

Dame Alice Owen's School newsletter



Letter from the Head

Hannah Nemko

Dear All,

This year has passed by in a flash with this half term flying by the fastest of all. The end of the year, with Visitation and Open Day, allows us to stop and take stock of all that we have accomplished as a school community. I feel deeply honoured to be able to

stand in front of so many and talk of the way in which our staff and students have really lived the values of **The Owen's Way**. This newsletter will once again give you a flavour of the extent to which **opportunities for all** are lavished, by the staff, on the students. Our young people are always keen to try new things, discover new talents or polish those they already knew they had. You only needed to watch a sports fixture, attend a concert or play, walk round the art or textiles exhibition or even around the school on a normal day to appreciate the extent to which our students are encouraged and delighted to explore a wide variety of academic, creative or physical opportunities and experiences.

We were delighted to open the **window on the world** just a little wider over this half term with our visits to Viernheim and Valladolid as well as St Omer taking place for Year 9. Our thanks go to Miss Moller, Mr Robinson, Mr Meekin, Mr Dugan, Miss Cornejo, Mrs Portman-Pope, Mrs Conte and Mr Whelan for giving up so much of their time to prepare and accompany our students on these visits. Mr Davies, Mr Latham, Miss Ahmed, Mr Ward, Mrs Jones and Miss Lord provided the opportunity, again for Year 9 students, to visit the Somme and learn about this tragic episode in History. You will be able to read the account of that visit inside the newsletter and we thank the staff for giving up their weekend to accompany our students.

Our Biologists worked hard on their field trip to Port Talbot where they took part in some very valuable learning outside of the classroom, which will help them with their A Level and we thank Mrs Whitehead, Mrs Lofthouse and Mrs Elston for the time they gave our students whilst on the trip.



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



Issue highlights...

RS summer adventure to Costa Rica [page 9](#)



Owen's artists selected for RA show [page 16](#)



Sports successes and team highlights [page 25](#)



Closer to home, Mr Macdonald, Mr Payne, Mrs Sach, Mr Fry, Miss Lord, Mr Bird and Mr Davies all helped Year 8 enjoy learning about the coast at Clacton-on-Sea. This was a new addition to the calendar and helped bring the Geography curriculum to life (along with a good excuse for a paddle in the sea and an ice-cream!).

Miss Lord, ably supported by a host of teachers, has helped a huge number of students through their Duke of Edinburgh Award, be that Gold, Silver or Bronze. We have the second highest rate of enrolment into this programme in Hertfordshire and are ranked sixth in the county for awards achieved. We cannot thank Miss Lord enough for the hours she puts into the training and expeditions she runs for our students. We also thank the teachers who give up so much time to help supervise the expeditions as without their good will, none of this could happen, so our thanks also go to Mr Davies, Mr Payne, Mrs McClean, Mr Dodd, Mr Marshall, Mr Pickering.

We were all excited to host a contingent of Chinese students in the penultimate week of the year. We amused them all with lessons on 'The British sense of humour' amongst others whilst we learnt a lot about Chinese culture through the lessons the students and their teachers prepared for those who had buddied up with our guests for the week.

So many students have achieved so many wonderful things over the year and it has been heartening to recognise students for a wide range of achievements. Most recently, Mrs Rutlin led some of our psychologists to win the University of London, National Schools' Psychology Competition with their work on the question 'How can psychology be used to promote equality and a greater acceptance of diversity?'.

Excellence in everything does not always come in the guise of a trophy or a big win such as in Psychology – although, as you will read in this edition, there have been many wins across the curriculum! We have also seen excellence in all of the productions and concerts, in individual pieces of work where students have achieved their personal best, in the excellent relationships students have with each other and with the staff; we strive to ensure this precept flows through all we do.

Congratulations go to all of those who were nominated for or who won a sports award, to those who achieved recognition in the Maths challenge competitions, to those who participated in and those who won prizes in the DAOS Bake off (Mr Fry and Miss Shadbolt may never be the same again after eating so much cake!) as well as to everyone who took part or won an event at Sports Day.

If we are to **never stop learning** and if we want to learn as quickly and as deeply as we can, it is important that we understand how we learn. Year 10 thoroughly enjoyed their Learning to Learn sessions at the end of last half term where they were treated to a lecture given by Professor Loveday on learning and memory.

This was followed by members of the Sixth Form sharing top tips for learning and revising for examinations which again were well received. Students finished their morning with a session of their choice, choosing from aspects of learning ranging from organisation to stress management, leaving them time to digest what they had learnt before having to put it all into practice for their Year 10 exams.

It was wonderful to see the return of the musical this year and, in a similar way to Sports Day, the manner in which we saw students supporting each other through nerves and performance as well as the rehearsals and training that went before was fantastic and testimony to the **supportive community** we seek to engender at the school.

We met the new Year 7 students and their parents at the end of July. I would like to thank the OSA and also our current Year 7s for the fantastic welcome they gave the newest members of our community. Parents and

THE OWEN'S WAY



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students-to-be told me how warmly they were greeted, that their concerns were put to rest and that it was reassuring to know that they had met some of the older students who they felt would be looking out for them in September. We also welcomed our incoming New Year 12 who arrived looking nervous about starting a new school and left looking far more relaxed having met staff and students with whom they would soon be working.

Our Science Ambassadors (pictured right), strongly led by Mr Friedlander, have done a wonderful job supporting the wider community by working with pupils in Ladbrooke and Wroxham primary schools this half term running sessions for them exploring the challenge of living in outer space.

As ever, at this time of year, with great sadness, we need to say goodbye to some members of staff.

We wish Mr Fitch, who stepped in to cover a gap as a DT technician, the best of luck as he returns to a teaching role in London. From DT, we are also wishing Miss Shadbolt well as she moves to carry on her work as a DT technician at another school.



We are sorry to say goodbye to Ms Meik and Mr Skelly in music. We wish Ms Meik all the best with her relocation and we look forward to hearing of Mr Skelly's continued success with the music career he is leaving to pursue (click [here](#) to see what you have been missing!).

Mr Marshall and Miss Ferracane come to the end of their contract and we thank Miss Ferracane for the work she has done covering for Mrs Balkind while she was on maternity leave and we wish her all the best in her new school and to Mr Marshall for his new endeavours as well.

Mrs Arron will sadly be leaving us for a position nearer home; we know that her happy, bubbly character will be missed and we wish her all the best for her new position.

We are excited for Miss Kent who will be leaving us to go travelling, bringing a smile to the faces of those less fortunate than ourselves. We are sorry to be losing such a great teacher but we know that she will end the year richer for this experience.

After 12 years of dedication to the school as a maths teacher and a member of the Advanced Skills Teacher team, Mrs Wootton will be leaving us for a promotion. We know that Mrs Wootton has brought clarity in maths to many and stretched those who have found it easy, leading them to new heights. Her new school has no idea how lucky they are to have found her. We are so sorry to see Mrs Wootton leave, though we are also excited for her and the opportunities she has ahead of her.

We wish Mrs Pott, who has worked as part of the admin team for the last 15 years, all the very best on her retirement; we know that she has many adventures ahead of her and we hope she gets the most out of every moment. During her time at DAOS, Mrs Pott has helped so many through her work with a number of departments, with front office and of course the Sixth Form team, and we thank her for everything.

Mrs Maurice has worked in the Maths Department for the last 17 years and has been a fantastic colleague and teacher to so many during that time. She will also be leaving us at the end of the year to begin her retirement; we wish her all the very best and will miss her gentle ways and beautiful smile.

