

Dame Alice Owen's School

Newsletter October 2023



Letter from the Head **Hannah Nemko**

What a treat it was to be able to start the new year with a busy calendar of trips, visits and possibilities, inside and outside of school, with no discussion of Covid at all.

It has been even better to watch the school community benefit from these amazing opportunities home and

away, many of which you will be able to read about inside this edition of our Newsletter.

Whilst restrictions have gone, sadly we cannot say the same about a number of germs and viruses, including Covid. As we move into the winter months, I ask for your support in reminding your young people of the need to adhere to some of the basic hygiene strategies we became well versed in during the pandemic. The basic routine of washing (or sanitising) hands and ensuring you furnish your child with tissues so that they can 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it', will help us to keep students well over the winter. Please remember that **every day counts** when it comes to school and that your child can usually attend school unless they have a temperature of over 38 degrees. The NHS guidance on when your child is well enough to attend school can be found [here](#).

Thanks to the OSA, we have been able to buy some incredible resources, support a number of lunchtime and after school clubs and complete a major refurbishment of the 6th form block which is now one of the jewels in the campus crown. The OSA, due to their hard work and YOUR input, were able to donate over £30,000 to the school to support your young people - THANK YOU to everyone who helped out at events, attended events or contributed in any way to this success. I think you will agree that the updated facilities in the common room, the SALC (self-access learning centre) and the 6th form Café are magnificent; our students certainly appreciate them.



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS...

WHAT'S OSA UP TO?

See pp.3-5 for details.

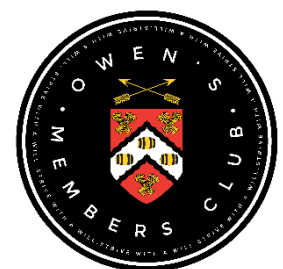
WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

See page 9.

WHAT DID YOU DO AT SCHOOL TODAY?

Details on pp.15-25.

It's our school!





The continued funding crisis in education makes every additional penny we can raise all the more important. Whilst we have all been led to believe that the increase in teacher pay has been funded by the government, this is not the case for a school such as ours. DAOS received an average amount of additional money which would cover the average additional cost to an average school with an average staffing level of average staff

who have an average span of career experience. At Owen's, where our well-resourced staff are, mainly, those on upper pay scales reflecting their experience and expertise, the government contribution, whilst incredibly welcome, comes up short.

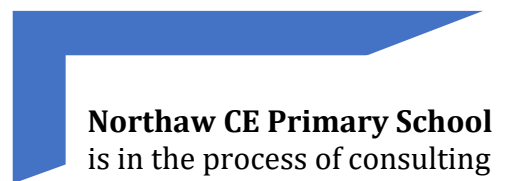
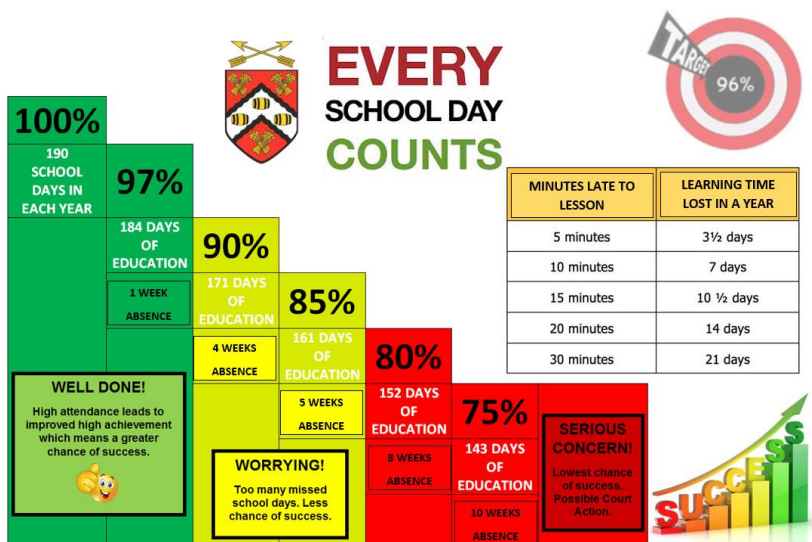
So now more than ever, if you can, and we appreciate that money is tight everywhere, we would urge you to support the education of your young people through the OSA or by donating to school using [our CAF donate account](#). You can use this link to set up a monthly donation or to donate a one off sum.



We would also like to hear from you if your company offers any sort of **match funding** opportunities as you could help the OSA double their income very easily indeed.

In the survey you completed in July, you told us how much you and your young people valued the opportunities and resources we have at Dame Alice Owen's. With your continued support, we hope to be able to carry on providing what you have come to expect from us and which we so desperately want to continue providing.

