



# Dame Alice Owen's School

Newsletter February 2023



## Letter from the Head

### Hannah Nemko

This half term has been a difficult one for the teaching profession with the decision as to whether to take industrial action or not, at the front of everyone's mind.

We were pleased that the school's MP, The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden, came to talk to the Chair of Governors, our Business Manager and

myself about school funding, the week before the strike. We explained the difficulties the school is currently experiencing and the concern we have that the increased energy bills, as well as the impact of the unfunded pay increase, will mean; that, if things remain unchanged, we will find it increasingly difficult to be able to continue providing the level of education and resource we have come to pride ourselves on at Owen's. The minister seemed sympathetic, although, disappointingly, he was clear that he was unable to offer any assurances of improvement.

In more positive news, we were delighted to receive a cheque of £32,000 from the OSA at the start of term. This reflects another year of their hard work, putting on excellent events such as the OSA quiz and the Summer Festival as well as organising all the second-hand uniform sales. We are truly grateful for the support we get from the OSA and from you, the parent body, who attend and donate generously to these events. With the money that we have received, we will be able to keep funding many of the lunchtime clubs that students enjoy, update some of the sports equipment and buy new musical instruments and classroom resources which we would otherwise not have been able to afford. We will be buying a kiln for creating glasswork sculptures as well as DT equipment, including a 3D scanner, which students will be able to use with a 3D printer to scan and recreate objects. Over the summer, we also hope to be able to use a sizeable amount of this donation to refurbish part of the 6<sup>th</sup> form block.



### ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS...

#### WHAT'S MATCH FUNDING?

Learn at pages 4 and 5.

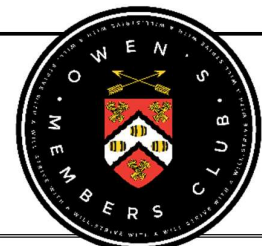
#### EXCITING HALF-TERM

What we've been up to in education & sports (pages 8-27).

#### SOME QUESTIONS FOR SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY

Read till the end to learn.

And so much more! It's our school!



The OSA's AGM will be taking place at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, in the Old Library. If you would like to get involved in helping the school in its efforts to help your young people, please do come along.

The OSA (on behalf of the school and your young people) would also like to hear from those of you whose companies support the **Match Funding programme**. This scheme allows employees to help a charity of their choice **significantly** increase its takings at an event by matching amounts raised, up to a certain amount, at no cost to yourself. The school is relying, more and more, on the additional funds we can secure through schemes such as these. Please speak to your HR team about your company's involvement in Match Funding and to Tricia or Keily at [matchfunding@theosa.org.uk](mailto:matchfunding@theosa.org.uk) for more information.

Wishing you a good week ahead,

**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.

**OSA 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 meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, and will start with **the 49<sup>th</sup> OSA AGM**. We look forward to seeing you there!



Year 2022 turned out to be very successful for school fundraising activities organised by the OSA. At the committee meeting on 9th January, the OSA were delighted and proud to present the school with a cheque for £32,000.

This money will help the school with the department wish list, including purchase of pasta machines, a 3D scanner and an Axminster bobbin sander among other necessary equipment and supplies. The OSA will also contribute to improvements for the 6th form to replicate the environment found in universities.

Following the success of the last Owen's Fest, the OSA have already started preparing for the next one which is expected to be bigger and better. Mark the date – Sunday, 2nd July 2023 – and see whether you'd like to be the part of the enthusiastic organisation team.

As mentioned above, in the letter from the Head, the Match Funding scheme is one of the unique fundraising opportunities that ensures a significant increase of the amount raised at an event. Schemes vary from a company to company but here's how it roughly works.

If the OSA raises £600 at a second-hand uniform sale and a parent, who has a Matched Funding scheme at their work, volunteers to help at the sale, then the OSA can claim a matching donation of £600 from the company.

It doesn't take up a lot of your time to find out whether your company offers this – usually the HR department is a good place to start – but it could make a huge difference to the funds that the OSA is able to give back to the school raise for the school. In the last 12 months, even given the challenges of holding in-person fundraising events, the OSA received over £5,000 in match funded donations from companies via parents. That is why the OSA kindly calls on your to be proactive in this area and take the following steps:

1. Contact your HR department to find out what they offer, including the parameters for making a claim.
2. Let us know what you find out! We will then keep your name on a list and every time there is an opportunity for you to help with a fundraising event, we will give you the paperwork you need to claim the matching donation from your employer.

It really is that simple. Likewise, if you do have any relevant questions in this regard, please do email Tricia or Keily at [matchfunding@theosa.org.uk](mailto:matchfunding@theosa.org.uk) for more information.

