

Dame Alice Owen's School newsletter



Letter from the Head

Hannah Nemko

Dear All,

The new term started on a sombre, focused note as the halls filled up with students sitting their mock examinations; a difficult but worthwhile experience for all. I hope our Year 11s and 13s now feel a little more prepared for what will happen during the public

examination period in the summer and that they have a better understanding of how to manage their revision in the run up.

Thank you for all the support you have shown your young people and to all the staff for the hours of marking and feedback which have been shared for the good of the students. Well done to all of you who sat these examinations; it is a long and gruelling process, but your hard work will pay off!

Staffing changes

We were delighted to welcome some new faces to our school team in January. Mrs Halliday and Mrs Van Thal join us as First Aiders, Mr Fitch as a D&T technician, Ms Belhaj in D&T to cover for Mrs Morrisey who is on maternity leave, as well as Mr MacDonald who joined us as Head of Geography. I am sure you will enjoy getting to know them all.

We wished Mrs Fradley luck as she left us to begin her maternity leave a few short weeks ago and are delighted to welcome Ms Epstein to cover her position.

It is with sadness that we said goodbye to Mr Blackwell just before the half term holiday. A member of our caretaking staff who has also been helping out as a technician in D&T, Mr Blackwell has taken the decision to retire and will be greatly missed.

Mrs Winborn, our premises manager, will also be leaving us at the end of the half



Due to our new and more sensitive fire alarm system, students are no longer allowed to bring aerosol deodorants or sprays of any kind into school.



Issue highlights...

A-Level Physics students visit CERN [page 4](#)



DAOS musicians perform at Spring Grove [page 7](#)



Sports successes and team highlights [page 8](#)



term holiday. Mrs Winborn has worked to keep the site in tip-top shape and will be missed by us all as she leaves to take on new experiences. We wish her all the best.

The new teaching block

Thank you to everyone who has bought bricks or sponsored items for the New Teaching block. The block is taking great shape with a lot of the internal structure being put into place as I write. It is not too late to contribute to this exciting project by [sponsoring an item for a classroom or by buying a brick](#) should you wish to. We are all very excited at the prospect of being able to move into the block, ready for September.

The buses

Students who travel on the 626 or the 699 will be delighted to know that TfL has notified us that their planner is now looking into these routes and the issue of overcrowding on the buses. Please feel free to send TfL any thoughts you have to this end by emailing customerservice@tfl.gov.uk with the title of the email being: 'Route assessment 626/699 CRM001:044900000115' or calling them on 0343 222 1234.

School celebrations and activities

Students have been enjoying a host of extra-curricular activities this half term and our thanks go to all of our teachers who have worked over and above to provide so many opportunities and experiences for our students.

Congratulations go to Anahitha Vijay for her achievements in Google's International 'Code-in' competition, Nick Scott and Aron Thomas for their achievements in the first round of the British Maths Olympiad and to Aron again for his amazing success in the second round too! Hats off also to Benjamin Fall, Anish Shah and Nashita Karim in Year 9 and Emilia McGeedy, Hannah Chen and Claudia Schmidt in Year 12 who performed brilliantly all the way to the second round of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition earlier this month.

You can read more about all these competitions inside the newsletter.

Lots of learning has taken place outside of the classroom, not just through competitions but also through visits. Ms Valente and Mr Pickering took Year 13 Physics students to CERN to deepen their understanding of the physics that happens inside the collider; all sorts of new experiences were had, from enjoying raclette to discovering practical applications of the science they have been studying in class.

Mr Grimstead was delighted to take advantage of the opportunity offered to him by Eira Ellis, a parent of a student, who is Head of Creative Production at Hogarth Worldwide. He and a number of musically minded A-Level students learned about sound design, mixing, composition, the creative process in advertising and issues of copyright. Thanks go to Eira who facilitated this visit; our students claimed that they have never been treated so well!

Year 8 were entertained by the wonderful Globe Players and their performance of Romeo and Juliet, where they learnt so much about Shakespeare and how to unpick the real meaning behind his use of language. Thanks go to Mrs Friel for her organisation of this brilliant event.

Thanks also go to Mr Davies, the History Department (and Dr Davies!) who took the Year 11s on a Crime and Punishment tour of the East End to help consolidate their learning of this chapter in history. The day was cold and wet, which must have added some atmosphere to the whole event!