With warm regards for the half term break,
Hannah Nemko



Northaw CE Primary School is in the process of consulting on proposed admission arrangements for 2025-2026: <https://www.northawschool.org/admission-arrangements/>

Please direct any comments to the headteacher (admin@northaw.herts.sch.uk) by **Thursday 30 November 2023**, when the consultation period ends.



AUTUMN NEWS from the OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION – a great start!

The **OSA's Cheese & Wine evening for new Y7 and Y12 parents on the 3rd October** was a well-attended success! We were thrilled *so many* of our new parents were able to make this, to meet staff and each other and to hear from the OSA too. People signed up to the **200 Club** and showed interest in the **Quiz Night!** Thank you also to the anonymous donor for their kind and generous contribution to the OSA.



On 20 September, a group of parents attended an **OSA Match Funders' Information Evening** hosted by Mrs Nemko. Together with Mrs Nemko, we used this opportunity to thank parents for their contributions and provide more information on the OSA activity.



Match Funding has the single biggest impact on funds raised by the OSA each year and remains a vital piece of the overall amount that the OSA is able to give to the school each year. As an indication, Match Funding regularly generates around 30% of the total amount donated to the school.



Should you need any further information about Match Funding, please contact Keily and Simon at matchfunding@theosa.org.uk.

QUIZ NIGHT
SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2023
 7PM FOR A 7.30PM START at DAME ALICE OWEN'S SCHOOL
 All adults and 6th formers welcome
 SUPPER INCLUDED *BAR* *RAFFLE* Please do not bring your own drinks
 £20 per person £10 for students
 Max 8 people per table. Don't be shy about ordering one, two or any number of places as we can make numbers up to 8 using year and form groups.
 OFFERS OF RAFFLE PRIZES OR AUCTION ITEMS GREATLY APPRECIATED
 Purchase tickets at: www.buytickets.at/theosa. For queries email events@theOSA.org.uk
 ALL FUNDS RAISED SUPPORT DAME ALICE OWEN'S SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, 25 November 2023, **Quiz Night**

- ✓ Nearly 100 tickets already sold
- ✓ Tables of up to 10 people
- ✓ Book in groups, or individually and ask the OSA to add you to a table with others
- ✓ A great way for new parents to get to meet other parents in person
- ✓ A fantastic, fun evening!

Buy your tickets now before it's too late –
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/theosa>

OSA
 OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
100
CENTENARY BALL
 1924-2024
 Drinks & Canapés on Arrival
 3 Course Dinner & Music
 Formal / Black Tie
SAVE THE DATE
 Dame Alice Owen's School
 Carriages at Midnight
 APRIL 20 | 7 PM

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, 20 April 2024, **OSA's Centenary Ball**

Celebrating 100 years of parents supporting their children (more info to follow).

**OSA's Instagram**

To keep up to date with all OSA events and fundraising schemes, please use this QR code to follow the **OSA's Instagram account**.

There you'll find links to ticketed events and the Online Nearly New Uniform Shop.

The OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION ('OSA') NEEDS YOU... to volunteer, if you can find a little time, to support your Dame Alice Owen's School and pupils in whatever way you can, including:

- fundraising activities and events, from quizzes, the Summer Fete and Cheese & Wine Evening for new parents, to funding the purchase of much-needed equipment;
- refreshments for over 40 events a year, including plays, concerts, carols and parents' evenings, and
- opportunities for parents to meet and get involved in the school community.

OSA Committee Meetings: Yes, it is a 'committee', but really it is **you, current parents**, usually on the **first Monday of the month in term-time, at 7:30pm** in the Old Library above Reception in the main school building. They're informal, good-humoured and enthusiastic. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 6th November**. Please come along to try it and to meet other parents keen to support our young people and the school community.

Visit the OSA website – www.theosa.org.uk – for comments, suggestions and offers of help.

OSA 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 (or time) to you. So far this has raised **£18,505.96** for the school. Over 4,300 shops and sites donate to the OSA 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're buying anyway. See below:

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

OSA Match Funding: Are you an Owen's parent who works for a blue-chip or multinational company? You may 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 and Simon at matchfunding@theosa.org.uk.

OSA Nearly New Uniform: Please remember to recycle and donate school uniform items (and support the school's environmental sustainability efforts at the same time). Containers labelled '*OSA Nearly New Uniform*' are located through the main Reception doors, on the right-hand side walkway. Recycling of clothing helps families save costs, gives the school additional source of funding and demonstrates environmental conscientiousness. If you would like to help, please email uniform@theosa.org.uk.

Next Online Nearly New Uniform Shop will be **10-14 November** (collection on Friday, 17 November).

