

Dame Alice Owen's School newsletter



Letter from the Head

Hannah Nemko

Dear All,

This is always a pressurised half term for those in KS4 and 5. As courses are coming to an end and revision work starts to take centre stage, the reality of the public examination season hits home. I would like to congratulate our students for all the hard work

they have put into their studies thus far and remind them that their teachers, form tutors and the pastoral team are all here to offer help, guidance and support through these next months.

We have discussed the most impactful ways of learning and revising with students throughout their time at Owen's but I thought it might be timely to share one strategy again at this point and that is the strategy of retrieval practice. This is an effective strategy for all students (and parents) to be aware of no matter what year they are in, the earlier you get into good revision habits, the better!

Students who revise through actively retrieving what they have learnt about a topic are practicing retrieval learning. They can do this through testing themselves in a variety of ways (see the infographic on page 2) rather than sitting and reading their notes, copying their notes or highlighting their notes over and over again. Whilst, if you asked them, students who were reading and re-reading their notes would say they felt they were learning quickly and that they would do well in a forthcoming test, they tend to do less well than those who have practiced retrieval learning even though those practicing retrieval learning tend to report that they feel they are making slower progress through their revision. The act of retrieval helps strengthen memory in the longer term, leading to deeper learning and understanding.

Students who review the material they have been studying in class in this way throughout the course, for mid-year and other tests for example, will find their revision for terminal exams even easier as they will have built up a solid bank of understanding and knowledge throughout the course; take note those in Year 10 and 12 especially! So, over this holiday, when your children are revising, please do encourage them to make sure that they are **actively engaging** in their revision by challenging themselves to recall the information they are needing to learn rather



Issue highlights...

KS3 takes top Product Design prize [page 12](#)



Drama students perform *As You Like It* [page 13](#)



Sports successes and team highlights [page 20](#)



than simply reading, copying out and highlighting their texts.

This half term has not simply been about revision however. There have been lots of exciting learning opportunities over and above those which take place daily in the classrooms.

Year 7 enjoyed the Globe Players with their introduction to Shakespeare entitled *What You Will* which brought some of the learning they had been doing about the Globe and this era to life.

Mrs Whiter and Ms Scurlock worked hard on a new addition to our calendar bringing the first annual Careers Fair to our students, which they ran with the usual Owen's class and style. With representation from a vast array of professions, our students were able to discuss job prospects, qualifications needed, and what it was *really* like to do the job day in, day out with a host of professionals. Representation included John Lewis, Network Rail, a number of accountancy firms, banks, law firms, TJ Evers construction, Barkers Associates (architects, surveyors, property consultants), HoB hairdressing school, the emergency services and, of course, our very own Mr Robinson on behalf of the school extolling the benefits and virtues of teaching!

March brought Careers Week and with it the Alumni careers talks which were as successful as ever, including the Brewers' Lecture. Students were able to find out about a whole range of careers from working in the Foreign Office, to running your own entrepreneurial company via law, medicine and yes, you've guessed it, teaching! Feedback from these lectures was incredibly positive and the alumni were all keen to reiterate how well they felt Owen's prepared them for life outside of school.

We were delighted to welcome the Alcohol Education Trust who ran an informative session for parents on how we can help our young people be safe around alcohol. The information from the PowerPoint shared can be found [here](#) for those of you who may have missed the evening.


We have seen some outstanding sporting achievements this term which you will be able to read about in greater depth inside the newsletter but particular congratulations go to Freya Stapleton who finished 6th in the home international cross country in Dublin where she represented England and to Andrew and Alexandra Lockett who won the Junior Boys U15 Recurve Trophy and the Junior Girls Longbow Trophy in the Hertfordshire tournament at the end of March. Further congratulations go to our Year 7, 10, 11 and Senior football teams who won the District Cup for football in their age groups and our Year 7, 8, 9 and Senior hockey teams who all reached the county finals and our golfers who won the Arkley Junior Gold Challenge! Our thanks go to the sports department (including Mr Festa!) and Mr Meekin, for the hours they put into training and mentoring our young people.

It has been a busy half term for our musicians too. They wowed the professionals in the South East Schools Chamber Music Festival as well as the Regional Festival of Music for Youth and played equally as impressively in the Spring Grove Festival of Music where they left winners in the popular music, composition and classical


LEARN TO STUDY USING...

Retrieval Practice

PRACTICE BRINGING INFORMATION TO MIND




LEARNINGSCIENTISTS.ORG




HOW TO DO IT

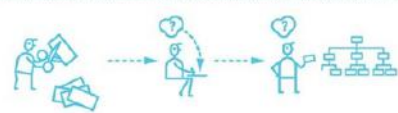
Put away your class materials, and write or sketch everything you know. Be as thorough as possible. Then, check your class materials for accuracy and important points you missed.



Take as many practice tests as you can get your hands on. If you don't have ready-made tests, try making your own and trading with a friend who has done the same.




You can also make flashcards. Just make sure you practice recalling the information on them, and go beyond definitions by thinking of links between ideas.




HOLD ON!


Retrieval practice works best when you go back to check your class materials for accuracy afterward.



Retrieval is hard! If you're struggling, identify the things you've missed from your class materials, and work your way up to recalling it on your own with the class materials closed.



Don't only recall words and definitions. Make sure to recall main ideas, how things are related or different from one another, and new examples.



RESEARCH

Read more about retrieval practice as a study strategy

Roediger, H. L., Putnam, A. L., & Smith, M. A. (2011). Ten benefits of testing and their applications to educational practice. In J. Mestre & B. Ross (Eds.), *Psychology of learning and motivation: Cognition in education*, (pp. 1-36). Oxford: Elsevier.

Content by Yana Weinstein (University of Massachusetts Lowell) & Megan Smith (Rhode Island College) | Illustrations by Oliver Coggin (@teachingow26.com/@ogcog)

Funding provided by the APS Fund for Teaching and Public Understanding of Psychological Science

categories. It was a wonderful thing to hear Doraly Gill sing her brother's composition, made even more special by the success this brought them both. My thanks go to the Music Department (including Ms Meik!), the visiting music teachers as well as the Principle consultants who have prepared and supported the students to these exceptional levels.

Coming back to school after half term was made all the sweeter knowing that the Soul Band evening would be there to raise our spirits! The evening was a fantastic as ever with exceptional music and outstanding lighting and atmospherics provided by our Tech Crew. Huge thanks go to Mr Grimstead, Mr Hulme and Ms McNally for all they did to inspire and develop our musicians as well to the Tech Crew who helped ensure the evening looked as professional as always.

Our KS3 Technology team won first prize in the Rotary Club's 'Foundation Challenge' where students had to design, develop, build and then test their design for a crane using gears and pulleys. The crane had to lift a weight out of a container and carry it back to the starting point without it touching the floor. The tournament tested their ability to work as a team, communicate effectively and manage their time. Thanks go to Ms Shadbolt and Ms Chan for the time they put into preparing the students as well as for accompanying them to the competition and to Mr Stensel who drove everyone there.

Our Year 12 geographers worked hard, but had a great time on the Isle of Wight where they gathered data and skills necessary for their A-Level coursework. Our thanks go to Mr Payne, Mrs Sach and Mr Macdonald who accompanied this visit.

