



Dame Alice Owen's School

Newsletter March 2023



Letter from the Head

Hannah Nemko

The short half term does not mean that we are any less busy but rather we find ourselves moving at quite a pace to fit everything in.

After a busy half term break with students extending their learning in Granada, Berlin and through visiting Auschwitz Birkenau concentration camp in Krakow, we returned

to a magnificent set of Gym and Dance shows, the likes of which have not been seen since COVID. French and German language exchanges, theatre visits, Maths Fests, Careers week, sporting and musical competitions, concerts and a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition are just a few of the opportunities your young people were able to benefit from through school this half term. I hope you enjoy reading the details within this newsletter.

It is not just whilst in class that our students learn. The co-curricular opportunities, such as above, help our young people to explore leadership and teamwork, to be resilient problem solvers, to support each other, to be supported and to be successful; and we are delighted that the vast majority of our students grasp with both hands all that school has to offer them.

The Government target for school attendance is 95%. Thanks to our pupils and parents/carers, our figures are higher and most Owenians achieve **our** expectation of a minimum of 96% attendance.

Government research shows that pupils with **no absence** are **2.2 times more likely to achieve 5 or more GCSEs** or equivalent, at grades 9-5, including English and mathematics, than pupils missing 10-15% of KS4 sessions.

Punctuality, timekeeping and resilience are all life lessons which your



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS...

WHAT'S NEW IN OSA?

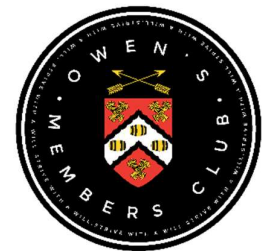
Learn on pages 3-6.

CAREERS MATTER

Read more on pages 7&8.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR LIFE

Details on pages 9-12.
And so much more! It's our school!



child will learn during their academic life – please support their learning by encouraging them to leave for school on time and arrive punctually to their lessons.

Absences for holidays will not be approved save for the exceptional circumstances.

In order to ensure our registers are accurate, **all absences through illness must be reported** by email to attendance@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk by 9am **on each day** your child is unwell and absent from school. Absences for medical appointments must also be emailed to Attendance in advance.

If your young person feels unwell at school, they are required to report to Matron who will assess their health and will contact the appropriate parent/carer/contact, if she feels there is a reason for them to go home. Students are not allowed to call home to request being sent home.

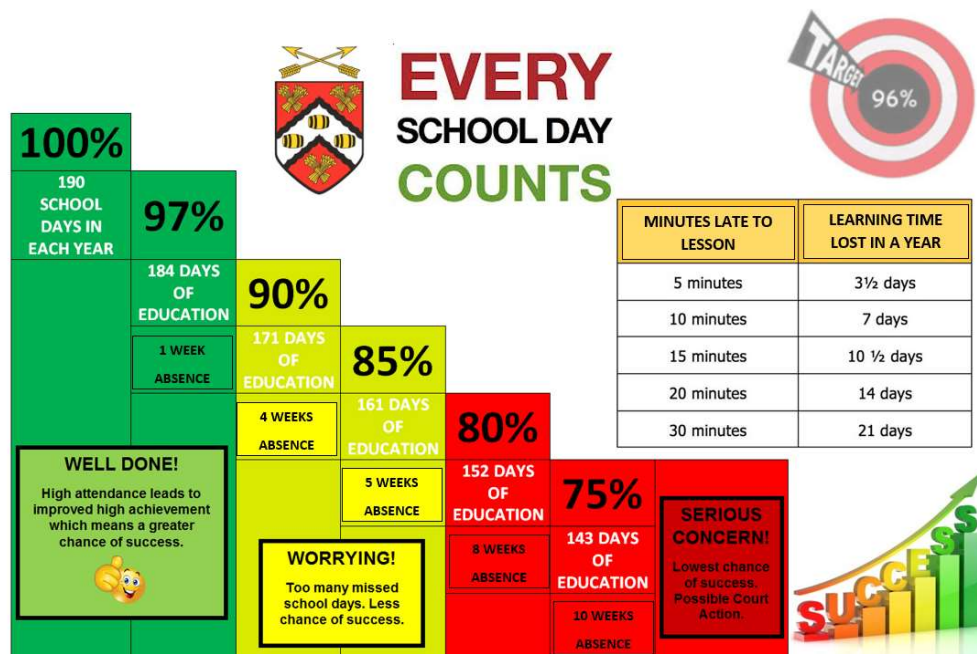
We appreciate that sometimes students are too unwell to come to school and we are all keen to avoid having germs that do not need to be spread around the community introduced to us at school! Working together, we hope to keep as many Owenians as possible happy, well and learning; and once again, we are grateful to all those in our school community who are supporting our students to reach their maximum potential.

Should you have any concerns about your child’s attendance or wellbeing, please contact your child’s Form Tutor in the first instance or your child’s Pastoral Director.

Wishing you all a restful break and a successful return to school on Monday, 17 April 2023.

Wishing you a good week ahead,

Hannah Nemko



The Owen's School Association is a committee of volunteer parents which supports Dame Alice Owen's School in many ways such as but not restricted to:

- Organising Fund Raising Activities and Events such as quizzes and Summer Fete to purchase much needed equipment;
- Providing refreshments at school plays, concerts and parents' evenings – over 40 events a year;
- Providing an opportunity for parents to meet and get involved with the school community;
- Providing an email notification service for OSA events and activities.

OSA Committee Meetings: Committee meetings are typically held on the first Monday of the month (term time), 7:30pm. Having stated that, the last 2 meetings were held on Wednesday 8th and Monday 27th March.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 24 April. We meet in a convivial and enthusiastic atmosphere looking for ways to support the school community.



On 8 March, the OSA also held our 49th AGM. Sadly, both Kate and Glenn, successful co-chairs of many years, have reached the end of their tenure. In good OSA spirit, we celebrated, to quote Mrs Nemko's words, 'their dedication and tenacity over the hardest few years. They have reinvented the OSA and ways of getting the most out of every penny donated.....to ensure the school reaps maximum benefit – whether that was through the auction during lockdown, the summer fete being re-imagined as a cool music festival or the changes made to uniform sales and the quizzes.'



At the committee meeting directly after the AGM, committee members were elected to the many posts and the committee were unanimous in their joy to elect long standing members Patricia and Mbalu and Simi to their new positions as Co-Chairs and Vice chair, respectively. We wish them all a smooth ride.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ✚ BINGO NIGHT, Saturday, 13th May, 7pm (see the flyer below for all the information and how to book tickets).
- ✚ OwenFest, Sunday, 2nd July, 2-5pm. Planning is already underway to make this summer OwenFest even more a success than last year.

What to expect from this OwenFest?

More STALLS! We would love to hear from anyone in the school community who would like a stall on the day. All suggestions welcome. These could be creative (arts and crafts), cakes and bakes, beauty, pampering, fashion, vintage, books, comics etc.

Estate Agent Boards. Auckland Estates will generously donate for every board placed outside