Mrs Whiter and Ms Scurlock provided a new addition to our calendar with their excellent careers fair. With representation from a vast array of professions, our students were able to discuss job prospects, qualifications

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needed, and what it is *really* like to do the job day in, day out. Feedback from the fair was excellent and we hope to run this event every year. The full write up of this event will be in the end of term newsletter. If you or your company would like to come and be part of our fair next year, please contact DAOscareers@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk to let us know.

The Music Department kept us inspired with the Senior Chamber Orchestra, which was such a treat! The Senior Brass Ensemble, Advanced Saxophones, Advanced Flutes, Y8 String Quartet, Year 11 and 12 Vocal Trio and the Close Harmony Group all took part in the competitive Spring Grove Music Festival where students entertained the residents of Spring Grove House Finchley with their amazing talent (pictured above). We hope that the performances will have been good enough to push us through to the finals later in the year. And thanks to Mrs Bamber and Ms Makepeace-Lott (for giving up her birthday) for supporting our musicians.



The term ended on a high with *The Great Gig* where so many students, musicians, composers and the tech crew displayed their talent for our enjoyment. Thank you to all who supported this event which raises money for the equipment Tech Crew need to keep our school performance so well lit and exciting to watch!

Lastly we wish Ms Pueyo, Mr Robinson and the Year 13s all the best for their language visit to Granada over the half-term holiday: que tengáis un buen viaje (have a safe trip)!

Wishing you all a restful half-term break

Mrs Nemko

YOUTH SPEAKS COMPETITION

This half term saw the continuation of the Youth Speaks public speaking competition, run by the Rotary Club. We had several accomplished teams go through to the second round and they all performed admirably.

The intermediate team of Benjamin Fall, Anish Shah and Nashita Karim (Year 9) delivered a presentation on 'Should we have absolute free speech?' and spoke eloquently on where the limits of what we can or can't say lie.

The senior team of Claudia Schmidt, Emilia McGeady and Hannah Chen (Year 12) also performed superbly on 'What makes us happy?'

Both teams were very unlucky not to progress through to the next round.

Congratulations to all students from Years 9 and 12 who took part this year.

Ms Lawson

FORTHCOMING SCIENCE SOCIETY LECTURES

Our Science Department has organised the following lunchtime lectures this term.

Feel free to pop along to find out more on this exciting range of topics!

Tuesday 5th March

Consultant Haematologist

Lecturer – Dr Perla Eleftheriou

Tuesday 12th March

Otoacoustic Emissions

Lecturer – Professor David Kemp

Monday 18th March

Mathematics

Lecturer – Professor Minyong Kim

NEWS FROM THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

A-Level physicists travel to Geneva to visit CERN



On January 24th and 25th, 22 Year 13 Physics students travelled to Geneva in Switzerland to visit CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research.

On arrival in Geneva, the students walked along the lakefront to the Natural History Museum, where they met Janus – a two-headed tortoise!