The school community has been delighted to have welcomed both our French and Spanish exchange students to England this half term. We have enjoyed having them participate in lessons as well as sharing their cultural knowledge in language lessons. I would like to thank everyone who hosted a student and I know our students are looking forward to the return leg where they will work on their language skills!

It is always a proud moment for Miss Lord when she accompanies students who have achieved Gold in the Duke of Edinburgh Award to the palace to see them to receive their award from the Royal Family. This year she was in for a surprise herself as she was called to the Throne Room to receive an award from polar explorer Ben Saunders in recognition of her 30 years of work with the Duke of Edinburgh Award. I am sure that those of you who have had children complete all or part of the award with Miss Lord will join with us in thanking her for her continued commitment to this excellent scheme and for all the hours she gives up to ensure this is an opportunity which remains open for our young people.



Miss Lord receives well-deserved award in recognition of her 30 years of work with DofE Awards.

Lastly, although the rain, wind and spell of cold weather slightly slowed down the progress of the new teaching block's exterior (and means we are still home to the crane) it has given the team the opportunity to get ahead of themselves inside the building where lots of the mechanics and electrics are starting to take shape. Our thanks go to those of you who have donated equipment, the select few of you able and generous enough to donate entire classrooms and to those who have bought bricks to help finance the equipping of the block. If you have not yet donated, and you would like to, please find the appropriate forms [here](#) and [here](#).

It only remains for me to thank the OSA for their continued help and support throughout the half term and to encourage any of you with a little time to get involved with the committee and to wish you all, staff, students and parents a happy Easter and a good break.

Mrs Nemko

Message from Dame Alice Owen's parent governors

Owen's is a very special, balanced, happy school where excellent teaching staff work with students from a range of backgrounds and abilities to produce consistently country-leading results.

This success is always as a result of a team effort with students, staff, parents, governors, OSA and alumni supporting the school in upholding its traditions, values, fine quality of education and opportunities for all.

The Governors' role is to exercise independent oversight of the schools' affairs:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff, and;
- overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The Governing Body provides for three of its members to be elected by parents. There are currently three Parent Governors: our names are David Burrowes, Sally Tanner, and Glenn Taylor.

We would always hope that any issues of concern about your children could be resolved in the first instance by informally raising them with the relevant class or subject teacher. If, however this does not result in a satisfactory outcome, there are clearly signposted channels to escalate matters within the school by following the procedures set out in the School's Complaints Procedure, published on our website.

Parents of our students are of course welcome to speak to any Governor, and they can be contacted via the school reception at admin@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk

Your views are important and valuable, and we look forward to hearing about any ideas that could improve life at the school, and any feedback that might not otherwise be channelled into or through the school system.

There will always be two governors present at any parents' evening, so we welcome you to come and see us to discuss any aspect of school life, ask questions or to provide feedback.

In the meantime, your best way of supporting our excellent school is to work with the staff and your son/daughter to support them in their studies, and support OSA activities, which raise much needed funds to put to great use in the school.

We look forward to seeing you over the course of this next school year.

With best wishes,

David, Sally and Glenn



David Burrowes



Sally Tanner



Glenn Taylor

Soul Bands get audience groovin' with classic tunes

The School's Main Hall was packed full with parents, friends, staff and students on Thursday 28th February, ready to get their groove on in support of our spectacular Soul Bands.



There was no disappointment in sight, as the Junior and Senior Soul Band both wowed with their awesome energy, tight ensemble sound and genuinely up-front dance moves!

It was a great evening of classic soul, funk, pop and jazz tunes, with some current hits thrown into the mix as well. Artists featured included Stevie Wonder, The Jackson 5, Alicia Keys, Fontella Bass, Etta James, Cory Wong, Adele, Jocelyn Brown and Marvin Gaye.



Alongside the fabulous sound of brass, wind and rhythm sections of the Junior and Senior Soul Bands, there were fantastic vocalist line-ups in both groups and some stunning solo spotlight moments.

Our congratulations to the hugely talented members of Junior and Senior Soul Band, to Mr Skelly for his brilliant arrangements and support of both groups, to Ms McNally for her vocal coaching and to Mr Hulme and Mr Grimstead for being such fantastic musical directors and pulling it all together!

Thanks also to the Tech Crew for all their help, to the OSA for providing refreshments and to Music Department staff for their help in supporting the event.

TV success for Year 8 student in *Step Up to The Plate*

We are delighted to tell you that Simran Misir in Year 8 was recently selected from more than 2,000 entrants to take part in a new CBBC show to run a pop-up restaurant. The programme is hosted by Fred Sirieix (from *First Dates*) and Leon restaurants co-founder, Allegra McEvedy.

Simran was chosen to manage a team in the kitchen and supported her co-workers on the restaurant floor. Her role as head chef meant that she had to create a themed menu, then cook and serve dinner to a room full of guests under professional conditions. Her team went head-to-head with another group, but sadly did not progress to the next round.



"I had a fantastic time filming *Step Up to the Plate* with Lion TV," said Simran. "Filming was split across two days and I learnt new cooking skills and techniques from the two judges. I enjoyed meeting new people and learning from them."

The Food Department would like to congratulate Simran for all her efforts in representing the School. She should be very proud of her achievements!

The show is likely to be aired on the telly in the... watch this space!

Mrs Kerim
Food Teacher

NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

A-Level artists visit London to explore Tate Britain collections



Earlier this term, our A-Level art students explored the national collection of British art and international contemporary and modern art exhibited at the Tate Britain.

Our young artists produced an impressive series of drawings as they searched for inspiration for their respective themes. They were fascinated by the impactful photographs of British photographer Don McCullin as well as Henry Moore's semi-abstract monumental bronze sculptures to name a few.

Many thanks to Miss Veerayen and Mrs Grigson for their support and we look forward to seeing you at our summer exhibition.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SCHOOL'S NEW SENIOR PREFECT TEAM

Following two rounds of voting, our new Senior Prefect Team for 2019/20 has been elected. The new team are:

Head Boy – Daniel Hughes

Head Girl – Julia Mayes

Deputy Head Boy – Yusuf Story

Deputy Head Girl – Paola Barreca

Senior Prefects – John Adibpour and Daniel Heymoz

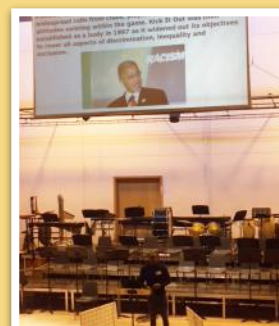
Senior Prefects – Jemima Atputharatnam and Neve Mayes

Congratulations to our new team and thank you to our exiting team for their role in leading, supporting and representing our School over the last year.

EX-FOOTBALLER TACKLES DISCRIMINATION

We were very fortunate to welcome guest speaker Osei Sankofa from [Kick It Out](#) to talk to Key Stage 3 this term.

Osei is an ex-professional footballer who now works with schools to educate and help tackle discrimination and racism. He shared his own experiences from when he played for Charlton, Southend and Bristol City football clubs, and spoke to Key Stage 3 about some techniques and strategies to tackle discrimination and equality.