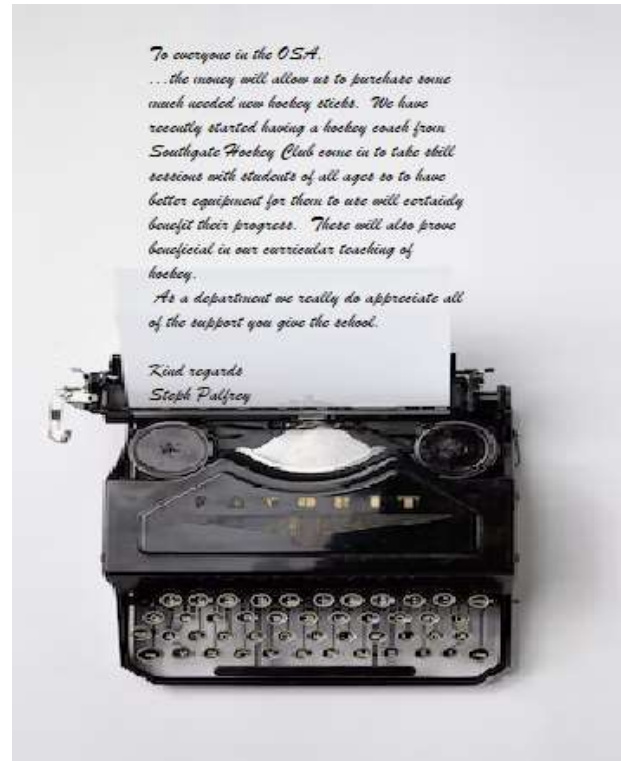
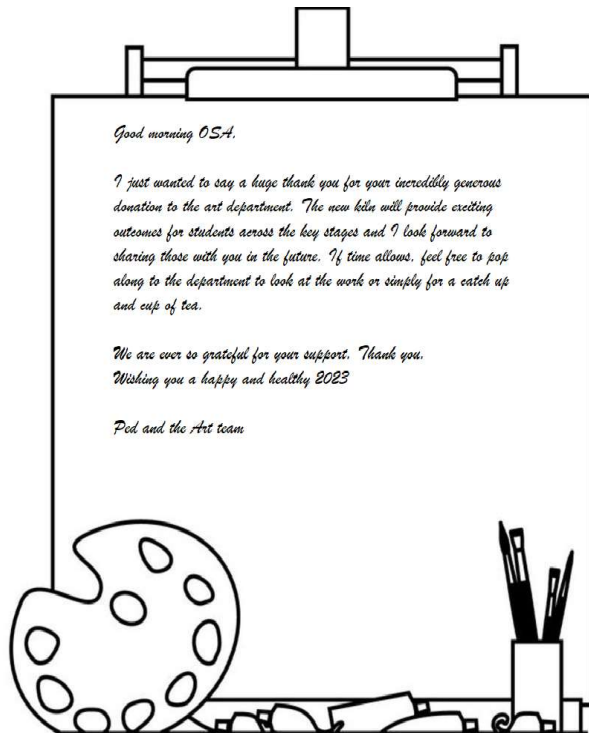
your home. Who is happy to have a board up? If you live in the following areas, please get in touch: EN5 & EN4 all sectors, Potters Bar, Northaw & Cuffley, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, Colney Heath, London Colney, Ridge, North Mymms and Welham Green.

Raffle & Auction. No matter how big or small, we would love to hear what you can donate. Any unused vouchers, unwanted gifts, the OSA will upcycle. Maybe you have a business that can donate a voucher or provide an experience, links to golf clubs that could donate a voucher or even have a holiday home. We could also arrange collection of items if needed.

If interested in any of the above, please email festival@theosa.org.uk.

A vertical poster for a Bingo Night event. The background is dark blue with a pattern of bingo cards. At the top, the OSA logo (Owen's School Association) is displayed. Below it, the word 'BINGO' is written in large, glowing blue letters, and 'NIGHT' is in large, glowing white letters. Underneath, it says 'GAMES / FUN / BAR / PRIZES' in pink. The date 'SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2023' and 'ENTRY £15' are in blue. A line of text in white says 'Includes snacks, pizza and sides plus 3 bingo cards' and 'Bring your own bingo dabber or buy one for £1'. Below that, 'PRIZE FOR FIRST TO FILL A LINE & PRIZE FOR FULL HOUSE' is written in pink. At the bottom, the venue 'Dame Alice Owen's School' and time '7PM FOR 7.30PM Start' are in white. A line of text in white says 'Purchase tickets via www.buytickets.at/theosa For queries email: events@theosa.org.uk'. The phrase 'COME ALONG, HAVE FUN AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS' is in blue. At the very bottom, 'ALL FUNDS RAISED SUPPORT DAME ALICE OWEN'S SCHOOL' is in pink.

In the February newsletter we reported that the OSA had handed a cheque for £32,000 to the school. Many departments have benefited from this and the OSA have received numerous letters of gratitude, below we are sharing just 2 of them. We, at OSA, truly appreciate that our activity allows the staff to do their work with more freedom and the students to enjoy a high quality of equipment, materials, resources etc. provided.



At OSA, we have twisted our newsletter editor's arm to include a fabulous picture of her.

The big red arrow is pointing at Olena (aka Helen) Mankovska. This arrow is needed as the other people in the picture may distract you. We publish this not to embarrass Olena but to remind ourselves and the children at Dame Alice that we are all living through history, and we may all be close to the action one day whether we choose to be or not.



OSA Website: www.theosa.org.uk – Remember to check the OSA website where you can find all the electronic addresses to which you can send your comments, suggestions and kind offers of help.

Easy Fund Raising: Shopping online via the Easy Fund Raising website is a great way to make money for the school without any extra cost (and time) to you. So far this has raised £16,130 for the school. Over 4,300 shops and sites will donate to Owens School Association for FREE when you use **easyfundraising** to shop with them.

These donations really help us and all you have to do is use **easyfundraising** when you're ordering the things you'll be buying anyway. See the link below:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/owensschoolassociation/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-c20

Match Funding: Are you an Owen's parent who works for a blue-chip or multinational company? You may actually be! Many companies offer a Match Funding scheme as a perk for employees who volunteer their time for charities like the Owen's School Association. We would love to hear from you! Please contact Keily or Simon at matchfunding@theosa.org.uk

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

Another successful online sale was held in mid-March. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard providing good value items and those that bought them.

The next Nearly New Uniform online sale will be open at Friday, 30th June, at 5pm and close on Friday, 7th July, at 5pm (items collection – Friday, 14th July, after school). If you would like to lend a hand in this endeavour in the future, please email to uniform@theosa.org.uk.

Refreshments: If you've been to any of the school events, you must have enjoyed refreshments in intervals and wondered who caters them. Well, it is with great pleasure that OSA can serve the school community in this humble way. We'd like to invite you to serve with us: pick any upcoming event and share your time and smile. It doesn't have to be much time, often it is as little as half an hour (of course, you may enjoy it so much that you'll ask to stay longer). Please email to refreshments@theosa.org.uk.

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

To keep up to date with all OSA events and fundraising schemes, **the OSA now has an Instagram account**. There we will post links to ticketed events and the online nearly new uniform shop.

Please use the link below to start following and sharing.

Owen's School Association - Dame Alice
Owen Parent Association
(@owensschoolassociation_dao) • Instagram
photos and videos

[instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com)



CAREERS TALKS

National Careers Week runs for the first week of March and this year, Dame Alice Owen's had the pleasure of welcoming back 12 alumni to address students.

Career Talks are an extremely valuable way for the students to hear real life experiences from people who have walked a similar path. They allow the students to not only learn about career options, but also to see the potential flexibility of careers and how it is possible to end up in a very different place to where you may have initially imagined. At this stage it is beneficial for them to know that the decisions they make now, whilst important, do not have to define their lives and careers.

This year we had talks from a plethora of industry including a VAT accountant, a vet, a project manager working in Human Rights, a headteacher, NHS digital manager, Head of London Symphony Orchestra Discovery, a surgeon, and a company stage manager for a theatre. A wonderfully eclectic mix of careers and a great pupil turnout to listen and learn.

Ms A Stein
Head of Careers





CAREERS FAIR: “Window to the Working World”

On 29th March, Owen's ran our annual Careers Fair for all students in Years 9 – 13. The school gym was filled with an exciting and diverse range of organisations, professionals and further and higher education providers. Our aim is that they learn about the rich and exciting range of career possibilities and pathways awaiting them in the future.

The Careers Fair began at 12.45pm with Year 11 visiting over lunchtime, followed by Years 9 and 10 during the course of afternoon lessons. The Sixth Form students were invited to visit at any time that suited them, either during lunch or a free period.

The range of participants provided something to interest all students. Companies represented included HSBC, UBS, AECOM, WSP, SKY and Amazon Prime. Sectors covered included childcare, beauty, sports, construction, healthcare, environment and horticulture and IT. Professions represented included vets, lawyers, engineers, dentists, architects, surveyors, police and the armed services.



Here are a few of the comments from exhibitors: “Polite and engaged students”; “thoughtful and sometimes even uncomfortable questions but always polite and interesting”; “lovely to work with all age groups discussing in more detail with 6th form whilst helping younger students to consider alternative career paths”.

I would like to thank all our exhibitors for their time and commitment and to all staff who helped in making this event happen.

Although it is a way off, if you would consider participating in the Careers Fair 2024, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email and we can keep you details on file. Abigail Stein - steina@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk



Eco Committee promotes fair fashion

The world uses an estimated 80 billion pieces of clothing every year, a 400% increase from two decades ago. This has a massive detriment to the environment as the fashion industry is one of the biggest polluters on the planet – on its own it produces about 10% of annual global carbon emissions. However, it's also one of the easiest for individuals to change. If the number of times an item of clothing is worn were doubled on average, greenhouse gas emissions would be 44% lower.