OSA Refreshments: Have you been to school events, enjoyed refreshments in the intervals and wondered who provided it? That's right – the OSA serves the school community in this humble way. Kindly consider to join in, put your name on the rota, then pick any upcoming event and share your time and smile. It **doesn't** have to be much time; it could be as little as half an hour... of course, you may enjoy it so much that you'll ask to stay longer. Please email refreshments@theosa.org.uk.

OSA's '200 Club': The OSA operates a Lottery Style 200 Club with two £50 prizes drawn every month and an extra draw in December. Annual membership is £24 per number. For further details, please contact Alan at 200club@theOSA.org.uk.

Year 7's Brewers' Hall trip

On Thursday, 14 September, all Year 7 students were invited to go to Islington and discover more about the school's founder, Dame Alice Owen. My form began the day with a trip into the Brewer's Hall. After that, we were invited to go on a walking tour of the significant places during Dame Alice Owen's life. We began just outside the hall, discussing what things we would see.

First, we walked into the centre of the City of London, surrounded by tall glass buildings, and discovered how different it would have been in Dame Alice Owen's times. We also learnt that she had many husbands and even more children and step-children! After this, we walked to an old church and found out where she lived for most of her life, as the original plot of land where the house had been was just across the road. Then we were guided to the centre of an old Roman amphitheatre beside a large cathedral-like building, which the Great Fire of London mostly burnt down. The Guildhall building stands proudly in this place.

Soon after, we reached a small courtyard, guarded by two twisted trees and a low stone wall. Hidden in the shadows was a round blue plaque, stating that William Shakespeare lived near the area during Dame Alice Owen's lifetime. It is unknown if they ever met, but they may have seen each other in the street before Shakespeare was catapulted into fame and became so renowned across the nation.

After this, we arrived at a busy main road, cars roaring down it. Across the road, a crumbling ruin stood, ivy growing over the stone. This is where Dame Alice, as a young girl, stood in fascination as she watched a lady milk a cow. Wishing to try for herself, she squatted down and tried. Upon standing up, an arrow whizzed past her head and into her hat. Luckily, the arrow missed her head and Dame Alice thanked God for saving her. When she created the school, she added the arrow to the crest to show her thankfulness and gratitude.

This was the end of the tour. We returned to the hall, slightly exhausted but enlightened with all the new information. We were guided back to the coaches and began the long journey back to school, leaving the places of our founder's life, but not the memories.

*Eva Jackson.
7Clerkenwell1*



On Thursday, 14 September, we went on our Brewers' Hall trip. We all walked into the big hall that was decorated with paintings and big family crests. It was decorated extravagantly with glass chandeliers and gold painting on the roof. At the end of the hall sat the Master of the Brewers, the Clerk, one of our school governors and our Headteacher, Mrs Nemko. They were dressed in long robes and the Clerk gave a speech about the school's founder Dame Alice Owen and how she had married three wealthy men and had a lot of children. When her husband's died, she inherited the money and on her own death she put all her money into a trust so that she could fulfil her promise and could start a school. At the end of the speech the Master handed out our commemorative coin, which had King Charles on it and mentioned his coronation.



When everyone had been gifted their special coin, we all walked out of the hall and went to look at the small exhibition of artefacts. It included her death mask of Dame Alice Owen, which had been moulded onto her hands and face a few hours after she died. It was very interesting how they had preserved that up until now. The trip was very fun and me and my new friends had such a great time and learned so much about the school and the relationship with the Brewer's.

*By Amy S
7Goswell2*



Y13 Student Finalist in prestigious John Locke Institute 2023 Global Essay Competition

Back in September, we received the news that Year 13 student, Harry R, had been shortlisted as a finalist for the prestigious John Locke Institute 2023 Global Essay Prize in the History category. The essay competition was open to students from around the world and this year saw 19,000 candidates enter from across seven subject categories.

The great majority of submissions were of a very high standard but only the very best were shortlisted. Essays were judged on knowledge and understanding of the relevant material, the competent use of evidence, quality of augmentation, originality, structure, writing style and persuasive force. The very best essays were those which were capable of changing someone's mind.

Harry's essay entry was titled, "**What characteristics distinguish successful movements for social change from unsuccessful ones**", where he explored forgotten movements which were deemed unsuccessful at the time, and how these were the most useful to analyse as they often set the foundations for real change to subsequently occur.

Harry commented that the competition was a great opportunity to explore and challenge interesting questions beyond the confines of the A level curriculum. Along with fellow finalists from around the world, Harry was invited to Oxford to celebrate his achievements and received a commendation for his submitted essay.

Black History Month

To celebrate Black History Month around the school, as the Senior Team, we organised various form time activities. These introduced topics such as colourism and micro aggressions to Key Stage 3 and 4, through educative videos which prompted thought-provoking discussions.