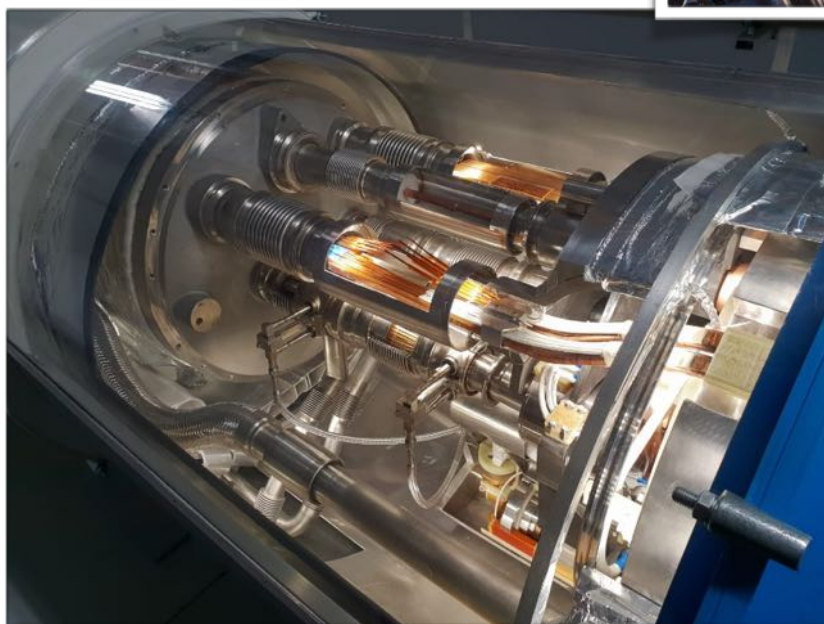
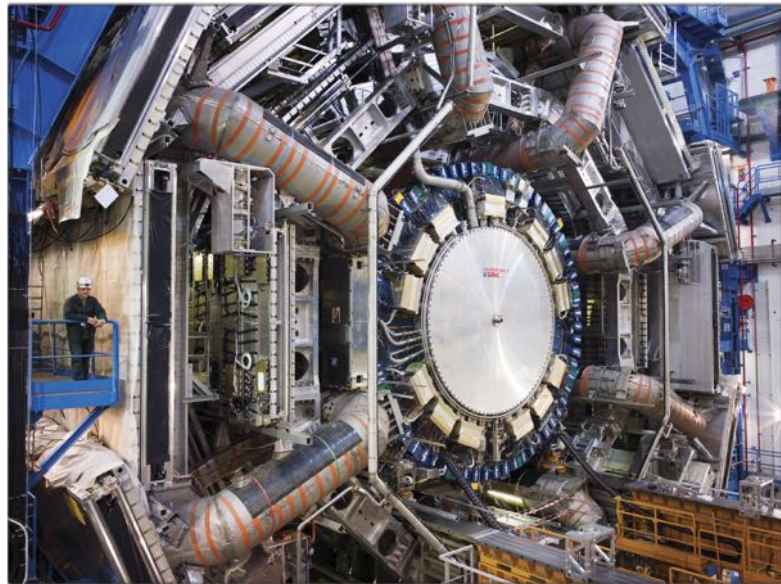
In the evening, the students tasted some traditional Swiss cuisine: raclette and fondue.

On Friday, we took the tram to CERN, the European

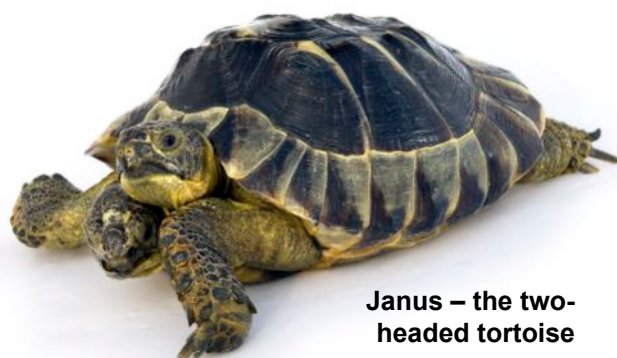
Organization for Nuclear Research, which operates the largest particle collider in the world (LHC) and was the birthplace of the world wide web.

Students watched a clip about the history and relevance of CERN within the scientific community and had the chance to ask a top particle physicist any questions that they had.

The next stop of the tour was ATLAS (right), a 7,000-tonne detector which is where particle



physicists discovered the Higgs boson in 2012. The LHC was in 'shutdown' during our visit so no one was working there but the students had the chance to learn about the process involved in accelerating and colliding particles.



Janus – the two-headed tortoise

NEWS FROM THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Year 11 enjoy thrilling East End history walking tour

In early February, our Year 11 History students took part in an East End walking tour of London as part of their GCSE Crime and Punishment Module.

Seven registered guides took 160 students around various sites relevant to the history of the East End, which included material on poverty, policing and the notorious crimes of Jack the Ripper.

Although a very chilly day for a two-hour walk, the students reacted

superbly to the guides with precise and searching questioning which was much appreciated. The guides certainly brought the atmosphere of late Victorian London to life and gave students a real sense of the dark and sometimes treacherous underbelly of the capital.

Many thanks to the History Department for organising this trip.



NEWS FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The Globe Players' *Romeo and Juliet* entertains Year 8

[The Globe Players](#) visited the school on Wednesday 23rd January with their one-hour performance of *Romeo and Juliet*, one of the world's great stories: that of love transcending social barriers.

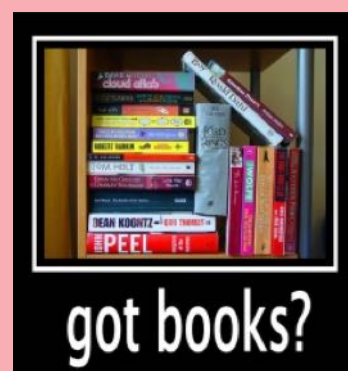
This is the first year that Year 8 have had the opportunity to see a performance of *Romeo and Juliet* and although we have not finished reading the play in class, the performance helped consolidate and clarify understanding and enthused students looking forward to the final Act.