This is why the school's Eco Committee held the Owen's Fashion Fair on 17 March. This was in pursuit of their target – pupils buying no new clothes in March. When students donated an unwanted item of clothing, they received a token that they could exchange for other donated clothes. In all, almost 200 donations were made, of which almost all found new owners. The remaining will be given to charity shops.

Sasha R, a member of the Owen's Eco Committee, said of the fair, "It was really nice to see people from all the years, especially the younger ones, getting involved in the event. I think everyone was excited to be getting great new clothes but in a more sustainable way."

The extent to which buying new clothes harms the environment is often not realised in contrast to other actions: buying just one white cotton shirt produces the same amount of emissions as driving 35 miles in a car. It seems that people do want to reduce their impact – 75% of consumers believe that sustainability is important and one-third are willing to choose brands that promote environmental and social improvement. The fashion fair has helped the student body to keep their

wardrobes stocked and their consciences clear. The Eco Committee is grateful to all who donated! In the future, the Eco Committee hopes to give attention to supporting biodiversity, reducing waste around the school and to further its efforts in reducing the negative environmental impact of transport. Great help has been received from Ms Knight and Ms Chan, for which we are grateful to them.

If you wish to join us, come to Lab 14 on Wednesdays at 1pm! We would love to see you there :)

Hannah E, Y12



The Library Update

It has been lovely seeing the school library come back to life over the past few months. In addition to welcoming English classes for their regular library lessons, we have been delighted to host Year 7 History classes working on their Castles project, and Year 9s researching life in Nazi Germany. We were also very happy to host a visiting speaker on behalf of the Politics Department: Professor Phil Cowley from Queen Mary University of London came to give a very enjoyable talk to sixth formers about the parliament and politics.

The non-fiction section of the library is being very well used by sixth formers for private study, and students from all years have been visiting both the fiction and non-fiction sections at break and lunch to browse, borrow and return books, complete their homework and enjoy relaxing with a book! We are now open until 5.00 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and 4.30 p.m. on Fridays. So far 120 students have made use of the library after school this term.

We celebrated World Book Day at the start of March by distributing the World Book Day digital book tokens to all students in years 7-11 and by running a 'Best Books Ever' poster trail: 46 members of staff very kindly displayed posters featuring the best book they had ever read for students to spot around the school. The books nominated ranged from children's picture books to academic texts, and included some really great reads. We hope everyone was inspired by their choices – the posters are now on display in the library, along with many of the books themselves, which everyone is welcome to borrow!

The Book Club has been meeting regularly every Wednesday breaktime. This term, students have been enjoying test-reading some proof copies of brand new books, and collaborating to make a display collage of their favourite books. We have just taken delivery of the books that have been shortlisted for the 2023 Carnegie Medal for Writing, and all students are invited to join us for Carnegie Shadowing starting next term (see the Library Google Classroom for details).

Behind the scenes, the library staff have also been busy sorting, tidying and improving students' access to the library stock and ability to use the library independently. We now have a new quick-access catalogue computer at the fiction library desk, a detailed library Dewey subject index; and we are currently designing a new student guide to the library.

We have created book displays to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, British Science Week and Shakespeare Week, as well as to tie in with topical news stories such as the discovery of some new Terry Pratchett stories and some amazing archaeological finds in Egypt. We also enjoyed a visit to the Art Department last week to select some student artwork to be displayed in our space. We're very excited about seeing our choices installed in the library soon!

We are very grateful to our regular student volunteers for their help, both those volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award and others who love helping out in the library. We will be officially relaunching our Student Librarian scheme next term – watch out for details on the Library Google Classroom! We also welcome parent volunteers for as much or little time as they are able to give. Please contact the school office for more information.

*Dr Hazel James MA LIS
Librarian*

Our congratulations go to Amira E from Year 11.

At the end of February, Amira participated in the launch of the **Environmental Design Challenge** (EnviroDC) at Imperial College, London, as part of a small team who were awarded a Specialist Subcontractor Award. The other girls in the team were from Henrietta Barnett School.

The competition was organised by the Space Science Engineering & Environmental Foundation (SSEF) which aims to improve climate change resilience through sustainable development by using the best ideas from multidisciplinary STEM and business. A total of 78 students from across 6 London schools took part in the challenge.

The EnviroDC brief was to create a vision to regenerate Kroo Bay, Sierra Leone, in an environmentally responsible way that would benefit the local community and attract inward investment through tourism. The judging panel awarded subcontractors to create a joint-venture project for the large complex proposal.

Along with her team, Amira was awarded the *Specialist Subcontractor Award* for their Floating Eco-tourism Habitats involving residential huts floating on the surface of the bay. The team were congratulated on 3 main points: their use of the United Nation's sustainable development goals, their expandable green transport technologies and their idea to promote local festivals to boost their tourism.



Chess News

Chess has been going from strength to strength this term, with lots of students attending the lunchtime club on Wednesdays and Thursdays. In the Monday online national school chess league, our team have been performing consistently well, either finishing first or second most weeks. We are constantly battling with Tiffin School for that top spot!

More importantly though, we have been involved in the National Schools Chess Championships and managed to reach the semi-finals of the regional section. After beating St. Alban's School on board count (3-3), we were drawn against Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School. This thrilling encounter resulted in our we loss - 4 ½ to 1 ½ - and alas we were knocked out.

However, we do have one final opportunity in a Repechage Event taking place in May, to get us to the grand finals in Nottingham! Well done again to the team for their hard work and commitment.

In other exciting chess news, Rock Y (Y7), a member of the chess team, has been taking his chess adventures further, with a trip to Ireland to play for the England team in a tournament.

Rock performed exceptionally well getting 4 out of 5 points, but alas the team didn't do as well. Check him out performing at the event!

*Mr Simpson
Director of Chess*



I used to play chess with the dearest old chap,
Whom naught could upset whatever might
hap.
He'd oft lose a game he might well have won
But made no excuse for what he had done.
If a piece he o'erlooked and got it snapped up
He took it quite calmly and ne'er 'cut up rough'.

Henry Thomas Bland, 1930

Year 12 & 13 Landscape in Charcoal Workshop

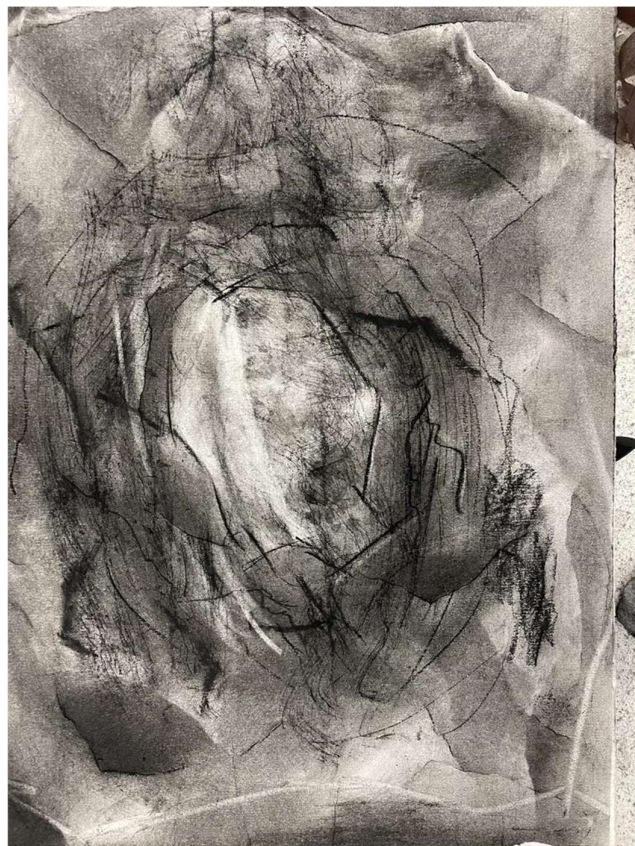
On Friday, 10th February, our class was lucky to participate in a workshop with the artist Sophie Coe. We focused predominantly on the medium of charcoal and the multitude of creative and inventive ways in which it can be used: Sophie guided us through the application of various techniques and demonstrated how they had enhanced her own work.