We are delighted to welcome Mr Tanner as Head of MFL, Mrs Bond, Mrs Paphitis-Artemiou and Miss Perrin together with welcoming back Mrs Price into the Maths Department. We are also looking forward to working

with Ms Mouzouri in English and Mrs Lindall in Science meaning that, once again, the school is fully staffed with specialist teachers for the new year. Mrs Callis and Mrs Hirst, both of whom are fully qualified teachers, will be joining our cover supervision team standing in for staff who are absent due to training, ill health or other commitments. The cover supervision team ensure that learning is not disrupted just because a teacher is unable to take a class.

All that remains for me to do is to thank our staff for all their hard work for the good of our young people as well as to thank the parent body for all your support over this past year.

I hope you enjoy the pictures from the new Teaching Block which are included inside this newsletter and that you have a sense of all that your children have been doing at school these last weeks; now you know why they are so tired!

Wishing you all a restful summer,

Mrs Nemko



The school is making a commitment to reduce the number of single use plastic bottles being sold on campus. We are in the process of updating all of the drinking fountains so that they can be easily used refill a reusable bottle. These updates will be complete by September at which point we would encourage all students to bring a reusable bottle to school and help us reduce the waste produced at school.



From September 2019, Sullivan Buses will be running a route from Radlett, Shenley and Borehamwood to Dame Alice Owen's School. For more information, please email steve@sullivanbuses.com

MFL DEPARTMENT VACANCY

Le département français offre une position d'assistant/assistante de français pour des classes de conversation au niveau Baccalauréat pour Septembre 2019. Il s'agit d'un contrat de 12 heures pendant le trimestre scolaire.

Pour toutes autres informations veuillez contacter Madame Gillingham par email:-

gillinghamf@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk ou par téléphone: 01707 643411

Family Fun Day Sunday 28th July 2019 at Old Owens Cricket Club

Old Owen's Cricket Club is celebrating the rebirth of their Junior section, with more than 50 children having registered already since April and with this summer of World Cup cricket being held on these shores, the Club is throwing its scenic doors open to everyone on Sunday 28th July 2019 for a 'Family Fun Day' at Old Owens Sports Ground, Coopers Lane, Potters Bar, Northaw, EN6 4NF.

The day will start from 11am with the new juniors playing their first match against Winchmore Hill under-11's, which will then be followed by softball games, other fun activities and a BBQ. The Clubhouse will be open with several screens showing Sky Sports TV for those who prefer their activities indoors and a bar serving beverages at excellent prices.



Mums, Dads, sons, daughters, grandparents, friends and family - all are welcome!

Chinese students visit Dame Alice Owen's school

By Jonathan Robinson, Director Advanced Learning Alliance

For a week in July, we proudly hosted 28 pupils in Years 7-10 along with their teachers from three schools in Shanghai and Ningbo, China.

On Monday, they were welcomed by Mrs Nemko, Mr Fry and Mr Robinson who introduced them to the school, explained a little of its history and gave them a whistle-stop tour of the buildings and grounds. They were



very impressed with the lake and woods, and the extensive playing fields pleasantly surprised them.

For the rest of Monday and for most of the week, the Chinese students were buddied up with an English student of similar age, and they got stuck into all the lessons and activities together. Some decorated cupcakes, others painted beautifully. Some even successfully completed a reading comprehension in Spanish, having never learnt the language before, while others were happy to have a go at analysing poetry in English lessons! Practical Chemistry lessons and Maths proved a hit with all our guests. We were able to offer the group a taste of the summer musical, which was so good, it had one of the Chinese teachers overcome with emotion and in tears (in a good way!).

A real highlight was watching the Chinese students participate in Sports Day and support the forms they had been assigned. Apart from their keenness to engage in sport, we admired their other apparent interest: food! We were astonished by their insatiable appetites, as the Chinese went back twice, and in some cases three times, for more lunch in the school canteen each day.

English culture lessons

On Wednesday, Mr Robinson treated the Chinese students to a lesson on English youth culture and humour. The irony of a 44-year old having any real idea about youth culture today was not lost on Mr Robinson! Students engaged well and particularly enjoyed trying sausage rolls for the first time! By the end of the lesson, some students were learning to craft a good 'knock, knock' joke using puns and other clever devices.

On Friday afternoon, and still smiling, the Chinese students and their DAOS buddies celebrated the success of their week with a Chinese lesson followed by a certification ceremony with Mrs Nemko. All the visitors were given a school tie and 400th anniversary memorabilia as a memento of their time at our school. The Chinese group will go on to tour the UK before heading home to China after an action-packed two-week stay.

Teachers and students alike were very impressed by the good behaviour, positive attitude, and eager engagement that the Chinese teenagers displayed throughout the week. Many of our students were keen to get to know our visitors and volunteered to help out at various points in the week.

We look forward to further collaboration with our Chinese partners next year and, who knows, maybe a group of our students and teachers will pay a return visit to Shanghai and beyond in the not too distant future.

I would like to offer my thanks to Jackie Campbell, the School Business Manager, for all the preparatory work and support during the visit. A special thank you must go to the school buddies who tirelessly took a Chinese student under their wing for a week, and showed genuine care and hospitality throughout, and never once complained about the responsibility they had on their young shoulders. To all the teachers and support staff who worked tirelessly to make the week run smoothly, thank you very much.

Dame Alice Owen's hosts Women In Education event

On Wednesday 19th June, the Advanced Learning Alliance at Dame Alice Owens, led by Mr Robinson and coordinated by Mrs Linwood, hosted an event to celebrate, inspire and empower women leaders in education.

The morning comprised two keynote talks by Dame Alison Peacock and Olympic Silver Medallist Gail Emms MBE followed by two workshops – one for students run by Mrs Balkind and one for staff run by Mrs Lofthouse. Women teachers and leaders attended the event from a variety of schools and we enjoyed the company of some of our own Sixth Form girls alongside a group of exceptional students from Queen Elizabeth Girls School.



A wide variety of key issues were addressed in the keynote talks, including overcoming challenges, mind-set and the nature of leadership. Both speakers were a great source of inspiration to all and presented many thought-provoking points that were discussed in the workshops that followed. We were very fortunate to have such fantastic speakers join us and we hope to be able to run similar events to continue the debate in the future.

TEACHING BLOCK CONSTRUCTION IN FINAL STAGES

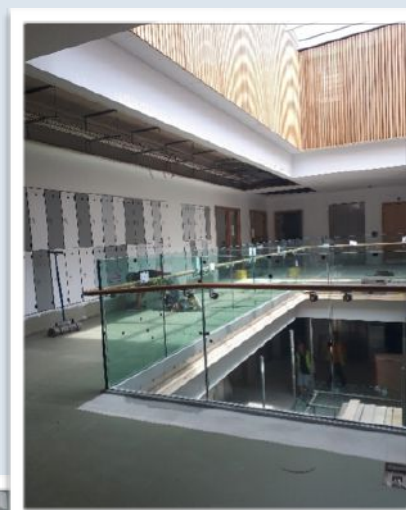
We are all very excited now that the new Teaching Block is reaching the final stages of construction and we look forward to moving in at the end of July.

Over the last couple of months, progress has been very rapid. In April, the building had no windows and the roof was yet to be completed but the contractors have made every effort to make ensure we can take possession at the end of term.

At the end of May, we moved out of the old teaching block to enable the demolition to start. This was a huge task as teachers had to sort through cupboards and filing cabinets full of books and materials, which in many cases dated from years ago.

We threw away as much as possible and everything else was packed up and put into storage until it can be moved in to the new block. Huge thanks go to our premises team who worked long hours to move hundreds of boxes around the school. Fortunately, everything went according to plan, the demolition process is well under way, and by the end of the summer holidays there should be no trace of the old teaching block. This will pave the way for the landscaping works to start in September.