Many companies like the ones below offer a Matched Funding scheme as a perk for employees who volunteer their time for charities like the Owen's School Association – see if yours is there or contact your HR:

**Abbey National plc | Accenture | Alliance & Leicester plc | Alliance Capital Ltd | American Express | Amoco Foundation, Inc**

**Andersen | Argos plc | AstraZeneca | Bank of America | Bank of England | Bank of Scotland | Barclays Bank plc**

**Barclays Capital | Barclays Group | BOC Group plc | Boston Consulting Group | BP | Bradford and Bingley plc**

**Bristol-Myers Squibb | British Telecommunications plc | Cable & Wireless | Camelot Group plc**

**Capital International Research | Centrica plc | Chase Manhattan | Citibank Group | Coutts Bank | Credit Suisse First Boston**

**De La Rue | Deloitte Consulting | Deutsche Bank | DHL | Dixons Group | Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein | EMI Group plc**

**Ernst & Young | Exxon Mobil | GlaxoSmithKline plc | Goldman Sachs | Guardian Royal Exchange plc | HSBC | Invensys**

**JPMorgan & Co Inc | Kingfisher plc | KPMG McKinsey & Co | Merrill Lynch Mercury | Microsoft Corporation Inc**

**Moody's Investors Services Ltd | Morgan Stanley Dean Witter | National Grid Transco | National Power plc**

**National Westminster Bank plc | Northern Electric plc | Norwich Union plc | Pearson | Pfizer | Proctor & Gamble | Reuters**

**Robert Fleming & Co | Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc | Schroders plc | Scottish and Southern Energy plc | Seaboard**

**Shell | Sigma Securities | SIT Investment Associates Foundation | Sky Broadcasting | Stagecoach Holdings plc**

**Standard & Poor's | Tesco plc | Texaco | Thames Water | The Economist Group | UBS Warburg | Vodafone**

**Warner Music International | William M Mercer**



**OSA Website:** [www.theosa.org.uk](http://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.

**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](mailto:refreshments@theosa.org.uk).

**Nearly New Uniform:** kindly remember to recycle and donate school uniforms items. Containers labelled 'OSA Nearly New Uniform' are located through the main Reception doors on the right-hand side walkway.

OSA organises online and in person nearly new uniform sales on the regular basis with the next one coming up after the half-term break. If you would like to lend a hand, please email to [uniform@theosa.org.uk](mailto:uniform@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](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](mailto:200club@theOSA.org.uk).

A black rectangular box with a yellow diagonal banner across the middle containing the text "CAREER ZONE" in black capital letters.

**Newsquest Young Reporters Scheme:** 14 Students from Years 10-13 signed up to participate in this exciting extra-curricular which allows them to experience what it is like to work for a real live newspaper. This unique scheme is structured as if students are working directly for the paper, as they are given deadlines to work to, topics to write about and every article is published on Newsquest's range of online newspapers. In January, Newsquest planted a tree in Western Cameroon as part of a reforestation project as thanks for participating in the scheme. You can learn more about this scheme at <https://tree-nation.com/profile/young-reporter-scheme>.

**Year 13 University applications:** 6<sup>th</sup> form staff and tutors worked hard to support those Year 13 students choosing to go to university after 6<sup>th</sup> form to complete their UCAS applications by the 25 January deadline.

**Year 11 work experience scheme:** All Year 11 students are encouraged to spend 3-5 days during the summer holidays experiencing a workplace. Along with Sirrond Ltd, we support students to process placements they source themselves and to provide a database of employers who have experience of offering placements specifically to our students.

**Career talks and events:** students continue to be exposed to different careers choices and options through the PSHRE curriculum, assemblies and lunchtime sessions. Barnett Southgate College run assemblies for Year 9 and Year 10 students to highlight both the A-level and vocational courses they offer to students post-16. 6<sup>th</sup> form students were addressed by an ex-student currently undertaking a degree apprenticeship with EY to understand more about this exciting post 18 option for those students looking to combine work and studies. Year 9 PSHRE this term included sessions on 'Jobs and Opportunities' and introduced the concepts of 'entrepreneurship and self-employment'.

**National Careers, Week 6th- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023:** We have organised for 12 alumni from DAOS to talk to students about their careers paths since leaving Owens. Speakers include NHS surgeon, vet, M&S senior executive, Advanced Air Warfare Officer in the Royal Navy, stage manager for a regional theatre, NHS digital manager, brewer and manager in a financial services firm. Detailed information about the speakers and how students can sign up the various talks will be sent out after half term.