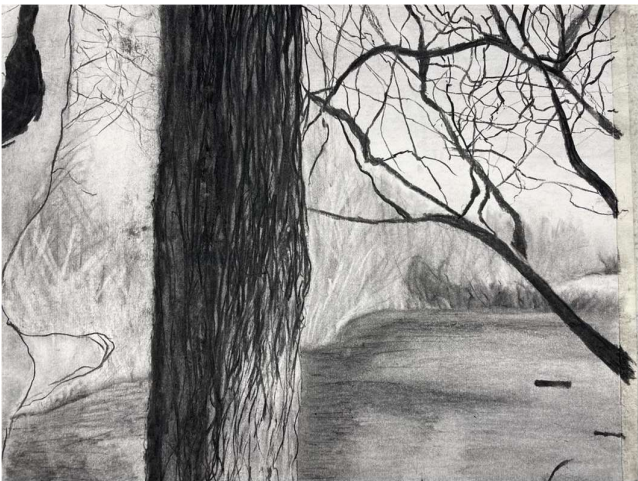
During the workshop, a really relaxed atmosphere was sustained as Sophie urged us to be experimental and loose. I personally was encouraged to take risks and combine the new methods I had learnt in a way I would never have considered previously. It was equally inspiring to see my classmates trying out different approaches and demonstrating the newly discovered and growing enthusiasm for the medium.

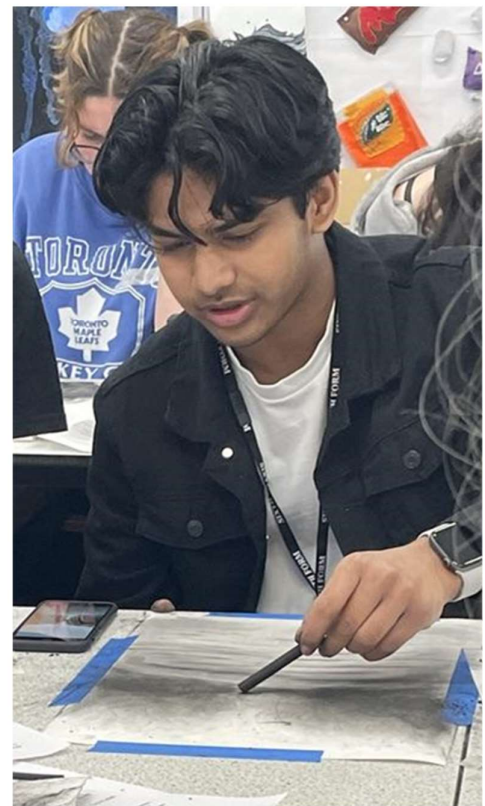
When the time came later for us to take our own photographs to work from, choosing a composition that would best suit a charcoal landscape, we all got excited to utilise what we had learnt to create a more refined piece.

All in all, I was very proud of my finished outcome and incredibly grateful to Sophie for having created this environment conducive for growing my confidence in working with charcoal as well as for promoting relaxed experimentation and creativity with various media in general. Going forward, I will strive to find opportunities to be bold with my artwork.

Hannah D, Y13







F1 in Schools Team Inferno Win Judges Choice Award

Congratulations to Year 9 students Ben L, Leo T, Rudraksh Sh, Jaik P, Hari D and Freddie K on winning the *Judges Choice Award* at the recent F1 in Schools regional finals competition at Harlow College. The competition involved the design and manufacture of a model F1 car as per a detailed list of design requirements.

During the competition, the cars, propelled by compressed air capsules, were raced along a 20-metre track to determine the winning car and the quickest individual response times. Teams were also assessed in other categories, including their design portfolios, pit displays, verbal presentations and sponsorship funding.

Team Inferno demonstrated an impressive performance on the day, achieving fourth place out of twelve teams and narrowly missing out on a place at the national final competition.

Mr Stensel
DT Teacher

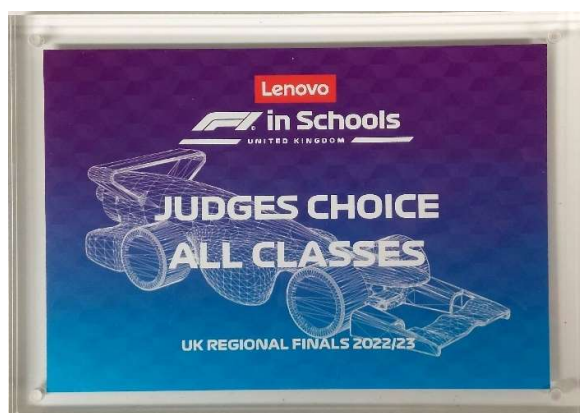
A Reflection on the F1 in Schools Competition

As soon as Mr Stensel informed us of this competition, I was in from the very beginning. I quickly put together a team of five others who were also enthusiastic in that area. These people were already friends and people I knew so that made the cooperation and teamwork part of the competition a lot easier.

After I got my team together, we started to divide up the roles and think about what we had to create and present to the judges on the day. The team roles were mainly split in two. The first half was responsible for designing, building, manufacturing and painting our car that we would race against other teams. And the other half of the team was responsible for creating and developing the portfolios, verbal presentation and the overall brand design.

We then spent the next five months modelling, developing, machining and painting our car, as well as finalising our portfolios and practising our verbal presentation.

When the day of the competition finally came, we were all super excited but also nervous about what the judges would think of our work. When we arrived, we were directed to a large workshop area which had everything from CNC machines to industrial sized 3D printers. It really was amazing. We then proceeded to set up our pit display, which is where we showed other teams our brand and car. Then we looked around at the other team's pit displays. There was definitely a very healthy competition! There were many competing schools at the competition, with some schools having entered multiple teams!



We didn't have much time to look around because some of the races had already begun, and many people crowded around to watch. The cars were definitely faster than I had originally thought! We couldn't watch for long though because the judges came by a few minutes later to take our first portfolio along with them for judging. They then came back with our portfolio and to judge our pit display, which we had put a lot of time and effort into, and they definitely seemed to like it. Next, we went along to the designated area where our second portfolio would be judged. This one was about the car and how we made it. The difference when judging this portfolio was that we had to sit down with the judges and explain it to them. They asked us some very complicated questions but thankfully we knew the answers to most of them.

Finally, just after lunch it was time to race our car. I was selected to press the launch button because my reaction times were the fastest. I got very nervous, but our car still performed very well and came 6th overall. There was no time to celebrate though, because the final judging session had arrived. We went into a room separated from the main hall and presented our verbal presentation to two judges. The presentation went very smoothly, and we were out after only 6 minutes. All teams were then told to pack up their stuff and put it in their minibuses because the prize giving was about to begin.

There were many awards up for grabs including: best portfolios, best manufactured car, and many other excellences in certain areas. But the most coveted awards were those that meant you would advance to the next round of the competition.... The national finals. Although unfortunately we did not win one of these, we were only one place off; coming in a close fourth position. But thankfully, we won the judges choice award which was also one of their main prizes. I think this award is meant to signify the best all round team and how our brand's appearance was very good.

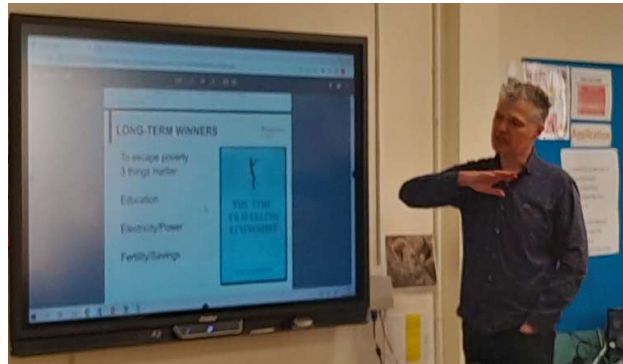
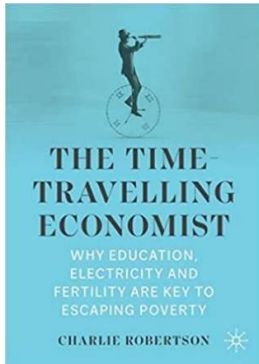
Overall, the day and the entire competition was very fun and interesting. I learned many new things over the competition about aerodynamics and how to manage a team across a large project. It is certainly an experience I will never forget. I must also give a huge thank you to Mr Stensel because without his expertise in the machines we had to use, we would no way have been able to complete the project on time.

