



Dame Alice Owen's School

May 2024



Letter from the Head **Hannah Nemko**

Welcome to the penultimate newsletter of the year! Within these pages, you will be able to read about the wild weather on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, amazing concerts and our exceptional musical production of The Addams Family as well as this term's academic and sporting successes.

Our students never cease to amaze me with just what they manage to achieve. On this note, we look forward to welcoming you to our summer play, final concerts and, of course, the Open Arts Evening, on the 6th of June, presenting the art and textiles pieces created by our talented Year 10, 11 and 13 students. The DT department will also be taking this opportunity to showcase the creative work of our skilful Year 10 and 12 cohorts. This promises to be a delectable evening accompanied by music performed by Owen's musicians: our Year 12 musicians, the Guitar Ensemble, the Drumming Group and the Clarinet Ensemble, to name a few.

You may be aware that, in February, the Secretary of State for Education issued some firm guidance for schools regarding the use of mobile phones on site. We have taken time to digest this guidance and to discuss the issues surrounding this change amongst the staff and with other professionals.

Mobile phones and the associated apps afford our young people many positive opportunities both within school and outside. However, increasingly, parents are telling us that their children seem to be unable to be away from their phone for any meaningful amount of time. It is important that young people learn to live, interact and work without the digital crutch that the phone has become and so, we have taken the decision that, from the return to school after this half term break, students in Years 7-11 will not be allowed to use their mobile phones



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

**OSA: WORK HARD,
PLAY HARD**

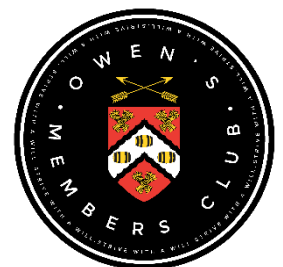
Read more on p.3.

EX LIBRIS

See p.11.

SCIENCE NEWS

Learn more on pp.26-28.



on school grounds unless they have the express permission of a member of staff.

Students will be allowed to bring a phone with them to school to facilitate their travel and reassure parents and carers during this time, but mobile phones are neither to be seen nor heard on campus between 08:45 and 15:45 without the express supervision and instruction of a member of staff. Students with exceptional circumstances may be permitted to use a mobile phone for specific reasons. The latter will be agreed with a member of the Senior Leadership Team on a case-by-case basis (for example, some of our diabetic students rely on their phones for monitoring their blood sugar levels).

Students who are seen on their phones will have these confiscated until the end of the day. Further sanctions will be in place for repeat offenders. Persistent breaches of the rule may result in a parent/carer having to collect the mobile phone from the school site. This was all explained to your young person at a school assembly. A letter has been sent out to parents and carers to provide more details and information about who to speak to regarding any further questions.

Wishing you all a restful bank holiday and a pleasant half-term break.

Hannah Nemko
Headteacher

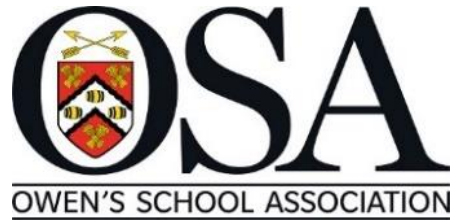
A blue decorative graphic consisting of a large L-shaped block with a pointed right edge, positioned to the left of the 'MARK THE DATE!' text.

MARK THE DATE!

Owen's annual Open Arts Evening will be held on Thursday, 6th June, 4:30-7:30pm.

GCSE and A level Art will be on display in the Gym from 5pm and the GCSE and A level Textiles, in the Dance Studio from 4.30pm.

Please enter via the Main Reception.



OSA's 50th Anniversary Ball

The OSA's sell-out black-tie ball on 20th April was a fantastic night. With a clear profit of nearly £8,000 and a potential match funding of another £1,000, this was so much more than just another fund-raising event. It was a beautiful celebration of goodwill, relentless enthusiasm and ceaseless initiative to keep Owen's a great place for our children to study, excel and learn to live well.



This festive night of fine dining, live jazz, elegant interior, auction generosity in abundance and partying into the early hours would



have been impossible without the tireless efforts of the OSA Committee members.