This event is always a valuable experience for the students and feedback was incredibly enthusiastic.

A REQUEST FOR LIBRARY DONATIONS

If you are clearing out good quality books as part of your spring cleaning, please consider donating them to the school for use in the Library or classroom boxes. Any really good condition books suitable from Year 7 upwards would be gratefully received. As we lack storage space, it's essential that you contact me first to discuss the donation before delivering books to school. Please email me at comptons@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk or telephone 01707 622864.

Mrs S Compton, Librarian



NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

Senior Maths team attends UK Maths Trust Finals

Dame Alice Owen's School's Senior Maths team has achieved 7th place at the National Finals of the UK Maths Trust Team Competition.

The event was held at Lindley Hall in central London on Tuesday 5th February and the Owen's team consisted of:

Zak Buzzard (Year 12)

Aron Thomas (Year 12)

Nefeli Hutton (Year 13)

Nick Scott (Year 13)

The team's result was an amazing achievement, especially considering that all the top schools in the country, both state and private, enter this competition.



Two pupils enter British Maths Olympiad Round 2

The second round of the British Maths Olympiad is sat by only 100 or so students by invitation, based on their performance in the BMO1. We were delighted that Nick Scott (Year 13) and Aron Thomas (Year 12) were both selected for the BMO2. For the school to be represented by two pupils out of 100 is a huge achievement – well done to Nick and Aron.

We have just had the lovely news that Aron Thomas got a distinction in the BMO2 with full marks. This is an amazing achievement – well done Aron!

Intermediate Maths Challenge

On 7th February 200 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 sat the IMC. Well done to those students who took part in the challenge.

NEWS FROM THE COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

YEAR 8 GIRLS ENTER CYBERFIRST ONLINE COMPETITION

In January, 12 girls from Year 8 took part in an intensive national online competition called [CyberFirst](#). The competition is a pivotal part of the UK government's National Cyber Security Programme. It covers a broad range of activities and really tested the girls' thirst for knowledge.

The girls who took part were: Jasmin Mac; Claire Hou; Annabel Macaulay; Lauren Lisk; Simran Misir; Zoe Leahy; Diya Shah; Evie Salama; Evie Wooton; Isabelle Peel; Anna Safdar; Mia Mortensen.

We are waiting to hear if the girls have made it to the competition finals.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Owen's musicians entertain residents at the Spring Grove Music Festival

Residents of the Spring Grove Residential Home on the Finchley Road, London were treated to an afternoon of entertainment by a host of Owen's musicians.

The Senior Brass Ensemble, Advanced Saxophones, Advanced Flutes, Year 8 String Quartet, Year 11 and 12 Vocal Trio and the Close Harmony Group performed at the event. Residents also enjoyed the performance of four original compositions by A-Level Music students, Theo Gill, Sylvie Hallam, Joe Loveday and Matthew Mayes.

Particular mention should also go to the musicians who worked with the composers to give these world premieres: Jade Brooks, Mia Dedic, Jonny Rugg, and Wesley Wilson.

The performances were superb. The residents thoroughly enjoyed them, agreeing with the glowing feedback from the judges. Afterwards, we all shared tea and delicious cakes, and the Close Harmony Group sang 'Happy Birthday' to Ms Makepeace-Lott!

We're keeping our fingers crossed that some groups may be invited back to the finals in March.



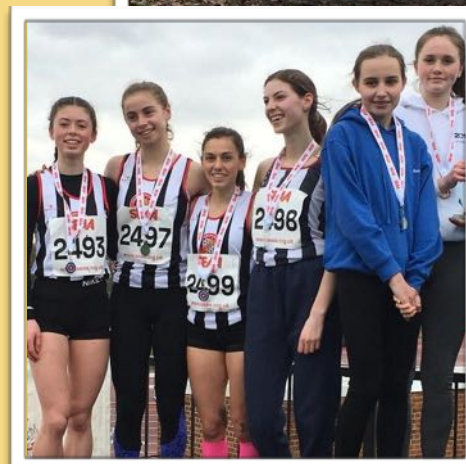
NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

CROSS COUNTRY

Freya Stapleton is enjoying an exceptional cross country season with several major achievements. Freya won the U17/U20W Herts XC Champs and received an invitation to be part of the East Mini-Marathon team. Freya also won the U17 Met League at Wormwood Scrubs and because she has now won four out of four races, she has won the U17 League title.