We are very grateful for all the donations from parents to our Buy a Brick campaign and other fundraising opportunities which has enabled us to buy new furniture in the classrooms.



Lower school Bake-Off challenge

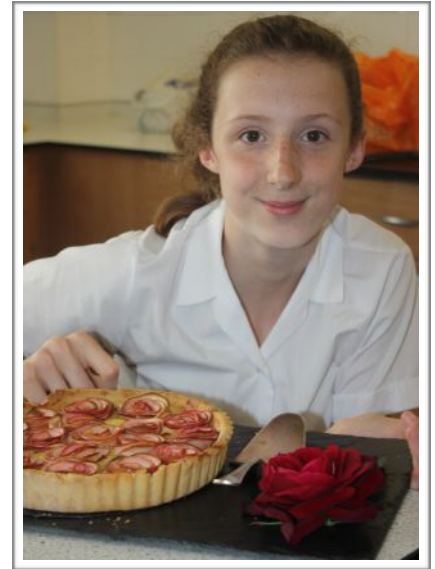
The 9th annual lower school baking competition took place in July with 40 keen bakers from Years 7, 8 and 9 taking part in a two-hour competition to bake an item that celebrated the 'Best of British'. This year we were delighted to welcome Mr Fry and Mrs Shadbolt as our guest judges, who did a great job of tasting 40 different dishes! This year's winners were:

Year 7: Annabelle Shields with her Lemon and Elderflower 'Garden Party' cake

Year 8: Alice Taylor with her brandy snap baskets

Year 9: Aimi Weightman with her 'Very Berry' cream tart

The overall winner of the competition was Year 8 student, Evie Wootton, for her beautiful apple rose tart.



Overall winner Evie Wootton



Year 7 winner Annabelle Shields



Year 8 winner Alice Taylor



Year 9 winner Aimi Weightman

YEAR 8 STUDENTS WIN GALACTIC CHALLENGE

On the 6th of July, six Year 8 students took part in the Galactic Challenge competition at Queen Elizabeth's School. The students were transported to 2069 to the centenary celebrations of the Apollo 11 landing, where they were asked to create a brief for the construction of Armstrong, the first holiday resort on the Moon's surface.

Our team's brief, which included two hours of compulsory exercise per day for holiday makers and a staff comprised mainly of robots, caught the eye of judges who picked their brief as the winner!



Year 7 pupils compete in 20 teams for Enterprise Day

Enterprise Day is a cross-curricular event for the whole of Year 7 led by the Maths Department. The theme was Endangered Animals. This year it involved the departments of: Business and ICT, Art, Languages (German), Food Technology, Design Technology, Mathematics along with the Deputy Head.

The year group were split into 20 enterprise teams. Each person within the team had a specific job title. Each team was required to:

- Bake 12 identical cupcakes.
- Devise and stay within a budget.
- Market their cupcakes with posters and develop an advert via a storyboard.
- Market the cupcakes with a German advert.
- Design and produce a T-shirt.
- Design and make a package for the cupcakes.
- Project managers to manage their team.
- A final presentation to be made.



All project managers kept their teams on track throughout the day. In the last hour, every team presented and delivered their pitch four times. A winner was selected from completed work done during the day, the cupcake sale and final presentations. A sale of their cupcakes at lunchtime raised over £160 for the WWF charity.

A remarkable amount of work was completed by the year group in a short time and 30 degree heat. Everyone deserves many congratulations for what was produced. The winning team was 'Pawfect Penguin' – whose members were Maisie Barker; Gemma Campbell; Samuel Cornish; William Fleet; Stephen Goodlad; Charlie Islam; Clio Proffitt; Joel Sibley; Katia Temple; Isobel Shillah; and Thekli Violaris – congratulations to them!

NEWS FROM THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

YEAR 8 ENJOY A DAY AT THE SEASIDE IN CLACTON ON SEA

At the end of June, the whole of Year 8 had a day out in Clacton on Sea to practice geographical data collection (and eat ice cream).

Students collected plastic on the beach to see how clean it was (very clean!) and in the town itself they carried out a clone town survey. It was decided that Clacton was not a clone town owing to its many interesting independent shops.

During the trip, the students ate almost all the ice cream in Clacton, and boosted the profits of the seafront shops as a result of buying candy floss, plastic crowns and Star Wars footballs. We had positive comments about the students' behaviour and everyone had a great time.



NEWS FROM THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Owen's students enjoy an adventure in Costa Rica

By John Johnstone, Head of Religious Studies

Within weeks of returning from the deserts and national parks of Namibia in August 2016, it dawned upon me that international trips that focus on wildlife are by far the most enriching in terms of all the world adventures I have had the pleasure of organising for DAOS students over the years.

Whether it is swimming with sea lions and sharks

off the shores of the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific; making way for an African bull elephant on a nature trail in South Africa; navigating piranha infested rivers of the Amazonian rainforest; or listening to a lion calling out for its mate in the middle of the night, only yards from our campsite in Namibia, it is evident that animals reinforce a great sense of wonder and privilege about the world we live in. They remind us that humans coexist with a diversity of incredible species that have every right to be here just as we do. Costa Rica was no different.



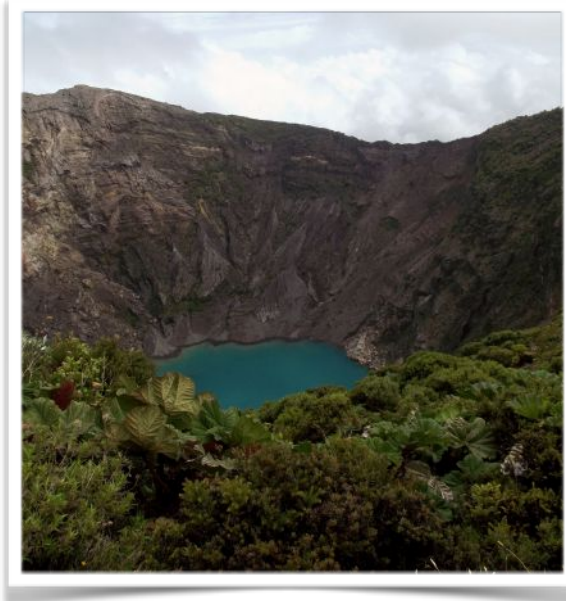
This 12-day adventure took the form of two separate groups and travelled one week apart. The first group was led by myself and the second by Mr Titley. The activities and experiences were varied but the following serves as a brief summary of the main itinerary highlights. For some, including myself, the highlight was without question being able to watch nesting sea turtles at the Tortuguero National Park. This park is a protected wilderness area on Costa Rica's northern Caribbean coast. Although this had to be done in the early hours of the morning and in complete darkness staying up to see an endangered Green turtle lay her eggs was an unforgettable David Attenborough moment – only not from a TV screen at home – but for real!