**Careers Fair, 29 March 2023:** We have invited a range of employers, education and apprenticeship providers from a variety of industries for our students to meet with to learn more about courses, jobs and apprenticeships. We are keen to have as many industries and sectors represented as possible and any parents who are able and willing to spend a half day (from 12 noon – 3.30pm) speaking with our students about their jobs and industry, please contact Ms Stein to discuss their participation in the event at [steina@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:steina@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk)

*Ms A Stein*  
*Head of Careers*

## Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

International Holocaust Memorial Day took place on 27 January. To mark this occasion, two talks took place at our school. We were very fortunate to have two excellent guest speakers from the organisation Generation2Generation. Both speakers are the children of Holocaust survivors and they shared their own personal family story. Our students welcomed the speakers and found the talks an important, inspiring and a memorable experience.

Year 8 students were given a talk by Judith Hyman, who told the story of her mother's life in the small town of Berndorf in Austria before and after the Anschluss on 12 March 1938. Judith used anecdotes from her mother, Charlotte, and from her aunt Frieda's oral testimony. The miracle of Charlotte and Frieda and their immediate family's escape was revealed but so too were the stories of her family who were trapped in Austria and perished in the Łódź ghetto. Judith spoke about the role of bystanders and on what can happen when people hate one another.

Sixth Form students were given a talk by Gloria Silver, who told the story of the survival of her Polish born father, then just a teenager, which was an epic story of bravery, resourcefulness and good luck. Gloria included Tony's audio testimony telling how he survived, living on his wits and taking risks despite having to cope with the murders of the rest of his family and the other horrors of the Holocaust.

## Library Update

The new Librarian, Dr James, and Assistant Librarian, Mrs Dorling, are delighted to welcome all members of the Owen's community back to the library!

The library is now open from 9.15-5.00 Mondays to Thursdays and from 11.30-4.30 on Fridays. Years 7-11 can visit the library to browse, borrow, renew and return books at breaktimes, lunchtimes and after school every day. Sixth formers can also use the library during their private study periods.

The Fiction Library houses a large fiction collection to encourage reading for pleasure, with something to suit every age group and every reading level. The Non-Fiction Library offers a large range of non-fiction books to support school curriculum subjects and beyond, including books for Sixth-Form wider reading. We also offer newspapers, magazines and journals and subscriptions to a variety of online databases.

The library hosts classes for reading and research lessons, supplies resources for use in the classroom, and offers the opportunity to join Book Club and book award shadowing groups. We hope to restart author visits later in the year and will soon be recruiting new student librarians!

The library online catalogue can be accessed via the Student Launchpad or viewed at <https://daos.koha-ptfs.co.uk/> where students can search the catalogue without logging in, or they can log in to renew or reserve books or suggest items for us to buy.

Students can also join our Library Google Classroom to keep up to date with new stock and events announcements.

We welcome parent volunteers to help in the library. If interested, please contact the school office to find out more.

## NEWS FROM THE COMPUTING DEPARTMENT



## CyberFirst Girls Competition 2023

Well done to Ivy Lui, Chloe Liu, Ayana Bhatti & Haruna Starling in Year 8 who made it to the finals of the CyberFirst Girls Competition and came 5<sup>th</sup> for the East of England.



## NEWS FROM THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

## GCSE and A-Level students' trip to Iceland

On Friday morning, 21<sup>st</sup> October, sixty Year 11, 12 and 13 students set off from school on the geography trip to Iceland. The first stop once we arrived there was the Bridge between Two Continents where we could see how the North American Plate and Eurasian plate were moving apart. We then experienced our first real smell of Iceland – the sulphur released from steam vents created a malodorous mixture of rotten eggs and fish. As our noses got used to the smell, we headed to see lava flows from volcanic eruptions of last year. Our next stop was everyone's favourite – the Blue Lagoon; relaxing in the naturally heated waters whilst having a face mask and a refreshing smoothie was exactly what was needed after the early start.

Day 2 started with a quick tour of Reykjavik and then a visit to the Geothermal Power Station where we learnt about how Iceland is able to meet most of its energy needs in one of the most sustainable ways. Afterwards we visited three different but all equally impressive waterfalls: the first we could walk behind; the second we could walk through a narrow gorge to the bottom of it, and then finally up to the top of the third one. As a result, we were all soaking wet but it was definitely worth it. Experiencing waterfalls this close helped us comprehend the immense power that these natural features possess.

We wrapped up the day by going to the coast and playing hide-and-seek behind rocks eroded by the wind. Finally, the evening in the countryside provided us with the first real opportunity to see the Northern Lights if the clouds cleared. By 10pm the clouds were still there so the teachers sent us to our rooms but then within 5 minutes the cloud that had lingered all day suddenly cleared and we could witness some of the nature's most amazing celestial spectacles. Lots of oohs and aahs followed as the coloured lights moved across the sky.

Sunday started with a trip to a black sand beach to see the basalt columns which we could clamber up. We then headed onto a glacier, attaching crampons to our boots and with ice axes on our hands we followed the guides over the ice. It was quite shocking to learn how much the glacier had receded over the past few years. Once on the glacier, there began a competition between the boys



as to who could reveal the most ridiculous outfit on the ice; the tuxedos were followed by swimwear in the freezing weather. We then visited the Lava Museum showcasing an exhibition about all the volcanoes in Iceland, particularly E15, within a few miles of which we had been for the previous 2 days.