All three year groups were fantastically behaved and dealt with some sensitive material in a very mature manner.

NEWS FROM THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Year 12 students visit Isle of Wight for geography trip



From the 18th to the 22nd of March, the Year 12 geography students visited the Isle of Wight in order to collect data for our NEAs.

NEA stands for non-exam assessment, which is coursework. The NEA makes up 20% of the final geography A-Level. The NEA is an independent investigation where we choose our own questions, collect our own data and then analyse what we have collected.

We stayed in the Medina Valley Centre in Newport, however our data collection occurred in the seaside town of Ventnor. Everyone was relieved that Mrs Sach didn't park the minibus in a large hole in the middle of a field on the way!

Over the week we were tasked with collecting as much primary data as we possibly could. As students had chosen different questions, the data collection methods were extremely varied ranging from land use surveys to questionnaires. Although data collection was our main focus, we also spent a lot of time gaining valuable knowledge on how to write our NEA, not only from our teachers and the staff of the Medina Valley Centre, but also Chloe Searl, who wrote the Royal Geographical Society's guidelines to writing an NEA.

We did get some free time on the trip, most of which was spent in the main lounge area which housed many games – the favourites being the table football and the pool table. As much fun as we all had playing table football, Mr Payne and Mrs Sach definitely enjoyed it more, especially while practising their celebratory Mongolian crowd dance when they beat us. Mr Payne also enjoyed the fresh trim he got from the Turkish barber in Ventnor and the boys would like to pass their appreciation on to Mr Macdonald for the 90s house music wake up calls in the morning. According to Adam Bell, the trip was also subject to an unusual seismic event during the week, the observed effect of which was the rearrangement of a number of mattresses in one of the boys' dorms into a makeshift fort!

Overall, even though the weather wasn't especially nice and Mr Macdonald still hasn't brought in the sourdough bread that he promised us, the experience and knowledge we gained from this trip to the Isle of Wight should result in us being able to produce an excellent NEA, while also leaving us with fond memories.

Report by Charlotte Weener, Year 12

NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

Year 8/9 Maths team achieves third place in UK Maths Trust team competition

On Friday 22nd March 2019, at the Haberdashers' Boys' School, the Year 8/9 Maths team of:

Daniel Goodlad
Pierre Eveson,
Rufus Jasko
Harry Roberts

came third in the regional final of the UK Maths Trust team competition.

This was an excellent achievement as they were competing against the best schools in the area.



NEWS FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Old Owenian Emma Everitt-Story shares her first book

We were thrilled to be able to host a visit from Emma Everitt-Story, a student at Dame Alice Owen's School from 1999-2006, who came to talk about her first book which has just been published.

Emma had the Year 7 English classes spellbound as she told them about her time at Owen's, and how she eventually became a published author. Like most authors Emma had to put up with rejections from publishers, but showed great resilience and kept going.



Her first book *Samantha Drury's Secret Diary: Out of the Wormhole into the Snakepit* is the story of an 11-year old girl who has difficulty fitting in with everyone else at her new school. The story is not autobiographical but sharp-eyed readers might recognise a few bits of Owen's. There are lots of really funny events in the book, and Emma read a hilarious chapter about a practical joke on a school trip, which had the audience laughing out loud.

After signing copies of her book for students, Emma had lunch with members of the Book Club which included a special cake. One of the book club members said that "I have just finished the book and it was AMAZING!!!!!!!!!!".

Emma was thrilled to see Mrs Wilson who had been her form teacher and taught her English.

NEWS FROM THE CAREERS DEPARTMENT

Owen's first Careers Fair proves a huge hit with pupils

By Carol Whiter, Head of Careers

It has been a very busy term for the Careers Department. February saw our first Careers Fair in school where nearly 30 employers set up their stands in the gym and talked to all the students in Years 9 to 13. It was interesting to see how students interacted with the employers and how much they gained from the event, asking good questions about how to enter a career and/or profession and how to work for that organisation.



To see a list of organisations represented, please access 'The Hub' (either from the Intranet page in school or the home page of the school's website) and click on the Careers Google site. There is a dedicated page with hyperlinks leading from the company logos on the poster. My thanks go to everyone who took time out of their working day to attend and to my colleague Jo Scurlock, for organising the event.

DAOS holds 15 alumni talks for National Career Week

At the beginning of March, we celebrated National Careers Week by hosting 15 lunchtime Careers Talks given by our talented alumni on a whole range of topics, such as working in Housing, Social Enterprise, App Design, Medicine, Drug Development, Sustainability in Engineering, Conservation, Financial Services, Teaching, the Police force, Broadcasting, Journalism, Civil Service and working as a Diplomat with the Commonwealth Office.



Monday speakers – Troy and Brandon Sampath, Emily Upcott and Rachel Elwood.

As usual, we were bowled over by the number of volunteers willing to give a talk, which meant that we could offer a wide and varied programme to our students. In turn, our speakers were impressed with the way our students listened intently and asked pertinent questions. Student feedback from attending the careers talks was also very positive.



Friday speakers – Laura Marney, James Willoughby and Amir Sohi.

OXBRIDGE SUCCESS FOR DAME ALICE OWEN'S SCHOOL

In the House of Commons Briefing Paper on Oxbridge entries, Dame Alice Owen's School was cited as the highest performing state comprehensive for Oxbridge offers at 10.5%.

This is testimony to all the hard work of both students and staff and the benefit of the opportunities given and taken by the students.



NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Social Sciences celebrate students with pizza party

As a way of celebrating success in the Social Sciences, we've started to have a termly pizza party to say 'well done' to those students who have impressed in their studies.

Each member of the Department chose four students who won a 'golden ticket' to the party. The students were: **Economics:** Jineth Dissanayake, Chloe Aylott, Aneesha Mahmood, Ben Slevin and Liam Finnegan. **Business:** Will Simpson, Hazal Cankiran, Hannah May, Matt Crook-Sycamore, Archie Garber and Joe Naylor. **Sociology:** Vinusha Haran, Alice Rose, Halimah Hussain and Gemma Constantinou.



Economics Society goes from strength to strength

As Year 13 prepare for their exams, students from Year 12 have taken over the running of many clubs and it's great to see that Mariella Charalambous and Hannah Chen are leading the way with regards the DAOS Economics Society. They are holding more student debates and are constantly looking for speakers, so if anyone is out there who would like to speak, then they'd love to hear from you. You can also now follow them on Instagram @DAOSEconSociety. Their first debate of the year was whether the NHS

should be privatised – a highly controversial topic but a good discussion ensued and on the whole, the students disagreed with the notion. Their first speaker of the year was Hayley Cooper (pictured above), who discussed her career in investment banking and was extremely informative.



Expert talks offer deeper insights to business

Laura Marney came in and talked to our Year 10 and Year 12 students about social enterprise and her career so far. The pupils were given a deeper insight into enterprise, the skills needed to set up a business and the risks an entrepreneur takes. Laura also explained how social entrepreneurship means giving back to society and the pupils were able to ask questions on this topic and have since researched other social enterprises.