Since the theme for Black History Month this year was 'Saluting Our Sisters', we were really excited to put on a screening of the film 'Hidden Figures' for the school community. This film exemplifies the innovation of black women and the role they played in the journey into space.

We also arranged for posters to be put around school, which each present inspirational black woman. Students engaged with these posters in order to complete the Black History Month quiz we put together. This allowed them to recognise the achievements of other amazing black women such as Bernadine Evaristo, Afua Hirsch and Dr Samantha Ross.

Staff participated in a Webinar run by Facing History and Ourselves about how to discuss race in a safe and constructive way. Students lead assembly highlighting the importance of Black History Month and its relevance to everyone today as well as some key women such as Mary Seacole and Baroness Doreen Lawrence and the way they influenced the world around them, bringing about positive change for all.



On Monday, 16 October, Mr Sykes ran a cooking demonstration showing staff and students how to make a Sykes family favourite, Curry Chicken. After showing a short video on the dish's history and how it came to be popularised in the Caribbean, he walked us through how to prepare the famous Jamaican dish from scratch helping

us to learn how to bring a taste of the Caribbean to our homes. By this point, everyone was ravenous so, in true Blue Peter style, he pulled out a dish he had made earlier so that everyone could have a taste before leaving the session. Everybody in attendance had a great time and we hope that you enjoy making the dish yourselves at home!

Looking forward, we are, finally, really excited to be offering students the chance to participate in a poster competition, which will be open for entries until the start of next half term. Students are encouraged to produce a poster which shines a light on the contributions of a black woman to society.

CURRY CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 whole chicken/chicken breast at equal weight (Halal)
- 6 tablespoons of Jamaican curry powder
- 2 potatoes
- 1.5 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 2 cups (500ml) water
- 1 onion
- 2 carrots
- 3 stalks spring onion
- 5 sprigs fresh thyme
- 4 cloves garlic
- 2 hot peppers (ideally scotch bonnet)
- 2 teaspoons salt and pepper each
- lemon/lime juice



INSTRUCTIONS:

- Wash chicken in lemon/lime juice and cut into bite-size pieces (if using breast). If using a whole chicken, cut into small sections, leave legs/wings in one piece.
- Dice onion, spring onion, garlic, scotch bonnet and carrot (bigger pieces are fine for the carrots) and place into a mixing bowl.
- Season chicken with salt, pepper & garlic granules to taste.
- Add chicken to bowl with fresh ingredients.
- Add 6 tablespoons of curry powder to fresh ingredients and mix.
- Leave to marinate for **at least 3 hours (preferably overnight)**.
- Add chicken to a Dutch oven/big frying pan (with a lid) and cook on low-medium heat for 5-10 minutes to seal the flavours into the chicken.
- Dice potatoes into bite-size cubes.
- When the chicken has a light colour and you can smell all the ingredients starting to cook, add potatoes and two cups of water to the chicken.
- Bring to a boil on medium heat, place the lid on and turn the heat down stirring every few minutes to ensure no ingredients stick to the surface.
- Stir regularly and cook until potatoes can be poked with a fork/skewer and chicken is cooked through (cut a piece or two to be certain or use a meat thermometer).

The Library Update

It has been a very busy start to the year in the Library.

Library team news:

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Goodman back to the Library team this term. The full team is now Dr H James (Librarian) and Mrs Dorling and Mrs Goodman (part-time Assistant Librarians). We warmly welcome parent volunteers in the Library as well, so please do get in touch via the office if you are able to spare some time to help us.

We are also delighted to welcome our new team of student librarians, who have now started their training and will be helping on the desk and around the Library at breaktimes and lunchtimes after half term. As well as assisting with routine tasks and special events in the Library, they will also have the opportunity to work towards School Library Association Pupil Library Assistant Awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

Library lessons:

Students in years 7, 8 and 9 have all now completed induction/refresher lessons explaining how the Library works, and have embarked on a new programme of themed Library lessons planned in collaboration with the English Department. This month's theme is Black History Month. We have created lots of exciting book displays to tie in with the theme and we really encourage students to borrow one of these books to try over the next few weeks.

Library stock:

We have just unpacked our first new book delivery of the year! In response to findings from our student survey in the summer term, we have concentrated on adding fiction series/sequels/prequels to enable students to read their way through complete series.





Fans of Derek Landy will be delighted to know that there is a new book in the 'Skulduggery Pleasant' series, *Hell Breaks Loose*; we have also purchased the prequel to Adam Silvera's *They Both Die at the End*, which is called *The First to Die at the End*; and we have also added Tahereh Mafi, *These Infinite Threads*, which is the sequel to *This Woven Kingdom*. Meanwhile, we have added Ian Dunt, *How Westminster Works...and Why It Doesn't* to the non-fiction stock in preparation for an author visit to the Politics Department later this term. All these books are now on the Library catalogue (see <https://daos.koha-ptfs.co.uk/>) and are available for students to borrow.