Special thanks go to the OSA Chairpersons, Patricia and Mbalu, and the OSA Social Media Coordinator Paula, whose vigorous commitment resulted in the resounding success of the evening and proved that Owen's parents can play hard because they know how to work hard.

The OSA is now undoubtedly on track to reach this year's increased target donation of £50,000 to the school.



Upcoming events

OwensFest 2024 – this amazing summer festival is growing in strength from year to year and promises to be a fun day of good food, music, art and creativity, entertainment and opportunities to win online raffle prizes.

Please come and enjoy yourself on **Sunday, 30 June, 12pm – 5pm.**

If you'd like to be one of those "work hard, play hard" OSA people, please complete the [OwensFest Support Sign Up Form](#) and we will be in touch. Alternatively, you can email festival@theosa.org.uk.

Some of the small ways how you could make this event another success:

- Take out a **brochure advert** to promote your business (£40 half page and £70 for full page).
- Donate a **raffle prize**.
- Have an **external stall** (for example, jewellery, world food stall, clothes, arts and crafts etc.).
- **Volunteer** to help on the day or setting up the day before.
- Lend your **gazebo** for use on the day.



OSA football tournament – held on **Sunday, 14th July, 10:30am – 3pm**, it's an opportunity to showcase (or dust off) your football skills and just have fun kicking a ball in a friendly atmosphere. See the poster for details.



Are you a baller?

OSA
OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**OWENS
FOOTBALL
TOURNAMENT**

6-A-SIDE
ALL ABILITIES, AGES AND GENDERS WELCOME
(OWENIANS ONLY, GROUPS ASSIGNED FAIRLY)
FOOD & DRINK ON SALE

 **SUNDAY
14TH OF JULY
10.30 - 3PM**

 **OWENS
ASTRO**

 **£60 PER
TEAM**

SCAN HERE TO BOOK
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE. SIGN UP NOW!



OSA Committee Meetings: come and join in – everyone is welcome. We meet on the **first Monday of the month in term-time, at 7:30pm**, in the Old Library, above Reception in school. The next meeting will be on Monday, 3rd June. Please come along and meet other parents aiming to support our young people and the school community. Visit the OSA website – www.theosa.org.uk – for comments, suggestions and offers of help.

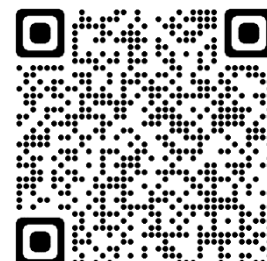
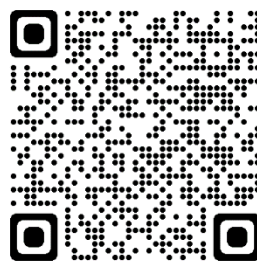
OSA Easy Fund Raising: : this is easiest of ways for each of us (and our friends and extended family) to raise money for the school daily without doing anything more than we are already doing, when shopping online. Please follow the link to sign up:
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/owensschoolassociation/?utm_campaign=raisemore&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-c20

OSA Match Funding: Many companies offer a match funding scheme for employees who volunteer time to charities, like the Owen's School Association. Match funding is available to staff in a surprisingly wide range of companies. Friends and family can match fund too – it doesn't only have to be a parent. It can make a very substantial contribution to the OSA's annual fund-raising for the school. Please contact Souri at matchfunding@theosa.org.uk.

Completing the form [here](#) can add you to our match funders database. Further information and useful documents can be accessed through this:

[Match funding email to employer.docx - Google Drive](#)

[Match funding FAQ.docx - Google Drive](#)



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 **Sheena** at uniform@theosa.org.uk.

The OSA's next online Nearly New Uniform Shop will be from 14th – 19th June with the items for collection on 26th June 2024.

OSA Refreshments: Have you been to school events, enjoyed refreshments in the intervals and wondered who provided it? **Tony** tirelessly co-ordinates a small but great team of OSA occasional volunteers. Any contribution of time you can make would benefit the efforts of the pupils and the school. Please email refreshments@theosa.org.uk if you could spare a couple of hours.

OSA's '200 Club': The OSA operates a Lottery Style 200 Club with a £50 and a £25 prize draw every month, and an extra draw in December. Annual membership is £24 per number and nothing more to do other than wait to hear if your number is drawn. For further details, please contact **Alan** at 200club@theOSA.org.uk.

