

Dame Alice Owen's School newsletter



Letter from the Head

Hannah Nemko

Dear All,

This half term has gone in a flash! It has been a short but intense period with furious preparation for the public examinations taking place across the school; we wish everyone all the very best with their revision and examinations, which are now in full swing.

It may have been a short half term, but the school has still been a hive of activity!

Over the Easter break, 44 of our budding athletes were put through their paces in Lanzarote where they were able to profit from some additional expert training ready for the summer season. Our thanks go to Miss Lowe, Mr Lowe, Miss Martin, Mr Nolan, Mr Gamester and Mrs Gamester for their support and for giving up their holiday to make this visit happen.

Special congratulations go to Laura Jones who won a Bronze medal at the World Taekwondo Championships in her favourite discipline (Technical Patterns).

Our Year 7s made it to the regional finals of the Rocket Cars competition where, although they did not win, they had a brilliant time racing their cars against those of other schools – thanks go to Mr Stensel who came in on his day off to accompany our students and to Ms Zeligowska who helped run this visit.

We were all delighted to hear that Miles Chiltern (Year 12) came a close second in the [UK Wool4School competition](#). Miles had to design an outfit incorporating technology for a particular purpose; you can read more about his design inside!

Miss Papalouca took some of our finest Year 12 chemists to the [Royal Society of Chemists' National Analyst Competition](#) where students had to undertake various practical analytical determinations based on problems relevant to industrial or social needs. Judged for skill, understanding and accuracy, students were also pushed to demonstrate how they could apply their existing knowledge, skills and aptitude for analytical science. Whilst we did not win this year, the students achieved very well and should be proud of their efforts in a difficult competition.



Issue highlights...

DofE students tackle
Wales expedition [page 3](#)



Year 10 artists visit Pitt
Rivers Museum [page 6](#)



Sports successes and
team highlights [page 10](#)



Our Year 10 artists gathered books of sketches and huge amounts of inspiration from their visit to the Pitt Rivers Museum, which we know they will draw on for their GCSE work. Our thanks go to Mr Anastasi, Mrs Grigson, Ms Veerayan, Miss Zeligowska and Miss Mouzouri for accompanying our students.

We were delighted to welcome our German counterparts who spent the week with us as part of the ongoing exchange visit and our students had a wonderful time both in Viernheim in Germany and Valladolid, Spain on the return leg of their exchanges. Being immersed in the language, as you are on an exchange visit, is the singularly most impactful way of improving confidence and linguistic expertise.

I would like to thank all those families who have hosted exchange students over the years for helping us to be able to keep these relationships alive, as well as our teachers who devote so much time to make sure that our students can profit from these opportunities.

The music department has been buzzing! We all had a fabulous time at the Whitsun Concert and were also delighted to work with the National Orchestra to run a Jazz Workshop for interested students, with thanks to a donation from the Nick Barnes Trust.

We look forward to the development of jazz within the school and the inaugural Jazz Concert in the Autumn term.

Auditions and rehearsals have been underway for the school musical, which returns this year with Oklahoma! We know that this will be another amazing production and we look forward to seeing you all there supporting our students and the school. Tickets will be on sale in a few weeks through WisePay.

We have now moved out of the B block, which is soon to be prepared for demolition!

Those students who had lockers in the B block will find them moved to an outside area when they return to school after the half term break. These lockers will be housed under a temporary shelter that will give them some protection from the elements but we cannot guarantee that the lockers will be waterproof.

We will not take any responsibility for items left in the lockers in poor weather or overnight, and strongly suggest that lockers are used to store items needed on a day-by-day basis only.

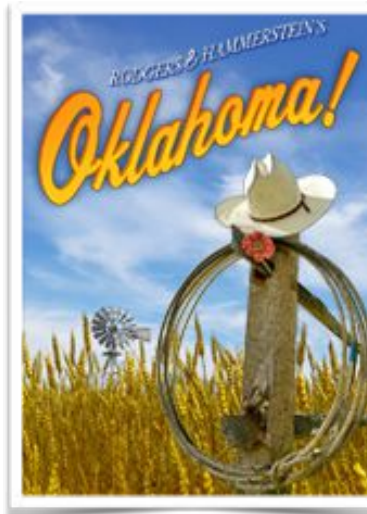
If you would still like to buy a brick or a piece of equipment for the new teaching block, you can still do so by following either of these links [equipment donation form](#), [buy a brick](#).

Wishing you all a restful break over the bank holiday weekend and beyond.

Mrs Nemko



Year 10 art students visited the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford seeking inspiration for their GCSE artwork.