We also took advantage of the new building work that's going on by inviting Evers site manager John Blundell to come in and talk to the Year 12 students about the building project. Pupils were able to see the plans that were put forward and how they have changed slightly over time. It was a great opportunity for the pupils to look at timelines, health and safety implications, and quality control within a real business.

ECONOMICS IN TEN PODCASTS GO LIVE

Mr Simpson and Mr Clift, an old colleague from Dame Alice Owen's, have started to produce podcasts called *Economics in Ten*, which can be found on all podcast platforms. The podcasts look at famous economists and in the first series they're looking at economists that feature in the A-Level syllabus. So if you wish to support your child studying or just have a general interest in Economics, then do check it out.



Each episode asks ten questions and so far, the economists looked at are Adam Smith, John Maynard Keynes and Friedrich Hayek, as well as a 'Happiness' special. You can follow the team on twitter as well @EconomicsInTen.

NEWS FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Psychology pupils visit Bethlem Museum of the Mind

This term we visited the [Bethlem Museum of the Mind](#) at Bethlem Psychiatric Hospital. We were told about the common misconceptions of the hospital and the work done there, as well as learning about its rich history. We were involved in an interactive task learning about the Mental Health Act and the way it comes into play within the psychiatric ward. We also had the chance to explore the museum full of historical treatments, processes of recovery and also artwork done by patients. We found the task about the Mental Health Act very interesting and it gave us a view into the real life application of psychology.



Later in day, we visited the Freud Museum in Hampstead, which was the home of Sigmund Freud and his daughter Anna. Many of their possessions are still there which gave us an insight into their lives. Within the museum, there was a lot of information about his research

into psychopathology and the psychodynamic approach which he developed. Although we haven't covered this yet, it was interesting to learn about this quite unusual approach which focuses on uncovering deep rooted experiences in our unconscious that cause mental health issues. There was also a Salvador Dali painting that was a gift to Freud on display, which was a very abstract but meaningful piece for Freud.

Report by Saisha Gulamhussein



PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY OFF TO GREAT START

The Owen's Psychology Society launched this term with debates on whether solitary confinement in prisons should be banned and whether we should have unisex toilets in school. The Psychology elves have also planned many other debates and activities for other year groups to get involved with at lunchtimes. Look out for posters and on Instagram for more information.

@daospsychologysociety

A-Level pupils enjoy lectures and brain dissection

Dr Guy Sutton visited again for a full day of lectures with Year 12s and 13s. The material covered supplements the A-Level course, covering the criminal brain, epigenetics and how disorders affect the brain. Students also felt that it was a great opportunity to see a brain being dissected. Here are some other bits of feedback from the day:

- "really interesting, interactive... giving great insight into the 'world of psychology' that we may not otherwise learn about as part of our course in school."
- "every second of the talk was AMAZING and so interesting. I was gripped the entire time. I loved the biological explanations for behaviour and my favourite bit was probably the effect of drugs and PTSD."

These really were representative of the feeling among students and nicely summed up with one particular comment: "I love Guy Sutton."

Psychology lunchtime careers talks debut this term

After a successful series of lectures organised in Winter Term on a whole range of psychological topics, the Psychology Department has now also launched a series of careers-based talks at lunchtime.

This half term we have had visits from Nina Zeldin-Steinmann, an alumni of psychology doing a lunchtime talk on 'Psychology at university' and Dr Kay Rider, another alumni of Owen's leading discussion on what being an educational psychologist is like.

A big thank you to our speakers so far and watch out for announcements of speakers from the world of counselling, psychotherapy and forensic psychology in the near future!

NEWS FROM THE PRODUCT DESIGN DEPARTMENT

KS3 team takes top prize in Rotary Club competition

We took two groups of students from Years 8 and 9 and one from Year 10 to the annual Rotary Technology Tournament at Onslow St Audrey's School in Hatfield.

The two teams consisted of Anna Simpson, Marguerite Pan, Saskia Detain and Lisa Shilliday from Year 10 who completed in the Intermediate Challenge and a mixed team from Years 8 and 9 – Ross White, Callum Cook, Jessica Brady, Lottie Lofthouse and Adrian Grzankowski – who competed in the Foundation challenge.

The foundation team had to build a crane that was able to be operated from 600mm away at all times and travel along an 830mm track, lift a weight out of a container and transport it back to the beginning of the track without touching the ground. All the teams, six in total, were given the same materials to work with and a strict timeframe to work within. Years 8 and 9 performed brilliantly, designing an amazing crane that used a very complicated gear and pulley system, which outperformed all of the other six schools to win their category.

The intermediate team had a slightly more challenging task where they had to perform the same action but with the added obstacle of a 'bridge' that the arm of the crane had to manoeuvre under. This was a very difficult challenge and the girls were definitely in the top three but unfortunately were unable to get the first prize. They did however say that; "The product design trip to the Rotary competition was an enlightening experience for all of us who were given the opportunity to take part. We faced many challenges, successfully overcame them and inevitably became a stronger team and more confident in our own abilities as individuals. We really enjoyed the independence from the more usual guidance of our teachers as we had to take initiative, trust our own decisions and ideas and therefore had more control over the outcome of our final product."



NEWS FROM THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Drama students enjoy a busy academic year

By Miss Govier and Mrs Nicolaides

We have had a very busy seven months, so jam-packed in fact that I realise that we haven't shared with you what happened in the Winter Term. Here is a breakdown of the events that have occurred in the Drama Department; exams, performances and shows that we have performed or attended.

SEPTEMBER

Year 13 Devised Performance: Our first performance of the year was about the role of the actor in the age of #metoo and how the abuse of actors will no longer be tolerated. The students took their stimulus from an actual transcript of a dialogue between Harvey Weinstein and a female actor that was published in the papers. The actor, who had been previously horrified by Weinstein's attitude towards her reported him to the police who encouraged her to wear a 'wire'; the subsequent dialogue was then used to expose his behaviour to provide evidence against him. The group used the theatre practitioner DV8 to structure their work and the piece was well-received by our students who appreciated the clever interpretation of the role of the 'actor' in 2018.



OCTOBER

The Harold Moore Luncheon: Year 13 performed extracts from Martin Crimp's *Three Days in the Country*, an adaptation of Turgenev's play *A Month in the Country*, at the Harold Moore Luncheon on Wednesday 24th October. The somewhat dull lives of an aristocratic family are thrown into turmoil when a handsome tutor is employed. Nothing terrible happens other than everyone losing their mind over who he is in love with; his employer Natalya, his ward Vera or the maid Katya. As it turns out he is in love with no one but the idea of revolution and he leaves the house in as much turmoil as when he entered it. The performances were warmly received and it was lovely to have the opportunity to demonstrate the naturalistic style of acting that the actors love to perform in.

Wise Children: We took Years 12 & 13 to see this performance at The Old Vic on 24th October. This is director Emma Rice's newest venture, although a second foray into the magic-realism writing style of Angela Carter. The adaptation of her novel was entirely captivating, the use of the twins' narrative a clever way of moving through the different eras and obstacles of the girls' lives. As Nora and Dora's lives were dominated by the theatre there were constant references to Shakespeare, a particularly poignant, yet hilarious mime charting their mother's life closely related to that of Desdemona. The singing and dancing was really fantastic, particularly that of Nora and Dora in their twenties. The use of cross-dressing provided intelligent casting for the twins as they aged throughout the play, bringing the story up to date in 1980s' Brixton.