OSA's Instagram: To keep up to date with all OSA events and fundraising schemes, please follow the OSA's Instagram account using this QR code. There we will post links to ticketed events and the Online Nearly New Uniform Shop.



SCHOOL LIFE AND BEYOND

Brewers' Prefects Reception

This month the Brewers kindly hosted a reception for the Dame Alice Owen's and Aldenham school prefects at the Brewers' Hall, situated in Aldermanbury Square.

It was a lovely evening where we had the pleasure of speaking to some of the Brewers as well as fellow prefects from the other school.



The reception allowed us to learn more about the legacy of the Brewers' relationships with the schools as well as to gain an insight into the intricacies of the brewing industry and ceremonial responsibilities of with the guild as a whole.

Overall, it was an entertaining evening that allowed us to reaffirm our connection to the guild, while also giving us an opportunity to thank them for their continued support.

Evie S and Arthur B, 6th Formers

The Rotary Young Writer competition – success again!

This year's theme for the Rotary Young Writer competition was 'Rebuilding' and several of our young writers entered, offering wonderful interpretations of what the theme meant to them.



The judges were impressed with the level of articulation and imagination offered by all our entrants and returned constructive feedback to the students for future writing endeavours.

After a successful local round, Zahra H, Y10, and Ava G, Y9, progressed to the district round in their respective Senior and Intermediate categories.

There was tough competition again this year. However, true to form, the judges saw the excellence in both entries and awarded the girls District titles. We are now awaiting the results of the national judging, which should be with us in the next few weeks.

Well done to all participants! If you are interested in entering next year's competition, come and see me in the English Department!

Mrs Friel

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

As we near the end of the year, students are completing their Bronze and Gold level awards by participating in the final section of the award, the Expedition.

The summer term is the busiest time for expeditions and this half term we have seen a Gold Expedition to The Bannau Brycheiniog (The Brecon Beacons) and a Bronze practice expedition in the local area of Potters Bar and Cuffley.

In April, 17 students ventured to The Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons). The Gold students had spent two evenings at school preparing for this and their qualifying expeditions in the Lakes. They had spent time planning meals, routes and learning emergency first aid. On reaching their start point at Newcourt farm, they were greeted by their BXM expedition leaders, who would teach and encourage them during a tough expedition. The experience of the students was varied, with some students having only completed a local expedition of flat terrain, whilst others had experienced many mountain regions of the UK.

Their first night was a little chilly with students waking up to frost on their tents! Fortunately, the night and day time temperatures did improve. Students enjoyed the views from the top of the Black Mountains and beautiful campsite views looking over to the highest peak in South Wales, Pen Y Fan.

Despite some bad blisters and the odd unintentional change in their route, all students did brilliantly, reaching the end in Crickhowell and looking forward to their expedition in the Lake District in July.



In May, students started their journey on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Students have completed at least two of their three sections of the award in order to participate in the expedition. They have volunteered, been participating in physical activities and developed new skills.



As part of the DoE programme, fifty-five Year 10 students completed their two-day training expedition in May. For many students this was the first time to carry packs, plan meals or even read a map. Walking the outskirts of Potters Bar may not seem glamorous or adventurous, yet it provides enough navigation challenges for young explorers. Finding your way out of a field full of rapeseed with no obvious path is not an easy feat!

During the first day the weather was kind and remained dry. However, at 4am, on the second day, students were treated to a storm that made it difficult for anyone to sleep. Fortunately, the rain was not too heavy and had stopped by the time the students got up for their breakfast.



Well done to all that took part and are going on to complete their assessed expedition next term!

In June, 50 more Year 10 Bronze students will be taking on the challenge of their Bronze practice expedition.

Congratulations to all the students that have achieved their award so far this year. Altogether that is 68 Bronze, 34 Silver and 15 Gold! The 15 Gold students will be going to Buckingham Palace to receive their awards this month. Students for the Bronze and Silver should see Miss Lord to collect their certificates as soon as possible.

Well done to all the participants who have completed their awards and I'll look forward to seeing those still working towards their awards successfully complete by the end of the summer term.