Change to the school calendar for 2019-20

School will resume on **Monday 6th January 2020** and not Tuesday 7th January 2020 as previously suggested.

CALENDAR



DofE students tackle Welsh expedition challenges

This is a busy term for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions with the season starting in April with a very cold Gold practice expedition.

On April 26th, our intrepid explorers headed off to Wales and the Black Mountains on a four-day expedition as part of their Gold DofE. This was a practice expedition, incorporating



some training that students would need on their qualifying expedition, in the Lakes in July. Their first day



looked very promising with the sun out and spirits high. The fair weather, unfortunately, did not last and students were faced with some very challenging weather conditions of rain and sleet.

On the final night, due to poor conditions, students slept with lambs in a barn – a new experience for all! Congratulations to all the students that completed this tough expedition. I hope the weather will be kinder to them in the Lake District on their qualifying expedition.

Year 10's are now preparing for their practice expeditions in June and July. They have been completing their training sessions at lunchtimes, planning their routes, equipment and food for their expedition. Their final expeditions will be in September and October next term. Over 80 students in Year 11 have completed their Bronze and Silver awards, and students certificates are ready to be collected from Miss Lord. Well done to all students involved.

Gold DofE students celebrate at Buckingham Palace

Congratulations to the following students who completed their Gold DofE and went to Buckingham Palace in May – Matt Crook-Sycamore; Sophie Ashing; Lore Sturmy; Joe Brunton; Yasmin Crowe; Anisha Bharat Jethwa; Richard Laverick-Brown; Alexia Pieretti; Charlotte Penny; Emillia Bryce; Alannah Smith and Anna Cunningham.

Students met the Earl of Wessex and were presented with their certificates by Jake Wood of Eastenders. This is a great achievement showing commitment to helping others, being physically active and developing new skills.

DoFE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bronze expeditions

14th June - 15th June 2019 practice expedition

5th July - 6th July 2019 practice expedition

13th - 14th September 2019 practice/qualifying expedition

5th - 6th October 2019 qualifying expeditions

Gold expedition

15th July - 19th July 2019 Assessed expedition



Sophie Ashing, Yasmin Crowe, Matt Crooke Sycamore, Anisha Jethwa, Charlotte Penny at Buckingham Palace

NEWS FROM THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Year 7 pupils explore the historic city of Rochester

On the 14th and 15th May, the History department organised two one-day trips to the historic city of Rochester in Kent.

Students were given a chance to explore the second oldest cathedral in Britain and its Norman roots before climbing the tallest keep in Britain at Rochester Castle and hearing the gruesome story of the 1215 siege.

Year 7 historians were also given a workshop at the Guildhall museum that brought to life the origins and development of the city from Romans to Saxons to Normans. Students even had the opportunity to dress up in armour from each of these eras.

Finally, the groups were invited to explore the medieval high street in the glorious spring sunshine including a visit to the historic fudge shop! Teachers and locals were both hugely impressed with the enthusiasm and politeness of all our students.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Author Penny Joelson talks with Year 7 and 8 students



Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed a treat in May when very popular local author Penny Joelson came to talk to their assemblies. Penny came last year for World Book Day to talk about her first book, *I have No Secrets*, and has a great following among our students.

She read the opening of her latest book, *Girl in the Window* – another really captivating mystery, about a girl who is convinced that she has seen someone being abducted. The main character suffers from ME and is housebound, so as well as being a great mystery story with many twists and turns, there is a link to ME which is still a misunderstood illness. We were particularly delighted to have Penny talk at the Year 8 assembly during what was ME Awareness week.



Penny's [website](#) contains information about her exciting mystery books, and also useful links to raise awareness about ME. Further information about ME can be found at: www.meassociation.org.uk.

Emma Everitt-Story makes return visit to Year 7



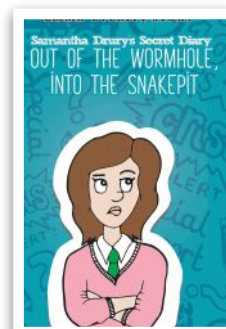
Year 7 Library lessons on May 1st were packed with excitement as old Owenian Emma Everitt-Story made a return visit to talk about her recently published first book, *Samantha Drury's Secret Diary: Out of the Wormhole, Into the Snakepit*.

After entertaining her audience with some anecdotes about her time at Owen's, Emma told them about her journey to being a published author, which certainly demonstrated resilience as she suffered many rejections before finally getting the book published.