By Leo T, Year 9



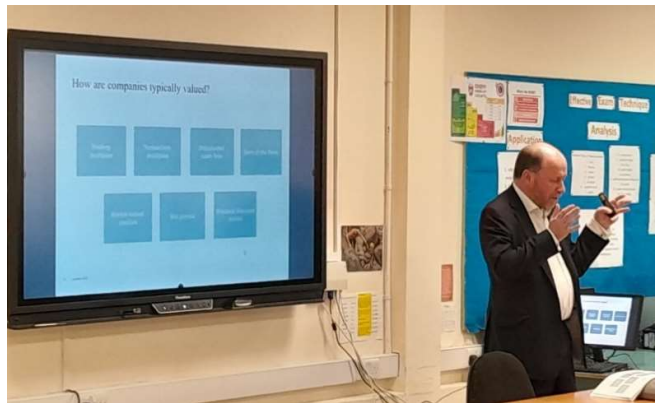
ECONOMICS NEWS

We have been lucky enough to host two speakers this term that have enriched the economics curriculum at Owen's. The first speaker was Charlie Robertson who is known as The Time Travelling Economist and you can follow him on Twitter @TTTEconomist. Charlie is an expert on development economics and came in to speak about his book that focuses on the three main issues



that he thinks (given the data) hold back growth – education, fertility and electricity. It was a fascinating talk and at the end of it, students asked some excellent questions about the topic.

The second speaker was Mr Rudd who spoke about life in the city as an economist. Working for Investec, he went through how financial markets worked, the sort of jobs that are available in the city, how shares are valued and the skill set required to make it in the city. Once again, students asked very good questions at the end and took much from the experience.



Some of our students were also lucky enough to attend a talk by Ha-Joon Chang organised by the Economic Research Council, where he was talking about his new book 'Edible Economics'. It is a fascinating read, as are his other books, '23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism', 'Economics: A User's Guide' and 'Bad Samaritans'.



In the drinks beforehand, we were lucky enough to chat to the great man himself and, afterwards, he was happy to sign copies of the books that our students took with them. Henry R also asked a great question at the event... and to be fair to Henry, he always asks great questions!

In other student news, it was fantastic to hear that some of our students went to the Wilberforce Society Conference. The Wilberforce Society is a student-led think-tank at the University of Cambridge and this opportunity was open to all schools.



Here is an account of the day by Archie Ph, who went the conference together with Ari D (photo by Chloe H):

“At 9.30 we turned up and were led to the celebrated Maynard Keynes Hall, where speakers like Stephen Fry had given talks. We listened to a political science and economics PhD student talk about policy making, inflation and governance in a time of conference, all themes concordant with this year’s conference theme ‘Weathering the Perfect Storm.’

We then split into small focus groups. There were three themes you could choose from to discuss. I chose ‘Current inflation and the cost of living’ and Ari’s group was ‘Britain: A Science Superpower?’. After the group discussions and lunch, three panels of experts spoke on the aforementioned issues plus one on devolution. Among the experts on the panels were Lord Wilson of Dinton, advisor to Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher, the Mayor of Cambridge and Vice President of Medicine at Cambridge.”

As some of you will know, I record a podcast on Economics with an old colleague from DAOS called Mr Clift. In the most recent Pod Bible Awards (<https://podbiblemag.com/pod-bible-poll-winners-2022-winners-announced/>), we came 3rd in the independent podcast category.

I’d like to thank all those students who voted for the podcast and if you would like to check it out, then you can on any podcast streaming platform. It’s called ‘Economics In Ten’ but be aware, it’s not ten minutes!!! <https://open.spotify.com/show/44pI1bcAKbrA2fLZpwJF4X>

*Mr Simpson
Head of Economics*

Maths Challenge Results

Earlier this term 200 pupils from years 9, 10 and 11 sat the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge resulting in 35 Gold medals, 65 Silver medals and 54 Bronze Medals.

We had 33 students invited to sit the follow on rounds this year; congratulations to them all. Special congratulations go to Vanshika (Y9), Zackaryaa (Y10) and Matei (Y11), who achieved best in year, with Matei also achieving Best in School and being invited to sit the Maclaurin Olympiad.

The following students were invited to sit the follow up rounds which took place this month:

Grey Kangaroo:

Maya A, Max B, Hayden C, Andreas E, Andrew F, Ada H, Imethma K, Ruofu L, Akshay M, Vishnu P, Hannah S, Rian S, Kian T, Vanshika T and Nuen W.

Special congratulations go to Andreas, Andrew, Ada, Akshay, Vanshika, Hannah and Kian who achieved a merit.

Pink Kangaroo:

Jack F, Zackaryaa I, Sally J, Melissa K, Anisa M, Dhruv M, Ourania N, Jonah R, Yitong Y, Sophie C, Amira E, Stephen G, Elizabeth H, Vincent L, Alex L, Leo N, Amelia R.

Special congratulations go to Leo, Amelia, Jack, Stephen and Jonah who achieved a merit.

We eagerly await Matei's result from the Olympiad.

Susan Hughes
Maths Teacher

On Wednesday, 8th March, the Year 7 maths team – William H, Anaya P, Kayne S, and TaoHai Kh – participated in the Year 7 Mathematics Challenge Regional Finals, a qualifier to the National Finals.

The challenge consisted of 2 general maths rounds, a memory round and an estimation round, in which they managed to get full marks in both general maths rounds! Overall, they came second, just only 1 mark shy of 1st place! The team did extremely well, and DAOS continues through to the National Final.

By TaoHai Kh, Year 7



On 13th March, four Year 10 students Izzy, Jack, Jonah and Zackaryaa took part in the Maths Feast at Barnwell Upper School in Stevenage. The event was organised and run by Val Pritchard of the AMSP (Advanced Mathematics Support Programme) with the aim to provide fun and educational challenges, testing mathematical ability, problem-solving skills, task delegation and teamwork skills.

There were four rounds requiring different skills and strategies for success. The event lasted for just over three hours, with a break between rounds 2 and 3.

The Owen's team did brilliantly and came 2nd out of 20 schools, narrowly missing out by 1 point! Besides, the Owen's team finished in the top 5 schools for all of the rounds!

Congratulations to the team and a huge thank you to Mrs Bond for all the support.

Visit from the Onatti Theatre: French play for Years 7 and 8 "Parlez-vous français?"

This term our Years 7 and 8 French students enjoyed a theatrical production in French and in English, or as we say "en Franglais", aimed at beginner learners.

After the success and excellent feedback from Years 9 and 10 last term, Mrs Conte arranged for the Onatti Theatre company to return to DAOS to inspire our youngsters to learn French outside the classroom in a fun and interactive environment. Our francophone students were encouraged to take an active part in the play and, as is the tradition with the Onatti Theatre, to join the cast on stage! Ummar D from 8stParis courageously seized this opportunity and became the star of the show! Bravo Ummar!

We'd like to thank Mrs Conte for organising this valuable experience for our students.

*Mrs A-S Paine
Head of French*

The story:

On the school skiing trip to France, if one of the children was going to have an accident it would be Archie. Yes, sure enough, on day one, his fooling around has ended him in hospital. Then, when his teacher is called away to deal with another emergency, Archie is left alone in the hospital where nobody speaks English.

Watch as Archie tries to get by with his basic French with hilarious consequences!

Student review:

"Where to begin?! The play was hilarious and made cleverly! I felt relieved and amazed that the script was created so that I could understand the storyline; you feel a sense of satisfaction knowing that you can understand a play in a different language!

Don't get me started on the actors – they were absolutely incredible! They frequently asked questions to the audience to keep us engaged and you can tell that they put a lot of time and effort preparing something so outstanding! In addition, they were also very professional, for example, when the crowd got too loud. Overall, it was clever, funny, easy to follow and something I feel grateful I got the opportunity to experience. C'était vraiment super!"

Agapi M, 8ST Paris



Berlin Trip

During February half term, 30 GCSE and A Level German students had the opportunity to visit Berlin on a 4-day study trip. In a jam-packed week of activities, visiting everything from historical sites to science museums, we had a great time, learning so much about Berlin's changing faces over its still very recent history.

A few memorable moments included visiting the Brandenburg Gate, having a walking tour of the city and visiting the Reichstag building. Everyone enjoyed immersing themselves in the cultural aspects of Berlin, like shopping in a German supermarket and seeing the *Ampelmänner* (showing us whether we were on the former East or West side of Berlin just by the men on the traffic lights!). A special highlight was visiting the Futurium and the Deutsches Technikmuseum, which helped us to see the possibilities of the future. The Kulturbrauerei museum allowed us to get a glimpse into the East German daily life and culture in the 1950s-80s.

Our hotel was very close to the East Side Gallery, opened in 1990, meaning that we were able to see the artwork on the longest surviving part of the Berlin Wall, which has now become a symbol of peace and unity in the city. We all enjoyed the continental breakfasts in the hotel and spending time with each other throughout the trip.