Miss Lord

Eco Committee

This previous term has been highly successful for the Eco Committee. We have been working really hard to improve the sustainability of our school in various ways! For instance, we held an assembly to educate students on the consequences of wastefulness and ways to reduce waste in their households. We also planted three trees in the paddock to celebrate Earth Day. In addition to having collected batteries and 29.5kg of stationary for recycling, which would otherwise have ended up in landfills, we began planting lavender in the Head's rose garden to help increase biodiversity around the school.

Currently, we are planning a beach clean-up trip to Brighton next term to help reduce the amount of waste polluting our oceans. As part of this initiative, we looking into ways to raise money for the Brighton Council to be used towards these efforts.

Bella B, Y12



LIBRARY



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The Library Update

A BIG thank you from the library to the OSA and to everyone who has contributed to their fundraising.

These are a few of the nearly 50 new books we have been able to buy to update and enhance our non-fiction collection, and you can find the full range in the library!

Dr H James, Librarian



ou

**There is no Frigate like a Book
By Emily Dickinson**

There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry.
This Traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of Toll;
How frugal is the Chariot
That bears the Human Soul!

DRAMA



Drama & Theatre Studies
Ms Govier, Director of Drama

GCSE & A Level Exams

Last term was incredibly intense as we had performance exams in March closely followed by the musical, and then the day after the last night I flew out to Jordan with the Religious Studies trip!

As I boarded the coach that morning, I felt like the whole experience had been incredibly surreal as I greeted parents, who were congratulating me about the last night of the show.

Our first set of exams were the GCSEs and our students performed extracts from *'The Hound of the Baskervilles'*, *'The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole'* & *'A View from the Bridge'*.



I was incredibly proud of my Year 11 actors as they put their heart and soul into their rehearsals and performed to their parents and the examiner in the evening with real energy and conviction.

The A Level performances began with monologues & duologues from a range of contemporary playwrights including *'100 Words for Snow'*, *'Prima Facie'*, *'Agnes of God'* & *'The Effect'* followed by their group piece *'Image of an Unknown Young Woman'* by Elinor Cook.

It was a bittersweet evening, as I knew that this was the final time some of our students would be performing at Owen's and I was somewhat in denial that this was the end of an era. Our guests at both exams, including teachers and parents, were really impressed by the ability of our young people and how much they had grown as performers and designers.



The Addams Family

Last term's extra-curricular production was the hugely entertaining musical *'The Addams Family'* which featured over a hundred students acting, singing, dancing and playing in what can only be described as a joy to direct. The singing was directed by our vocal coach Ms Makepeace-Lott, who did an incredible job with our leads, making solos, duets and beautiful choral numbers such as *'Move Towards the Darkness'* sound so professional.

The many fantastic leads included 'The Addams Family' itself starring Theo, Lili, Connie, Lola, Sam, Sesadhi & Jack who were brilliant at conveying their somewhat disturbing characters in numbers such as 'Pulled', 'Death is Just Around the Corner' and 'Not Today'.



The leads in the 'normal' Beineke family were played by Iona, Joshua & Aron who blew us away with equally amazing numbers such as 'One Normal Night', 'Full Disclosure' & 'Crazier than You'.

Our principal ancestors also did us proud with solo lines and harmonies in big ensemble numbers; the fabulous Andrew, Tiana, Jonah, Zach, Atticus, Danielle, Lottie M, Betty, Olivia, Francesco & Zander whom I often tricked into turning up to lunchtime rehearsals only to find out that they were about to learn a new dance!



This was one of the best shows for partner work, which enabled many fantastic Latin American numbers.

The musical offered many opportunities to our younger students too, who really enjoyed creating their own 'ancestor' in the ensemble, where the dancing really was visually spectacular thanks to our five fabulous choreographers Lottie L, Eva L, Eloise, Lottie M and Connor.



There were some lovely solo turns from Daisy on pointe as 'The Moon', Connor as 'Death' and Lottie L as the external turmoil of Alice's mind!

Our band, led by the incredible Mrs Brady, were as professional as ever. Their efforts were recognised by the audience, who were rewarded them with a standing ovation, as they played us out.

Our Technical Crew and Stage Crew did us proud again, led by Alumni Sam and his brother James who created the gates for the production in their kitchen. Not sure their mum was pleased with that. She, was, however, quite impressed, as were all of us by the end product – an astonishing visual effect, surrounded by haze and glimmering with dramatic lighting to open the show.