From a geographical and landscape point of view, the Arenal Volcano stands impressively in the district of La Fortuna. Dormant since 2010, it is one of the ten most active volcanoes in the world, although thankfully she was 'asleep' for our time there. In this region, we completed the Hanging Bridges Tour which consisted of 15 suspension bridges that meander their way above the rainforest canopy below. From here our guide pointed out an array of birds, monkeys and other wildlife including tarantula nests, frogs and bullet ants etc. Another feature of this area is the famous La Fortuna volcano canopy zip line tour. For many students, this was always going to be the highlight of the tour as they soared above the rainforest canopy along nine



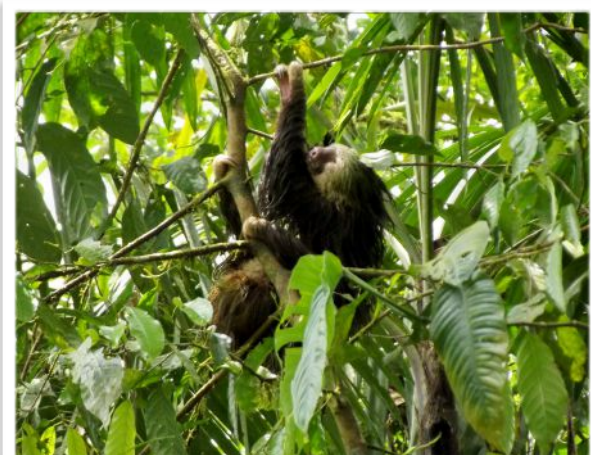
separate zip lines, with the cloud covered Arenal volcano in the background.

Our final activity in the La Fortuna region before moving onto the next stage of the itinerary, was a visit to the famous Baldi Hot Springs whose heat is sourced by the Arenal volcano itself. Here both students and staff were able to bathe and unwind in its 25 thermo mineral-rich hot water pools where temperatures ranged from 93-152 °F. For Group 1, the torrential rain that persisted throughout the evening did nothing to spoil the fun. Highly recommended for therapy and relaxation, but visitors need to be aware that the pools are hottest at the top of the springs. A fantastic way to end the day.



Any visit to Costa Rica must include a sighting of arguably its most famous resident – the sloth and here we were not disappointed. We were amazed at how the guides were able to point out a sloth from a boat travelling along the many rivers and these wonderful creatures really do live up to their name – they are about as close to immobile as you can get. Interestingly, and fun fact, sloths only come down from their lofty habitats once a week and that is to go to the toilet. A more active and audible resident of the rainforest is the howler monkey and it too lives up to its name. Think of a sci-fi creature horror movie and you will be close to the sound of this incredibly loud animal. Indeed, the morning wakeup call of an alpha howler monkey can apparently be heard up to three miles away! A surreal experience and certainly something different to life in Potters Bar. No need for alarm clocks when staying overnight in the rain forests of Costa Rica.

Prior to departure it was agreed with parents that swimming activities would be restricted to hotel swimming pools and the Baldi Hot Springs, and with good reason.



Why? Simply because a common sight to be found within the estuaries of the Tarcoles River is the American crocodile which can grow in excess of 15 feet. Watching these magnificent reptiles was an experience, not least in that they can gracefully submerge and reappear from the murky waters below. You wouldn't know that they are there, but they most certainly know where you are. Thankfully, crocodile attacks are rare but entering into its domain would certainly put you on its menu!

Towards the end of the tour we explored the trails through the wonderful Manuel Antonio National Park which is internationally recognized as one of the most biodiverse parks

on the planet. Lush tropical forests, lagoons, mangroves and pristine white sandy beaches make up one of the most diverse ecosystems imaginable. Some of the frequently viewed residents were again, crocodiles, white-faced and howler monkeys, sloths and iguanas. It will come as no surprise that two of Costa Rica's most famous exports are coffee and chocolate, and throughout this trip we were provided with an educational tour of learning about how the humble coffee and cocoa bean are transformed into the hot beverage and chocolate we take for granted here at home.

These educational tours demonstrated that the processes involved are far more complex than most people realise. Naturally, just about everybody returned back to the UK with a stack of genuine Costa Rican coffee and chocolate purchases.



To conclude, it has been almost a year since this adventure took place but it feels like only yesterday. From parent, student and accompanying staff feedback it undoubtedly provided unforgettable experiences which makes all the planning and organisation worthwhile. Indeed, if you are considering a family visit to Costa Rica in the future I wholeheartedly recommend it as a travel safe destination. You will not be disappointed, although be aware that when it rains it pours so packing waterproofs is essential. As for the next Religious Studies international adventure for July/August 2021? Stay posted but something tells me that it might just be animal centred again!

Finally... No successful international adventure on this scale can take place without the involvement of others working behind the scenes. I would therefore like to thank in particular the Head and the Governors for their continued support. I would also like to thank the Accounts Team for provided support with the financial and insurance aspects of this trip, in particular Mrs Campbell, Mrs Keating, Mrs D' Castro and Mrs Pollard. I am equally grateful for the many parent letters that have been sent on my behalf via the Office/Reception, often at short notice. In this respect, I would like to thanks to Mrs Cleverly, Mrs Cripps, Mrs Bulpit, Mrs Street and Ms Furlong. They must be relieved that I have not done a trip this year!

Finally, a special thanks to the accompanying adults in Group 2 (Mr Titley, Mrs Friel, Mrs Wootton and Mr Robinson) for giving up their time and sharing the burden and responsibility of taking a group of teenagers half way round the world. Similarly, in my group, I would also like to sincerely thank Mrs Conte, Mrs Lofthouse, Dr Ingham and Ms Partridge. Their company, wise counsel and friendship was instrumental in making this trip a smooth and memorable one for me as well. On this note, I cannot overstate how grateful I am for the professionalism and expertise of Ms Partridge and Mr Sheridan who helped me put together this great adventure on behalf of Kipling Tours. This sentiment also applies to Dr Ingham who gave up his own time to support Group 1 as our own chief doctor. I am hoping that he will be up for another adventure in the near future.

Some student reflections on their experiences of Costa Rica

*Although I have yet to finish my time at Owen's, I think it is safe to say that the Costa Rica trip was the stand-out highlight of my seven years here. It was an experience like no other and one that I am sure all of us who went on the trip will remember for the rest of our lives. Many of us agree that the best part of the trip was witnessing turtles emerging out of the Caribbean Sea and onto the beach to lay their eggs. We were lucky enough to be able to stand right behind the turtles – so close that we were almost touching them. Another incredible experience was bathing in the hot springs in Arenal, which were filled with minerals coming from underground sources of the Arenal volcano, which we also had the opportunity to visit and zip line next to. **Katie Scott***



It was an amazing school trip. Zip lining over the rainforest canopy was also a great experience. We also had time to relax in the hotel swimming pools and the volcanic Baldi Hot Springs at Arenal. Eating termites for breakfast was certainly something different, but overall the trip was fantastic allowing us to experience so

many new and amazing things and learn about a completely different culture and country to our own.

Daniel Heymoz

Costa Rica was the chance to experience a culture completely different from my own. As the coach made its way through the bustling streets of the capital city of San Jose, I found the disparity amongst the rich and poor palpable. The various shops and facilities that flashed by our windows were dispersed intermittently with imposing gated houses, and then graffiti-riddled bridges under which slept the homeless was comparable to London in many ways. However, it became clear that money doesn't equal happiness from the attitudes of the locals, especially in the poorer and more rural areas of the country, who were as welcoming and positive as can be.



The most impressive part of the trip was our visit to Tortuguero, which lies on the country's east coast. Costa Rica is home to around 4% of the world's species, and this remote area of the country accommodates one of the most spectacular displays of wildlife to be found in the world. We took a boat out on a river in which crocodiles live, spotted howler monkeys and the native Scarlet Macaw that flew around the treetops and even watched a turtle laying its eggs at midnight on the picturesque beaches of Tortuguero National Park, a moment which I will never forget.

Out of the 500,000 species native to the country, however, around 60% are insects – something that we found out when we left sweets out overnight, only to wake up to a line of ants across our bedroom; the giant cicada that flew around while we were dining on our last night was quite a surprise too! All in all, the trip was a truly enriching experience and on behalf of all that had the privilege to go, I would like to thank Mr Johnstone, Mrs Conte, Mrs Lofthouse, Dr Ingham and Ms Partridge for organising it and allowing us the opportunity to broaden our horizons in such an engaging way.