Our accommodation that evening had two hot tubs for our use all through the night, and again the night sky



performed its magic for us with an extravaganza of even more colours and illuminating movements. Some students were lucky to enjoy the Northern Lights show from the hot tub.

Our final full day saw us head underground with hard hats on into a lava tunnel; the cave system left behind by previous flows of lava again reminded us how this island had been significantly shaped by volcanoes. Afterwards we set on the main tourist route of the Golden Circle of Geysir, Gullfoss and Thingvellir and finally back to Reykjavik before a very early start the following morning to head back home.

It was a fascinating trip with so many different sights seen in such a short space of time. What an amazing chance to experience so many wonderful natural features and to appreciate how different a sparsely populated country like Iceland is to the UK.

On behalf of the students, I would like to thank the teachers for having put much thought and care in organising this trip for us.



## Alumnus Talk

On Wednesday, 1st of February, Sixth Form students were very lucky to be able to meet Amol Rajan who gave a brilliant talk about the media, politics and journalism. He described his experience as a BBC broadcast journalist. Taking us through his career timeline from his dreams of being a cricket player to becoming the editor of the Independent and now as host of BBC Radio 4's Today programme. Amol spoke passionately about the significance of journalism in holding government to account and the duty of journalists to inform, create debate and challenge fairly and respectfully. Additionally, he emphasised the need for a greater focus on balanced, ethical journalism centred on practical policy rather than polarised politics and adversarial toxicity.

Many of you will probably recognise Amol Rajan's face from his numerous documentaries or his voice from radio and podcasts; his work having spanned themes including education, social mobility, and the impact of influential figures to name a few. A couple of days before the talk, I had watched his interview with Greta Thunberg on iPlayer. I would hugely recommend it, as it raised many intriguing issues surrounding the climate debate and showed Greta in a more relaxed and open setting. Meeting Amol in person humanised a digital world of journalism that I'd only ever experienced in black and white words or through a pixelated screen.

During the talk Amol invited us to regain perspective, in a world that is sometimes overwhelming. Stating that once we recognise our own privilege, we are in a much better position to go about changing things but also the necessity of remaining realistic and sceptical. He reiterated the importance of keeping an open mind and the vastness of knowledge because 'the more we learn the less we realise we really know' - something my mum tells me all the time! So, I must say it made an instant connection with me.

Amol highlighted the different types of journalism including objective journalism that focuses on impartiality and leading with evidence to form opinions. Campaign journalism was also discussed and Amol gave examples of its impact, recounting the time an article in 2014 on the Syrian refugee crisis by the Independent was quoted in PMQs. It consequently had an impact in contributing to a legislative change, displaying the ability of journalism to inspire a real change.

We were dazzled by the personalities he had met and stories of his interviews with the likes of Bill Gates, Hillary Clinton and other leading figures on the political scene. Amol's humour, anecdotes, genuine sentiment and enthusiastic presence captivated the students. The big names were very impressive but his emphasis on connecting with the audience and his heartfelt life advice left the biggest impact on us. Amol spoke of how individuals like Novak Djokovic and Sundar Pichai (the CEO of Google) are intensely focused on their goals and how important this is in the pursuit of success. He urged us to make opportunities for ourselves, sometimes by literally standing in the way of people we admire and just introducing ourselves. Moreover, he stressed the importance of simply being kind and always trying to bring 'solutions not problems'.

After the main talk, a few of us had the opportunity to do an extra Q&A session with Amol and further discuss the conflict between technology and crumbling aspects of the world of journalism as it moves online. In addition, we heard of the terrible toxicity in social media and how online abuse remains a prevalent issue especially for public figures. He gave us insight into the world of political journalism, allowing students to consider a vast number of topics, which not only acted as



an extension to our A level politics course but gave a wider understanding of the current political landscape. I would like to thank Mr Latham and Ms Gregory for organising such a wonderful talk and Amol Rajan for inspiring all of us and leaving us hopeful that we can go and make a positive change in whatever we do.

*Shivani M, Year 12*

#### NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

### **Maths Challenge News**

In November, 29 sixth formers sat the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge which is the follow-on round to the Senior Maths Challenge.

Our congratulations go to Zak A, Henry C, Blake E, Pierre E, Daniel G, Eiden I, Rufus J, Andrew L, Vidyuth M, Matt P, Ben R, Simisola R, Isaac S, Anish S, Joshua T, Maarten V, Aimi W and Louis W who were awarded a merit.

Special congratulations to Daniel, Eiden and Vidyuth who each scored an amazing 60 marks and were the best in school.