Freya also competed at the South of England Cross Country Championships where she had a brilliant race – she narrowly missed out on the individual medals finishing 4th overall. However, her team finished second overall (equal first on points, but lost it on 4th place position as another team's fourth runner finished higher up).

Also a massive well done to Aimi Weightman, Roisin Keohane and James Allison who finished 21st, 154th and 172nd respectively, in the South England Championships.



NETBALL

Well done to both the **Year 7** A and B Netball teams who remain undefeated in their games so far. The girls have demonstrated fantastic commitment which is evident in their current success.

The **Year 8** girls are having a fantastic season, winning all their district games so far. Hopefully this success will continue.

Well done to **Under 15** County Cup netball team who made it to the semi final but unfortunately lost to Berkhamsted. The girls played exceptionally well and displayed a high standard of skill and determination.

HOCKEY

The **Under 13** hockey squad continued their County Cup campaign against Sandringham School. The A team drew 1-1, conceding the equaliser in the final 30 seconds of the match! Their goal was scored by Jasmin Mac, who was voted player of the match. The B team won 3-0 with two goals and a player of the game display from Evie Wootton as well as a goal from Connie Datta.

The **Under 15** and **Senior** hockey squads have had matches postponed due to the adverse weather. The Under 15s played Hitchin School in the County Cup and, despite dominating possession, lost 3-1. Karoline Fahrenkamp scored the Owen's goal and Alisa Hassan was voted player of the match. The Seniors play their final County Cup group match on 13th February against Queenswood B whilst the Under 15s have two group games after half term.

FOOTBALL

The **Year 8 girls'** football team reached the semi-finals of the Year 9 District 6-a-side tournament. In the semi-final, they played Hertswood School and led through a Mabel Hayes' goal until the final 10 seconds of the match. The game went to extra time and unfortunately the girls lost 2-1. Well done to the squad for doing so well in playing girls a year older. Ayla Aldridge was selected as player of the tournament.

The **Under 12 girls'** football team had their District 6-a-side tournament on 14th February at Hertswood School.

Saturday morning football has resumed with block fixtures taking place against Sandringham, Enfield Grammar, Verulam and John Lyon. The majority of our teams will be playing their district semi finals after half term.

Year 9 have started their Saturday friendly fixtures with a win and a loss – and they were also unlucky with a close loss to Monks Walk in the District Cup.

The **Year 10** football team have had an extremely successful half term. They have played and won four games. They beat Onslow 9-1 in the District Cup and will play Monks Walk to see who tops the group going in the semi final stage. Notable performers have been: Fern Bucho with five goals in four games, Sam Meakes has captained the team excellently and Boris Pearson has been an outstanding player. Also a special mention must go to Eddie Johnston who has missed some school games as he has represented the County in three matches.

Year 11 played last week in the semi final of the District Cup where they won 2 -1 against Ridgeway Academy in a close game. They will play in the final in the middle of March. Good luck!

Congratulations to Ruby Grant (pictured above right) for her first full 90 minutes for Arsenal Women's Football Team in the FA Cup and scoring her first senior hat trick.

Year 11 pupil Michael Craig (pictured right) received an Under 17 International call up for Scotland. He played against France and Hungary in friendly matches over a week's training camp.



SWIMMING

Alice Bayley raced in the Middlesex County Championships on the 26th and 27th January. She won both silver medals in the 50m breaststroke and 100m breaststroke. Well done Alice!

BASKETBALL

Both **Year 7** and **Year 8** basketball teams have had a busy half term of fixtures in the District league against Chancellor's, Hertswood, Onslow and Mount Grace. The Year 7 team have shown great promise, winning every game so far. Special mention must go to Tomi Alabi who has produced some excellent performances.

RUGBY

The **Year 7** and **Year 8** rugby teams have continued with training and have played three competitive fixtures against Sandringham, Parmiters and Chancellors. The Year 7s managed one draw and one win, with the final fixture being played in the last week of half term. The Year 8 team put in a sterling performance to beat Sandringham 5-3, but lost to Parmiters 5-2. Both sides have improved significantly since the beginning of the year with a lot of boys playing rugby for the first time. We look forward to working with both sets of students next September.

Year 9 after being undefeated in all their games before Christmas, the team were beaten by a strong Hockerill College in the quarter final of the County Cup. Well done boys for your achievements this year.