Students were eager to buy copies of the book, which Emma signed for them. We hope that Emma will return later this term to talk to the students who have not had the chance to meet her.

Year 7 student Natalie Wardrop-Day commented on Emma's visit:

"I found her talk very inspirational and she had some helpful tips for writing a story. Having read the story, there are a lot of references to Owen's that you may notice if you read it. I got straight into Samantha's world and her story. It is relatable and is sentimental at times as well as a good laugh. This is a good book for all ages and I highly recommend it."



HELP WIN UP TO £5,000 WORTH OF LIBRARY BOOK TOKENS

National Book Tokens are giving away up to £5,000 of National Book Tokens to one lucky school. The winner will also get £100 of National Book Tokens to spend on themselves!

No purchase is necessary. The more people who enter the competition, the better our chances of winning. In order to enter, please go to www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools. You will need to provide some personal details including your email address. If you would prefer to unsubscribe from future mailings, this is easily done by scrolling down to the 'unsubscribe' button on the confirmation email and following the instructions once your entry has been submitted.

NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

Year 10 art pupils make annual trip to Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum



The annual Art Department GCSE visit to the [Pitt Rivers Museum](#) provided the ideal setting for the theme; Nature and the Environment. Its atmospheric galleries hold one of the best collections of anthropology and archaeology from around the world and throughout human history. Our young artists thoroughly enjoyed the experience and produced some outstanding observations. Their attitude to learning and behaviour was exemplary, well done Year 10!

Thank you to Mrs Starck for organising a very successful study trip and to Miss Veerayen, Mrs Grigson, Ms Mouzouri and Ms Zeligowska for their support.



Students commended for their creativity in national art and poetry competition

Congratulations to Inez Crowe, Ella Taylor, Eddie Johnston, Bella Mak and Amani Mahmood for their personal response to the [Never Such Innocence](#) Art and Poetry Competition.

The charity invites young people to create a piece of art, to write a poem, song or speech responding to war or conflict.

Our students received a certificate of commendation for their creativity. Well done to all who entered.



NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

Pupils sit Maths Challenge and achieve IMO merits

In April around 300 Year 7s and Year 8s sat the Junior Maths Challenge. We are looking forward to their results.

The follow-on rounds for the Intermediate Challenge took place on 21st March with 41 students from Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 invited to take part in the multiple choice Kangaroo Challenges and 11 of these were awarded a Merit.

Three students were invited to do the Intermediate Maths Olympiad written papers.

Based on his performance on the IMO paper, Spencer Robertson (Year 11) has been invited to attend a Summer Maths School.

Daniel Goodlad (Year 9) received a distinction on the IMO – he scored 9 or 10 out of 10 on 5 out of the 6 questions. An impressive achievement!

NEWS FROM THE TEXTILES DEPARTMENT

Year 12 student named runner up in national design competition

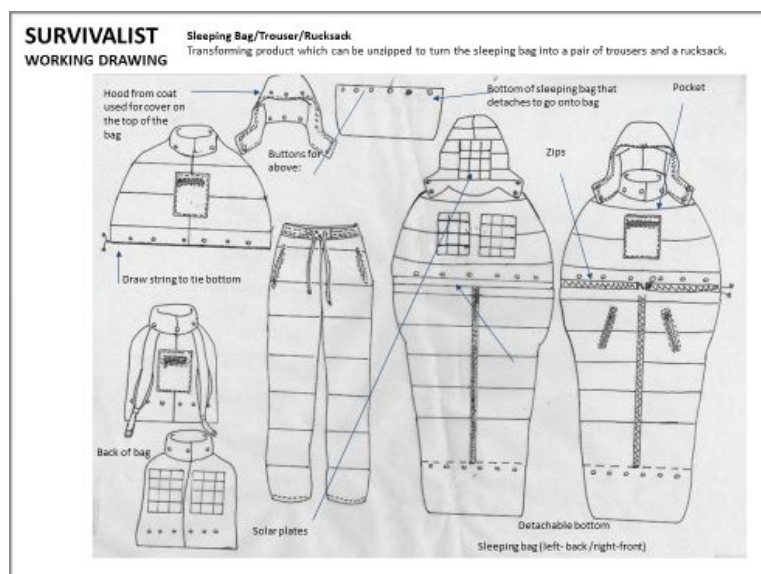
Year 12 textiles students recently took part in the [Wool4school competition](#), which is a national design competition for sixth form textiles students aimed at promoting wool as a textile fibre.

Students were challenged to design an outfit that incorporated technology for a particular purpose for the wearer.