## Mathematical Enrichment Day at the University of Hertfordshire

On Friday, 6th of January, 15 students from Year 10 were invited to attend a Mathematical Enrichment Day at the University of Hertfordshire. They were involved in several lectures, puzzles and mathematical activities alongside pupils from other schools in Hertfordshire.

Upon arrival, students were given the opportunity to attempt a few challenging puzzles for the chance to win prizes. After a warm welcome speech from Val Pritchard of the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme, students were split into two groups to participate in workshops. In the first of these, participants were tasked with calculating the optimum height and radius of a cone to create the largest volume possible from a 20cm wide piece of card. In the second workshop, led by Matthew Scroggs, students were engaged in an experiment into coprime dependency in circular braiding; a field of study which has puzzled even the world's best mathematicians over the past decades.

After a lunch break, where students had the opportunity to attempt more math-based puzzles, they attended a gripping, hands-on lecture presented by Matthew Scroggs. This covered many topics, ranging from famous mathematical problems, such as the 'Bridges of Konigsberg', to the study of complex 3D geometry, and a brief insight into the topology of higher dimensions and their practical applications. One student said that they "thoroughly enjoyed the experience" and would "definitely recommend it to others in future years".



## A-Level Students Visit the British Film Institute

On Wednesday, 1st February, Y12 and Y13 French students accompanied by Mrs Paine and Mrs Stallard braved the teachers' and train strikes and made their way to the British Film Institute on the Southbank for a conference on the late 1950s French New Wave cinema movement.

The movement was characterized by its rejection of traditional filmmaking conventions in favour of experimentation and a spirit of iconoclasm. New Wave filmmakers explored new approaches to editing, visual style, and narrative, as well as engagement with the social and political upheavals of the era, often making use of irony or exploring existential themes. The New Wave is often considered one of the most influential movements in the history of cinema.

The morning session focused on introducing students to the characteristics of the movement, including its themes and its revolutionary filming techniques. They watched a series of carefully selected extracts from 7 French New Wave movies and completed activities in their groups, answering presenter's questions aimed to deepen their knowledge of the filming techniques used and their impact on the audience. They also had the opportunity to compare film extracts from the very beginning of the French New Wave cinema with more recent ones. Students enjoyed a free lunch break on the sunny Southbank and came back in the afternoon for the viewing of their A-Level film *-La Haine - "with a fresh pair of eyes"*.

The following Wednesday students gather to watch *Les 400 coups* (The 400 blows) by Francois Truffaut, precursor of the movement, in B14 for the 6th Form French "Ciné Club". The next film scheduled for watching is *Bande de filles* (Girlhood), a 2014 French coming-of-age drama by Céline Sciamma, critically acclaimed and considered to be the equivalent to *La Haine* from the girls of the  *cité's* point of view. Sciamma's goal with this film was to capture the stories of Black teenagers, characters she claims are generally underdeveloped in French films.

*Mrs A-S Paine*  
*Head of French*



### Soul Band Evening 2023

On Tuesday evening, 7 February 2023, Owen's Junior and Senior Soul Bands treated us to an evening of toe-tapping, dance-along music. Congratulations to all our wonderful musicians for their fantastic performing!

Congratulations also to James Levy, the Tech Crew and Mr Pickering for making them sound and look even more fantastic!

Thank-you to Musical Directors, Mr Crossley and Mr Southorn, for all of their inspirational work with the bands, and also to Mr Kelly and Mr Salter for their fantastic support, both in the run-up to and on the evening itself.









## Alumnus Talk

We were delighted to welcome back former student and medical registrar at Royal London Hospital Dr Ebo Dadey. Dr Dadey delivered a lunch time lecture which provided students with a first-hand insight into life as a doctor and advice on the lengthy application and training process.

Often aspiring medics get caught up in the idea of being a doctor or other healthcare professional without truly understanding the commitment and passion these careers demand. Having the privilege of actually speaking and listening to someone in the profession was extremely valuable. Dr Dadey described some valid reasons to work in the healthcare field, such as a desire for constant progression, stability, human interaction, a wide range of opportunities and pathways, and a general interest in the field.

Dr Dadey also talked about some pros and cons of working in healthcare, without omitting that pay and work-life balance are key things to consider. It was comforting to see that being a doctor or other healthcare professional doesn't require superpowers or a dream from a young age – just hard work and dedication. Speaking to other students, Dr Dadey's talk felt like an insight into the future. Seeing an ex-Owenian who has achieved a medical degree has helped this feel more attainable to current Owen's students. Perhaps in 15 years we'll be the ones coming back to school to inspire the next generation!

Obtaining medical work experience recently is notoriously difficult and Covid is still being a barrier to many opportunities. Dr Dadey's talk is a great example of something students can now talk about in future interviews which shows interest and curiosity for the subject.

