellors and Queenswood. The girls played exceptionally well and rarely conceded a goal. However, due to the scoring system, as the girls only drew their games it meant that they did not advance to the semi finals.



U16 girls – The U16 girls had a fantastic run in the County Cup where they won both their first games 4-0 and 7-2. In the quarter finals, the girls met a really strong St Edmunds side. The girls scored early on with a fantastic goal by Maya however this was followed by a quick counter attack which meant the score was 1-1. The girls had several chances to take the lead and with a fantastic cross Hannah managed to secure the lead. The girls worked really hard during the game but unfortunately St Edmunds managed to score two more goals, one from a corner and one from an interception. The final score was 3-2.

Well done to the girls who have played exceptionally well throughout the year, a special mention to Maya who organised the team throughout.

Year 10 boys – The team have had a couple fixtures this half term where they beat Onslow but narrowly losing to Monks Walk in the District Cup. Improvements are being seen each time they play.

Year 11 boys – The team progressed into the quarter final of the County Cup after a hard fought win against Chancellors. They will be playing the next round after the Christmas break.

1st XI – The 1st XI have had another successful half term of football. They have reached the quarter final of the County Cup by beating a strong Queen's side and have won all of their district group stage games so far. More awaits the team in the new year with a district final looming and the start of the County League.

BADMINTON

There was an opportunity for our badminton players to represent the school in the District badminton tournament. Pupils in Years 7 to 10 competed against local schools in both singles and doubles matches. Owen's won all four tournaments (KS3 girls, KS3 boys, KS4 girls, KS4 boys).

OTHER SUCCESSES

Archery – In December, Alexandra Lockett competed in the Junior National Indoor Championships, retaining her title of Under 14 National Longbow Champion. She shot particularly well, despite a freezing cold archery hall and external temperatures of -3 degrees, (which particularly affects longbows), coming 2nd for all Junior Longbows nationally (regardless of age) and only missing the top slot by 24 points, (even though the winner has been shooting for four years more than Alexandra). In her class, she achieved 150 points ahead of the second place archer.

Judo – Congratulations to Year 10 pupil, Oliver Almond (pictured right) who has won his third national judo title in four years, taking Bronze at the 2019 U18 British National Judo Championships.

Aged just 14, Oliver will compete for the next three years in this U18 age-band, so winning a medal in his first year at this level against much older competitors is a remarkable achievement.

Oliver's success at the British Championships gives him automatic selection to the England Development Squad where he has the opportunity to be selected to represent England at more advanced European events in 2020.

The PE Department would like to thank all the staff, parents and students for all your support with lifts and help at fixtures which have made it such a successful term.



NEWS FROM THE OSA

Quiz Night Saturday 9th November – The OSA have received a letter from a parent and are delighted to include it below, with only the slightest edits.

*“Dear Glenn and team,
This is a hero-gram for the PTA quiz. It was excellent – dramatically changed and every single bit of it for the better. The quiz host, Mr Ewins, was entertaining and decisive, the questions were fun, the food and drink flowed easily, the whole thing ran to time, and all round everyone I know who went declared it the best DAO quiz they'd been to, by a long shot, if not the best big quiz they'd been to at all. Please pass on my congratulations to everyone who worked so hard and had the foresight to make the improvements. Much appreciated, and what a jolly night out that showed off the school in its best light. Thank you.”*

With over 275 participants and many helpers we can only echo the views above. A big thank you to everyone involved who helped make the event and came and spent their money too, to raise a few thousand pounds for the school. For the record in a very tight contest including a tie breaker a table of Year 7 (right) parents narrowly beat the teachers.



Refreshments – The OSA serve drinks and snacks at about 40 events a year, mostly concerts and Parents' Evenings. If you are able to help with drinks at any of these this and next term please email Sharon on refreshments@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 to yourself. Just go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and select Owen's School Association as your charity. For those thinking about holidays, lots of travel companies take part in the scheme.

Book Covers – Book covers are available for sale during the year and an order form can be found on the OSA website, www.theosa.org.uk. Alternatively, a paper copy of the order form can be found in a yellow folder in the OSA box. Please mark any envelopes 'book cover order'.

Match Funding – If you are employed by a company that is able to offer matched funding and would like to make a donation to Owen's School Association, please contact matchfunding@theosa.org.uk.

200 Club – The OSA operate a Lottery style 200 club with two £50 prizes drawn per month, often with an extra draw taking place in December. Annual membership is £12 per number. For further details please contact Deepika via 200club@theOSA.org.uk.



School Uniform – Good quality previously owned school uniform is available throughout the year by contacting Julia Clews. School uniform will be available to purchase at Parents' Evenings.

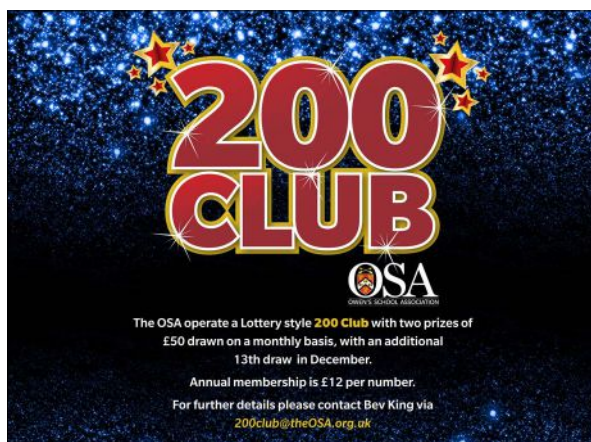
All items are carefully displayed and priced reasonably. Payment can be made by cash or cheque (payable to Owen's School Association). Of course, all funds raised go back to the school. Stock is made up of donations and uncollected items of lost property stored in the school office at the end of each academic year.

Donations of **good quality** items can be put in the red wheelie bin in the school entrance hall or handed in to the school office, in a suitable bag labelled for the attention of Julia Clews "OSA Nearly New".

OSA Website – www.theosa.org.uk. Please take a look! The OSA continues to add content and make improvements and would welcome your feedback. If you have any comments, suggestions or can help in any way please get in touch at contact@theosa.org.uk.

OSA Committee – If anyone would like to attend an OSA committee meeting and help raise funds for the school, meetings are held on the first Monday of each month currently at 7.30pm in The Old Library. You can attend as a one off or join the committee, it's up to you. We would love to see some new faces and look forward to welcoming you.

Facebook – Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#).



Music and Drama 2020

Spring Term

Wednesday 12th February at 7pm

Chamber Concert 1

Edward Guinness Hall

Tickets available online through WisePay

w/c Monday 24th February

South East Schools Chamber Music Festival

Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm

Large Ensembles Concert

Edward Guinness Hall

Tickets available online through WisePay

Wednesday 11th March at 7pm

Soul Band evening

Main Hall

Tickets available online through WisePay

Tuesday 17th March at 7pm

Chamber Concert 2

Edward Guinness Hall

Tickets available online through WisePay

Tuesday 24th March at 7pm

Senior Concert – Large Ensembles

Edward Guinness Hall

Tickets available online through WisePay

Wednesday 1st April at 7pm

Junior Concert – Large Ensembles

Edward Guinness Hall

Tickets available online through WisePay