One aspect of the city that particularly struck us was the way in which it had been rebuilt after both the Second World War and the era of German division. Berlin refuses to hide the marks of its multi-faceted past, making it a memorial to all of these various eras (such as through the WW2 bullet holes that remain in the pillars of the *Altes Museum*). The *Berliner Schloss* (Berlin Palace), for example, was damaged during the bombings of World War Two and subsequently demolished by the East German Communist authorities, only to be rebuilt from 2013 to 2020. In order to preserve the building's history, fragments of sculpture from the original *Schloss* have been re-incorporated into the new construction, creating intriguing patchwork sections of stonework.

Other highlights of our walking tour of the Museum Island included taking in Berlin's elaborate cathedral, and seeing contrasting architectural styles from very different eras side by side. The former Reich Bank, for example, constructed while the Nazis were in power and featuring a cold, monotonous facade, now stands next to the modern, glass-dominated building that houses Germany's Federal Foreign Office.

We would like to thank Ms Möller, Mr Robinson and Mrs Friel for all their hard work in ensuring the smooth running of such a memorable trip.

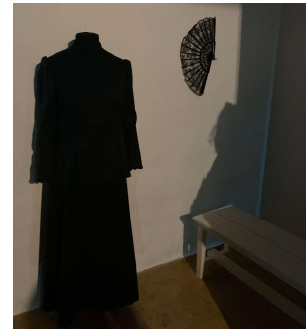
By Jess B and Molly H, Year 12



Year 13 Spanish Trip to Granada, Andalucía

In February, Year 13 students studying A-Level Spanish went on a study trip to Granada. We were given a fantastic opportunity to enhance both our linguistic skills and knowledge of Spain's rich culture, and there were many benefits in relation to the A-Level course as we were able to develop contextual background for the cultural component of the subject.

Our visit to Federico García Lorca's house and the home of the Alba family provided an amazing background for our study of our set text 'La Casa de Bernarda Alba', offering a compelling insight into what life was like in Andalucía during the early 20th Century.



A collective highlight was visiting one of the most famous sites of Islamic architecture: La Alhambra. Its beauty was fascinating: we witnessed remarkable architecture and decoration, and an impressive array of gardens, fountains, and courtyards. All these phenomenal aspects make it an exceptional expression of Moorish and Andalusian culture.



We also had a tour of El Albaicín, the old Moorish quarter of Granada. It has a beautiful location, on a hill facing the Alhambra, and the views were stunning (providing us with amazing photo opportunities!). In 1984 it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and it perfectly captures the Islamic influence in the city.

The facts we learnt from our expert tour guide (one of the teachers from the Spanish school we had lessons in) gave us a detailed understanding of Spain's history, adding depth to our A-Level studies.



There were many opportunities to explore the rich and varied gastronomy of Spain. Some of the most noteworthy dishes included the widely recognised paella, indulgent churros, and some delicious ice cream, courtesy of Miss Brunner and Mr Tanner – ¡muchas gracias!



We would like to thank Miss Brunner and Mr Tanner for leading such an amazing trip, and a special thank you to Ms Pueyo, whose hard work and dedication, put into the organisation of the trip, gave us the best experience possible.

We highly recommend GCSE and A-Level Spanish to anyone thinking of taking the subject!

By Annalisa Ch and Edie G, Year 13

A Level Cambridge Course

I'm currently a Year 12 student in the school studying German, Spanish and History A Levels and so far I'm absolutely loving it! I'm always keen to find opportunities with links to my A Levels to put on my personal statement and when I found this course, I knew I had to apply. I found it on my Unifrog recommended page so I would definitely recommend looking at it now and again as I was someone who typically ignored these notifications! I'm also keen to study German and Spanish at university so this course seemed like a perfect option for me. The course was being offered in early February at Trinity College at Cambridge University aimed at Year 12 students keen on MFL, Classics or History across the country with the course lasting from late February to early April. My application was successful as well as around 70 other students across the country sharing the same interest for language as I have with our first webinar on February 28th.

Our first webinar started with introductions to the team running the course as well as an introduction to Trinity College and their degree offers. Though we were all behind screens, the team

were thorough with their information and approachable to information with their Q&A feature on the webinar. Soon after a detailed presentation on the college itself, we started the sample lecture. The first week focused on classics, specifically ancient Rome and its emperors. Dr Lea Niccolai, assistant professor in classics at Trinity College, led a fascinating lecture on Emperor Julian and his speeches with figurative meanings. Our general perception on speeches by emperors is to think they're filled with oppressive language to belittle the power of the people and to build up the power of the emperor yet in Emperor Julian's *Misopogon* (meaning Beard Hater), Julian constantly picks at his appearance and power. Literally, the speech sounds like the emperor is belittling himself through criticisms yet in turn was actually implying his power but we have to read between the lines' to see this.

Our second webinar started with university life but also life in Cambridge as a city too. The information had an underlying theme to balance time between work, sleep and leisure time, something very important they promote at Trinity College and Cambridge University. We also had the opportunity to have a Q&A session with current students at Trinity College and gain a perspective to all aspects they promote whether they be work or leisure opportunities. They had students from Classics, Slavic language and Romantic language backgrounds so many questions could be answered thoroughly and there was no room left for doubt about certain degrees at this point.

We then moved onto the lecture run by Daniel Sutton, research fellow at Peterhouse, who ran another fascinating lecture on Jugurthine Silence. The lecture focused on a book called Salust's *The War Against Jugurtha* and the key focus within the book was how though words can be filled with power, silence can provoke the same or even more amount of power. We were challenged with questions on how power can be conveyed through silence and to help us, we were shown a clip from *The Mandalorian* to see how Boba Fett had power over those he was confronted with. At first I thought it was ironic we were looking at this topic as the course is about power and language but once I heard the lecture, I knew exactly why it was included as part of the course!

Our third webinar started with a presentation on personal statements and specifically what Cambridge were looking for in a personal statement for a successful application. Again, there were opportunities to ask questions in regards to the personal statements yet there weren't many questions as yet again they made things very clear! Our lecture, and possibly my favourite, was run by Dr Carlos Fonseca, Assistant Professor in Postcolonial Latin American Literature and Culture at Trinity College. The lecture was about Wifredo Lam, famous Cuban artist whose goal was to portray his afro-cuban heritage through his art. We were given a detailed biography into his journey from Cuba to Spain to France to Martinique and back to Cuba and how this influenced his artwork but also how individuals affected his artwork, such as Picasso. This lecture was inevitably different to the two before it, not just because the first lectures were classics and this a modern foreign language lecture but we were shown a new medium to demonstrate power.

Lam created profound works with many socio-political messages dedicated to his heritage and power was demonstrated in this way. We were also given the opportunity to ask questions to Dr Carlos Fonseca ourselves. I asked *How come there's little to no Asian influence in Lam's painting although he has Chinese heritage from his father?* and *Do you think it was more important to Lam to explore his heritage in his works or send a socio-political message?* Both questions were asked with an in-depth and personal opinion of someone who had studied Lam's work for years and was therefore very pleased to gain further information on a topic I had fully enjoyed covering.

At this point in time, I am still due to receive a lecture from Professor Emma Widdis, Professor in Russian and Film Studies at Trinity College, about a Slavonic section of the course and much like the three previous lectures, I'm certain to enjoy this one too!

So far I've absolutely loved being part of this course and feel privileged to hear from some of the best people in their field. I would absolutely recommend this course for anyone interested in taking MFL, Classics or History further and have loved my experience of the 'Power, Culture and Language' course.

Mollie G, Year 12

Spring Term Co-curricular Music Events

Another busy half-term of performances for Owen's musicians saw them putting on three large ensemble concerts, two chamber concerts as well as taking part in the South east Schools Chamber Music Competition.

We contemplated the historic prospect of the upcoming Coronation in our concert on 9 March, ***Coronations and Beyond***, featuring music composed for previous coronations, culminating in Hubert Parry's *I Was Glad*. For this item the stage was filled with well over 100 musicians as the Senior Choir, Senior Chamber Choir and Junior Chamber Choir joined forces with the Symphony Orchestra for our joyous grand finale.

This concert also featured the Close Harmony Group and the Chamber Orchestra.



The concerts on 9 March and 13 March (***Mendelssohn and More***) also shone a bit of a light on our Y13 musicians, thanking them for their role at the heart of Owen's musical community over the past six and a half years, with repertoire carefully selected to showcase the range of their music-making, featuring more performances from the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, as well as by the Senior Strings, Senior Brass and Concert Band.

The ***Spring Concert***, aptly on 21 March, on the other hand, gave centre stage to an array of our younger performers. We were delighted by an evening of exciting, impressive and entertaining performances from the Junior Ensemble, the Junior Percussion Ensemble, the Junior Chamber Strings, the Junior Chamber Choir, the Junior Choir, the Second Band and the Second Orchestra.



Owen's musicians took to the stage in a slightly different way, often without a teacher director, in the two Owen's Chamber Concerts on 21 February and 30 March, thrilling us with the range and variety of music-making in these (often) smaller groups, from string quartets, to Guitar Ensemble, to Jazz Collective, to name but a few!

We would like to thank all the inspirational directors for all their hard work:

Ms Bamber, Mr Bean, Mrs Brady, Mr Crossley, Mr Hunt, Miss Jones, Mr Kelly, Ms Makepeace-Lott, Ms McChrystal, Mr Niesyto, Miss Redshaw, Mr Salter, Mr Widden, and our teacher fantastic choir accompanists, Miss Gill, Mr Muir and Mr Thompson. We would also like to thank the Tech Crew for making us look good too!

Most of all we would like to congratulate and thank our wonderful musicians for their passion, commitment and inspiration in all the rehearsals and performances in another busy term!







The South East Schools' Chamber Music Competition

On Sunday, 26 February, three Owen's chamber ensembles, a Y10 Quartet, the Senior Horn Quintet and the Senior Octet made their way to Harrow school to take part in the first round of the South East Schools' Chamber Music Competition. Following their performances, they each received a probing and thought-provoking coaching session from professional chamber musician, Michael Dussek.

We were delighted when we learned that all three groups had been selected to perform in the **finals concert** at the prestigious Central London venue, **St George's Church, Hanover Square**. All three groups performed quite beautifully alongside chamber groups made up of some of North London's (and beyond) finest young players. We were especially thrilled when, at the end of the evening, the **Year 10 Quartet**, were announced as the overall **winners of the Intermediate Category**.

Thank-you to Ms Bamber and Mr Widden for their help with events, and enormous congratulations to all our participating musicians!





On 26th January, a group of Year 13 students took part in the UK Chemistry Olympiad held by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

This is a nationwide competition in which participants were asked questions, each with many multi-step problems. It involved applying knowledge from the A-level Chemistry syllabus to unfamiliar contexts. For example, one of the questions was about the formation of cheese! The event was another step in preparing the students for their A-level exams as well as chemistry courses they may be doing in university and beyond.

Well done to all those who took part!

GOLD certificates – Andrew L, Anish S, Isaac S, Lucia A, Zak A

SILVER certificates – Calvin C, Kishan D, Natasha B, Tom T

BRONZE certificates – Shaan S, Yusuf S

By Zak A, Year 13

Football

Boys Year 7

The Year 7 Football team's journey has been a rollercoaster; in our first season as a team there have been mixed results but some memorable moments. There was the unforgettable first win, a 2-0 victory against Queens School in which James and Dylan scored important goals, our resounding 9-0 win over Townsend where Chris scored 4 goals, 3 of which outside of the box and of course the first goal we scored as a team, which was scored by Xavier.

I would also like to give a mention to our goalkeeper, Max, who has made countless saves throughout the season and has always been a key element to the team. All of it came as a result of the whole team's resilience to bounce back from seemingly endless defeats and keep working hard to improve as a team. Even though we didn't win many games, as the season progressed, we improved a lot. There were many performances in which, although we didn't get a result, we deserved better and the synergy between the players was amazing. Although there may be some new faces next season if I am among them then I look forward to further building upon the promising start from the team. A huge thanks to Mr Cotton from the whole team for your leadership and guidance throughout the season.

By Charlie W

Boys Year 8

The boys have continued to improve in their Saturday morning friendly matches, with notable draws against Richard Hale and Roundwood Park school. The boys have shown improvement in both performance and togetherness this year and should look to continue this improvement into Year 9.

Boys Year 9

The team made great progress in the national, county and district cup this year. Last half term, they lost on penalties in the last 16 of the National Cup and lost in the quarter finals of the county cup so attention was on district cup success this year. In a narrowly contested final vs Yavneh, the Year 9 team came out on top to retain the district cup. The boys should be very proud of their achievements this year and should look to take this momentum with them into next season.



Boys Year 10

The boys have continued to play well in their Saturday friendly matches with some wins and one loss. In the semi-final of the district cup the boys played against Yavneh, where they lost 3-1 on the night. The conditions were horrible with a very strong wind which affected the game massively, the scorer of our goal was Alfie from the penalty spot. Hopefully the boys can have another good season next year and a few of the boys get involved in the 1st XI squad.

Boys Year 11

The team started off this term with a great 4-1 semi-final win against a strong monks walk side to progress into the district final. In the Final, they played Onslow St Audrey where they lost 1-0 in the last five minutes of the game. The match was very tight with the boys hitting the woodwork several times but couldn't find the breakthrough. We hope to see some of these boys involved in our 1st XI next season.

First XI

To kick off the season, the team played against Old Owens FC in the annual Ian Breeze Cup, where we unfortunately suffered a 7-3 defeat against a quality Old Owens side. Mr. Cotton the 1st XI manager, and the rest of the team looked forward onto the first round of the county cup against Ashlyns School. In this game we went 2-0 up after a very strong first half display; however, Ashlyns managed to come back to win the game, knocking us out of the county cup.

After a rough first two games of the season we kept our spirits high and trained well, helping us win two games on the bounce, with one of the games being a solid 2-0 win against Westminster School in the National Cup. However, the next round left the team in disappointment after a frustrating 4-1 loss against Verulam School in the second round of the National Cup. With that result behind us, we then went on to win the remaining 8 games of the season, with 5 of those games being in the District League. One of those games included a convincing 3-0 win against Chancellor's School, as Mr. Cotton put out an organised side to counter the quality Chancellor's had. Being unbeaten in the District League led to the team playing in the final of the competition against Onslow St. Audrey's School. Before the game we warmed up well, our manager gave us some instructions as well as some motivational words to allow us to be ready for our final game of the season.

We started the game off really well creating tonnes of chances, but unfortunately not finding the finishing touch to turn those chances into goals. However, later on this the first half my centre back partner Conor got the ball and initiated an attack for team by driving down the centre of the pitch to then play a perfectly weighted through ball to right winger Jacob, who then fizzed the ball across to Amaan who managed put the ball in the back of the net putting the team 1-0 before the break. Two brilliant goals by Exalted in the second half capped a brilliant team display, allowing us to lift the District Cup.

This season was brilliant, with many ups and downs. Despite that the boys displayed amazing character to keep going strong through the season, and I can't be any prouder of the team.

By Mwita M, 1st XI captain



Girls Under 14

The under 14s played The Royal Masonic School in the quarter finals of the County Cup Competition. After a very nervy first half, they ran out 3-0 winners with 2 goals from captain Ellie and 1 goal from Lucy. Ellie and goalkeeper Amelia were players of the match. Afterwards they faced Presdales School in the semi-final. After going 1-0 down the team were back on level terms by the break with the goal coming from Ellie. The second half was very even but a last minute strike from Ellie handed them the victory and a place in the final where they will face St Clement Danes School after the Easter break. Iyla and Freya were selected as players of the game for the semi-final.



In the quarter finals of the English Schools' PlayStation Schools' Cup the under 14 squad travelled to Bristol and played against an extremely strong Bristol Free School who had an England player in their ranks. Despite going 2-0 down to 2 early goals they pulled it back to 2-1 courtesy of a goal from Ellie. At the half time interval, it was 4-1 but the girls really picked up their performance in the second half and the game ended 5-1. Freya was voted player of the game.

The team should be very proud of their achievements in this competition.



Girls Under 18

The under 18s faced Sir John Lawes in the semi-final of the County Cup competition. In a very close game that could have gone either way they narrowly lost 5-3. Player of the match and captain Maya scored a hattrick.

Hockey

Girls Under 12

The U12A team faced Sandringham School in a friendly game. A hattrick from player of the match Adaugo gave the girls a 3-1 victory.



Girls Under 13

In the County Cup competition, the A and B sides faced Queenswood School. Both games were very close. The A team were defeated 1-0, with Ava voted as player of the match and the B team lost 2-1 with goal scorer Adaugo selected as player of the game.