Emma Rice's style of performance was to be the practitioner that Year 12 used to shape their devising and I am glad to say that this performance maintained her unique performance style with its sparkling wit.



NOVEMBER

Ear for eye by Debbie Tucker Green: This was a play in three parts, exploring the way we use language, gesture and voice and how all these things can be judged and misinterpreted. Those of you who have read the novel *The hate you give* will be familiar with the story of a young man's gesture being misinterpreted and how that led to his death, the novel's protagonist 'Star' then insisting on having justice for her friend. Debbie Tucker Green's use of language is so powerful, its message about race, prejudice and how we must continue to challenge ignorance. Although we took only Years 12 and 13 to the performance, we have been using extracts from the play in our drama lessons in order to demonstrate how the power of language and gesture can be channelled to send strong messages about changing attitudes.



Punchdrunk Workshop: Having attended performances in the past, both myself and Mrs Nicolaides were keen for our Year 12 and Year 13 students to experience the Punchdrunk world as we had. The theatre company have created a 'village' called *Fallow Cross* where schools can experience a world where they can create their own work. The company call this site-sympathetic theatre, as both the actors and the audience are able to explore the world of the play and watch the action as it unfolds, following it from one part of the village to another. We had to leave all our worldly possessions behind and through a screen

saw the tantalising figure of a woman dancing down a street towards us, beckoning us to join her. As we fumbled our way into the street we looked around us to discover that we could explore houses, shops and bedrooms where everything had been left like a puzzle, a life on hold for us to experience. We all took part in a very intensive physical workshop and then went off to create our own work in a chosen space in the village. It was fantastic to be acting in this style, the focus on the physical rather than the vocal and the use of the space. All the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will be able to implement their knowledge in their staging of *Woyzeck*; their set text.

Year 11 Devised Performances: Our GCSE students created a range of pieces in both content and style; *Aspirations* about the decisions we make to become who we are; *There's Always a Refugee Crisis* about what the concept of 'home' means to refugees; *Family Values* which explored all the different challenges families face; *You will not have my hate* about the effects of terrorism on society and *Naomi is Missing* an interactive detective parody. They developed their pieces for three months, improvising, scripting and performing in front of their friends, parents and grandparents. There was some fantastic positive feedback from the audience which they have been using their comments in their coursework.

DECEMBER

As You Like It: Last summer I discussed with Year 13 what kind of play they would like to perform in their final year and demands were for 'a war play', 'star-crossed lovers from opposing sides' and that there should be 'a really sad ending'. Sorcha Vierya and Jack Fox were the perfect romantic leads when they explored *Rosalind and Orlando* on their original 'taster day' back in Year 11, so I thought, why not adapt a play that is essentially about the power of love triumphing over hate?

The original play is dark because it opens in the world of the court where the Duke holds absolute power. I based our interpretation of *Arden* on Syria, influenced in particular by a documentary about the Assad family and their rise





to power. However, the play has comedic moments too, instigated by the rural characters living in the woods outside of the city. I created a 'family', linking together the characters in the play, Corin (Jesse Musker), his well-meaning wife (Izel Ilkten-Salman) and their daughters; hilariously antagonistic Audrey (Robyn O'Connor) and flirtatious Phoebe (Dorothy Burrowes). Their respective love-interests were played by a supremely sullen Silvius (DJ Gavriel) and Touchstone, a courtly fop in disguise, played brilliantly by Alex Kirby.



There were many moments of great peril when the Duke (Daniel Hughes) and his men tried to find our hero Orlando and destroy his rival sister the rebel leader (Esther Bishop). The fight scenes were intended to demonstrate the brutality of the court and were choreographed by Jack Fox. They were to ensure that the oppressive power of the Duke was never too far away, leading the audience to wonder whether our lovers would make it out of the forest alive.

It was only the actions of Jacques, played by Theo O'Flynn, as a soldier with acute PTSD who stood up to the Duke and his tyrannous reign. We decided on a different ending to the original, as we considered the question, 'Would President Assad have such an epiphany and relinquish his role?' However, we ended the performance on a positive note with four weddings and a funeral; as Shakespeare would have intended!

JANUARY

Good dog by Arinzé Kene: Despite the impending snow forecasts we watched this incredible performance that charted the journey of one young man's experience of growing up in an inner city in the 1990s through to the 2011 London Riots.

All the voices of his community were recordings that brought a sense of vibrancy and colour into the performance through their accents and attitudes towards him and their situation. To perform for two hours straight was impressive and there was no let-up in the storytelling, either in the energy or the impact of some of the life-changing moments he shared. Kene's writing is phenomenal, his voice is unique and he creates a world that we can identify with despite our different background or culture due to his sharp observations and clear characterisation. He brings home the urgency of being young, wanting to 'be good' but realising that always doing right doesn't always lead to being rewarded. The play certainly led to deep discussion and opinion was mixed as to whether the play meant to guide us or misguide us about how we should behave if we want to survive.



FUTURE PERFORMANCES

As I write this in retrospect we are into our week of Scripted Performance Exams. On the 25th March, Year 11 GCSE students performed to our external examiner and played to an excited audience of parents, grandparents and friends. On Friday 29th March, Year 13 A-Level students did the same, performing monologues, duologues and *The Elephant Man*. Well done to everyone this term, you have worked hard and made us proud.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Owen's Close Harmony Group wins award at Spring Grove Music Festival finals

On Sunday 17th March, the Spring Grove Care Home hosted the first finals of this year's festival. Two groups from Dame Alice Owen's School were invited to take part: the Year 8 String Quartet – Tara Rodrigues, Anya Dedic, Rufus Jasko and Martha Butler, and the Close Harmony Group – Hannah Blundell, Jessica Hitchcock, Rachel Williams, Sasha Little, Doraly Gill, Megan Manly, Len Metson, Dan Jack, Joe Loveday, Milo Anderson and Theo Gill.



The audience were treated to a feast of music-making, and we also enjoyed hearing some other DAOS musicians performing with their out-of-school groups. The two DAOS groups performed with great confidence and sense of style in their respective repertoire.

We were very excited at the end of the afternoon when the Close Harmony Group was declared the winner of the Popular Music Section, with all performers receiving medals and certificates, as well as a trophy, presented to them by Sue Macgregor (of Radio 4's 'Today' programme and 'Woman's Hour' among others). Well done to all involved!



Owen's musicians perform at South East Schools Chamber Music Festival Concert in central London

Just around the corner from the Houses of Parliament and the Brexit stand-off, the church of St John's Smith Square hosted an altogether more harmonious affair on Tuesday 19th March as the chamber groups selected from the festival across the South East region performed on stage in this beautiful venue.

Sixteen groups from schools, including Henrietta Barnett, Harrow and Highgate schools, among others, took to the stage. The DAOS Year 10 String Quartet won over their audience with the passion and technical panache of their performance of Mendelssohn's string quartet in F minor op. 81, 1st movement. Congratulations to Gabriella Bavetta, Aiko Kelly, Kayla Nicol and Katherine Vincent.