John Adibpour

Costa Rica was an amazing experience. We saw so much wildlife including sloths and monkeys and did fun activities including zip lining over the rainforest. The highlight of our trip was the Baldi Hot Springs and watching a Green turtle nesting. There was a huge range of things to do and see, and as Costa Rica is recognised as one of the most biodiverse places on the planet, we were able to see animals you wouldn't find anywhere else in the world. We walked through rainforests and sailed

down rivers taking in the beauty. We all had so much fun and would recommend unreservedly Costa Rica as a travel destination to anyone.

Ineke Oosterhuis, Uma Ramanathan, Nadia Gonnermann

The Costa Rica trip was the adventure of a lifetime. It was fascinating to be able to observe giant turtles, spider monkeys, sloths, crocodiles, and much other wildlife in their natural habitats. Going down a series of massive zip wires was an exhilarating way to see the rainforest close hand. It was fascinating to learn about the traditions and culture of a group of indigenous people. I found the hike through a trail in the forest where they showed us some of the medicinal herbs they use and allowed us to try some of them and having the opportunity to watch their ceremonial presentation in their own language and traditional dresses particularly interesting. All of my experiences in Costa Rica was made even better thanks to our amazing tour guide and everyone else on the trip who made it so memorable. Pura Vida!

Idil Sarioglu

NEWS FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Year 8 student wins Rotary Young Writer competition

Year 8 student Anna Safdar entered this year's Rotary Young Writer Competition, winning the District competition after beating students from surrounding schools. Her interest in creative writing has developed over the year and she is focusing on entering further competitions in the hope that her success continues.

Anna Safdar commented on her success: 'I have always enjoyed writing and decided to write a story based on the title of my sister's GCSE task, *A Winter's Day*. Mrs Friel mentioned the Rotary Writing Competition to me and I decided to edit my writing to fit the theme of ***My Inspiration***. I was amazed to hear that I had won the District competition and it has given me further inspiration to continue writing.' Anna's winning entry is below:

My Inspiration

I'm a waste of space. I don't belong here. No one wants me for me.

It was dark. And I was alone. A tear rolled down my cheek, I was scared. A blanket of snow lay beneath my feet, the moonlight peeking through the trees. My heart was pounding. The world had never looked more beautiful. It was hard. The blade of the knife glistened. I held it out in front of me and.. "STOP!" a voice screamed from the bushes, it was my mother. The knife slipped from my hand, lying on the snow. She was sobbing, tears fled from her eyes, I couldn't bear to see her like this. "I'm sorry, mum," I trembled, "have you ever felt like the world hates you and wishes that you never existed? And then you've finally had enough and not had the courage to save yourself from them? You're perfect. You had the perfect childhood. You never had a single problem at school. You were never invisible. And now, you have the perfect job, doing something you love. You always put everyone else before yourself and everyone wants to be your friend." I was howling like a wolf. But it's true. I wish I could be like her. But I can't because I hate myself and I'm such a horrible person and I never know what to do. My mother's arms wrapped around me and she whispered, "I can't lose you. It will get better," she took a deep breath, wiped away her tears and added, "I promise." I pulled away from her and looked at her; her perfect honey coloured curls falling in front of her perfect sky blue eyes. Her slim body was engulfed in a rough hoodie and tracksuit bottoms. Her fair skin glowed as the light hit it. I gave her a weak smile.

Out of nowhere, we saw a lightning crash and thunder roared, shaking the earth. The storm clouds gathered and rain lashed down on us. We could hear branches snapping above our heads and we ran. We ran as fast as we could until we couldn't go further. A huge tree lay on its side in front of us. Someone pulled my arm, yanking me away from my mother. I looked around in panic, where was I going? "MUM!" I cried. I was out of breath and I felt dizzy. My head was spinning around and around. I was frightened. I was hungry. I was tired. My legs gave way and I collapsed to the ground. I could hear voices. Voices of my parents. I could hear my mother singing me to sleep. I could hear my father giving me advice for my first day of sixth form. Voices of my friends, cheering me on during my first race. But that was before the argument. The argument that changed my life. The day my entire life turned upside down.

"Like a diamond in the sky," my eyes fluttered open. I was no longer surrounded by fallen branches, but by blankets and warmth. My mother was holding my hand with tears in her eyes. "Twinkle twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are," I sang faintly. She leant over me and gave me a kiss on the forehead. "I'm sorry I could never make you proud. I'm not the child you wanted." "You're right. You're not the child I wanted. You're more than that. Every day when I came home, you would run to the door and give me a big hug and everything that had happened that day just melted away. Please don't hurt yourself, because it will hurt me so much more than it will hurt you. And I know you're tired. Tired of being spoken about behind your back. Tired of being laughed at. Tired of being made fun of. Tired of feeling ugly. Tired of being ignored. Tired of feeling unloved. Tired of no one caring. Tired of pretending to be happy when all you want to do is cry but we can get through this. You just have to be strong and remember how many events, choices, that had to occur, since the birth of the universe lead up to the making of you. Just exactly the way that you are." she stopped.

I sat up and clung onto her tightly. She really did understand. I wished moments like this could last a lifetime.

cont...

Beside my bed was a hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows. My face lit up. She went through the effort to make me feel wanted. "Just the way you like it." I laughed. I picked it up, took a sip and felt the warm liquid travel around my mouth. I closed my eyes and remembered what it was like when I had no worries, when the world was an adventure, when I lived my dreams. It could be like that again. We just have to try. This is why we exist. For times like this. She is my inspiration to live.

Year 7 and 8 impress in poetry reading competition



Once again, students from Years 7 and 8 showcased their exceptional talents at the prestigious annual RF Cholmeley Poetry Reading Competition. Two readers from each class entertained their peers with powerful poetic performances, many of which were composed by the students themselves.

Once more, we were fortunate enough to have Ash Dickinson, one of the UK's best spoken word poets, as guest judge. He was impressed with the level of sensitivity and emotion in the poems and found the judging process a very difficult task.



Ash worked with several classes during the afternoon stimulating their poetic abilities.

The Year 7 competition was won by Yoni Nemko who performed *Excuses, Excuses* by John Forster and the Year 8 competition was won by Athina Michael with a self-penned poem.

This year, with the trial of the new House system, points were awarded to all students who participated. Congratulations to all contestants for their superb performances.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

The Library summer term news roundup

The Library has been a hive of reading and creativity this term. Old Owenian Emma Everitt-Story gave the last of her talks to Year 7 about her recently published first book, *Samantha Drury's Secret Diary*.

Jonathan Stroud made a welcome return to the school to talk to Year 7 and Year 8 about his two very popular series, *The Bartimaeus Trilogy* and *Lockwood and Co*. Students were enthralled as he drew pictures of the locations of his stories, and some of the characters. Two lucky volunteers were able to assist Jonathan with his presentation by dressing in a complete ghost hunting kit.

Tamsyn Murray was guest of honour for the Book Club Literary Lunch, and delighted the members by telling them about her career as an author, and giving them many ideas for writing stories. She then spoke to students in Year 9 about her books and her writing career.

Students have really celebrated poetry in the Library this term with two visiting poets. After judging the poetry reading competition Ash Dickinson ran creative poetry workshops where students were really engaged in producing their own poetry.

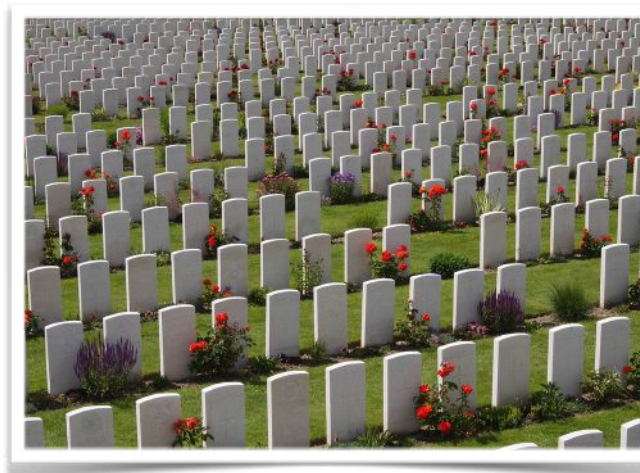
Lewis Buxton was the guest poet for the Year 12 Further and Independent Reading Day. Year 12 English students were able to forget the rigours of the English exam syllabus by writing poetry under Lewis's brilliant guidance.

NEWS FROM THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Year 9 visit the battlefields of World War One

On the weekend of Friday the 7th June, the History Department took 90 Year 9s to the battlefields of World War One. The trip included a visit to Tyne Cot, the largest British military cemetery in the world (pictured right), a walk across the battlefield of the Somme as well as a visit to the brilliant museum of Passchendaele.

Another highlight was attending the nightly ceremony under the Menin Gate where Teddy, Kirit and George represented Owenians of past and present by laying a wreath to mark our remembrance of those who lost their lives. A particularly emotional moment was when the group visited Thiepval where we read out the names of those Owenians who feature on this memorial to the missing.



The whole group were an absolute delight to take on the trip and many passers-by and locals commented on how polite and mature they all were. We were extremely impressed by how much our students connected with the trip and both our tour guides commented on how insightful their questions and comments were. We hope that the trip broadened their horizons and afforded them an invaluable opportunity to connect with and learn from the past.

Year 9 and 12 hear Holocaust survivor's moving talk

On Wednesday the 12th June the History Department was honoured to host Holocaust survivor Harry Spiro BEM.

Mr. Spiro captivated an audience of Year 9 and Year 12 students with his incredibly moving and powerful life story. His talk was both deeply upsetting and hugely uplifting. Harry emphasised how he does not feel hatred or desires revenge against those who carried out the horrors of the Holocaust. Instead, he explained how the happy life he has led after the war and his many children and grandchildren are revenge enough.

Mr Spiro and his wife Pauline were impressed by the quality of questions that our students asked as well as the warmth of their welcome. They also commented on how their visit to Owen's was one of their most enjoyable school visits ever. We believe that there are few experiences more valuable and eye-opening for History students than first-hand testimony.



Sadly the opportunities to hear Holocaust survivors speak is quickly disappearing and so our students were privileged to hear Harry speak and we were so pleased to see them get so much out of this opportunity.

NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

Owen's students selected for national exhibition

This year the Royal Academy launched the first [Young Artists' Summer Show](#) for students from primary and secondary level following the huge success of the A-Level online summer exhibition.

The work of three Year 11 students and one Year 13 were shortlisted from over 6,200 submissions by a judging panel of established artists and professionals. The selection includes two pieces by Jenna Wang, four from Nicole Di including the incredible Lion piece, one from Ravi Myanger and one from Salyme Gunsaya in Year 13.

Even more exciting is that an outstanding painting by Jenna Wang entitled 'My Sister' and Nicole's piece 'Hannah' were selected and are now open for viewing on the [RA Young Artists'](#) exhibition website.

Ravi's awesome pencil study 'Solve the Earth' and Nicole's painting 'Edie' are also viewable in the online gallery until December however these two pieces will also be on display for public viewing at the Royal Academy until 4th August 2019 to coincide with the RA Summer Exhibition.

This is an incredible achievement for the students and we are so very proud of them.

Left column: Ravi Myanger *Solve For Earth* and Jenna Wang shortlisted work. Middle column: Jenna Wang *My Sister*; and Salyme Gusaya shortlisted piece. Right column: Nicole Di shortlisted work; Nicole Di *Lion*; Nicole Di *Thought*, Nicole Di *Hannah*.



Year 12 artists enjoy a study trip to Kew Gardens



Our annual trip to Kew Gardens provided a great source of visual inspiration for our Year 12 art students. Alongside the wealth of natural sights within the gardens, the work of the iconic and most celebrated glass artist, Dale Chihuly, is currently being exhibited providing a stunning, contemporary outdoor gallery space. Chihuly's spectacular glass artworks are displayed throughout the landscape and include feature pieces never seen before in the UK.

During our visit, students were able to observe the drawings and work of Chihuly and were fortunate to be able to view a brand new, specially designed sculpture providing a reverie of form, colour and light. Students recorded their visit through sketching on site alongside photography and we look forward to seeing the exciting development of their work.

My thanks go to Mr Anastasi and Mrs Starck for their support.

Miss Veerayen



National Art & Design Saturday Club Trust 2019

It's been a bumper year for the National Art and Design Saturday Club at Middlesex University this year with 11 DAOS students attending: Giulietta Alvis, Oliver Crofts, Abbie Cook, Ben Cornish, Issy Fairbanks, Maddie McEnery, Phoebe Doheny, Eleni Georgiades, Sanam Dana and Madison Hite from Year 10, and Celia Macmillan from Year 9. Our students made full use of the University's professional facilities and expert teaching.

This year's overriding theme was the plastic crisis in our seas and oceans. Sessions including life drawing with a mermaid clad model, casting ceramics from plastic bottles, screen printing posters, illustration, collage, dry point etching, 3D book sculpture and a two-week photography workshop in which they explored the studio and dark room, painting with light, capturing movement and producing photograms from plastic waste.

The Exhibition at Somerset House and Prize Giving at the Institute of Engineering and Technology was a wonderful way to celebrate their work on a national scale.

We are so grateful to Sir John and Lady Frances who set up the Sorrell Foundation, and to the tutors and professionals who give up their weekends to provide a unique experience for our young artists; a taste of the university experience and an insight into their possible future creative careers.

Mrs Grigson



NEWS FROM THE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

RAMPAGING CHARIOTS 2019

Congratulations to Henry Chandler, Lucia Antoniou, Imogen Hall, Jasmin Mac and Jaiden Patel for their achievements at this year's Rampaging Chariots competition, which took place on 22nd June and was organised by Leonardo in Luton.

The Year 8 and Year 9 pupils spent several weeks building and fine tuning their chariots ready for the assault course, sumo challenge, tug of war and football competition.

25 teams competed on the day and our Owen's team did very well to reach the semi-finals of the football, sumo and tug-of-war competitions and the quarter-finals of the assault course. Modifications are already underway to prepare the chariots for next year's event.



NEWS FROM THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

Science Ambassadors help educate primary classes

By Dea Peshkipija

Last year, our school, Dame Alice Owen's School, invited all Year 8 students to apply for the role of Science Ambassadors. This project aimed to get girls interested in physics through students teaching science at local primary schools. I immediately signed up for the role because I adore science and when I was chosen among seven other girls and three boys, I was over the moon.

Before we started teaching in primary schools there was a training day at the University of Hertfordshire. On the day, they taught us how to present safe and interesting experiments for younger children. At the end of our training, we went to the Bayfordbury Observatory and saw the telescopes; they were massive! After a lot of preparation, we were ready to go to our first primary school. I was very nervous and it was strange to be in the teacher's shoes for a change!

We had organised five very interesting experiments about our theme: 'Living in Space'. We used different materials to show to the children that you couldn't live in space as you would on Earth. Using marshmallows and shaving foam we demonstrated the effects of leaving the atmosphere on the human body. Removing sodium polyacrylate crystals from nappies we considered how astronauts meet their needs in space and finally we built an early warning system to protect astronauts from the Sun's harmful rays. Life would be so different, that it would take two hours to put a space suit on!

The children were happy that we were teaching them something new and interesting. They were asking a lot of questions and were very curious. I was surprised by how much of my explanations they understood because some of the theory behind the experiments are quite hard to understand properly.



Over the last two years, I have really enjoyed the experience. Teaching the children not only made me feel good about educating them about something that I enjoy, it made me a better presenter and even broadened my own knowledge!

NEWS FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Owen's pupils win National Psychology competition

The Psychology Department had a busy half term despite missing all of the Year 13s.

Three students Sam Tiongson, Ruhee Shah and Dylan Gunasekera entered Royal Holloway's prestigious National Psychology competition with how psychology can be used promote equality and a greater acceptance of diversity. They had to make a three-minute video and a formal poster to communicate their research and present this along with 19 other teams, answering tricky questions from a board of university professors.



All of this was independent of teacher support. The great news is that they won and brought home prizes for themselves and for the school! A big well done! You can see the video [here](#) and it will soon be up on the University's website too.

Year 12 pupils study animal behaviour and phobias

Year 12 students visited London Zoo in order to learn more about animal observations and phobias. They had the opportunity to observe the squirrel monkeys in the early morning to carry out time sampling and learn how the Zoo monitors behaviours.

They then were able to learn more about phobias along with the Zoo's friendly spider programme and actually experience some hypnosis – actually only used in a small fragment of psychology. We could show how chilled we were by holding a rare breed of tarantula at the end of the session.



Finally, we welcomed Dr Balakrishna, forensic psychiatrist in for a careers talk on where can psychology take you and the awesome career that he has been able to have with the military. We will welcome back Dr B in the Autumn term for a longer session with fellow forensic psychologists and clinical psychologists.

Well done to all of the students this year for their persistence in this fascinating subject at A Level and we all look forward to a restful summer break.

Miss Kent

NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

Economics Society enjoy a term of inspirational talks

Hannah Chen and Mariella Charalambous have had a fantastic term getting speakers in for the DAOS Economics Society. The power of networking at Think Tank events has really been beneficial and it's a great life skill for the students to have.

This term we have had Daniel Pryor from the ASI speak about *Vaping*, Rebecca Lowe from the IEA talking about *Freedom* and old Owenians John Lewis from the Bank of England discussing *Crypto-currencies* and David Nolan from The Behavioural Insight Team – all talks were excellent. If anybody is willing to offer up their services, we'd happy to welcome you.

We've also been impressed with students attending talks. One of the more impressive ones was *Planning the Next Economy* that featured interesting people like Grace Blakeley and James Meadway.

We try very hard within the department to encourage students to hear from all sides of the political divide and hope that we have taught them well enough to judge each idea on its own merit and to challenge their own thinking. As the visiting speaker Nick Robinson once said, it's important to step outside of your echo chamber and listen to the opposition.

Gavin Simpson – Head of Economics



Speakers were Daniel Pryor (above top), Rebecca Lowe (above), John Lewis (below left) and David Nolan (below right).



OWEN'S CHESS CLUB NEWS

Our Year 7 team took on Lochinver House at the end of this term and it was a pleasure to see them perform so well, although it was against a weakened Lochinver team.

Congratulations to all those involved who can be seen in the photo right - Stephen Goodlad (captain), Marko Popovic, Vincent Lee, Charlie Hogermeer, Charlie Islam, Andrew Alvedro, Rik Menezes, Shayan Kara and Caspian Smuts.



NEWS FROM THE CAREERS DEPARTMENT

Enterprise Advisor vacancy

The Enterprise Adviser Network is a DofE funded project managed locally by Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which aims to match every secondary school with a volunteer from the business community. We have recently been matched with Network Rail but due to restructuring, our adviser is stepping down from the post.



Therefore, we are looking for another Enterprise Adviser who would be interested in running activities in school to help our students understand more about the world of work. These activities could be as straight forward as facilitating visits to the workplace and/or providing the opportunity for work experience. The adviser would help to develop sustainable links with local employers and contribute to the Careers Education strategy which is mapped against the Gatsby Benchmarks.

If you are part of an organisation that would like to get involved, please contact me at the school and I will put you in touch with our LEP adviser. More information can also be found on their website: <https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/>

Year 11 work experience: help from employers needed

Following their GCSE exams, Year 11 students have been out on a week's work experience. As usual, the opportunities have been very diverse – from architects and structural engineering offices to working in a hospital or a high-tech software development company.

We are very fortunate to have well-connected parents and friends who keep these placements going for our students and I must thank everyone who has helped with the programme. However, this year was fraught with problems of supply and the system is not sustainable without more opportunities or placements becoming available.

Can you help? If you are in a position to accommodate a Year 11 student in your workplace, please contact me at the school and I will try and make it as painless as possible. It only involves one form to be filled out and a chat with our agents Sirrond Ltd who will process the paperwork.

PUBLIC EXAM RESULTS DAYS

A Levels – Thursday 15th August 2019.

The Sixth Form Team will be in school from 8.00am to deal with any enquiries relating to A Level results and securing places at university.

GCSEs – Thursday 22nd August 2019

Our Youth Connexions PA, Jo Scrimshaw, will be in school from 9.00am to help students with College places, apprenticeships and alternatives to the Sixth Form.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Chamber Concert showcases stunning performances

Despite the marked absence of any summer weather, the last of this year's Chamber Concerts was an evening of wonderful performances from pupils who play in one of the school's many chamber ensembles. It was a real treat to hear such a variety of music performed with pieces chosen from the world of the Classical and Romantic eras, jazz, pop, folk and film music.

Taking to the stage were the Cello Ensemble, Vocal Group, Flute Ensemble, Year 9 String Quartet,



Saxophone Ensemble



Cello Ensemble



Clarinet Ensemble



Flute Ensemble



Guitar Ensemble



Junior brass ensemble



Junior percussion ensemble

Clarinet Ensemble, Trombone Ensemble, Year 7 String Quartet, Saxophone Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Junior Percussion Ensemble, Junior Brass Ensemble, 6-Handed Piano Ensemble, Senior Percussion Ensemble, Year 10 String Quartet and Senior Brass Ensemble.

Congratulations to all pupils who performed to such a high standard, and to all the musical directors whose expertise and encouragement continues to inspire and nurture so many of our talented young musicians!



Trombone Ensemble



Senior Brass Ensemble



Year 10 String Quartet



Senior Percussion Ensemble



Year 7 String Quartet



Six Hands Piano Ensemble



Year 9 String Quartet

NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

ATHLETICS

U14 girls – The U14 girls have had a fantastic season with lots of exceptional performances. The girls made the Track and Field Cup A final where they competed against some of the best schools in the country. Lots of girls had brilliant performances and produced personal bests throughout the season. The U14 girls continued to have success winning the B side of the county league taking them through to the county final, where they competed against the best in the county. The girls had really tough competition but rose to the challenge and finished 2nd, only two points behind Berkhamstead. Well done to the girls throughout the season for their continual effort and commitment.



U16 girls – The U16 girls improved from last year and managed to also join the U16 boys and U14 girls in the county league final. Some outstanding performance have happened throughout the season such as Maisie Taylor and Aimi Weightman. Aimi is off to English Schools to represent Hertfordshire in the 1500m and we wish her all the best. Freya Stapleton (Year 11) has also been selected to represent Hertfordshire at the English Schools over 3000m.

The annual district athletics championships happened on Friday 28th June. With the weather hitting nearly 28 degrees, the students performed exceptionally well. With several individual wins and outstanding performances we knew we were on for a good day. The Year 7 girls and boys, the Year 8 girls, Year 9 girls and boys, the Year 10 boys and Senior boys all took home the trophy. With the Year 8 boys, Year 10 girls and Senior girls all finishing in a brilliant 2nd place. With these exceptional performances, it meant that Owens was able to retain the District champions overall title for yet another year.

U14 boys – After missing out on the league final by an agonising half a point, the U14 boys team had a fantastic end to the season by winning the county league plate final at Hemel Hempstead. There were some exceptional performances throughout the season, with Ari Demetriou (80m hurdles), Nick Christou (200m), Callum Lloyd (800m), Nathan Odunsi (triple jump), Jarvis Baugh (high jump) and Adam Gallo (pole vault) all winning regularly.



U16 boys – The U16 boys had an excellent season, winning the our county league area by an astonishing 20 points. Unfortunately injuries affected us in the track and field cup competition, but the boys still managed to place 3rd in the regional B final. There were some excellent performances throughout the season, with many athletes staying unbeaten in their chosen events. Eddie Johnston performed well over the hurdles and placed 2nd in the county championships in the triple jump, whilst George Bayley ran incredibly well to win the county 800m title. Lierre Henry has also had an excellent season



and will represent Hertfordshire at the English Schools Athletics championships in Birmingham in the triple jump and 4 x 100m relay. Jonny Rugg (Year 11) has also been selected for Hertfordshire to compete in the pole vault.

District Athletics Championships – It was another successful year for the boys, at the District Athletics Championships which took place at Jarman Park on Friday 28th June 2019, with Owen's winning the team title at Year 7, Year 9, Year 10 and Senior age groups. There were many winners on the day, but special mention must go to Tomi Alabi (Year 7), who broke the school record in the 100m and long jump – in fact the 100m record had stood for 40 years! Well done Tomi!

CRICKET

We have had a fantastic summer of cricket at Owen's. Our fixture list has been competitive with each year group playing at least six fixtures. The highlight of the year has been the County Cup runs for Years 8, 9 and 10.



The Year 7s have had some fantastic moments this season. The Year 7s managed to win two games and even tie a match this year. The tie came against a strong Aldenham side where neither team deserved to lose. The Year 8s have managed to reach the County Plate final by beating Roundwood Park by 9 wickets. They will play St Clement Danes in the Final.

The Year 9s made the County Cup semi-final, but unfortunately lost against a strong Haileybury team. We bowled first and were content with keeping Haileybury to 130. In reply, we managed to reach 90. This was a fantastic effort by the Year 9 boys as Haileybury were crowned National champions in that age group last year. The boys can be proud of their achievement in getting to the semi-final.

The Year 10s managed to reach the semi-final in the County cup, but unfortunately lost to The Bishop Stortford High School. They can be proud of their achievements over the last three years; reaching two finals and a semi-final.

The 1st XI have played five matches this year, winning three and losing two. The highlight of the season was the annual match against Old Owens. Unfortunately, the old boys came out on top after an enjoyable day in the sun. It was a fantastic fixture and I hope that we can continue with it in the future.

I would like to thank everyone that has represented the school this year; I really do feel that we have made strides forward as a school and cricket is in a good place. I feel this is vital as we prepare for our St Lucia tour in 2020.

GOLF

It's been another excellent year for golf with the number of boys and girls involved growing significantly. In the summer term, Owen's students beat staff in match at Old Fold Manor. Tom Ranger won the Bob Furlong Memorial Trophy at this year's Owen's Open – Maisie O'Shea came 2nd and Tom Liddamore was placed 3rd. Brendan Brunton was awarded with Lower School Golfer of the Year and Ashay Dhingra won Upper School Golfer of the Year. Boys and girls continue to attend coaching sessions at Old Fold Manor. I'd like to thank the club and their staff for the incredible support they provide to school golf.

SAILING SUCCESS

In June, Maya Korouei (Year 11) won a Silver medal in the Laser Radial class at the London Youth Games for Sailing. Well done Maya!

NEWS FROM THE OSA

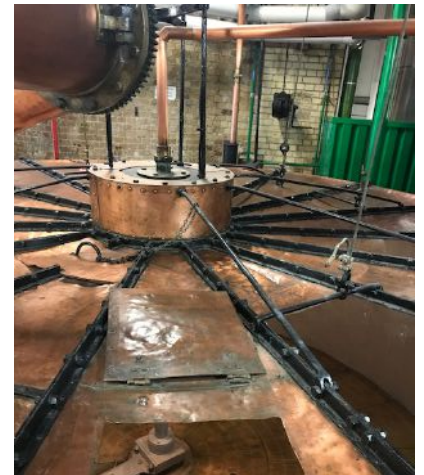
Fullers Brewery Tour – On Friday 7th June, the OSA were delighted to be able to offer a Tasting Tour, to 30 parents and members of staff, to raise funds for the school. We would like to thank the team at Fullers and in particular Richard Fuller and his Tour Team for a lovely evening enjoyed by all who participated.

The tour was a fascinating insight into the Fullers Brewery and its history dating back over 350 years, how it has continued to develop at its iconic site by the Thames in Chiswick, and the day-to-day life of the Griffin Brewery, which remains a working brewery.

The tour took the group through all areas with a lesson in how flavours are created, the choice of ingredients and how the mixes create the famous brands we all know. Steeped in history and tradition, the tour was a wonderful insight into the growth and continuing success of one of London's best known breweries.

The kind donation of these tickets and the generosity of all the staff at the tasting and reception was overwhelming. All those who went along were able to taste the full range of beers, to wash down a buffet supper.

The OSA raised £580 from this very successful event.



Summer Festival – We had the perfect weather (not too hot) for the Summer Festival on Saturday 6th July and the attending crowd raised a few thousand pounds for the school. A huge thank you from the OSA to everyone who helped set up, leant things, manned stalls, came to spend money and cleared up again at the end.

For those of you who were unable to come, here are some pictures of what you missed:





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.easymundraising.org.uk and select Owen's School Association as your charity. For those thinking about holidays, lots of travel companies take part in the scheme.

Refreshments – The OSA serve drinks and snacks at about 40 events a year, mostly concerts and Parents' Evenings. If you are able to help with drinks at any of these this and next term please email Sharon on refreshments@theosa.org.uk.

Book Covers – Book covers are available for sale during the year and an order form can be found on the OSA website, www.theosa.org.uk. Alternatively, a paper copy of the order form can be found in a yellow folder in the OSA box. Please mark any envelopes 'book cover order'.

Match Funding – If you are employed by a company that is able to offer matched funding and would like to make a donation to Owen's School Association, please contact matchfunding@theosa.org.uk.

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

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

All items are carefully displayed and priced reasonably. Payment can be made by cash or cheque (payable to Owen's School Association). Of course, all funds raised go back to the school. Stock is made up of donations and uncollected items of lost property stored in the school office at the end of each academic year.

Donations of **good quality** items can be put in the red wheelie bin in the school entrance hall or handed in to the school office, in a suitable bag labelled for the attention of Julia Clews "OSA Nearly New".

OSA Website – www.theosa.org.uk. Please take a look! The OSA continues to add content and make improvements and would welcome your feedback. If you have any comments, suggestions or can help in any way please get in touch at contact@theosa.org.uk.

OSA Committee – If anyone would like to attend an OSA committee meeting and help raise funds for the school, meetings are held on the first Monday of each month currently at 7.30pm in The Old Library. You can attend as a one off or join the committee, it's up to you. We would love to see some new faces and look forward to welcoming you.

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