Miss Khan, Mrs Nicolaides, Mrs Portman-Pope, Lottie L and Amelia ensured safety backstage, striking entrances and exits, speedy scene changes and a whole new generation of starry eyed crew members. It was wonderful to see alumni return to watch the show as ever and be reminded of what an incredible community we create together with every new show.

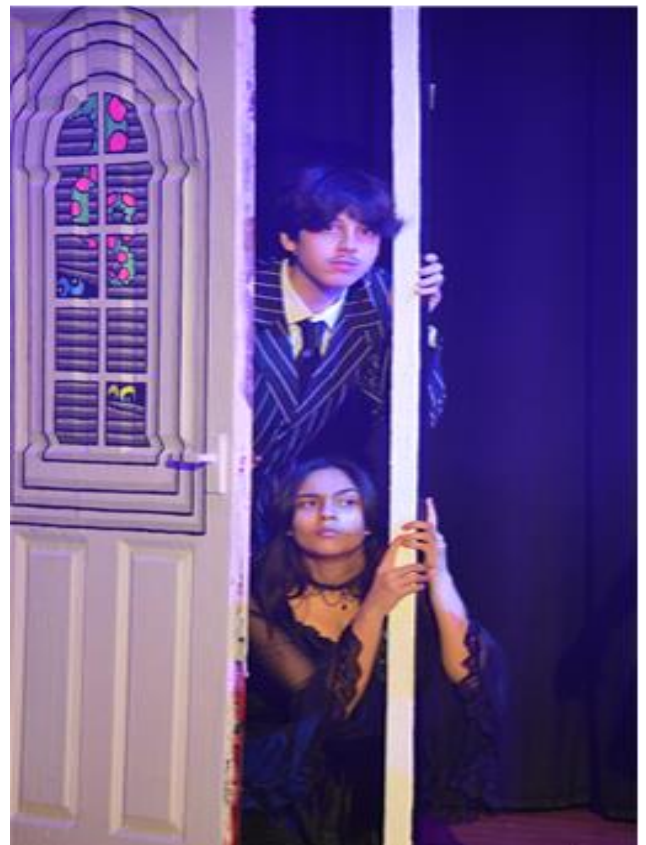


Forthcoming Production

We are already in rehearsals for our final show of the year, the **Summer Production**, which will be *'The Last Emperor'*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's *'Hamlet'*.

Back in 2013, I staged the original text with some phenomenal actors who are now very much in their late twenties and pursuing a range of rather exciting careers, including journalism, costume design & acting.

Do come and watch Years 7 - 9 perform. For some of them it will be their first time on stage and who knows where it will lead – you might be watching the future stars of film and stage!



MATHS

Maths Challenge Results

Earlier this term, 335 pupils from Years 7 and 8 sat the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. Of these we achieved a fabulous 91 Gold medals, 80 Silver medals and 71 Bronze Medals. 37 of these students were invited to sit the follow-on rounds this year.

Congratulations to them all! Special congratulations go to Anson C (Year 7), who achieved Best in School with 135 points, and to TaoHai K (Year 8), who achieved Best in Year 8 with 129 points.

The following students were invited to sit the follow-up rounds taking place in June:

Junior Kangaroo:

Tudor A, Eva B, Aishani B, Hugo B, Felix B, Jason C, Suki G, Kanghong G, Syeda H, Safa H, Joseph H, Sava I, Faris I, Eva J, Arthur J, Owen J, Uthmaan K, Amy K, Sebastien L, Kush M, Shreya M, Arjun M, Arjan P, Jayden S, Zafr S, Nylah S, Thomas S, Alexander S, Hoi Ying W, Sayuri B, Samuel B, Sasha B, Tom D, Isaac F, Anna F, Cameron G, Daniel G, Rachel G, Faris H, Megan H, Elizabeth J, Laura J, Yuhan J, Jed K, Mark K, Alexander K, Freya L, Xavier L, Katherine M, Chris M, Mayuri M, Adaugo N, Daisy O, Anya P, Kayne S, Diana S, Anasuya S, Kian S, Reva T, Rowan W, Michelle X, Rock Y, Ridhuan Z.

Olympiad: Anson C, Anika C and Arjan P in Year 7 along with TaoHai K and William H in Year 8.

We wish them luck and eagerly await their results.

Intermediate Maths Challenge Follow-On Rounds Results

In March, 41 pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the follow-on rounds for the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Congratulations to them all. A special congratulations to those who achieved a merit:

Grey Kangaroo: Bryan Yu (Year 9) achieved a merit and Best in School.

Pink Kangaroo: Andrew F (Year 10) and Jack B, Jack F, Samuel G, Melissa K and Lucia M (Year 11). Andrew also achieved Best in Year 10 and Jack F achieved Best in School.

Cayley Olympiad (Year 9): Ammiel G and Adam S. Adam also achieved Best in School.

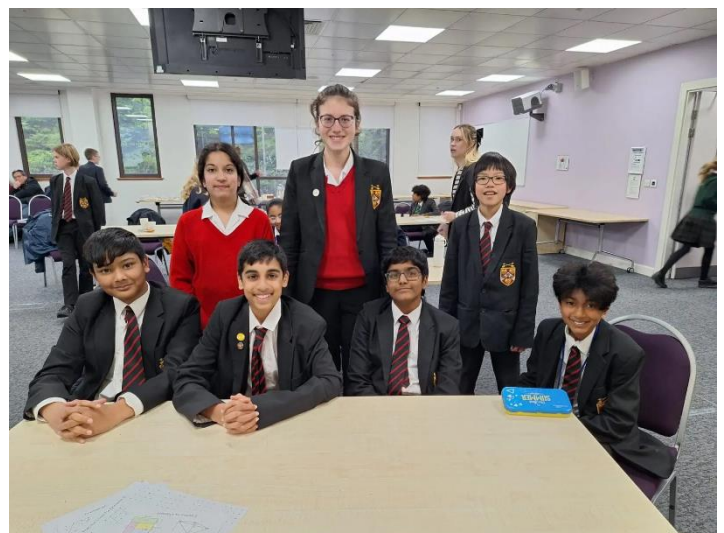
Hamilton Olympiad (Year 10): Kian T achieved Merit and Best in School

Maclaurin Olympiad (Year 11): Jonah R achieved Merit and Best in School.

In April, two teams of Year 7 mathematicians from Year 7 entered final of the [HFL Education](#) Annual Maths Challenge. There were 106 Hertfordshire school teams from Year 7 who entered the competition, with 21 invited to the final.

Our Dame Alice Owen's teams were incredible and finished in 1st and 2nd place! Team Green were the competition winners, beating 2nd place Team Brown by 10 points!

Congratulations to all of the pupils involved!



MUSIC

The May Concert

On 2nd May, Owen's musicians finished our spring season of concerts with a wonderful evening of music featuring the **Symphony** and **Chamber Orchestras**, **Senior** and **Senior Chamber Choirs** and **Close Harmony Group** as well as the **Owen's Concert Band**.

This concert was another part of the season where we are beginning to bid "farewell" to our wonderful **Year 13 musicians**. It was certainly a fitting tribute, as no fewer than 30 of them appeared in the range of roles to which we have become so accustomed, being deeply embedded in every item, whether as choir members, orchestra and concert band members, in leadership roles or as soloists. Tara, Cheryl, Eloise and Esther thrilled, moved and impressed the audience as soloists on violin, voice, clarinet and flute in repertoire by Mendelssohn, Handel and Jerome Naulais with the Chamber Orchestra and Concert Band. The audience's excitement was palpable as they rose to their feet in appreciation of the musicians' performance and collaborations. The choral items, complete with their imaginative and creative use of the space and staging, along with the range of ensemble, took the listeners through a myriad of moods and emotions, from being totally captivated, to charmed, to excited among others.



We were also able to enjoy, once again, the sound of the EGH's new organ, generously provided to us on a long-term loan, by the Royal College of Organists, in partnership with Viscount Organs as part of its 'Organs in Schools Programme', in accompaniment to the Senior Chamber Choir's performance of 'O Lorde, the maker of al thing' by John Joubert.

The whole evening was brought to a thrilling close as the final item packed nearly all the performers together on stage, Senior Choir and Symphony Orchestra, with the tandem conductors' double-act of Ms Makepeace-Lott installed in the middle of the auditorium conducting the choir, and Ms Bamber on stage conducting the orchestra, in Borodin's wonderful 'Polovtsian Dances' from his opera 'Prince Igor'.

It was a highly charged end of the evening for all involved, but especially for our wonderful Y13 musicians and their families. We would like to thank them for blazing such a bright trail in the very heart of Owen's music over the past seven years, and we wish them all the very best for the future, with the wish that they should continue to love their music-making!

Our thanks to all the teachers who made the evening possible, to the conductors, Ms Bamber, Ms Makepeace-Lott, Mr Page and Mr Kelly, as well as to Ms Sutherland and Ms McChrystal for all their support, to the OSA, the caretakers and to Mrs King, the Music and Drama Administrator.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Athletics

Under 14 Boys

The boys have started the athletics season well in the county league and are currently in 3rd place at the mid-way point. Hopefully, they can continue with this effort and qualify for the County final next half term.

They also competed well in the Track and Field cup on Friday, 10th May, at Woodside Athletics Track. We are waiting to find out which round they have qualified for next half term.

Under 14 Girls

The girls have had a solid start to the season with some strong performances in the County League particularly in the most recent one. At the halfway stage in the County League table, they are currently in 6th place. A shoutout to Isla B who has come 1st in every single one of her events she has competed in so far this season, as well as breaking the 10m barrier in the triple jump.

They also competed well in the Track and Field cup on Friday, 10th May, at Woodside Athletics Track. We are waiting to find out which round they have qualified for next half term.

Under 16 Boys

The boys have started the athletics season well in the county league and are currently in 4th place at the mid-way point, hopefully they can continue with this form and qualify for the county final next half term.

They also competed well in the Track and Field cup on Friday, 10th May, at Woodside Athletics Track. We are waiting to find out which round they have qualified for next half term.

Under 16 Girls

The girls have had a very strong start to the season in the County League and at the halfway stage of meets they are in 2nd place, 2 points off 1st place which is a fantastic achievement. Lots of impressive performances from Tia, Rhiannon, Izzy, Ellie and Hannah.

They also competed well in the Track and Field cup on Friday, 10th May, at Woodside Athletics Track, finishing 4th on the day. We are waiting to find out which round they have qualified for next half term.

Hertfordshire Combined Events

We entered a Junior Girls team into the Herts Combined events this year where they had to compete in hurdles, long jump, high jump, shot put and 800m. This is a very challenging competition which Isla, Hannah, Tia and Izzy were chosen for.



The team finished overall 2nd in the whole County on the day which is an amazing achievement. Also, Izzy finished individually 1st in the whole County.

This means she will now go forward to represent Hertfordshire and compete against other Counties.



Cricket

Year 7 Girls

The Year 7 girls have got off to a great start to the season. Attendance levels at training have been incredible, with over 30 girls attending each week and we have been extremely fortunate to have Rebecca Kelly from Herts County Cricket, coaching the girls for the first half term. We have been working on developing the basics of fielding, batting and bowling.

The A and B teams played their first match against Aldenham on Wednesday, 15th May. The A team got off to a great start. Solid batting from Zara and Oattie set a strong total of 298. Then a fantastic fielding display from Izzy and Emily's brilliant 2 wicket maiden over, limited the opposition to 244 runs. The B team showed the strength in depth we have in our Year 7 girls' cricket squads. Eliza batted incredibly well and we set a strong target of 262. Sophie bowled exceptionally, taking 2 wickets and limiting them to 219 runs.

A fantastic first fixture. Well done girls!

Year 8 Girls

Attendance levels at cricket practice for the Year 8 girls have been excellent with nearly 40 girls taking part and looking to improve their skills and knowledge. In their first match both the A and B sides played against Aldenham School in a soft ball format. The A team won by 34 runs with Sienna selected as player of the match, whilst the B team lost by 22 runs. Special mentions for the B team go to Sheneli, who took 3 wickets, and also player of the game Eva. In the second match of the season a mixed side played Katherine Warrington School. Captain Anaya led the way with a player of the game performance and 40 runs but the team ended up losing by 23 runs.