The DAOS Year 13 String Quintet were programmed to bring the evening's performances to a close, and their deeply musical and communicative performance of the first movement of Mozart's G minor string quintet certainly provided a fitting finale to an evening of wonderful music-making. Congratulations to Robin Day, Jade Brooks, Sam Scheer, Theo Gill and Gordon Lee.



Choirs in joint concert with Herts County Youth Choir

On Saturday 23rd March 2019, the DAOS Chamber Choir and Close Harmony Group made their way to St Albans, to the beautiful St Peter's Church, to share the stage with the Herts County Youth Choir in an evening of choral music. Following an afternoon of rehearsals, getting to know each other musically and each other's conductors, the choirs took half the concert each and joined together to perform a couple of massed pieces at the end of each half.



We thoroughly enjoyed hearing the wide range of repertoire and vitality of the Herts County Youth Choir in the first half. It was also really interesting to work with their conductor, Tori Longdon. In the second half, the DAOS choirs, conducted by Katrina Makepeace-Lott, adjusted beautifully to the new performing space and really engaged the audience with their beautifully blended tone, superb intonation and musically communicative delivery.

Congratulations to all the performers!

Owen's musicians attend second Spring Grove Final



On Sunday 24th March 2019, Owen's musicians headed back to the Spring Grove Residential Care Home to take part in the finals of the 18 and under Classical section and the Composition section.

The residents and other assembled audience were treated to an afternoon of quite phenomenal music-making that included groups from specialist music centres, Parkview and YMC, as well as from South Hampstead and the Henrietta Barnett Schools. We also very much enjoyed hearing some other Owen's musicians performing with their out-of-school groups.

The Year 11/12/13 Vocal Trio (Rachel Williams, Jerusha Atputharatnam and Doraly Gill, accompanied by Jade Brooks) performed *My Love Dwelt in a Northern Land* by Edward Elgar with exquisite musicality and finesse, charming their audience, who rewarded them with cheers and 'Bravo'. A-Level Music student composer, Matthew Mayes, gave an eloquent explanation and description of his piece for violin and piano, the *Lonely Voyager*, before it was given an equally eloquent performance by Mia Dedic (violin) and Jade Brooks (piano), once again to be greeted by the vocal appreciation of the audience. Theo Gill, along with sister Doraly, gave a deeply committed and moving performance of his song composition *Flashes from the Beyond*, set to text also written by Theo.

After delicious tea and cakes, we were delighted that Theo Gill's song composition *Flashes from the Beyond* was announced the winner in the Composition section and that the DAOS Vocal Trio were the winners in the 18 and under Classical category. Prizes were presented by the distinguished actor, Simon Callow. Well done DAOS musicians!

Regional Festival of Music for Youth performances praised by music mentors

"From the very first note we knew this band meant business!" was part of the feedback of the Music for Youth Music Mentor about the DAOS Concert Band's performance at Watford School of Music on Sunday 3rd March. He also praised them for the exuberance and the all-round high quality of their performance of Alfred Reed's *Curtain's Up!* This was a wonderful performance, much enjoyed by the whole audience. Congratulations to all the performers, and thank-you to their Director, Mr Lance Kelly for his work with the ensemble.



"A masterclass in string orchestra playing!" was how the Senior String's performance of *The Frontier* by the contemporary composer, David Heath, was described by the MFY Music Mentor. She praised, among other things, the quality of the playing of all players, from the front to the backs of all the sections. The audience was thrilled by their electrifying performance of this rather extraordinary piece! Congratulations to all the players and thank-you to their Director, Mr James Widden for all his work with the ensemble.



The Regional Festival of Music for Youth is the largest youth music festival in the World and there are currently over 50,000 young musicians taking part in it nationwide, coming together to perform and listen to each other in regional centres throughout March. In our concert, we also heard wind groups from Watford School of Music, a Big Band from Broxbourne School and the Chamber Choir from Hemel Hempstead School.

Year 13 soloists take centre stage at Concerto Concert

Every year the moment comes when our Year 13 students take to the EGH one final time, as they come towards the end of their time at Owen's. Many of them have been involved in concerts and performances since the very start of Year 7, and their wonderful contribution to the musical life of the school was rightly celebrated in style last Thursday evening.

Along with over 150 upper school pupils, the concert featured Year 13 students performing as soloists (Robin Day, Sasha Little, Bethany White, Gordon Lee, Sam Scheer, Hannah Blundell, Alice Dadswell and Jade Brooks) and as musical directors (Robin Day, Sam Scheer, Theo Gill) and as instrumentalists/vocalists in Symphony



Jade Brooks (soloist) and Symphony Orchestra



Sam Scheer (soloist) and Symphony Orchestra



Senior Chamber Choir and Symphony Orchestra

Orchestra, Concert Band, Senior Strings, Chamber Orchestra and Senior Chamber Choir (Natalie Rose, Sophie Ashing, Dan Jack, Dan McMinn, Dorothy Burrowes, Megan Manly, Jessica Hitchcock).

The programme offered an impressive range of musical genres, including concerto movements by Mozart, Walton and Rachmaninov, Gershwin songs, Dvorak's Rondo for Orchestra, Vivaldi's *Autumn* from the Four Seasons, *Danse Macabre* by Saint-Saens, *Symphonie Espagnole* by Lalo, the Dances from Lully's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* and Mozart's Quartet in F major for oboe and strings.

The musicianship and level of virtuosic ability of all the soloists was exceptional, as was the unstinting stamina and support of all the members of the ensembles who played throughout the evening.

Congratulations to all the performers who played so well and to their musical directors, Ms Bamber, Mr Kelly, Ms Makepeace-Lott, Mr Marshall and Mr Widden.

Our thanks to all those in the Music Department who worked so hard to made the evening such a special occasion and to parents and families who have supported our wonderful students over so many years.



Hannah Blundell (soloist) and Symphony Orchestra



Alice Dadswell (soloist) and Symphony Orchestra

NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

It has been another busy term of sport for the PE Department. Since September, there has been over 350 fixtures across eight sports where over 500 pupils have had the opportunity to represent the school. Here are some of the highlights.

NETBALL

The **Year 7** netball team have had a fantastic season. The girls have worked extremely hard on their skills and learning the rules of the game. The A team have been unbeaten in their District league and have been very successful in their Saturday morning matches only narrowly losing two games throughout the year. Both teams performed excellently in their District tournament finishing in second place.



Year 8 has had a fantastic end to the season and have continued to develop match by match. The girls struggled mid season suffering some hard losses on Saturdays against some tough private schools. However, the potential of the Year 8 team was demonstrated at the District Netball Tournament where the girls beat Bishops 10-0 and Monks Walk 11-0. As Chancellors beat Queenswood, the Year 8's finished second. In regards to the league, the Year 8 team won beating all the teams they played in the tournament. Well done

girls and we're looking forward to your undoubted success next year.

The **Year 9's** have worked exceptionally hard this year and have made significant improvements to their skills. This was evident in their success in the tournament where they came second unfortunately losing to a strong Chancellors side. Well done this season girls and we hope that this continues next season.