Everyone is welcome to come and visit us soon!

Dr H James



My Review of *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier

The book "Rebecca" begins when the heroine of the story, whose name is unknown, has a recollection from her past. In her flashback, she is a paid companion to a hostile, old lady, Mrs Van Hopper. The heroine's life is miserable, until, during a trip to the South of France, she meets Maxim de Winter, who is staying at the same hotel as her. After knowing each other for barely a few weeks, he proposes to her. She accepts, and so begins her life in Mr de Winter's manor – Manderly.

However, the horrible past hovers above their marriage. Maxim's first wife, Rebecca, died drowning in a cove near Manderly. Torn between loneliness and envy of Rebecca, the new Mrs de Winter is struggling to find her place. In addition, she is not welcomed by Rebecca's faithful housekeeper, Mrs Danvers, who terrorises her. Even with the motivation from the house supervisor, Frank Crawley, and Maxim's sister, Beatrice, the heroine constantly compares herself to Rebecca: gifted, magnificent and attractive. After a disaster during the costume ball that Manderly hosts every year, Mrs de Winter is convinced that Maxim will never love her. She secretly believes that he is still in love with his first wife. Furthermore, she nearly obeys Mrs Danver's cruel command to end her life, when suddenly she hears a deafening sound announcing that a ship has sunk. Soon, she learns the truth behind Rebecca's mystifying death...

In my opinion, this book uncovers a reality we face today – comparing ourselves to others. We always focus on our bad traits, when we should be fortunate for being unique, one of a kind. Even though someone may look amazing on the outside, it does not mean they are a perfect human being – nobody is. If we focus on our talents and how we can help others, then we are opening a door to true satisfaction and happiness.

I really enjoyed reading this book; it made me want to turn the page endlessly.

Overall, I rate this book: ★★☆☆☆

By Nelly J, Year 8

Chess News

We've had a really good start to the chess season, with numbers at the Monday after school club hitting a record with over 20 students attending Mr Goodlad's classes. What this has enabled us to do is enter a 'B Team' to the National Online Schools Chess League and they played their first match in the second division a few weeks ago.

We have also signed up to the 'She Plays To Win' online chess league, which aims to get more girls playing chess. You can read about it here and if your daughter would like to get involved, then please get her to see me to join the team on Lichess.

<https://www.sheplaystowin.co.uk/news/sptw-primary-amp-secondary-girls-online-schools-leagues-202324-season-entry-open>

The big news, however, has been our participation in the ECF Eton School Rapid Chess Event earlier in October. Facing over 40 schools and 56 teams, we finished in a superb 8th place, scoring 19 points. This is a wonderful achievement and the best we have ever done.

Congratulations must go to the team of Rock Y, Rufus J, Stephen G, TaoHai K, Rachel G, James C, Ridhuan Z and Olivia G. Check out the final result here:

<https://chess-results.com/tnr825935.aspx?lan=1&art=0&rd=5>

Here are the team in merry mood at the event.

Happy chess playing everyone!

Mr Simpson
Director of Chess



Careers Department News

Year 13 Apprenticeship Evening: DAOS Sixth Form held their 3rd Apprenticeship evening for Year 13 on Monday 11 September 2023. This event has been growing in strength from only 7 participants in 2021 to over 50 this year. Parents and students learnt more about this alternative higher education pathway whereby qualifications and degrees are gained whilst undertaking a full-time role in a company. Alumni who have chosen this route recounted their reasons for undertaking an apprenticeship, the application process and their experience as an apprentice. Many Year 13 students are now being supported by the 6th Form and careers staff to identify and apply for suitable apprenticeship opportunities.

Year 13 University Applications: Those students for whom university is their preferred next steps have begun the process of choosing and applying for course through UCAS. Each 6th Form student has a personal tutor to support them through this process and 6th Form and careers staff are always available for advice and help with choosing courses, writing personal statements and the application process itself.

Lunchtime Science Talks: In the autumn term the science department organise a series of lunchtime talks on a range of scientific subjects from overviews of specific science related careers to key science issues of the day such as climate change. The following three lectures open to all interested students were held this half term.

Ms A Stein
Head of Careers

SCIENCE LECTURE

Monday 9th October
12.45 – Lab 11

Bring your lunch...
bring a friend!

'Allergic to Modern life'

Why allergies are on the rise in modern society due to changes in our immune system.

The links between eczema, asthma, hay-fever and food allergies



Dr Ann-Marie Woods

SCIENCE LECTURE

Wednesday 27th September
12.45 – Lab 11

Bring your lunch ... bring a friend!