Both teams played in a tournament at Queenswood School. The A Team drew 0-0 with Parmiter's School, lost 4-1 to The Royal Masonic School A team with Emer scoring the goal, lost 2-0 to Queenswood A and defeated Heath Mount 1-0 thanks to a goal from Evie. Player of the day for the A side was Ava. The B team lost 1-0 to The Royal Masonic School B side and 1-0 also to Queenswood B. Player of the day for the B squad was Catriona.

In preparation for next season when they play 11-a-side rather than 7-a-side the under 13s finished their season with an 11-a-side friendly against Sandringham School. The girls played superbly and ran out 3-2 winners' courtesy of goals from Emily, Freya and Riya and a player of the match performance from Hannah.



Girls Under 14

The girls have had a successful season, coming runners up at the County round of the National Schools Tournament and qualifying them for the East region tournament in Redbridge. They came a very respectable 5th in the region. In the County League Cup, the girls narrowly missed out on a silver medal on goal difference, finishing 3rd. Congratulations to all the girls. Looking forward to continued success next year.

Girls Under 15

The U15s have improved throughout the season and won their final three matches. A very strong performance in the County League Cup, resulted in qualifying for the County League Cup Finals. This will be played in a round robin format against Queenswood, RMS and Parmiters. The original final was cancelled due to snow. It is hoped that this will take place after the Easter holidays.



1st XI

The girls had a successful season qualifying for the County League finals, beating RMS in the semi-finals. Despite a hard fought game, they lost in the final to Queenwood, nevertheless securing the silver medal.

Rugby

Year 10

The boys played against Freman College in the quarter final of the county cup where they lost narrowly 24- 19 through a try in the final few minutes of the game. The boys worked very hard and demonstrated some great rugby at times, scoring 3 team tries.



Netball

7A

The Year 7A team have had some superb midweek and Saturday fixtures after the half term, with 5 wins and one loss! The highlight of the end of the season has been the girls coming runners up in the district tournament. The girls have really come together this year and have had some good competitive matches.

A massive thank you to Anaya who has been captain this year and has really brought the team together.



7B

The year 7B squad has grown over the term, with lots of girls wanting to represent the school! The girls have had two losses and one win this term, showing dedication and commitment to training. The highlight of the netball season is the Year 7B team winning the district netball tournament!

Well done to all the girls, special mention goes to Elizabeth who has been captain all season.



8A

The girls have comfortably won 2 matches and lost one narrowly to Forest 17-19. The focus after half term was the district netball tournament and the county cup final. The girls had a great victory at the district tournament where they once again faced Queenswood in the final, winning it for the second time in a row, well done to all the girls! The county cup final was on Thursday 23rd March against Presdales school. The girls were away from home in horrendous weather conditions. The first two quarters the match was very close however Presdales just brought it back after half time and took the win. Getting to the county cup final was an achievement in itself and this is the furthest any netball team has got to for a while! Well done to; Zeinab, Hannah, Alike, Sophia, Rhiannon, Annabelle, Isabella, Freya and Riya! They all deserved to get to the finals and really came together as a team showing dedication, teamwork and great sportsmanship!

8B

The Year 8B team have really improved over the year, showing good commitment at training and always attending matches. This has paid off as they won both of their matches after half term both against private schools. To top off their hard work and dedication they yet again won their district tournament. They faced Queenswood in the finals and this was not easy but they brought the victory home! This is the second year in a row and we look forward to a third time next year.

Well done to all the girls all season.

**Year 9**

After a slow start and a few back to back losses in January, the Year 9s bounced back and ended the season on a high. Back to back wins against Aldenham, Chigwell and Forest gave the girls the confidence they needed heading into the end of the season. A very convincing 19-1 win over Mount Grace secured second place in the District League.

The season culminated in the Janice Emerging Netball Tournament on Wednesday 22nd March. A strong squad of 12 girls travelled to Wodson Park in Ware. Despite the heavy rain showers, the girls got off to a flying start against Simon Balle winning 13-0, followed by a comprehensive win over eventual cup winners Leventhorpe 4-2.

The girls only lost 2 matches but qualified for the plate competition in the afternoon. The girls showed great versatility and adaptability and didn't lose a match all afternoon, resulting in winning the plate and being awarded winners medals.

Player of the tournament was Ellie Beebee. What a fantastic finish to the season! It has been a pleasure to work with such a great group of Year 9 girls, who have shown great commitment, team spirit and enthusiasm for netball.



Year 10A

The Year 10 A's have had a very successful year of netball. In the STAHS league they came third overall which is brilliant in their first year of a very high standard of netball. They had a difficult game against Berkhamstead in this league losing narrowly, well done to Alicia who was PoM for some fantastic defensive work! They have also had a couple of Saturday friendlies, with two great wins against both Forest and St Benedict's. Well done to Alicia and Corinne who were PoM for those games. They have come on massively as a team this year and we are looking forward to what they can do once again next year!



Year 10B

The Year 10B had a fantastic win against Mount Grace A team in the District League 25-6.

Well done to the PoM Molly who demonstrated some fantastic attacking play and shooting!



1st VII and 2nd VII

The 1st VII had their last two St Albans league games. They had very tough competition against Berkhamstead, but they kept persevering throughout the match. Well done to all the girls throughout the season, they have had many away fixtures. Well done to Isabelle who has been a great captain throughout the season! We say goodbye to Georgia, Rebecca, Roisin and Hannah who have all made a huge impact on the netball team. We wish them all the best at their retrospective Universities.

The 2nd VII have shown good commitment towards netball this season, with consistent attendance at training sessions. The girls had a great last win of the season against Habs Girls where they won 25-15.

Well done to all the girls and I look forward to watching them progress next year.



Basketball

Boys Year 7

The team has had a good season with winning 4 games and only losing one. They finished off the season with a nail biting game scoring a last second basket to beat Ridgeway 22-21. Look forward to seeing the boys playing again next season.



Boys Year 8

The team has had a mix of results this season with winning two and losing three, but there has been some great basketball being played at times. Look forward to seeing them play again next season.

Boys Year 9

The boys completed the basketball season unbeaten with a 33-18 win against Onslow. This is a great achievement against some strong schools in the district. We look forward to next season.



Girls Years 7/8

The girls came 2nd in the County League so qualified for the County Final against Beaumont hosted at Queens' school which was a fantastic achievement in their first year of competitive basketball.



Gym and Dance

After three years without the Gym and Dance Display it was great to see it back this year with performances over two evenings. This year's theme was 'Around the World' so it was great to see so many different dances from different countries as well as celebrate different styles of music within the gymnastic pieces. There were around 100 pupils involved from Year 7 to 13.

A big thank you goes to Annalisa, Natasha, Gemma, Evie and Izzie who all helped choreograph dance pieces for the display. We also thank everyone who came and supported the performers as well as the PE department. Finally, well done to all the pupils who were involved, you were amazing! We are looking forward to continuing the Gym and Dance Display next academic year.



Indoor Athletics

The Year 7 and 8 girls and boys competed at the Watford and Hertsmere Sportshall Athletics competition. Well done to the Year 7 boys who finished 3rd and the Year 8 boys who finished 2nd.

A massive congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 girls who both finished first. This meant that the Year 7 girls team progressed to the County final at Wodson Park.

An amazing achievement by the Year 7 girls who are the Hertfordshire County Indoor Athletics champions!! The girls put in an unbelievable performance and won by just 2 points! We are very proud and are looking forward to the athletics season!



Other Announcements

Congratulations to former student Issy Boffey who won her maiden National 800m title at the British Indoor Championships in Birmingham on Sunday, 19th February, in a super time of 2:03.27. She then followed up the following weekend with a season best of 2.00.25 at the Birmingham World Indoor Tourn Final where she came 3rd.



A great effort by Lierre (Head Boy) at the U20 England Athletics Indoor Championships in Sheffield, where he came 4th overall in the triple jump competition, which now places him 5th in the UK currently.

Congratulations to Gemma (Year 11) who has qualified to represent England at the Dance World Cup again this year, along with a select number of dancers from her dance school, which is being held in Portugal in July. She has qualified in two genres, Contemporary and Jazz Modern.

Congratulations to Annabelle (Year 8) who, following the London regional qualification event where she placed first in her tumbling category and third in the double mini trampoline, will be going to the English Tumbling Silver Championships. Good luck!



Congratulations to two former students Luca Gunter and Reuell Walters with their England Youth squad call ups. Luca has been named in the Under 18 squad and Reuell has been named in the Under 19 squad. Both boys will be playing in European qualifiers for their age groups. Reuell has also been recently named on the bench for the Arsenal First team for matches against Sporting and Crystal Palace.