The textiles department is delighted to announce that Miles Chiltern (Year 12) was extended special congratulations by the judges and is the England runner up this year.

Miles designed a sleeping bag for survivalists, which can transform into trousers and a bag. He highlighted the importance of Merino wool's odour resistance in his design.

More information about this year's winners and a link to Miles' successful entry can be found by following this [link](#).



YEAR 7 DESIGN AND RACE ROCKET CARS IN COMPETITION

Congratulations to our Year 7 Rocket Car team for competing in the regional finals of the [Dendrite Race for the Line](#) competition.

The event, which took place at the [Duxford Imperial War Museum](#), required pupils to design and make a rocket powered car, then race it against the clock over a fixed distance. Despite a minor issue of wheels coming off towards the finish line, the team did well to achieve fourth place out of the 13 schools that took part.

Well done to our Year 7 students!



NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

National Youth Jazz Orchestra leads pupil workshop

We were delighted to welcome a Sextet from the National Youth Jazz Orchestra to the Music Department on Friday 3rd May, who led a wonderful afternoon of performances and workshops for our young and aspiring jazz musicians.

Members of our Junior Big Band and Senior Big Band had the opportunity to listen to the NYJO Sextet perform and then worked alongside them in collaborative workshop sessions, which focused on developing and extending pupils' aural, improvising and ensemble skills.

It was fantastic to see our pupils playing together and alongside the NYJO leaders, all of whom commented on how impressed they were with the very high level of musicianship and ensemble awareness that our Owen's students displayed.

Parents and friends joined us at the end of the afternoon for a fantastic performance presentation, which showcased some of the pieces and skills pupils had been learning.



Funded by the Nick Barnes Trust, the NYJO visit marked the launch of what we hope will be the start of an exciting DAOS Jazz project, with more opportunities and performances planned for the coming year.

Thanks to Mr Kelly, Mr Crossley and the Music Department for helping organise and support the event and congratulations to all of our pupils who contributed so brilliantly.

NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

CRICKET

Year 7 – The Year 7 team have played two games – winning one and losing one. They lost in the County Cup against a strong Haileybury side but managed to beat Lochinver. Some of the team played their first cricket match and showed a lot of promise. They still have five games left to play and should improve as the season progresses.

Year 8 – The Year 8 team have played two games so far. They narrowly lost their first match against Lochinver. Callum Lloyd and Max Bhowmik produced a devastating opening spell of bowling reducing the opposition to 12 for 5. Unfortunately the boys' could not knock off the runs. Against Aldenham, the side won convincingly, keeping the opposition to 83 with good spells from Kai Adams and Irya Patel. The boys knocked the runs off in the 14th over with a quick fire 31 from Jack Matthews leading the way. The side will play Monks Walk in the first round of the County Cup.

Year 9 – Our Year 9s have progressed to the County Cup quarter finals, with the next match to be played against St Edmunds. In the previous round against St Georges, the boys' narrowly won on Duckworth Lewis after Euan Connelly produced two quick wickets before the rain stopped the game, leaving the team in a winning position by seven runs. The Year 9 cricket team will be aiming for success in the County Cup competition this season.

Year 10 – The Year 10 side have reached the County Cup quarter finals after an emphatic win against Sir John Lawes. The boys will be looking to repeat their achievements of the last two years by making a third consecutive County Cup final.



1st XI – The 1st XI got off to a winning start this season with a narrow victory against a strong Enfield Grammar side. The team scored a handy 126 in their 20 overs. The mainstay of the innings was Owain Boffey who played superbly well to score 51 runs. In return, Enfield Grammar started well and looked like they would chase the total with ease. This all changed when Dylan Gunasekera came onto bowl. He finished with figures of 3-24

from his allocated overs. This changed the game and meant that Enfield Grammar finished on 119.

ATHLETICS

Athletics training in Lanzarote – During the Easter holiday six staff and 44 students travelled to sunny Club La Santa in Lanzarote. The trip was used to improve the level of athletics at school by training on both field and track events. Students took part in daily training sessions in the morning and the evening, and during the day students had the opportunity to develop other sporting skills by playing golf, volleyball, tennis, basketball, football and many more. Students also went go-karting in which Miss Martin became the new Lewis Hamilton driving the quickest lap of all those involved!

The last day involved a pentathlon where each student competed in the 100m, high jump, long jump, shot put and 800m. Students were in teams and competed for points in each event, with Mrs Gamester's team being the eventual winners. The trip was a huge success with the recent after-school training sessions seeing more than 60 students attend.