Carbon & Our Climate

The causes and impacts of climate change

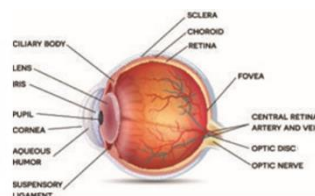


Udoka Madueke
Senior Operational Readiness
Manager at Transport for London

SCIENCE TALK

Monday 16th October
12.45 in Lab 11

Bring your lunch ... bring a friend!



Mr Deven Lakhani
Optometrist



Optometry:

Eyes and ocular health

If your eyes are the window
to your soul...what would
we find when we look
through them?

Tunnock's Teacake overall winner for 2023

The Food department are pleased to celebrate Lyla's success as she was crowned the Tunnock's Teacake overall winner for 2023. The national competition is an annual event organised by the 'The Food Teachers Centre'.

This year, the theme was 'Patterns & Shapes', with the winners voted for by Food teachers around the country and the panel of judges who finalised the winners. The judges were clearly impressed by Lyla's culinary art, who said: "I transferred my D&T skills to my GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition lessons and designed a repeat pattern of semi circles using 2D design.



My inspiration of circles came from the round shape of the Tunnock Teacake itself. I wanted to be true to the brand, hence why I created a personalised design that was laser cut onto a template. I further enhanced the theme of circles by creating a textured semi-circle by drizzling melted chocolate for a glossy and professional finish. The biscuit crumb and fruit were presented around the Tunnock Teacake, still representing the shape of a circle."

A massive thank you to Tunnock's who have provided Lyla, Y10, with a certificate and a box of goodies! Lyla also featured in the [WGC & Hatfield Times](#), 23 September.

The competition will run again in 2024, for the 6th consecutive year. The theme is 'The Four Elements' if you are interested in entering, please speak with your Food teacher, good luck!

*Mrs Kerim
Food & Textiles Teacher*



NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

On 3rd October, over 180 pupils from Years 12 and 13 sat the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. This is a record number of entries and we eagerly await the results!

NEWS FROM THE MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

French competitions

In the French department this half-term, students were invited to take part in 2 competitions.

Year 7 French students competed to design our new praise postcard. Congratulations to Katie S. (Hermitage House) for the best overall design. She won 50 house points as well as her design printed on a t-shirt as a keepsake (courtesy of the Art Department, merci beaucoup!). In second place, Yauheni V. (Clarke well House) won 35 house points and a set of French post-it notes to #growyourvocab and in third place Charlotte Tanner (Goswell House) won 20 house points and an Eiffel Tower keyring.

Congratulations to all the students who submitted entries, hand-made or electronic, it was great to see so many of you engage with this event.



Y11 and Y13 French students were invited to take part in the first baking competition of the year: their own version of the famous Tarte au citron. Congratulations to Jess B., Y13, who won this challenge! She won 50 house points as well as personalised baking utensils. All the students who came along to the event thoroughly enjoyed a piece of Jess' tart and many requested seconds.

Thank you to the Year 7 teachers who encouraged their students to take part in designing a postcard and to Mrs Paine and Mrs Stallard for organising and judging the baking competition.



The Royal Marines Visit DAOS

On Monday, 25 September, we were delighted to welcome **HM Royal Marines Band, Collingwood** to the Edward Guinness Hall providing our students with a wonderful opportunity to play alongside an experienced and inspirational group of musicians.

Students were treated to a series of music & performance tuition workshops with Colour Sergeant Andy Hall who offered advice and direction on a wealth of areas including breathing, playing rests and the importance of 'silence' within a piece of music and using air to play quietly, maintaining the quality of sound.

This enlightening day culminated in a fantastic showcase which gave the students the opportunity to play side by side with the Royal Marines, an experience they will never forget and one that was enjoyed by the band members just as much! The Royal Marines Band also gave a beautiful performance of '*Rest*' by *Frank Ticheli* which was a real treat for the audience of staff, students and parents.

We were extremely proud of all our students in both Second Band and Concert Band but there were a few notable performances including a fantastic Horn solo in *Band of Brothers* by Jess, Thomas playing the drums during *YMCA* with the biggest grin (as the Year 7 audience performed the actions!), an awesome Brass section and a fantastic performance from Matthew who absolutely smashed his drum solo in the Final Countdown.





The day was an enriching experience for all involved and we are very grateful to Lance Corporal Harry Page, a DAOS alumni, and his brother Arthur Page, current DAOS Music Teacher and alumni, for organising this brilliant opportunity for the students. To have two of our musical alumni creating such a wonderful experience for our students made it a very special day indeed.



Flute Choir
All levels (3-8)
Wednesdays, 1.00pm, M7

- Fun repertoire, at your own level!
- Piccolo and alto flute opportunities!
- Great for performing practice
- Improve your sight-reading
- Play wonderful flutey music with lovely people

Start date:
Every Wednesday, from 1st November



Would you like to learn to play the Tuba?

Free, taster lessons are available. Come and give it a try!
Friday, 5th November, 12.35pm in the EGH

It would help if you could read music to a fairly good standard but come along anyway and see Mr Kelly for further information.

Football

Boys Year 7

Year 7 have been improving with each game they have played, culminating in their best performance of the season against Queens School, winning 7 - 2. They have progressed in the county cup to the 2nd round & are unbeaten in the district league.

The B team have been eliminated from the national cup, where on another day had they take their chances they will have progressed.

Boys Year 8

The Year 8s have enjoyed a good start to the season. After initial losses in the first few games of the season, the squad enjoyed a fantastic win against Robert Barclay School in the first round of the County Cup, with the next round being after half term. Goals from Stanley M and Harry S.

Boys Year 9

The year 9 boys have started the season off with a few wins, with two in the district cup with wins against Stanborough and Onslow. In the county cup won against Barnwell. The boys season will continue with midweek and Saturday games next half term.

Boys Year 10

The year 10 boys have made a positive start to the season, with a 5-2 win in their only district cup fixture to date against Onslow School. They have unfortunately been knocked out of the national cup after losing on penalties to Goffs School, so turn to the county cup where they will hope to go all the way this season. In the first round, they beat Samuel Ryder in a closely contested match that ended 4-1. Their second round match will take place after half term.

1st XI

Disappointingly the first XI were knocked out of the national cup by CHesham School. All their focus must now be on the county & district competitions

Girls U15

The under 15 squad began their English Schools' National Cup campaign with a second round tie against Goffs Academy away following a bye in the first round. A dominant performance saw the side 6-0 up by half time and they eventually ran out as 13-3 winners to progress to round 3. Goals came from Lucy (x4), Ellie (x3), Mia (x3), Eva (x1), Emilie (x1) and Iyla (x1). Lucy was selected as player of the match.

Girls U16

The under 16 squad faced St Albans Girls' School in the second round of the Hertfordshire County Cup competition. In a very close encounter, the team twice trailed before finishing full time at 2-2 courtesy of goals from Mia and Ellie. The tie went to extra time and after having a goal disallowed for offside Lucy scored just before the interval. This goal proved to be enough to send the girls through to round 3 where they will face either John Henry Newman or St Clement Danes.

Girls U18

The under 18 squad began their season with a County League match v Haileybury School. The team played very well and dominated possession but a player of the match display from the opposition goalkeeper denied them more goals. Haileybury ran out as 4-2 winners in the end, a score which was certainly not reflective of the game. Our goals came from Mia and Ellie, with the latter selected as our player of the game.

Hockey

Girls U12

The girls have shown great enthusiasm at the start of the season. They played their first Saturday morning match against Wisbech Grammar School, unfortunately losing 5-0. Special mention to Zara who has a great game in goal.

Girls U13

The under 13 hockey squad played their first game of the new season against Sandringham School. With a large squad of 13 involved the girls demonstrated great versatility as many were asked to play different positions. A solid performance from all players saw the girls run out as 1-0 winners thanks to a goal from captain Anaya and a player of the match performance from Mahdi.



Girls U14

The U14s had a great match against Wisbech on Saturday, winning 5-0. Special mention to Anaya and Reva who played up. Congrats to Izzy and Riya who were awarded joint players of the match.

Girls U16

The girls competed in the County round of the National Schools Hockey competition at Oaklands College. They showed great determination, winning their final match, but unfortunately did not progress to the next round.



Girls U18

The U18s competed in the County Cup in September, as part of the National School Hockey competition. They beat Hockerill 5-0 and Queenswood 4-1. Goal scorers were Anna, Sally and Holly, Izzie and Alice. The girls finished as overall winners and have now qualified for the Regional round of the competition, which will be played in November at the Rushmore Sports Centre in Ipswich.



Netball

Year 7

The Year 7s have made a great start to the season, working hard in training and gelling as a team. The 7A and 7B played their first matches away to JFK and performed exceptionally well. The A team dominated in their match, winning 12-0. Player of the match was awarded to Sasha B. The B Team also won convincingly 6-2. Congratulations to their player of the match Amy S. It is certainly going to be an exciting season for this talented group of players.

Year 8

Congratulations to the A team who won their first game against JFK 12-0. Well done to the B team who also won their first match 6-2. A great start to the season.

Year 9

The U14A team played in the County netball tournament finishing runners-up in the Plate competition. It was a strong start to the season with lots of room for improvement for our upcoming games after half-term. Well done to Hannah who was Player of the Tournament.

Year 10

The Year 10s have made a solid start to the season in training, with a strong squad of 18 girls. Their first competition is on Wednesday, 1st November in the district tournament.



Year 11

The U16A team played against Simon Balle in the STAHS league, winning 34-25 with a fantastic performance to start the season. Well done to Jenna who was awarded PoM.

The girls also played in the County netball tournament with a brilliant display in their group winning 4 out of 7 of their games and meant they went through to the Shield competition. Well done to Emily who was Player of the Tournament.



1st VII

The 1st VII have had a couple of matches in the STAHS league this term playing both Mill Hill and Sandringham. The girls narrowly lost to both but competed well against some very strong competition. Well done to the player of matches for both games: Izzie and Alice. The girls also competed in the County tournament and finished plate winners, which is a fantastic achievement after a difficult group stage!

Basketball

Boys Senior

There are many students attending weekly training sessions which is great to see at a senior level. This will help in the lead up to matches starting next half term

Boys Year 7 - 8

It has been great to see so many students attending the practice on a Monday evening and this will help with their preparation for games in the spring half term.

Girls Years 8 - 10

We have fantastic turnout at the girls' basketball club weekly on a Tuesday after-school. This will hopefully have a positive impact on their matches after half-term in the County League.



Cross Country

On Monday 2nd October our teams competed in the Hertfordshire round of the Cross Country cup. Our Junior and Inter teams all ran well and came 5th in their competitions and our Senior teams have both qualified for the Regional round in November.

Golf

Well done to the school's golf team who were winners in the annual golf match against the Brewers and Aldenham School.



Badminton

For the first time in a long time, we have entered the National Schools Sport Badminton Competition. The U16 girls' team is made up of Aditi, Aayushi, Neha, Izzy and Paavni. The girls played Watford Girls Grammar School in the first round beating them 5-1 overall in sets. In the second round the girls won overall 6-0 in sets against Beaumont School with very impressive performances from all of the girls! The girls are waiting to hear who they play in the next round.



House Sport

Students from Year 7 to Year 10 took part in House Cross Country this week. Thank you to all those who participated especially given the drop in temperatures and rainy conditions at the end of the week.

Other Announcements

Big congratulations to Sofia B who went to the Karate GB open in Birmingham (in September) and she won gold in her individual section, and gold with her team event.

Congratulations to Hannah J who has been selected for the U15 County netball squad as well as the Mavericks U15 futures programme. A fantastic achievement a year young!

Congratulations to Mei L who was awarded a whopping 21 gold medals dancing in the East Herts Festival of Herts.



Congratulations to Angus who continues to progress within his chosen event of Pole Vault. Angus has been selected to join the England Athletics Youth Talent Programme! An amazing achievement, we are looking forward to seeing Angus perform on the international stage in the near future.



On 1 October, Mina O' S (Y9) and her brother Noah (Y7) represented Middlesex U14 water polo team at Inter Counties Senior County Water Polo Championship organised by SwimEngland.

Their team played against teams from Essex, Kent, Hampshire and Surrey – 4 matches in total and they team won all 4! Noah scored 4 goals and had 3 assists. What an amazing result!

Congratulations to Mina and Noah as pursue their passion for this exciting sport.

Annabelle R continues delighting us with her achievements in gymnastics. Recently Annabelle competed in the London Regional Classic Challenge competition at Heathrow Gymnastics Club.

Annabelle took 5th place overall – 1st on beam and 5th on floor – out of 21 gymnasts in her category. Congratulations!

Congratulations to former student Reuell Walters who has been called up for England's Elite League campaign which begins against Romania in Bucharest on Thursday before they take on Portugal in Milton Keynes the following Tuesday.



Congratulations to former student Luca Gunter who has been selected for the England U19 squad with their game vs Montenegro.



Year 10 and 12 Textiles Trip to the Knitting and Stitching Show

October saw our annual trip to the Knitting and Stitching Show with a group of Year 10 and 12 textiles students.

Established in 1987, The Knitting & Stitching Show was the original craft fair. The idea was simple – to create a place where like-minded crafters could meet up, discuss ideas, learn new skills and shop for their annual craft supplies. The show at Alexandra Palace now welcomes 30,000 crafters every year.

This was a very inspiring day out and students had the opportunity to view work by leading textiles artists in the Textile Galleries, and to chat with the artists themselves. The rest of the day was spent browsing the hundreds of craft stalls to get ideas and inspiration for their own GCSE and A level projects. The beautiful weather and views made the walk up and down the hill from the station a little more enjoyable!

Ms Cerny
Head of Food and Textiles