If you missed this particular talk and are interested in science in general, Miss Papalouca frequently brings in different speakers (often ex-students or Owen's parents) to talk about their field or a science-related subject they're passionate about. These often take place during lunchtimes in Lab 11 (see posters in the science block for details). If you work in a STEM related field and are interested in giving a talk, please don't hesitate to contact Miss Papalouca at [papaloucaj@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:papaloucaj@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) Your involvement will be greatly appreciated!

A big thank you to Miss Papalouca for organising this talk and the many similar ones which occur on a regular basis.



Special thanks to Dr Dadey for taking the time to share his own experience. This will be beneficial for the students who attended in years to come.

*Lola, Year 12*

## **Football**

### **Boys Year 7**

Due to waterlogged pitches, we have only played three matches this half term. Sadly, the team were knocked out of the County Cup plate by Bushey Meads School 3-4. However, on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February the boys had a fantastic 2-0 win over Richard Hale.

### **Boys Year 8**

The year 8 football team have had little football this half term due to weather conditions calling off 3 of their 5 Saturday morning matches. The team are continuing to make good progress and will have more Saturday morning matches to look forward to in the second half term.

### **Boys Year 9**

The boys progressed to round 6 (last 32) of the National Cup before narrowly missing out in extra time to Verulam School. This is a fantastic achievement for the team. They also reached the quarter final of the county cup, losing 3-1 to a strong Hemel School team.

They have 1 game left in the group stage of the district cup, with the semi-final after half term if they progress to this stage. They will also play in Saturday morning fixtures up until Easter.

### **Boys Year 10**

The boys have continued to play well in their Saturday matches with a couple of wins and one loss. In the district cup they lost their last league game but have qualified for the semi finals next half term.

### **Boys Year 11**

The boys played in the quarter finals of the district cup against Stanborough and won 7-2 allowing them to proceed to the semi-finals.

### **Girls Under 12**

The under 12 side competed at the district 6-a-side tournament. In their group matches they faced Ridgeway A, Chancellor's A, Bishop's A, Onslow and Queenswood A. The girls showed real progress since their last tournament and throughout the afternoon. They lost 1-0 to Queenswood A and Bishop's A but drew all of their other games 0-0. Mahdi was selected as player of the day.



### Girls Under 14

The under 14 football team started off this term playing against Marlborough School in the third round of the County Cup. The girls won 10-0 thanks to a hattrick from joint player of the match Eva, two goals apiece from Emilie, Mia and the other player of the match Ellie and one goal from Iyla. They now face The Royal Masonic School in the quarter finals on Wednesday 8th February.

In the English Schools' National competition, the team played Kingston Academy in round 5. Having gone 2-0 up courtesy of a goal each from Ellie and Mia, the girls were pegged back to 2-2 which forced the game into extra time. A further goal from Ellie and one from Emilie sealed a 4-2 victory. Freya was voted as player of the match.

The next round (last 16 nationally) saw the side travel to The Piggott School, Berkshire. Again the



girls went 2-0 with two goals from Ellie. Despite the home team pulling one goal back in the second half the girls held on to qualify for the quarter finals of this national competition. Freya was once again selected as player of the match.

The draw for the last 8 fixture took place on Monday, 6th February, from West Bromwich Albion's home ground The Hawthorns. They were drawn away to The Bristol Free School. The match will be played in the first week of March.

### Girls Under 16

In their County Cup quarter-final match the girls played really well against a very strong opposition in Queens' school; unfortunately, they finished second best losing 2-0. Well done to Iris who was awarded player of the match.

The girls also were involved in another District 6-aside football tournament with both teams finishing a respectable 3rd and 4th in their groups, and the A team completing the tournament without conceding a goal!



## Girls Under 18

The under 18 side are through to the semi-finals of the County Cup where they face Sir John Lawes School in the final week of this half term.

## Hockey

### Girls Under 12

In the County Cup competition, the A and B sides both faced The Royal Masonic School. The A team showed how much progress they have made this season as they ran out 2-0 winners thanks to two goals from Reva and a player of the match performance from Zoya. The B team fought well but lost 4-1. Daphne scored the goal for Owen's and Eva was player of the game.

### Girls Under 13

The U13 A and B teams played closely contested games against The Royal Masonic School in the County Cup competition. The A team lost to a very strong opposition, but well done to player of the match Freya. The B team won 1-0. Congratulations to player of the match Adaugo, who played up and scored a great goal.

### Girls Under 14

Following a strong performance finishing second at County Schools, the girls qualified for the regional rounds at Redbridge. The competition was very strong and despite losing their opening three matches in dreadful weather conditions, they went on to finish the day with a convincing win and the sun finally came out. The girls showed great positivity and teamwork throughout and thoroughly enjoyed the day.