Year 10 has had a mixed season with a variety of achievements. They have done well in the District league however struggled in the District tournament. They played some very strong teams and finished fourth. We are looking forward to how talented the Senior team will be next with the combination of the current Year 11's and 12's along with the Year 10's.

Year 11 girls have showed fantastic commitment throughout in a busy year ensuring that they have a full team for every fixture including Saturdays. We look forward to seeing some of the girls return to play for the Senior team next year.

HOCKEY

The **Year 7's** have worked hard to learn how to play the sport which was demonstrated in their performance in the hockey finals. The A team drew one game and won two but narrowly lost out on a place in the final by a two goal difference. The B team had a challenging final experience playing other A teams from the district and finished the finals in fourth position. Well done to both teams on their performance this season.



The **Year 8's** have worked exceptionally hard on their hockey and have massively improved their skill levels. They took on very tough teams in the tournament and both teams finished fourth. We are extremely proud of your commitment and how you have developed. Well done girls and we look forward to the Holland tour.

Year 9's Tabitha Collier has made leaps and bounds in hockey and now has made the Regional hockey team and the U16 National team. This is a brilliant achievement and means that Tabs has been noticed by sporting companies and now sponsored by Grays Hockey!

The **Year 10's** have had a mixed season where they have had really tough competition. The girls have massively improved and developed as a team. The girls now move into the Senior team and we hope we will get a continuing interest and the girls will continue to develop.

The **Seniors** finished the season on a high note by making the County Cup Final but unfortunately lost to a very strong Parmiters team losing 1-0. The girls can be exceptionally proud of their achievements.

FOOTBALL

The **Year 7** team managed to finish off the season on a high with a 5-1 win over Monks Walk in the District Final to become Champions, well done boys! Having played Monks Walk in the group stages and lost 7-2 only two months before the final this match was going to be extremely difficult.

A magnificent team performance and early goals from Felix Kotey and Sam Proudlove saw Owen's going to half time with a 2-1 lead. In a tight game, three late goals from Joe Goater, Sam Ward and Rhauri de Souza saw the team win 5-1.

The **Year 8's** made good progress in the National Cup by reaching the third round. They failed to reach finals in District and County competitions. After winning several Saturday morning fixtures, they will be hoping to gain some cup success next year.

The **Year 9's** have made a good improvement this year and hopefully they can take this into next year and make further progress in cup competitions. They have won a number of Saturday morning fixtures and narrowly missed out on progressing in the district competition.

The **Year 10** team (pictured right) finished off the season in dramatic style. In the District Cup final, they played a strong Chancellors side and it was hard fought match. After a poor first half, the boys were lucky to be only losing 2-1 at half time. Eddie Johnston converted a penalty after some good work by Sam Meakes. In the second half the team put in a much improved display and Barney Collier equalised with an excellent composed finish. This led to extra time of five minutes each half as the light was deteriorating. With three minutes to go, Owen's won a corner. Jamie Blundell whipped the ball in and it was headed on by a Chancellors defender. It somehow found the top corner. The boys managed to see the game out and won the District cup for the first time since Year 8. Well done to all year 10s that have represented the school this year and contributed to the success of the team.

The **Year 11** team (pictured right) finished off the season on a high with a 4-1 win against Hertswood in the District Final to become champions – congratulations boys.



The **1st XI** finished the season on a high with victory in the Senior District final over Monks Walk. Despite an early goal by Harry White, the team weren't able to maintain their dominant start and Monks Walk equalised just before half time. Owen's were slow to get going in the second half and Monks Walk took advantage of this by scoring two goals in quick succession. With 20 minutes of the game remaining, Owen's began to dominate, creating many chances which just couldn't be converted. Jamie Harrison scored a well worked goal to make it 3-2 and then what followed is probably one of the most epic finishes to a district final. With less than a minute remaining, Eugene Butler delivered an excellent cross which Alex Petty managed to get a touch and fire past the goalkeeper. In the fourth minute of injury time, Adam Pearson drove into the box, but was fouled as he was about to cross the ball. A penalty was awarded, which captain Jamie Harrison dispatched with aplomb.



The team demonstrated great fighting spirit and their endeavour was awarded with a fantastic victory. It was a fitting end to the season for the players, especially for some of the Year 13s who were winning a trophy for the first time. Special mention must go to captain Jamie Harrison and vice captain Bradley Mhangami for all their hard work this year. We'd also like to thank the Year 13 players for all their commitment over the last seven years.

RUGBY

The **1st XV** reached the semi final of the County Cup, where they faced a very strong Beaumont side. Both teams made the final in the previous year and it was always going to be a close game. Despite defending valiantly during periods of the game, Owen's couldn't quite execute efficiently when in possession of the ball and lost narrowly. Whilst many of the players will be disappointed with the result, they can be proud of their efforts during the season, whilst the outgoing Year 13 players can be proud of the commitment they have demonstrated over the last seven years. They have been a fantastic team to work with and we wish them the very best for the future. Special mention must go to captain Luke Syrett and vice captain Eugene Butler.



CROSS COUNTRY

Freya Stapleton has continued to excel in cross country and her hard work was rewarded with an outstanding run at the English Schools' Championships. This is the premier cross country race of the season with 44 counties sending teams. The race was taking place in Leeds and in a field over over 350 of the country's best runners, Freya finished a fantastic 8th. This resulted in her being selected to compete for England in the Home Countries international match which took place in Dublin. Freya finished a brilliant 6th which contributed to England winning team gold! Well done Freya on a magnificent season.



We also had three other athletes who qualified to represent Hertfordshire at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships. Aimi Weightman was first scorer for Herts in the junior girls' race, placing a creditable 49th. She was also supported by Roisin Keohane who was Herts fourth scorer, placing 106th. Scarlett Kent ran well in the senior girls' age group and the third scorer for Herts, placing 166th.

Jacob Roberts represented Herts in the Year 7 National Championships at Loughborough on Saturday 23rd March – this was a great achievement for a pupil who won the District Championships back in November.

ATHLETICS

We have had a fantastic start to the athletics season at the Herts Indoor Championships. The U15 boys and girls and U17 boys qualified for this final due to their performances from last year. The U15 girls had an exceptional evening finishing first, which is a brilliant result as they finished third in the final in the summer. The U17 boys finished second with brilliant performances by several of the students. The U15 boys were missing several members of the athletics teams but still performed brilliantly to finish 5th. The pupils are very much looking forward to Lanzarote where they will participate in some warm weather training.

WATER POLO

Well done to Ana Shaw in Year 9 who is competing in the U17 Watford team this weekend in the Semifinals of the National Championships. This is a brilliant achievement seeing as she is only Year 9.

SWIMMING

On Friday 8th March four swimmers represented Mid Herts District in the HSSA School Games Swimming Gala. The swimmers were Luke Martell (Year 7), Rohan Misir (Year 9), Alice Bayley (Year 10) and Eliza Connery (Year 11). Overall the Mid Herts team came third, just missing out on second place by three points. The Years 7 and 8 Junior boys team (pictured right) came first, so took away the cup. Alice came second in her 50m breaststroke with a personal best time of 35.39s.



GOLF

In March, two teams took part in The Arkley Junior Challenge. The A Team of Alfie Reynolds (Year 8) and Brendan Brunton (Year 8) played fantastically to take the winners' trophy to build on last year's second place finish. The B Team of Ben Sloane (Year 7), Stella Ioannou (Year 8), and Thomas Hunt (Year 7) also performed admirably in their first ever competitive match.

Also this month, Ashay Dhingra (Year 12) and Alfie Reynolds (Year 8) played in the Hertfordshire Rose Bowl at Hanbury Manor. This competition is played by the best young golfers in the county and from a field of 70 players Ashay finished a strong 12th, while Alfie finished a commendable 36th, gaining valuable experience playing against boys five years his senior.

Additionally, the Golf Scholarship Programme at Old Fold Manor continues to build momentum with boys and girls from Years 7 to 12 being given tuition by their team of Professionals. We would like to give our thanks to the staff at Old Fold for their continued support of golf at Owen's.

Any pupils interested in joining Owen's golfers should contact Mr Meekin.



1966 AND ALL THAT! OWEN'S FOOTBALL 1ST XI VS MONK'S WALK SCHOOL

A person view by P Dodd, Sociology Department

Having started at Dame Alice Owen's in 2007, I am ashamed to say that I did not go to my first Owen's football match until just over a week ago on Thursday 21st March. That fact is almost unbelievable given that I support "everyone's second favourite team", West Ham - yes, the club that won the World Cup for England in 1966: with Peters, Hurst the hat-trick hero, and the late, great captain Bobby Moore.



This is my personal view of the game, as having played regularly, passionately and skilfully at primary and secondary school (also spending a short time with Tottenham schoolboys) I had long been curious about what a modern 'school game' looked like now, some 50 years later! Those who have seen the 1966 final will have noticed how slower the game was then, so my own school matches must have seemed like a walk in the park in comparison.

So what does a school game look like now? As I suspected we have moved on in light years. Even allowing for the fact that I was watching from the touchline, my guess is that this was as quick if not quicker than the 1966 final. And how 'professional'! Both teams needed no advice on what it meant "not to give the opposition any space". For example, whenever a ball was hit high and forward to our glorious captain, Jamie Harrison (also a Sociology student: biased – moi?) he had a centre-back millimetres behind him. I imagine that in my school games, the centre half would probably have been waving to his parents (I exaggerate to make a point).

Regarding the game itself, I missed our first goal (1-0) thinking the game started at 4.30, not 4.15. Then, turning my back to take a phone call, I also missed the opposition's equaliser (1-1) – I DID say this was a personal 'view'. Anyway, the phone now had to be switched off as this could get serious. And serious it certainly did get as, despite overall domination, our Owenians found themselves 3-1 down by the middle of the second half. This certainly was not the script I had in mind for my first look at a school game in half a century! Trying to be optimistic, I did try to gee-up one of the nearby mums (even though she was an Arsenal supporter) – the mother of Alex Nicholas. I pointed that just on the preceding Saturday West Ham had been 3-1 down, but won 4-3.

So, with the minutes ticking by, we were in exactly the same position. But then we scored our second; and, yes, very soon it was 3-3 – my hoarse voice was proof. How agonising it was not to have an on-screen clock – and TV replay – but we did hear the ref say that 6 minutes had been added to the 90 (perhaps partly the result of some suspicious attacks of cramp amongst the opposition). Then the miracle happened at last: three minutes into added time, we were awarded a penalty. Despite the crackling tension, Jamie our Captain Fantastic (did I say he was a Sociology student?) slotted home. He later admitted that while waiting to take the penalty he suddenly felt strong laxative effects (or words to that effect), but Eugene Butler – one of Mr Gamester's three super subs – later told me that the team had total faith in their leader. Rightly so, and as Jamie ran away to celebrate his winning goal he was smothered and flattened by his ecstatic teammates – and my voice disappeared completely.

Apart from watching a modern game, it was also had my first experience of being an onlooking teacher, so I was able to fit in some brief conversations with parents. Not only did I manage "an extra Parents' Evening chat" with Mrs Harrison; but to show it clearly was an Owen's match, when talking to Eugene Butler's dad and Lucas Bedford Comte's mum, I learnt that they both intended to study History at Leeds University – we were a team of intellectuals! Just to round off a school game perfectly I even witnessed "the angry parent" when one of the opposition's supporters moaned relentlessly to the referee that six minutes should not have been added on. Perhaps his rage prevented him from realising that just 3 or 4 minutes of added time would have made the wait for our victory celebrations even shorter. I went home in a jolly mood. The match had been so good I am now eager to see more. Clearly we have a very fit squad of players with fantastic team spirit and Mr Gamester's coaching is bang on; he even had a debrief on the field with the team just after the game had ended.

I used to think it was our students' 'altitude training' that gave us the edge in so many sports, Potters Bar being even higher than High Barnet. Nevertheless, with three Sociology students on the pitch: Jacob Gammon, Luca Dowdell with captain Jamie H, I am now changing my view. Three key West Ham players in 1966 and three Sociology players in 2019 – need I say more?!

NEWS FROM THE OSA

Upcoming Events – Please support your school by coming along to two OSA events next term: the **Fullers Brewery Tour** on Friday 6th June at 6.30pm (30 tickets available) and the **Summer Festival**, which is being held on Saturday 6th July from 4pm to 8pm. For more details, see flyers on the following page.

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.

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](#).



The OSA Race Night held on Saturday March 30th raised £1,500 for the school.



OSA
OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Brewery Tour

Ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at one of London's oldest breweries. Now you have an exciting opportunity to enjoy a relaxing evening, finding out and trying the beers as Fullers are organising a private tour for parents and staff of Dame Alice Owen's School.
All proceeds will go to the OSA to support your children's school.

Friday 7th June
at 6.30pm
Fullers Brewery
Chiswick

Cost: £20 per person
Limited number of tickets available



Look out for the email about purchasing tickets
For further information email: chair@theosa.org.uk



OSA
OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

are delighted to announce the date of this year's

SUMMER FESTIVAL

Saturday 6th July 2019
from 4pm to 8pm

Come along and enjoy an afternoon of live music, food and drink stalls, games, Pimms tent and fun activities for all

SAVE THE DATE



Music and Drama 2019

Summer Term

Tuesday 21st May at 7.00pm

Whitsun Concert

Edward Guinness Hall

Tickets available online through WisePay

Tuesday 11th June at 7.30pm

Chamber Concert

Edward Guinness Hall

Tickets available online through WisePay

Monday 17th to Saturday 22nd June

ABRSM Examinations

Edward Guinness Hall

Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th July at 7.30pm

Summer Musical Production

Edward Guinness Hall

Tickets available online through WisePay

Tuesday 16th July at 7.00pm

Summer 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
Schoolwear**

Our new shop address!

25 Station Parade,
Cockfosters Road, Barnet,
EN4 0DW
020 3818 3622

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



LEEJOY
The Local Schoolwear Specialists since 1975
63 High Street, Potters Bar EN6 5AS
01707 653366
www.leejoy.co.uk



John Lewis