Track and Field – The U16 girls made a fantastic start at the Track and Field Cup where they have to compete in one field event and one track event each. The girls did exceptionally well, leading at the halfway point. The girls finished third after all the events with exceptional performances by Roisin, Aimi, Erin (in her new event Hammer) and Maisie. We are hoping that the girls win the next round. Well done!

Both Junior Boys and Girls and the Inter Boys will be competing on 17th May. We wish you all the best.

County League – Both boys and girls team have started strong in the Hertfordshire County League. Both U16 Boys and Girls are leading in the league table with big performance in several rounds. The U14's are improving week by week, with the U14 girls scoring a massive 57 points in the last match. Pupils are relishing the competitive environment and are improving each competition.

SWIMMING

The London Regional Championships took place at the London Aquatics Centre over three days. Alice Bayley raced every day, in seven events, spending 28 hours poolside.

She got two significant personal bests and her first ever regional medals, in 50m breaststroke – Bronze (she is now ranked 14th in Britain) and 100m breaststroke – Silver. These times get her to the English Nationals with a strong chance of British for the 50m. What a fantastic achievement!

GOLF

We were delighted that some of our students took part in the Herts Mid Handicap Golf Tournament last week. All of our golfers played very well and all finished in the top half of a field of 60 players: Maisie O'Shea – 35 points (18th); Harry Dewberry – 33 points (29th), Brendan Brunton – 34 points (23rd) and Tom Ranger – 37 points (12th).

During the Easter holidays, we had around 20 students of different ages and abilities taking part in the Golf Scholarship Programme at Old Fold Manor. Boys and girls attended six coaching sessions with the club's professionals and had great fun taking part in games and lessons designed to give them an introduction into the sport. We would like to thank Old Fold Manor for their generosity and support.



If parents would like their children to try the programme, please contact Mr Meekin via admin@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk. He is in the process of trying to arrange a group for girls so would love to hear from any female students from Years 7-13!

CANOE POLO

Well done to Benedict Vincent (Year 9) for his achievements in playing canoe polo for the St Albans and Hertsmere Youth (U18) team. This year the team came first in the British Open Championships (both Youth and Third Division tournaments), third in the British National Championships (Youth Division) and were almost unbeaten in their Second Division (Southern) League (which includes university and adult teams). Benedict will be joining a UK U21 development squad.



The team trains in Potters Bar and is always looking for new members. They have a Facebook page for anyone interested in learning more. They also have free trial sessions throughout August for beginners.

NEWS FROM THE OSA

OSA COMMITTEE – Please note that the June committee meeting will be held on the second Monday of the month, 10th June, due to the Bank Holidays in May.

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 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.



Race Night – Following the pictures that appeared in the last newsletter, the OSA would like to congratulate the winners and thank all the match funders, horse owners and sponsors: Hammonds Opticians, J Day Stoneworks, Macaroni Italian Restaurant, She Studio, Phanyard, Old Owens Junior Cricket Club, Hadley Wood Golf Club, Serenity, Bright Space Design and Paul and Gina Zalkin.

Upcoming Events – Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for the **Fullers Brewery Tour** in Chiswick on Friday, 7th June.

Please also see a flyer for the **Summer Festival**, Saturday 6th July 4-8pm. Please email Kate: chair@thosa.org.uk if you are able to offer help in the following ways:

- display an estate agents board outside your house advertising the event
- supply prizes for the raffle, tombola or silent auction to be held on the day
- help out on the day either by setting up, running a stall or clearing up
- take a food or product stall
- bake cakes or supply other food
- play some live music

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.

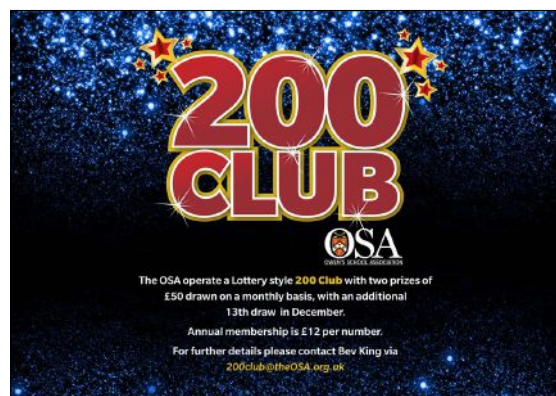
School Uniform – Good quality previously owned school uniform is available throughout the year by contacting Julia Clews. School uniform will be available to purchase at Parents' Evenings.

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.

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



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



Music and Drama 2019

Summer Term

Tuesday 11th June at 7.00pm

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
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Our new shop address!

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