### **Girls Under 15 and 1st XI**

Both teams are still competing in the County League and are hoping to qualify for the semi-finals of the County Cup. The U15s have done exceptionally well, winning their last two games.



## **Rugby**

### **Year 7**

The boys have continued to be training this half term and preparation for games next half term.

### **Year 8**

The boys played in a couple of tournaments, where in the Saracens tournament they came runners up to a strong Robert Clack side and in the Herts tournament they played 2 games winning and losing one. They played against Birchwood in the county cup quarter final where they sadly got beaten by a strong side.

### **Year 9 & 10**

The boys continue to train each week in preparation for their next match which will be after half term.

### **1st XV**

The squad played against Queens in the semi-final of the county cup and narrowly lost 24 - 12. They all played well and done themselves and the school proud.



## Netball

### Year 7A

The year 7A team had a good start to the netball season winning against JFK. The team have been dedicated to training and have really shown to progress from the beginning of the year. The girls played a few Saturday friendly fixtures where they came together as a team to work hard. A special mention to Adagou who has become a player of match three times this season so far!

Well done to the team and look forward to the rest of the season!

### Year 7B

On Saturday 7th January, the 7Bs played their first fixture of the new year away at Queenswood. They got off to a great start winning the first quarter 2-0 and grew in confidence as the game progressed. Jiselle was dominant in defence making numerous interceptions. Angelica made a fantastic debut as centre and worked incredibly hard to link defence and attack. Sharp shooting from both Sophia and Elisabeth resulted in a comprehensive winning score of 15-4. It was a fantastic match. Special mention to player of the match Sophia (GA).

The Year 7Bs have continued to grow as a squad and have maintained an unbeaten record this season. A fantastic mid-week performance against a competitive Mill Hill team ended in a 5-5 draw. Followed by a magnificent 7-4 win over Brentwood on the 29th January. Congratulations to the 7Bs on a great start to the season, 4 matches, 3 wins and 1 draw.



## Year 8A

The year 8A team has shown great determination to try to continue their winning success. The girls narrowly lost a friendly match against Mill Hill, which only brought them together to win their next few games. The team have had a lot of St Albans and district league matches. One league match was against a difficult side, Royal Masonic, where they won 15-7, with great attacking play from Annabelle, Isabelle and Rhiannon. The girls recently played Brentwood on Saturday 27th, last season they won 24-21 and this season they were looking for a more comfortable win.



With great shooting from Freya and Riya and the tight defensive play from Sophia, Hannah and Zeinab the girls won 24-13! A special mention to Annabelle receiving the player of the match twice this season. The major success for the team is winning the semi-final of the county cup against St Albans High School 17-16, progressing them onto the County Cup Final! We wish the girls all the success.

## Year 8B

The year 8B team have been training hard and improving their ball skills and spacial awareness. The girls narrowly lost against JFK where they had tough windy and wet conditions. The girls came together as a team and showed determination to win their next game, which they proved right winning against Belmont 9-5. The shooters Ellie, Monica and Arya have shown great circle movement. Sia, Emily, Annie have progressed their attacking movements to take the ball down the court. Great interceptions have been shown by Cami, Emily, Dinelly and Catriona.



The girls put their practice into play on Tuesday 2nd February, where they comfortably won (20-5) against Chigwell School. A special mention to Cami who received the player of the match. The girls played their own game and this was evident. Well done to the girls and we wish them the best success in the rest of the season.

## Year 9

This year we have developed a fluid Year 9 squad with movement between the 9As and 9Bs. This is testament to the strength in depth and the progress made this season. Since the new year, we have faced some challenging matches and despite some losses, we have been very competitive throughout, especially against Queenswood. In fact, the B team won 10-8 and the A team lost 13-19. The As then travelled to St Edmunds College and fought hard, drawing at half time. Despite ending in a 12-17 loss, superb long range shooting from Stella, kept us close and she deservedly won player of the match. The girls bounced back and showed great resilience against a strong Mill Hill team losing by only 7 goals.

All matches have been extremely competitive and the girls have showed commitment and made significant progress in passing, movement, defence and shooting. This was especially demonstrated on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, in their game against Brentwood School. Solid performances throughout the court gave us a comfortable early lead; the opposition were rattled and we capitalised on this, winning the game 29-7.

Special mention to captain and player of the match Chloe but also to stand out performances from Mia H and sharp shooting from Ellie B. Keep up the good work girls!

## Year 10A

The Year 10A team have continued to have a strong season this year demonstrating versatility, fight and smooth transition play down court. They won a very tight STAHS league game against Rickmansworth 22-17. The most impressive performance this term came against Queenswood, which doubled up as a District and STAHS league game. The game was very tight in the first half, but the girls pulled away in the second half winning overall 29-15.