NEWS FROM THE OSA

Race Night Saturday 30th March – We are very much hoping for the support of parents and friends of the school to make it a fun and successful fundraising evening.



Eight filmed horse races will be broadcast and you are invited to be involved in a number of ways.

The films used are of top quality races, each chosen for their action-packed footage and exciting finishes. Film commentary is provided by television racing presenters Derek Thompson and Jim McGrath with introductions by Clare Balding.



On the night, you will have the opportunity to 'bet' on which horse will win.

All of the outcomes of the races are decided according to the recordings. The seal on the DVD pack is broken only on the night so we have no prior knowledge of the winner. The chances are therefore equally favourable to all participants.

The evening needs your support. Even if you are unable to attend on the night you can still be a winner as the owner of a winning horse. Each race will have eight horses that can be 'bought' for £10 each. The winning horse owner will receive a great prize donated by a local business.

There are still some races that have not yet been sponsored, so if you are able to sponsor a race then please contact events@theosa.gov.uk. You will be welcome to promote your company or simply sponsor a race yourself. Race sponsors will appear on all race cards and will be announced prior to each race. All that we ask is that you provide a prize for the owner of the horse that wins your race.

If you would like to buy a horse, then please complete the online booking form using the link below to reflect this. Previous events have seen all the horses being sold very quickly and a number of people were disappointed so please book in your horses as soon as possible.

Doors will be open from 7pm with the first race at 7.30pm. Entry is £10 (£5 for Sixth Formers) which includes a hot supper. Horse owners will enjoy a reduced entry fee of £5.

Look out for flyers and posters around the school. Booking information will be posted on the OSA website. Or use the following link: www.buytickets.at/theosa to book your tickets

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.

The banner features the 'easyfundraising feel good shopping' logo at the top. Below it, the text reads 'Easy peasy' in a large, white, cursive font. Underneath, it says 'Collect FREE funds for Owens School Association when you shop online the easyfundraising way'. At the bottom, there are logos for several retailers: amazon.co.uk, John Lewis, Thomson, ebay, Viking, Argos, and Sainsbury's.

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.

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 usually 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 more new faces and look forward to welcoming you.

Facebook – Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/theosa)



Music and Drama 2019

Spring Term

Thursday 28th February at 7.00pm

Soul Band

Main Hall

Tickets available online through WisePay

Friday 1st March

DAOS String Quartets

South East Schools Chamber Music Festival

Sunday 3rd March 4-6pm

DAOS Concert Band and Senior Strings

Regional Festival of Music for Youth

Watford School of Music

Saturday 23rd March 7:30pm

DAOS Choirs & Hertfordshire County Youth Choir Concert

St Peter's Church, St Albans

Thursday 28th March at 7.00pm

Concerto Concert

Edward Guinness Hall

Tickets available online through WisePay

School uniform suppliers

You can purchase school uniform from [LeeJoy](#) in Potters Bar, [Smiths Schoolwear](#) in Cockfosters and [John Lewis](#) in Oxford Street.



155-157 Lancaster Road,
Enfield, Middlesex,
EN2 0JN
020 8363 2424

**Smiths
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Our new shop address!

25 Station Parade,
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020 3818 3622

Please check which store your school is stocked at before visiting us!



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**Are you in your penultimate year at University?
Are you thinking about a career in teaching?**

**Would you like to earn up to £1,200 for
a four-week internship?**

The Advanced Learning Alliance is offering school internships to prepare University Students for Teacher Training via School Direct or University-based PGCE. School Direct involves work-based training with a bursary in Maths and Physics of up to £28,000. Internships are based in local Outstanding Schools. We will support you in gaining the most out of a school internship by:-

- Support and mentoring you throughout the internship; you will have a personal teacher mentor.
- The opportunity to work with small groups and whole classes.
- The opportunity for you to mentor sixth formers in preparation for their University application.
- The chance to take part in projects and activities across at least two schools.
- Opportunities to join school trips, enrichment activities and wider school activities.
- We will provide written testimonials and references for Interns who successfully complete the course, as well as comprehensive information about routes into teaching.

**We are now in our fifth year of the successful delivery
of internships.**

Placements will be available in June and July 2019 and applications are now open.

We are interested in undergraduates studying the following subjects:
Maths, Physics, Computing, Engineering or who have elements of those subjects in their degree.

To apply, please email a letter and CV to Miss Jane Hart, Director of Teaching and Learning, Watford Grammar School for Girls, j.hart@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk