

# Dame Alice Owen's School

Newsletter July 2023



## Letter from the Head

### Hannah Nemko

The Oxford English dictionary states that 'to overcompensate' means 'to do too much when trying to correct a problem and so cause a different problem'. This half term, we could well have been accused of 'overcompensating' with our co-curricular activities in the attempt to

make up for missed opportunities during Covid. This has resulted in some very happy but *very tired* young people (and staff!) moving into the summer break.

Having given the Year 10s the opportunity to visit the Somme earlier this year, as they had missed out during the pandemic, this half term has now seen Year 9s go along to learn about the battle fields and the horrors of the war that took place there. We have had opportunities for language visits, maths olympiads, music concerts, regional and national athletics meets, further curriculum visits such as to National Fashion Week, to Dans Le Noir for psychology students, to Berlin for Year 12 historians as well as to Dorset for the Year 12 biologists and to Bannau Brycheiniog for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition. And all these opportunities all took place alongside the wonderful Art and Textiles exhibitions, the Year 9 Music Festival, Reading Week, the Great Owen's Bake Off, our visit from Herts Voices, the Year 10, 11 and 12 work experience opportunities, the Lower School play, Year 7 transition activities, Cultural and Identity day, Sports Day, the AMAZING OwensFest, more music concerts, as well as the new House Celebration afternoon which helped kick off the usual end of year celebrations of our young people and the school. The end of the year does not bring any respite!

Indeed, as the holiday starts, the Music Department will, for the first time since Covid, be taking a host of musicians 'on tour'. This



## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS...

### **QUI AUDET ADIPISCITUR**

Who dares wins, p.3.

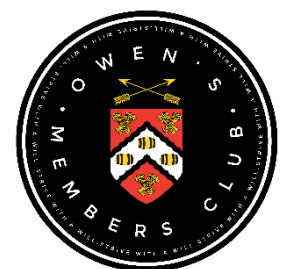
### **MISSED OWENSFEST?**

See pages 7&8.

### **SUBJECT BY SUBJECT**

Details on pages 15-41.

It's our school!



summer, more than 70 of our young musicians will leave England, as school breaks up, to be part of a wonderful music festival in the Rhineland. We hope that they, and the staff taking them, have a wonderful time.

You will be able to read about all the magnificent things our students have been accomplishing within the pages of this newsletter but do not forget that you can also get real-time updates on the news section of our website or by following us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

As ever, the end of the school year sees us needing to say goodbye to some familiar faces.

Mr Aladiran first joined us in 2007 before leaving us in 2014 for a short four-year period. It was our pleasure to welcome him back in 2018 since when we have, once again, enjoyed his brilliant teaching, his sharp sense of humour and his calm demeanour in the face of whatever life throws at him. Whilst wishing him luck in his adventures abroad, we can only hope that the pull of an international school and all the glorious sunshine does not live up to expectations and that we will be able to welcome him back to his Owen's family again soon.

Ms Cruttenden has been a wonderful addition to our Art Department these last years. Helping us out when a member of staff moved on, mid-year. Ms Cruttenden has brought bright sunshine into our lives with her positivity and creativity. We are so happy that she has been offered a more full-time role in another school but we will miss her hugely.

Mr Davies once told me that he never thought he would spend as long in a school as he spent in the school he was at before joining Owen's but to his surprise, he has been here even longer, for an astonishing 18 years! Mr Davies is an exceptional teacher who shows enormous care for the students he teaches and the staff he leads, this has resulted in him leaving behind an outstanding History Department that he should be very proud of. The amount of learning outside of the classroom, from Rochester to Berlin via the Somme helps bring history to life for so many and, together with the excellent teaching, has helped make history a very popular subject indeed. Unfortunately for us, the pull of the sunshine in a school abroad has been too much for him to resist as well and he is leaving us to make good use of his retirement, seeking out new experiences and new stories to share. We wish Mr Davies every continued success and much happiness as he starts his new chapter.

Mrs Kouloumas has been a valued member of the English Department since 2006 where she made such a lasting impression on so many that, when she announced her retirement, students dating back to her first year here got in touch and recalled beautiful memories such as these "your lessons were always full of joy and warmth! You always had such a lovely manner and style helping us to feel safe to ask questions and empowered to learn". "I will never forget your kind, encouraging manner as an English teacher, but also your contagious laugh, unwavering compassion and approachable nature which made you so much more than just a teacher to so many of us".

It has been a privilege to work with Mrs Kouloumas and we could not be more honoured to know that the first thing she wants to do with her retirement is to volunteer with us, in the English Department, one day a week! We could not think of a person we would love to keep close to us more. Thank you for everything you have done and what you continue to do for the school.

Mrs Lindall has been with us since 2019 and in this time has delivered fantastic teaching and has been a wonderful support. It is little surprise then that we are saying goodbye to her as she moves

into a promoted position at another school. We wish her every success.

Ms Merrin joined us in 2018 initially to help us out with a long-term absence in the department due a member of staff with poor health. She has been a fantastic member of the team ever since. We have never ceased to be impressed with her dedication to her students or to her colleagues. She has worked hard to ensure that she gives every person the very best of herself. Ms Merrin is now hoping to find a little more space in her life and we can only thank her for being so incredible all this time.

Ms Sakatis has been with us for 9 years making maths accessible to everyone and helping the Maths Department to get to grips with, and embrace, some of the new technologies as they became available. She quickly worked her way up to take on various leadership roles within maths, most recently as second in department. We are so sorry that she feels her family commitments mean that she has to move to a school nearer home and we can only hope that her new school recognises what a star they have appointed to their team.

Miss Saliba joined us in 2020 and it quickly became apparent just what a capable and dedicated teacher she was. Giving 110% to the English and Psychology departments, as well as to her form, she has supported so many students to achieve more than they might have felt possible. Thus, once again, it comes as no surprise that Miss Saliba is leaving for a promoted position in another school but we do hope we will be able to win her back again in years to come.

When we first met Mr Salter, we knew that we just had to have him on our team. His enthusiasm, his passion for music and his great sense of fun were perfectly aligned to our vision of learning. Mr Salter has been a magnificent teacher and has helped develop music throughout the school, not least some of the choirs. Unfortunately, the pull of music is proving to be just too much for him and he will be leaving us to pursue a career as a professional musician. We look forward to being able to organise a great big school trip to watch him perform at a major music venue in London, or somewhere else, equally as glamorous, very soon.

For some time now, Miss Sanghera has been spending at least two hours a day commuting; and even though her boundless energy and unwavering commitment to fixtures after school and at the weekend would never betray the toll this must have been taking, we cannot fault her for wanting to find a role which would give her back some of this time. Miss Sangera has had a huge positive impact on the PE Department and our young people and we wish her all the very best with her new role in her new school.

Mrs Sunderland has only been with us for a couple of years but has made a huge impact in the English Department, especially within KS3, which she has been leading for much of this time. The incredibly high standards she sets for herself and holds for her students have led to some astonishing progress by many. We wish her all the best of luck in her new school.

Mr Tuton has only been with us for a year and we are not surprised that throughout this time his previous school has been trying to lure him back. He has been a highly valued member of the department and we wish him every success in his promoted position back at his old school.

Ms Rodosthenous has been a supportive figure in class and around the base as well as supporting students at lunchtimes for five years. A very kind and gentle member of our team, Ms Rodosthenous

will be leaving us to continue working with young people improving their mental health through greater involvement in counselling.

Mr Lobatto has helped so many of us in his role as an academic mentor. Joining under part of the Government's Covid catch-up programmes, he has worked with students with thought, care and compassion helping many to achieve beyond their expectations. We wish him all the best as he turns to a new chapter of his life but we hope to see him return to teaching soon!

Ms Detain and Ms Liubarski have worked tirelessly in the science prep room this year helping to ensure that all our practical work goes to plan. As recent Owen's alumni, I know it has been interesting for them to experience school from the other side of the prep room door but the time is right for them to move on to university and the opportunities that this will bring. We thank them both for their attention to detail, support and good humour and hope that we have implanted the love of teaching in them and that they may join us again, in a few years' time, supporting the work of the school staff in another way!

We are in the incredibly privileged position of being fully staffed for September and look forward to welcoming Ms Antoniou, teacher of maths; Ms Blythe, teacher of English; Mr Brogan, teacher of history; Ms Catronovo, teacher of maths; Mr De Jong, teacher of maths; Mr Jayapal, teacher of maths; Mr McGill, Director of Sport; Ms Nuckey, teacher of English; Mr O'Hanlon, Cover supervisor; Ms Sagar, Learning Support Assistant; Ms Simone, teacher of PE and Ms Sutherland, teacher of music.

We are all looking forward to another year full of learning and exceptional opportunities which will help our young people to grow, discover and understand the talents they did not even know they had had.

Until then, all that remains for me to do is to thank our magnificent staff for all their hard work and dedication, our students for theirs and our parent body for all your support over this past year.

Wishing you all a restful summer,

**Hannah Nemko**



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As House Captains of Clerkenwell House, we are bursting with immense pride and joy to say we are the winning house for this academic year and every member of Clerkenwell House has played an instrumental role in this extraordinary achievement. Everyone's collective determination, unity, and unwavering spirit has been amazing to oversee over this year. This triumph is a testament to the incredible talents, resilience, and commitment exhibited by every individual in our house. We are truly honoured to lead such an exceptional group of individuals and couldn't be prouder of each and every member of Clerkenwell House. Keep up the good work!

- Amirah F, Jasmin M, Louis W

The winning house was rewarded with a pizza party, with special guest star DJ Mr Sykes after lunch on Monday. 17 July. Luckily, the weather (just about) held out and a good time was had by all.

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**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, in the Old Library. The next meeting will be on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> September (this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday due to the first being an inset day). Please do come and join us. We meet in a convivial and enthusiastic atmosphere looking for ways to support the school community.

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

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

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

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/owensschoolassociation/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=rm-c20](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/owensschoolassociation/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-c20)

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

**Nearly New Uniform:** We always need more uniform items. 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. Sustainable clothing recycling helps families save costs, allows the school to have an additional source of funding and demonstrates environmental conscientiousness. If you would like to help, please email [uniform@theosa.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 Alan at [200club@theOSA.org.uk](mailto: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.

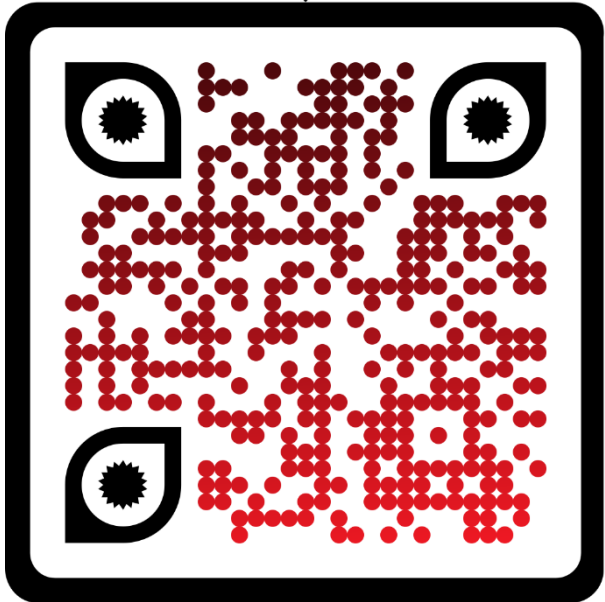
Owen's School Association - Dame Alice Owen Parent Association (@owensschoolassociation\_dao)  
• Instagram photos and videos

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



The poster features a dark blue starry background. At the top, several yellow and red stars are scattered. The main text '200 CLUB Lottery' is rendered in large, bold, red letters with a yellow outline and a white drop shadow. Below this, the OSA logo is displayed, consisting of a crest and the text 'OSA OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION'. The text 'Lottery' is written in a yellow, cursive font. Below the logo, the following text is centered: 'The OSA run a Lottery style 200 Club with monthly prizes of £50 and £25, with an additional 13th draw in December. Annual membership is £24 per number. For further details please contact Alan Williams via [200club@theOSA.org.uk](mailto:200club@theOSA.org.uk)'

DAO OSA 200 Club



The OSA big event this term was much awaited Owensfest! The weather was ideal and with the jazz sounds permeating the school grounds, one could be forgiven to believe Gershwin's words that for once *'the livin' is easy'*. Owen's own amazing musicians together with their excellent music teachers yet again treated everyone to the phenomenal musical feast. This year's Owensfest offered a plethora of activities and stalls to enjoy – from inflatables and tie dyes to nature club and art café.

If you happened to have missed this highlight of the year, here are a few snapshots to get you excited about the next summer as Owensfest is set to go from strength to strength. The school community and the OSA are extremely grateful to everyone (the list is too long to include here!) who put in so much effort to make it a success and raise a few thousand pounds for valuable equipment and supplies to use in lessons and for clubs.





**DIARY DATE:** AS YOU LOOK FORWARD TO THESE SUMMER HOLIDAYS, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO MARK YOUR DIARY FOR ANOTHER POPULAR OSA EVENT – SUPPER QUIZ, SATURDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER. AND YES, IT WILL COME AROUND QUICKER THAN YOU THINK AND IT OFTEN SELLS OUT.



## The Library Update

It has been a busy half term in the library!

We have continued to welcome Key Stage 3 students to the library for their regular library lessons as part of English. Activities during these lessons have included using our poetry collection to prepare for the annual poetry reading competition; completing the 'Classics Challenge' to explore classic fiction and create posters and speeches to present the works they have read to each other; and lots of reading for pleasure! We have also welcomed groups of A-Level English students to the library to introduce them to our collection of critical works about their English set texts and groups of History students starting work on their A-Level research projects.

As well as welcoming groups to the library, we have also started to venture out and about around the site this half term! Our 'mobile library' has visited B Block on two occasions to bring the library to the students, giving older students the chance to borrow books during English lessons, whilst maximising available teaching time.

We were proud to play a supporting role in the Reading Week organised by the English Department at the start of July. The library hosted Sixth Form Independent Reading Day, including a visit by performance poet Ash Dickinson. We also enjoyed attending a talk by novelist Penny Joelson. During the week, we surveyed the whole school community about their reading preferences and their views on the school library. This generated lots of food for thought and many great suggestions, which we shall be considering over the summer – watch this space! We also supplied many members of staff with the 'I am currently reading' notices which you may have noticed all over the site. Do take time to read these for inspiration for your next book!

Even more recently, we were delighted to be asked to be involved in the Culture and Identity Day organised by the Senior Team. The students themselves chose some new books for us to order to mark the occasion, and they also selected a list of books from our current holdings for display in the library. We moved the display to the gym for the main event itself and really enjoyed being a part of this occasion.

Students have continued to make good use of the library to browse and borrow books, do homework, revise or read at breaktimes, lunchtimes and after school. We have continued to encourage students to widen their reading choices by creating changing displays of books in both sections of the library. This half term, displays have included 'Summer of Sport', Refugee Week, Culture and Identity Day as described above, new STEM wider reading and summer holiday-themed books arranged by genre.

We are very grateful to our Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteers who continue to help us regularly and reliably with shelving, tidying and processing new stock. We are also very grateful to various other school departments for some of the improvements to the physical space that students may have noticed recently – new soft chairs, a new unit to house our 'topic boxes', and of course the fantastic student artwork which has really improved the ambience of the library.

We wish everyone a relaxing summer break filled with great reading. Students and staff needing inspiration can visit our Library Google Classroom to download our optional summer 'Genre Challenge' sheet and our Library Catalogue home page to access a large collection of reading lists. There truly is something for everyone there!

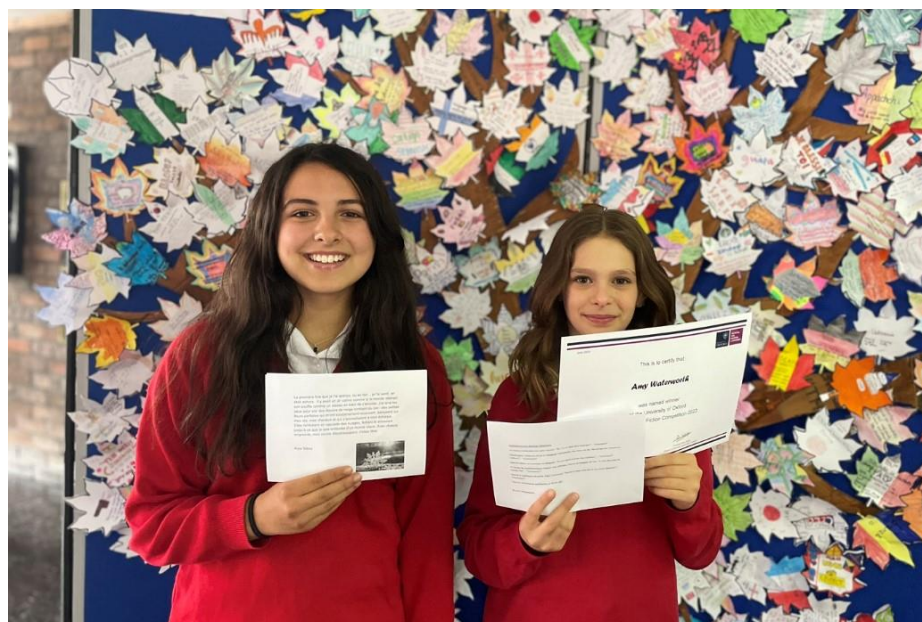
*Dr Hazel James MA LIS*  
Librarian



*The Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford organised a French flash fiction competition for students in Y7 to Y13 and several of our students took part. They were asked to write a story in no more than 100 words.*

*Amy W (Y8) wrote the winning piece: « Comment je suis devenue vétérinaire » (How I became a vet) is based on a witty use of French idiomatic expressions.*

*Arya G's (Y8) poetic snowflake story received special mention from the jury.*



## Social Action Projects

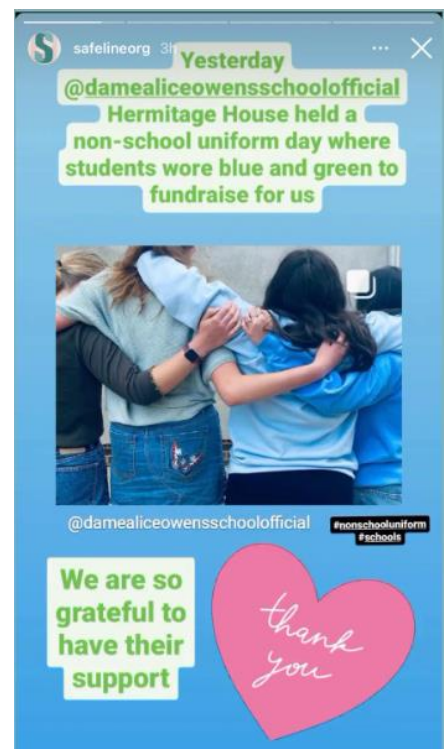
In September 2022, the Pastoral team introduced a new leadership role – Social Action Captain – for students in Key Stages 3 and 4. At the start of the Summer Term, Social Action Captains were tasked with selecting a social action project that they felt passionate about. Each House worked in collaboration with House Captains and the following projects were launched:

- Clerkenwell: Anti-Racism linked to Stephen Lawrence Day
- Goswell: Mental Health linked to Young Minds
- Hermitage: Sexual abuse and harassment linked to Safeline
- Isledon: Supporting Muslim communities globally linked to Amnesty International

The projects aimed at raising awareness in our school community as well as raising funds for the selected charities. The work that students have undertaken has been exceptional. We have seen students leading a range of activities, such as a screening of 'Bend It Like Beckham' to illustrate how different communities can work together, making and selling cultural bracelets, a tuck and bake sale, a sponsored silence and sports week and a non-uniform day with a themed colour.

On Tuesday, 4 July, Social Action Captains were invited to present the impact of their projects to member of the Senior Leadership and Pastoral Team alongside our Vice Chair of Governors. The panel were blown away by the leadership of the students and actions taken.

- Clerkenwell raised a total of £2058 for the Stephen Lawrence Charity
- Goswell: raised a total of £540.25 for Young Minds
- Hermitage: raised a total of £621.15 for Safeline
- Isledon: raised £1030 for Amnesty International with other fundraising still underway



Clerkenwell were voted as the overall House with the biggest impact and received 1000 House points and an invitation to go to the House of Commons to meet Baroness Lawrence in the autumn term. The work of all students has been phenomenal and we are excited to see the launch of new projects next academic year.



## Chess News

It has been a very good year for chess at the school. Every two weeks we have been involved in the National Online School Chess League and have performed consistently well, winning on a number of occasions, with a relatively young team. In the final match of the year, we came in second place against 10 other teams.

We also reached the Repechage Stage of the National Chess Champions (which is quite rare for us) and many students have taken the opportunity to be involved in other chess events throughout the year thanks to the efforts of Mr Yu. Face-to-face lessons have even been offered by Mr Goodlad whilst the online chess league has been running, which we greatly appreciate. All this to say that hopefully our team will go from strength to strength in the future.

Well done to all students who have joined in with chess this year but in particular to Stephen and Daniel G, along with Rufus J, who have nurtured the youngsters in the team, Rachel G, James Ch, TaoHai Kh, Ridhuan Z, Sasha B and Rock Y.



On the individual level, Rock has reached the Terafinal of the Delancey UK Chess Challenge (the UK's largest chess competition), which will be held at Blenheim Palace in October, and has also represented England at several events this year! What a chess superstar!!! No wonder he won the Simpson Archer Chess Prize.

*Mr Simpson*  
*Director of Chess*

## The Rotary Writing Competition success!

Emer O'S, Y8, has had a successful year with her superb creative writing. After winning the Rotary District and Regional finals, she reached the National Finals but was not placed, this time!

Emer was presented with a trophy and certificate by Barbara Middleton, Rotary's District Governor, for her entry 'The Problem with Peace' (read below).



### ***Power and Peace by Emer O'Sullivan***

*Will the human race ever be free of the constant conflict that happens on earth? The idea of peace hangs over us like a far-fetched new year's resolution; unreachable. People say that you must love yourself before you can be loved by someone else, so shouldn't we have to be at peace with our own selves and everyone around us before world peace could be even attempted?*

*How can there be tranquillity if humanity has so many conflicting thoughts and opinions? We live in a world where peace is pushed aside by the hunger for power, making brawls and quarrels spawn like plague. Making war take over the world, diseasing the minds of infants with the wrong messages, stealing from innocents and letting all hell run free.*

*The once sweet mind of a human, manipulated and turned sour, coaxed into a money making scheme of lust and gluttony, a scheme of unimaginable evil: to conquer the world. This war would not be waged from the trenches, but from the algorithms designed to control us, experimenting which formula could drag us in for a few more minutes, to keep us online for a little longer. A notification to catch our attention in an otherwise peaceful moment. Our minds would be controlled by something greater than us, our limbs tied to puppet strings, our souls moulded the way the power wanted them to be.*

*The human race, being dragged around like zombies, completely mindless, completely oblivious to the fact that we were being controlled.*

*Wait.*

*That sounds... familiar.*

*Surely those more powerful than us aren't controlling us? Feeding us the content that only we want to see - the way that we want to see the world shoved onto a screen for us to consume and believe. 'Buzz!!' A notification to attract our attention, to steal our time without us ever realising it. If the power is not telling us the whole truth, how could the human race unite in the first place? What if the peace was being deliberately destroyed? What if the world outside of our screen was different to the one shown to us? The power could control anything with its algorithm. It could turn neighbours, friends, families against each other and influence countries using it. Turning the human race into mindless zombies, living in a simulation and they don't even realise it.*

*But what does our stolen time have to do with world peace? Well, if it takes a village to raise a child, it will take the world to solve world peace. It will take the globe to overcome its differences and unite against the power. Look away from the screen! The power's greedy, twisted schemes have plagued the earth long enough. Face the world in all its majestic glory, breathe in the fresh air of freedom and only then will you experience the feeling that is, true peace.*

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This has been a very busy term with 4 expeditions taking place at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

In April and May, 94 Year 10 students completed their practice expeditions in Hertfordshire and will be completing their assessed expeditions in September and October next year. This will be the last section to be completed enabling them to achieve their Bronze award.



At the beginning of July, 40 Year 11 students went to the Chilterns to complete their 3-day assessed silver expedition. All students showed that they were very capable and achieved success. Well done to all students that took part and have now completed their Silver award.



The Year 12 Gold students completed their Practice expedition in April in the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons). Although rather cold and wet, the students came through and 24 students are heading up to the Lake District at the end of term to complete their assessed expedition. Good luck to all taking part.

11 Year 13 students have completed their Gold award which is a great achievement. They will be going to Buckingham Palace to collect their awards next year.

### Dates for next term

Sept 16th -17th Bronze assessed silver practice, for the present Year 10

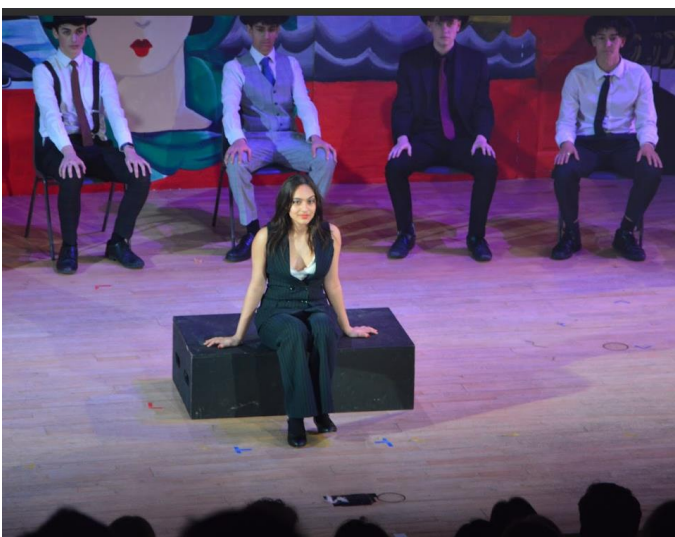
Oct 15th -17th Bronze/Silver assessed for the present Year 10 and 11

*Miss A Lord*



We've had an incredibly busy couple of half terms, including GCSE and A-Level performance exams in March and our spring musical *Chicago* in April. We are entirely proud of our Drama & Theatre Studies students who worked incredibly hard to prepare and perform their exam pieces.

It was 'back to normal' this year with all our GCSE students performing two exam pieces from the same play to an external examiner in March to our Year 10 students, giving them a great opportunity to see what they themselves will be doing next year. Our Year 11 GCSE students have been studying the fantastic new addition to the Pearson syllabus 'A Doll's House' by Tanika Gupta as their set text this year so their performance exam pieces needed to be from a contemporary period of theatre as a contrast. Our students performed their exam extracts from the following plays:



*The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood

*Boys* by Ella Hickson

*Don Juan* by Moliere (adaptation by Christopher Hampton)

*After Juliet* by Sharman Macdonald

*The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband* by Debbie Issitt

*The Play About My Dad* by Boo Killigrew

*The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon

*Be My Baby* by Amanda Whittington

Our A-Level students performed their monologues and duologues to an external examiner the following week and again everything was back to pre-pandemic with both the monologues/duologues & group performance being examined.



In this instance, the exams were held in the evening so our parents, siblings and friends were able to attend what was agreed to be a brilliant evening of performances. The students performed monologues/duologues from the following plays:

*The House of Bernarda Alba* by Federica Garcia Lorca

*Scandaltown* by Mike Bartlett

*Enough* by Stef Smith

These were followed by their group performance of *Hurricane Diane* by Madeleine George. If any of you are enjoying the hilarious murder mystery series 'Only Murders in the Building', Madeleine George is credited as a writer on this show which stars Steve Martin, Selena Gomez and Martin Short.

Our musical *Chicago* involved over 100 students in Years 8-13, and for us as staff it was an utter joy to watch onstage, with many parents and colleagues remarking how astonished they were at the professional standard of performance from our actors, singers, dancers and musicians. In fact, one member of staff said that they were surprised how many parents were there, for a moment forgetting that they weren't at an actual theatre in the West End!

From the outset Ms Makepeace-Lott and I were really pleased with the way in which our performers were progressing, confident in the knowledge that we had cast a really strong set of performers who loved to collaborate with one another as a company and were thoroughly enjoying themselves in rehearsals. Our leads, Jed, Hollie, Anjali, Sesadhi, Seth, Isla & Annalisa were phenomenal as were our Cell Block Tango girls Ella, Isabella, Solomia, Katya & Jess. All our musical numbers were introduced by our charismatic compere Rotimi who together with Sami created many character-driven decisions that added clever comedic touches to the show.

The music was led by Mrs Brady and it is a testimony to her band's excellence in performance that they received a standing ovation every night from the audience after the 'playoff'. We were also incredibly lucky to have our older students, Eloise, Katya, Lottie and Annalisa choreograph pretty much every single song in the show. Their individual dance skills in tap, jazz and ballet were combined collectively to create challenging routines for our dancers with the outcome being a visual feast of entertainment for the audience.





Finally, and by no means least, we were supported by our experienced Technical and Stage Crew who enabled the whole show to sound and look as fantastic as it did, led by professional alumni Mr Levy and run by Lottie, Oliver, Alex and James.



If you missed out on Chicago, then hopefully you were able to catch our final performance of the year, an adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which took place in the penultimate week of term and featured a feast of talented performers from Years 7-9 acting, dancing and singing.



Our junior students transported the audience to Romania in the 1950s, where magic and mischief ran rife in 'Dream Wood' as the central characters each tried to twist fate and get their own way.

The performance was opened by the imposing Count Vladimir played by Zach who certainly set the tone as he commanded his lords to accept his marriage to Anoushka and questioned the advice of our crazed Madame Babooshka played brilliantly by Leila on Friday and Mya on Thursday and Saturday night's performances.



The lovers, played by Lottie, Izzy, Krishan and Atticus were certainly believable as they fought their way through the wood and each other to find true happiness.



Oberon and Titania played by Ira and Betty certainly convinced us that sparks were flying as they fought over the changeling child (Sreehari) until reconciling and bringing together the warring factions of fey and mortal. Emilia, Isabella, Sethuni and Divine sang their Fairy Lullaby beautifully and provided much hilarity as the fairies Cobweb, Moth, Peaseblossom and Mustardseed as they hid the 'beast in her bower', a donkey from their Queen Titania.



The American visitors played by Andriana, Jack, Katherine, Jonah and Sophia were a hilarious combination of clashing personalities and egos; and there were certainly plenty of slapstick comedy moments involving the Pucks played by Junaid and Zak who bewitched everyone with their antics.



There were many memorable moments such as Jonah as Sam Pastrami asking Melody if he could be her 'pickle'; Andriana's frequent meltdowns as Melody over her hairbrush; Jack's rendition of *You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You*; Katherine as the effervescent and wise Peggy Sue; Sophia as the strong-willed Kim Kowalski and Matthias as the arrogant Nick Bottom surrounded by the fabulous dancers performing *Fever* by Peggy Lee.



The choreography was led by Lottie and Solomia who despite juggling their mock exams were instrumental in creating a range of dance styles including the beautiful ballet, rock and roll numbers and contemporary pieces. We would also like to celebrate Eva's efforts too, who really rose to the challenge of leading the dance rehearsals when our choreographers were busy with their mock exams and creating the beautiful choreography for 'Don't Stop' which never failed to make me cry.



Stage and Technical Crew led by Lottie, Alex, James, Ethan and Leon are a real Dream Team when it comes to running a school show and making it look so professional and this production was no exception.

There were so many younger students training on lighting, sound and stage management, who took the reins on this one and have learnt so much from the experience. They really impressed us.

And finally, I'd like to thank my fantastic department and those supporting us from other departments too, Mr Henshaw, Miss Khan, Mrs Nicolaides and Mr Stensel for all your help with scenic design, backstage chaperoning and with our performance exams. That's another year over, with 2 plays, 1 musical, 2 GCSE performances and 2 A-Level performances. That's seven events in one year!

I think we can all be really proud of the efforts that the students have made this year and look forward to a really well deserved summer holiday!

*Miss E Govier*  
*Director of Drama*

### **Year 8 Maths Herts for Learning Team Challenge Final 2023**

Following on from their recent successes at the heats, the Year 8 Maths team, Artian K, Ammiel G, Ira B and Ivy L, have performed exceptionally well at the finals of the Herts Year 8 Maths Challenge, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> out of 18 teams with a final score of 164 out of 240.

Although they were not able to finish on the podium this time, the team had an incredible amount of fun and learnt a lot from the experience. They have also had other incredible successes throughout the competition. They were the highest scoring Year 8 team ever in the heats, with a record-breaking score of 226/240!

Below are statements outlining the experience from the perspective of the team members:

Ammiel: The competition was fantastic - a valuable and enjoyable experience for us all. We had a great time!

Ira: We all did our very best and we are thrilled to have come as far as we did.

Ivy: I'm very proud of all of our skill and teamwork together at the competition. We all cooperated very well as a team.

Artian: I found it a really interesting way to learn about maths and to work as a team.

*Caroline Bond*  
*Maths Teacher*

### **Kangaroo**

In June, 25 pupils from Year 7 and 15 pupils from Year 8 were invited to sit the Kangaroo follow-on round of the Junior Maths Challenge.

Special congratulations go to Daniel G, Sienna S, Yuhan J, Anna F, Kayne S and Yeshan S in Year 7 and to Adam S, Henry B, Bryan X, Artian K and Zimo G in Year 8 who all achieved a merit.

In addition, 3 pupils from Year 7 sat the Junior Olympiad. Congratulations to William H and Rachel G who achieved a merit and to TaoHai K who achieved a distinction.

### **Puzzle of the Week 2022/23**

Puzzle of the week is a weekly mathematical problem solving competition for Years 7, 8 and 9.

This year we had ten amazing individuals who completed every single one of the 34 Puzzle of the Week problems correctly. An absolutely amazing feat! The final placing for prizes was decided by a tie break. Well done to Adam S who completed the tie break competition in the fastest time.

1st Adam S

2nd Zeb M

3rd Ammiel G

Zeynep K, TaoHai K, Cheryl L, Perla M, Vishnu P, Kian T, Vanshika T

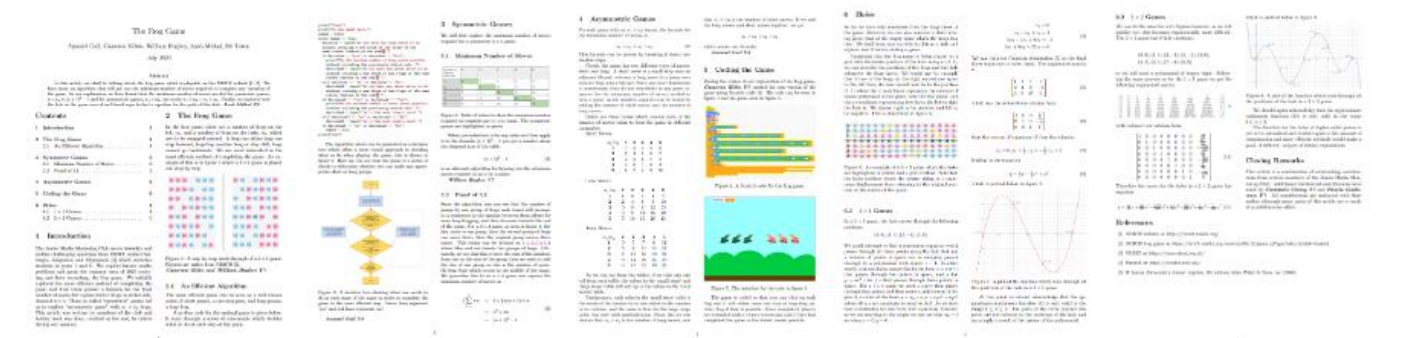
### The Frog Game: A mathematical exploration by the Junior Maths Mentoring Club

The Junior Maths Mentoring Club meets biweekly and tackles challenging questions from UKMT maths challenges, Kangaroos and olympiads to stretch students in Years 7 and 8. We explore known maths problems and spent the summer term of 2023 studying, and later recreating, the Frog game.

We have collaboratively written an article detailing our exploration with outstanding contributions from Ammiel G (Y8), Cameron G (Y7), William H (Y7) and Ansh M (Y8). The article is written in the style of a research paper and was the first exposure to this for many in the club. I would like to thank all those who attend the club and contributed to the article.

The article is available [here](#).

Mr Tuton  
Maths teacher



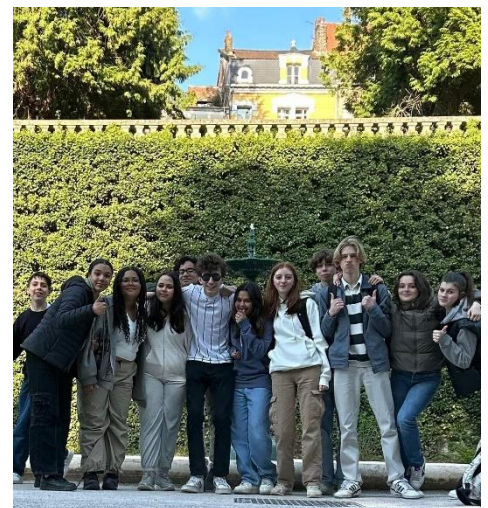
## French exchange 2023

The French exchange returned to Owen's after a 4-year gap due to Covid-19 and the Brexit, with a new year group - year 10! It was an all-round success. Our French partners arrived at Owens in March and learnt a lot about an Owens education by following their partners in lessons. They also enjoyed day trips to London to visit all the major sites and lots of selfie opportunities with celebrities (Madame Tussauds has always proven to be a favourite with our guests!) And who can come to London without a visit to our world famous theatres? Indeed, both Owenians and French students were able to "let it go" while watching a very successful performance of "Frozen".

Exchanges are a wonderful opportunity for students to get to know firsthand the culture of the country they are visiting and practise and improve their speaking skills. Certainly, this year's students did both by learning to take risks in speaking without worrying about making mistakes! Our stay in France included visits to Lille, an indoor adventure team building centre, watching "The Three Musketeers" during a private viewing and most of all a day trip to Paris. This was the highlight for many of our pupils and the memories they have of the Eiffel Tower, the boat trip on River Seine, the Louvre and Montmartre and Sacré Coeur will last a lifetime! Well done to all our students for their impeccable behaviour, their enthusiasm, participation and good work during the trip! We can see in lessons how much your French language skills have benefited from the experience!

We are delighted to announce that we will also be starting a new exchange for our Y12 and Y13 students with our partner school. This is very exciting opportunity for our students, especially as 2024 will be the 20th anniversary of our friendship!

*Mme Conte*  
*Teacher of French*



## Chamber Concert and Arts Evening Performances

On 8 June, the Owen's Chamber Concert also coincided with the Art and Textiles GCSE and A-level Exhibitions, resulting in an evening richly full of arts. The **Junior Chamber Strings** and **'Les Vents' Wind Quintet** entertained visitors to the exhibitions in the first part of the evening.

The Chamber Concert featured performances from the Percussion department: the **Junior and Senior Percussion Ensembles** and the **Drumming group**, the Wind Chamber Music Programme: **Flute Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble** and **'Les Vents' Wind Quintet**, as well as the **Guitar Ensemble**, Y12 soloists, Jess and Rufus, and a self-directed Y7 Double Bass and Piano duo, Phoebe and Clarabelle.

Congratulations to all our wonderful performers for their ongoing work and inspiration!

Thank-you also to ensemble leaders, Ms Bamber, Mr Crossley, Ms McChrystal, Mr Niesyto and Mrs Smith.



## Y10 GCSE Music Ensembles Concert

On 14 June, Year 10 GCSE musicians and friends – 50 musicians in all – headed to the stage in the EGH to showcase the ensemble pieces they had been preparing over the preceding half term. Featuring an incredible range of repertoire, from Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no 3 to Europe's 'the Final Countdown', from Fauré's 'Pavane' to John Coltrane's 'Mr. P.C.', this was a brilliant evening of exciting, independently collaborative music-making. It was so enjoyable I think we all forgot that it was being marked as part of Y10 exams, and just simply sat back and enjoyed the brilliant music-making, as did all the assembled audience of family and friends.

Congratulations to the Year 10s for all the work and passion they put into preparing the pieces! We look forward to hearing more from these fabulous young musicians in their Y11 Ensembles' Concert in the Autumn!





## Year 9 Music Festival

The KS3 Music curricular year culminated in the amazing spectacle that was the Y9 Music Festival, where every one of the Year 9s prepared musical items to take to the stage in the EGH, each performing in whole-class and small-group pieces. With 57 separate performances across 4 separate Festival sessions, looking and sounding fantastic, on a fully-teched stage (thank-you Y9 Tech Crew members for fantastic lighting design and controlling our sound) they were all triumphant, both in their performing courage and prowess, and also as an appreciative and supportive audience for each other.

Congratulations also to all who were awarded Highly Commended, Outstanding and Teacher Award certificates for special achievements. The winning class overall was 9lmn2. With more than 2,000 house points awarded overall, congratulations also to the winning house, Hermitage.





## Owen's Jazz Events

Following the programme preview on Sunday 2 July on the Main Stage at the OSA SummerFest, the Owen's Jazz programme culminated on Tuesday 4 July with 'Owen's Jazz on a Summer Evening' in the Main Hall, with the audience laid out cabaret style (our thanks, as ever, to the excellent OSA!), provided by the **Jazz Collective**, the **Junior and Senior Big Bands** as well as smaller combos. Featuring Owen's musicians' unique versions of a range of jazz standards, including exciting improvised solos, funky rhythms and some classy vocalists, it was a packed evening of toe tapping and musical collaborations.

Our thanks to the Tech Crew, under the direction of Mr Sam Levy, the ensemble directors, Mr Crossley, Mr Kelly and Mr Hunt and congratulations to all our brilliant performers!





## Summer Concert

Congratulations to our young musicians on a fantastic Summer Concert in the EGH on Monday 10 July. From the focused, yet infectious energy of the **Junior Ensemble**, to the grand array of Owen's **Junior Brass**, to the confidence finesse of the **Junior Chamber Strings** and, finally, the uplifting voices of the **Junior Chamber Choir** and **Junior Choir**, appearing for their final time under the direction of Mr Salter, the first half of the concert certainly sent the audience excited and delighted into the interval.

In the second half of the concert the auditorium was filled with the impressive and inspiring sounds of two large instrumental ensembles, **Second Band** and **Second Orchestra**. As Mrs Nemko said in her speech at the end of the concert, you would have no idea from the ambition and quality of the performances that this concert featured more junior than senior musicians. We were extremely proud of everything our performers achieved.

We would also like to thank the musical directors of the ensembles: Miss Jones, Mr Kelly, Ms Bamber, Mr Salter, Mr Crossley and Mrs Brady, as well as Mr Muir who accompanied the choirs and Mr Bean and Ms McChrystal for their help with the brass and percussion sections.

We also said a sad, fond farewell to Mr Salter who is leaving us at the end of this term to resume his career as an opera singer. We will miss him and wish him luck with his musical endeavours.



## Large Ensembles Concert 2

On Monday, 17th June, Owen's hosted the final concert of the year with the large ensembles concert featuring the school's premier string groups, choirs, concert band and symphony orchestra. A thrilling highlight of the evening was first off the blocks with Charlie Theobald's A level composition '*Daydream*' performed by the Senior Strings which was greeted with a well-deserved standing ovation. Chamber Orchestra followed this with an excellent rendition of the Scherzo from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* before the Senior Choirs captivated the audience with their impressive vocals. A further highlight of the first half was the Senior Chamber Choir's performance of Ešenvalds '*The New Moon*' using crystal glasses as instruments and the soaring vocals of the Close Harmony Group in *Bring Him Home*.

Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra then gave the audience a thrilling preview of the repertoire that they will be taking with them on tour to the Rhineland finishing with the quintessentially British Pomp and Circumstance March no. 4 by Edward Elgar. We wish them the best as they embark on their music tour in the coming days.



**Hassan Marzban – LMP  
Concerto WINNER!**  
Croydon Performing Arts  
Festival



A huge congratulations to Y10 student, Hassan, for coming first in the London Mozart Players Concerto competition on the recorder. Hassan was competing against early professional musicians at university level and came out on top with an exceptional display of virtuosity and musicality on the recorder. As part of his prize Hassan will perform a concerto with the London Mozart Players next year.

## Royal Society of Chemistry Competition

On Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, twelve Year 12 students took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry annual Schools Analyst Competition. Congratulations to Thomas, Eiden and Sam who were the winning DAOS team! Well done to all students for their participation and enthusiasm!

“Recently two of my friends and I have had the great pleasure of participating in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Schools Analyst Competition. The competition was an amazing event, where we really went into depths of chemical analysis by doing all sorts of tests, including titrations, thin layer chromatography and a lot more. But that wasn't the only great thing about the competition, we also had to learn how to best work together as a team so we could get accurate results quickly and efficiently. With all of this combined, I would massively recommend this event to any future Year 12 students are interested in Chemistry.”

*Thomas S, Y12*

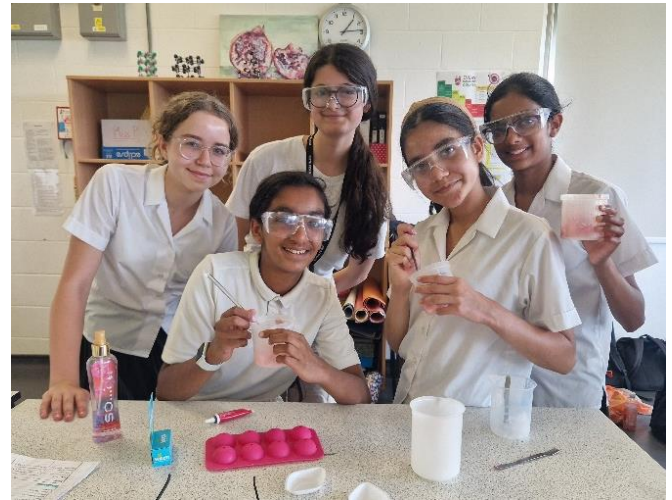
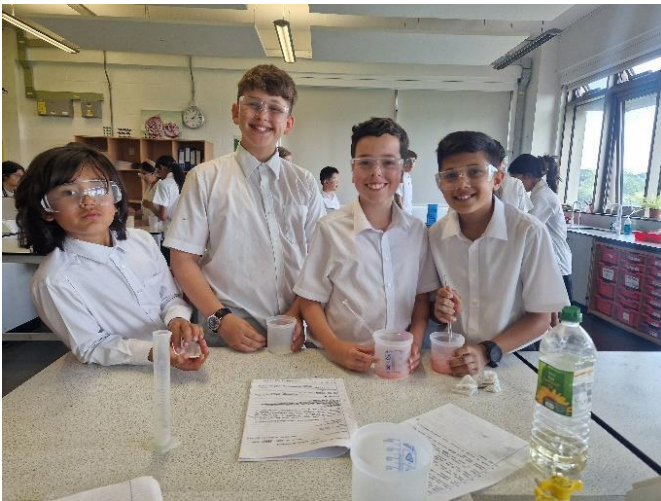


## CREST Club

CREST Club is a very fun and interesting science club, run during the summer term in lab 11. This club requires at least 10 weeks of work and effort which consists of: planning, investigating, carrying out practical experiments, evaluation and presentation. Our project was to research how to make the best bath bomb and test them on how they reacted in the water (e.g., reaction time, float/sink and fizz /10). Once we carried out the experiment, we wrote a slideshow about our aim at the start of the course, how we accomplished it and what we would use our research for after the course.

We have learned a lot from this project such as how to run an experiment fully and how to develop our practical, communication and analytical skills. We've really enjoyed our time at CREST club!

*Nico and Raph, Y7*

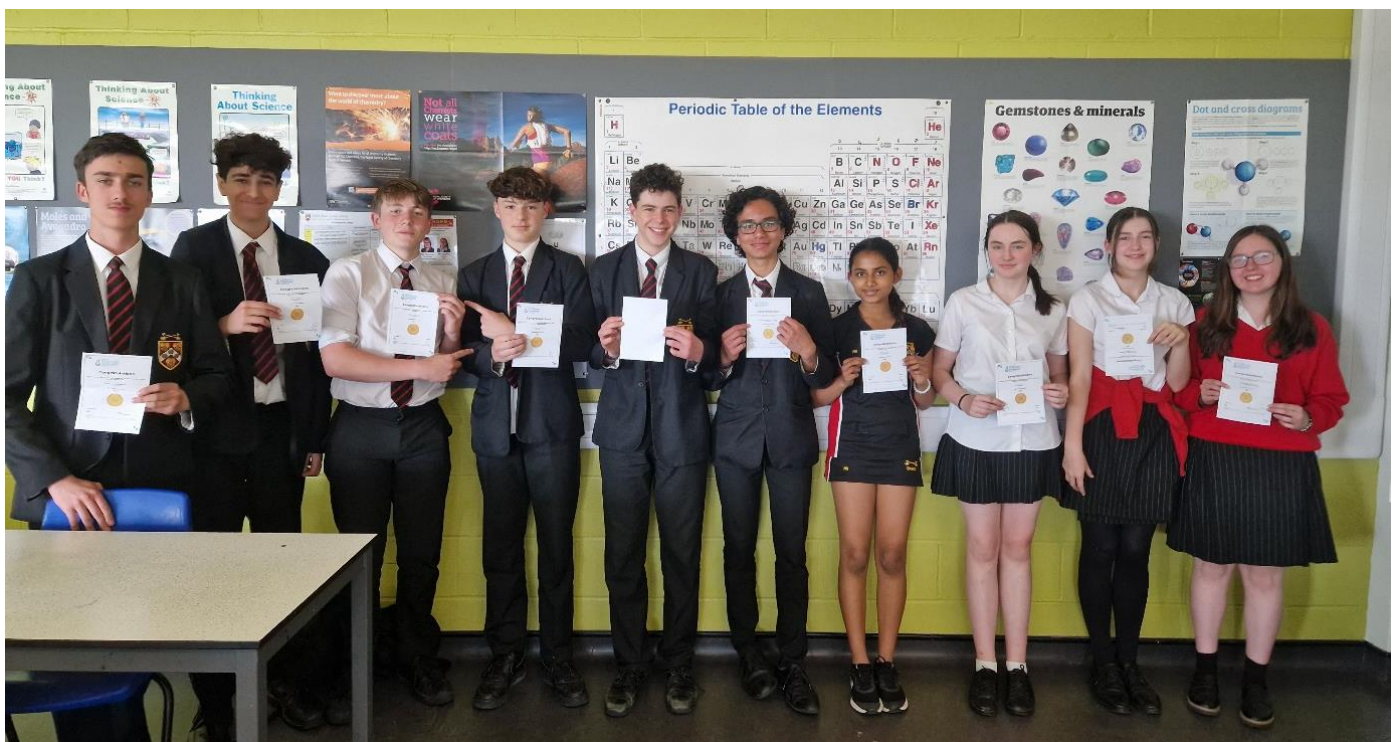


### National Scientific Thinking Challenge 2023

The National Scientific Thinking Challenge is an annual Science competition created by the Universities of Warwick, Oxford, Southampton, Newcastle, Bristol and Manchester. Over 20,000 Year 10 students took part globally! Well done to all DAOS students who took part.

Congratulations to the 14 students who achieved a Gold award which puts them in the top 10% of all participants! The challenge was extremely thought provoking and really made me think hard about seemingly trivial matters.

*Adam, Y10*





## **Athletics**

### **Under 14 Boys**

The boys' team performed well this year in the county league against some tough opposition and missed out qualifying for the county finals days, for some of the boys this will be a good learning curve in preparation for next season.

At the Mid Herts District Championships the Year 7 and 8 teams came 3rd with individual victories in their events for Kanye and Albert.

### **Under 14 Girls**

The U14 girls' team have had a very successful season. The girls came first in their league in the County League after six consistent meets, which meant they received the Silver Salver at the County finals. The girls put up a good fight at the County finals but against strong opposition came 6th on the night. Congratulations specifically to the following girls who finished top 3 at the final: Isabella (1st in HJ), Isla (2nd in LJ), Hannah (2nd in Discus), Annabelle (3rd in Hurdles) and Aduago (3rd in 800m).



The Junior girls' athletics team also won both the county and regional stage of the Track and Field Cup and therefore progressed to the National Track and Field Finals in Chelmsford. It was a debut for the school and we couldn't be prouder of this special group of girls! Everyone gave it their all with some PB's on the day. The girls finished 9th out of 13th in the Country. It was a great way to finish a fantastic season!



### **Under 16 Boys**

The boys performed well this year and qualified for the County Finals against strong opposition on the day they came 5th. The boys also qualified for the regional round of the Track and Field Cup where they again finished 5th out of 12 schools on the day and this is still a great achievement for the team.

At Mid Herts District Championships both the year 9 and 10 teams came 2nd on the day and missed out on 1st by the odd point. Individual victories went to Morgan, Isaac, Ed, Excel, Matthew, Alfie and Fred. Great effort boys and look forward to next season.

### Under 16 Girls

The U16 girls had a strong season finishing 3rd in their league for the County league and had qualified for the final. The girls put in some consistent performances when it was difficult with people missing due to absences and trips. The girls had a difficult night in the final with very strong opposition, well done to Evie who came 3rd in the Shot Putt.

At the Mid Herts District Championships both the Year 9 and 10 team came 3rd by 1 point! Individual victories went to Aditi, Rosie, Evie, Bethan, Frankie, Emily and Taylor.



### District Athletics

The annual Mid Herts District Athletics Championships was held on 30th June. We as a school had a successful day with our Year 7 and 8 Girls winning their age groups and the Overall Girls trophy as well as retaining the Mid Herts Champions Trophy.



## Cricket

### Year 7 Boys

The boys have had a great season with convincing wins over Enfield Grammar and Chancellors and even reached the Semi Final of the cup, unfortunately losing out to Hitchin Boys.

### Year 7 Girls

The year 7A team had their first fixtures against Belmont which was unfortunately called off by the rain.

The girls have been consistent at training and have really progressed their bowling, fielding and batting skills. This was displayed in their match against Bancroft's, where they won by 10 runs.

The girls travelled away to Haileybury in their last fixture, where the competition was tough and lost. The players of the season are Anaya P and Sienna S. We look forward to the girls progressing onto hardball next cricket season.



The year 7s first fixture of this half term against Belmont fell victim to the rain. They then faced Bancroft's School in a pairs match. The B team game came down to the final over and they were unfortunate to lose by 4 runs. Anasuya, Gracie and Elizabeth all took 1 wicket and Captain Anasuya was selected as player of the match.

In their next match the B team faced Haileybury School. This was a good test against a strong opposition and despite losing the girls showed how much they have improved over the season in all aspects of their play. They took one wicket which was bowled by Reva and caught by Bailly. Haileybury selected Bailly as bowler of the game and Captain Maia as batter of the match.

### Year 8 Boys

Congratulations to the Year 8 boys on a very successful season. They finished joint County Champions, sharing the trophy with Aldwickbury, having beaten Chancellors, Richard Hale and Haileybury.

### Year 8 Girls

The girls have been really progressing with their fielding, batting and bowling skills with the help of Rebecca from Hertfordshire cricket. This was evident when they won against Queenswood, well done to all!



## Year 9 Boys

The U14 boys cricket team had a successful season with county cup and friendly fixtures before finishing the season with an inhouse game against the Year 10 team. In the county cup, we had a convincing win against St Clement Danes, winning by 8 wickets before losing to a very strong St Albans Boys. In our friendly fixtures, we won all but one of our games, with a notable win against Hitchin Boys School, winning by 7 wickets. Well done to captains Andrew and Vishnu, and all the boys who contributed to a very successful season.

## Year 9 Girls

The U14 girls cricket team played their first hard ball match on Thursday 8th June. They faced a strong Queenswood team, who opened the batting, setting an impressive target of 140. Special mention to Ella U who took a wicket on her first ball and then a second wicket in the same over. Congratulations to player of the match, Ellie J who batted incredibly well, retiring on 30 runs. Well done to all the girls, who fielded strongly. Unfortunately, we couldn't quite meet the run rate and feel short with a total of 81.



The U14 team competed in the Chance to Compete Festival which consisted of playing 6 matches throughout the day. They were successful throughout the day and finished 3rd in the competition. Well done to all the girls that participated.

## Year 10 Boys

The U14 boys cricket team had a successful season with county cup and friendly fixtures before finishing the season with an inhouse game against the Year 9 team. In the county cup, we came out second best in a narrow loss to Richard Hale after a good performance with the ball, but falling short with the bat. In our friendly fixtures, we had a mix of wins and losses, with the most notable win coming in the last game of the season against St Georges, winning by 24 runs. Well done to Fred T for scoring a 50 in this game. Well done to Jack for captaining, and to the rest of the boys involved for what has been a successful season for the team.

## Year 10 Girls

The year 10s faced The Royal Masonic School for Girls at the start of the new half term. Despite losing by 23 runs, the team showed huge improvements in both their batting and fielding. A special mention goes to Erin who bowled two of their batters out. Captain Neha was voted by the opposition as player of the game.



## **Tennis**

### **COUNTY TENNIS**

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

The U13A team have had a brilliant season topping their group overall. The girls had a strong game against Queenswood winning overall 8-4. Well done to Freya, Hannah, Clara, Dinelly, Cami and Anaya who have all been involved in the matches.

#### **Year 7&8 Boys**

The U13A team had a difficult season playing against some very tough opposition in Division 1. The boys however, had a fantastic win against Hitchin Boys overall 7-6, winning in the shoot out! Well done to TaoHai, David, Joey and Louis who have all been involved in playing.

The U13B team have had a strong season topping their group overall by the end of the season which is a great achievement. Great work by Murat, Markos, Max, James and Alex.



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

The U15A girls team had a brilliant finish to their season winning all of their final three games overall 8-4 against some strong opposition in Sandringham, Queenswood and RMS. This resulted in finishing 2nd in their group. Well done to Mia, Chloe, Ellie and Eva who were involved in the team.

#### **Year 9&10 Boys**

The U15A boys put up some very good performances within their first year in Division 1. They had a 12-0 win against St Albans school and then some close losses of 7-6 and 8-4 against Sandringham and Sir John Lawes.

The U15B boys team have won all their fixtures convincingly, with a 10-2 win against Marlborough and 12-0 wins against Longdean and Berkhamsted School. This meant that the boys topped their league. Well done to the following boys who were involved in both teams: Dylan, Hayden, Ben, Andrew, Vishnu, Rafi, Pranav and Nathan.



## Year 7 County Doubles Tournament

The girls County Doubles Tournament was a fantastic event where there was an opportunity for some of our less experienced players to play as well as our more experienced. A huge congratulations to Adaugo and Anaya who won and are County champions! Well done also to Freya, Lily, Reva and Jessica who were all involved.



The boys County Doubles Tournament was also a brilliant opportunity for the boys to play lots of games. Well done to the following boys: Tao Hai and David who came 7th in the cup, James and Alex who finished 9th in the cup, Sam and Kian who came 10th in the shield and Yuhan and Martin who finished 15th in the shield.

## Nicola Mabbitt District

We also entered lots of teams in the Nicola Mabbitt District competition which is a fantastic opportunity for non-club players to play in competitive matches. Pupils played schools from around the District in a league including Chancellors, Monks Walk, Yavneh and Sherrardswood.



We had some fantastic games and we had lots of teams finish runners-up within their groups. The U13 and U14 girls team finished top of their groups and therefore progressed to the finals day at Queenswood where they competed against other Districts from the County. The U13 girls finished joint 5th and the U14 girls finished 3<sup>rd</sup>!



## Other Achievements



Congratulations to former student Matthew Craig who made his Premier League debut for Tottenham Hotspur as a 77th minute substitute against Leeds United on the final day for the season.

Congratulations to Maisie (Y13), who won the Rising Star in Women's Sports at the Everything in Sport ceremony on 7th June 2023. The award recognises an individual under the age of 40 who is involved in female sport and has demonstrated outstanding performance and great potential as a female sport legend of the future.

Congratulations to Rian (Year 9), Angus (Year 11), Aimi (Year 13) and Lierre (Year 13) who all got selected to represent Herts Schools Athletics at the English Schools Track and Field Championships in Birmingham. Lierre came 2nd in the U19 Triple Jump by the small margin of 10cm, Angus came 2nd with a jump of 4.30m in the Pole Vault and has been selected to represent England in the British Schools Championships against Scotland, Wales and Ireland in Edinburgh later in the summer.





Congratulations to Ellie (Y9) who was part of the Haringey Under 15 football team who won the London County Cup, the Junior Premier League Cup and the Junior Premier League National League title.

Ellie also played for the U16 side who won the National League title. Well done, Ellie!

A huge well done to Ellie and Eva (both Y9) who have represented Hertfordshire Schools at under 14 football this season. The team reached the final of the SEESFA competition where they faced Kent. Unfortunately, Ellie was unable to play in the final due to surgery but Eva played the full game plus extra time. After going two goals down Herts pulled it back to 2-2. The game went to extra time where the scores remained tied and so the title was decided by penalties with Kent victorious. Ellie and Eva have both been selected again to represent Herts next season, this time for the under 16s. Well done girls!

Congratulations to Freya (Y8) who has been selected to represent Hertfordshire at under 14 football next season.

Congratulations to Mei (year 9) who competed at the Dance World Cup in Braga, Portugal. She and her large tap group (age 14-18) were crowned World Champions!







Alex (Y7) has had a great year on the squash court. Recently, he's played in a number of England Squash national events and has had some great finishes including 5th place at the Newcastle Silver Open, 6th place at the Ipswich Silver Open, and 8th place at the Devon Silver Open. Alex finishes the season ranked 11th in the country in the Under 13 category, and has another year left to target the top 10!

He is a member of the Middlesex County Squad and has represented Middlesex in Intercounty tournaments. He's also been selected this year for the England Squash super regional coaching programme, and has represented the South of England in the 'Battle of the Border' competition. Locally, Alex enjoys playing for Oakleigh Park squash club in the Middlesex Senior summer league, and taking part in his club's internal box leagues and club nights.



Big congratulations to our Karate family in the school, siblings Luca in y12, Sofia in y9 and Sandro in y7 were chosen to represent Karate England in July 2022 and have been chosen again this year to attend the world championships in July

Last year, Luca reached the quarter finals but Sofia won the gold medal and is world champion and Sandro won the silver medal both in their age groups. They all hope to retain their medals or go one better.

At this year's championship both Luca and Sofia performed well again with Luca winning an individual bronze medal and Sofia winning a team bronze medal.

Best of luck to you all!