Finally, the girls had a convincing win of 39-6 against Chigwell School in a friendly match. A big shoutout to Corinne who was awarded PoM in all three games.

## Year 10B

The Year 10B team have shown a huge improvement from last year, demonstrated in their fixtures this term. In their District League game against Queenswood, the girls had a convincing performance winning 21-10, the PoM was Bethan. Additionally, they showed some fantastic attacking play against Chigwell school, with the final result being 23-10, well done to the PoM Tilly. The girls also played a strong Mill Hill side and a JFK A-team, but narrowly lost to both teams 16-9 and 14-7 respectively.



## 1st VII and 2nd VII

Both teams have had a delayed start to the season due to mocks. The girls had their first friendly against Mill Hill. The match consisted of wet and windy conditions where both teams had straight 7 players. Special mention to Alice and Roisin who played up for the 1st VII team, where they both battled against great



defensive players. Rebecca and Amber played out of position defending very well against the opposition's shooters. Shoutout to Issy for player of the match! The 2nd VII really came together with 7 players and won comfortably 23-3, player of the match was Amba with some fantastic shooting. We look forward to the girls playing in their last term of netball, for some of them this will be their last netball term at school.

## **Basketball**

### **Boys Year 7**

The boys have started the season off with 2 wins and 1 loss. In the district tournament they played well and finished 4th on the night. Their season will continue after the half term.

### **Boys Year 8**

They currently have played only 1 game which they narrowly lost to Onslow. The team played very well in the district rally where they came up against a couple of good schools and finished the day off finishing 3rd overall. Their season will continue after half term with games to be played in the district league.



### **Girls Year 7 & 8**

The U13 Girls' basketball team have had a fantastic first season in the County League. The girls had their final three matches of the league this term against Sandringham, Queens' and Beaumont. Winning against Sandringham 24-10 and Queens' 25-9 and then losing against a very strong Beaumont side 30-18. This meant the girls finished the league in an incredible 2<sup>nd</sup>!



### **Girls Year 9 & 10**

The U15 Girls' basketball team similarly had a great first season in the County League. They too played Sandringham, Queens' and Beaumont this term. The girls had an outstanding performance against Queens' winning overall 48-24.

Games against Beaumont and Sandringham turned out to be tough and resulted in a loss 31-20 and 33-5, respectively. All in all, the girls finished in a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place in their league!



**Cross Country**

Over 20 students took part in the Hertfordshire Schools Cross Country championships in St Albans on Saturday 4th February, where each student ran as an individual. All students ran well and showed great grit and determination on a tough course.

Big congratulations to Adaugo who came 8th out of 80 runners in the Year 7 race.



### Other Achievements

Callum S (Y7) competed in the annual Karting Championship, where he placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. He recently attended a presentation evening and was awarded his trophy.

Congratulations to Callum who has been passionate about motor sports for many years. We are sure this is the first of his many achievements in the sport.



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

We're updating our community safety partnership plan for 2023-2027 and want to know what you think.

The closing date for responses is 20 February.

Please complete our survey using the QR code or visit: [hertsmere.gov.uk/cspsurvey](https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/cspsurvey)

**CSP**  
HERTSMERE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

## Do you live in Hertsmere?

[Hertsmere Community Safety Partnership \(CSP\)](#) is renewing its Partnership Plan 2023 - 2027 and are asking people who live, work, visit or school in the borough to have their say on community safety aims and priorities in a new, anonymous, online survey.

The CSP is made up of a number of different organisations, including Hertsmere Borough Council, Hertfordshire Police, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, NHS and other public, private and voluntary organisations who work together to make the borough safer.

Crime trends, data sources and the results of our [Feelings of Safety survey](#) have been used to update the aims and priorities set out in the partnership plan for 2023-2027.

The responses from the survey will play a key part in how the CSP prioritises Community Safety over the next four years. To complete the survey please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9BX6QDX>

The closing date is Monday, 20 February 2023.

### *Some Questions For Saint Valentine's Day*

by Amos Russel Wells

*Why Sir Cupid do you choose  
For your happy festival  
Just the bleakest month of all?  
Rosy June why don't you use,  
Or the dainty fingered May,  
Or some jocund August day?*

*"It's because I want to show  
How against dear Love's sweet reign  
Harsh seasons rage in vain;  
Ice and sleet and blinding snow  
But the blustering captives are,  
Chained to her triumphal car."*

*Then, Sir Cupid, prithee tell  
Why your merry day should fall  
In the shortest month of all?  
Is your wonder-working spell  
As distinctly fugitive  
As the month in which you live?*

*"Stay in shame your slanderous tongue!  
It is I, and none but I,  
Make this month so quickly fly.  
Lovers' time is ever young;  
And this month, were I not here,  
Were the longest of the year!"*