Up next the squad face Queenswood School in the final week of this half term, with matches against Belmont and The Royal Masonic School plus a tournament scheduled for after half term.



Year 9 Boys

The boys have started the season really strong with an excellent win vs Aldenham School, winning with 2 balls to spare. A special shout out to captain Aayush J who took 4 wickets and scored 94 not out to guide the boys to victory. They continued their winning streak with a win against Haileybury in a friendly with an array of bowlers taking wickets and Franklin scoring 53 not out.

The team will take on Bishops Stortford College in the next round.

Year 9 Girls

The girls had a great start to the season with a coaching session from Herts County Cricket coach, Rebecca Kelly. We have been working on bowling action and consistency of length and line. The girls played their first match against Aldenham on Tuesday 14th May. It was a convincing performance, with strong batting from Hannah, Riya and Freya. Ellie N bowled an excellent over taking two wickets. Rhiannon was very solid keeping wicket and it was a fantastic all round performance from the girls. We scored a competitive 259 runs and bowled them out for 228. After half term the girls will take part in the Chance to Compete cricket festival.



Year 10 Girls

The Year 10 girls have had a great start to their cricket season winning their first two games against Aldenham and Katherine Warrington schools. Their bowling and batting skills have improved with each game and they are looking forward to their first hard ball game against Queenswood on 23rd May. After half term they have one more game on 27th June against The Royal Masonic School.

Tennis

Year 7&8 Girls

The U13A team have had a tough season so far with the movement to Division 1 this year and have played some very high level opposition. In their first match they played Queenswood with a great win from Adaugo in her singles. More recently they played HABS and a shoutout to Anaya who pushed her singles to a narrow 7-5 defeat. They still have matches against RMS, STAHS and Berkhamsted to come!

The U13B team have been getting on well having lost narrowly to Queenswood 8-4 with good wins from Hailey and Reya. The girls then faced St Helens, with some real marathon games the team won overall 12-0 with a very impressive display by all.



Year 7&8 Boys

The U13A team has had a very difficult season in Division 1 this year playing some very impressive opposition. The boys faced Hitchin boys first and then played HABS after. They are still to face Watford Boys Grammar School, Aldwickbury and Berkhamsted. A shout out to TaoHai for his strong play within the singles.



The U13B team also played Hitchin boys to start their season and having put up a good fight narrowly lost overall 8-4. The boys then played Longdean and won overall 8-4 with some brilliant play from Jason, Kanghong and Laurence in Year 7.

They have one final game next term against Watford Grammar Boys.



Year 9&10 Girls

The U15 team have had a great season and have won all of their matches in their group. The girls played Queenswood first, winning the match overall 10-2. They then went away to Watford Girls Grammar School, and won overall 12-0 with a clean sweep. Finally, they won against Tring School overall 10-2. Every match the girls have been very impressive and it is great to see the improvement from last year!





Year 9&10 Boys

The U15 boys are so far unbeaten this season without having dropped a single set yet which is a very impressive achievement. The boys have played both Aldenham and Tring and won both matches overall 12-0.

They are yet to face Ashlyns and Roundwood Park School where they can hopefully continue their unbeaten record!

County Doubles Tournament

The girls had a very successful afternoon at the U14 and U18 girls County Doubles competition. In the U14s, Riya and Dinelly came 3rd in their pool and Adaugo and Anaya finished County runners-up. In the U18s, Katia and Ellie came 3rd overall and Dyllen and Alice finished County Champions. An amazing achievement by all involved!

In the boys County tournament, Max and Markos and TaoHai and David competed in the U14 age group. For the U18 competition, Dylan and Hayden had a great afternoon, unfortunately getting knocked out by a strong Sandringham pair in the semi-finals.



U18 girls National Aberdare Cup

This is the first time the school has entered the U18 National Aberdare Cup for a number of years. The team is made up of Alice, Dyllen, Katia and Adaugo.

The girls played Berkhamsted in the first round, after the singles were played the result was tied at 4-4 and after being rained off twice the girls had to come back to play their doubles and won overall 8-4. In the second round the girls played Sandringham, the team once again finished triumphant with a score of 8-4.

A shoutout to Katia with a brilliant singles and doubles performance. The girls now face Queenswood in the third round.

Girls' Football

The under 12 girls' football squad faced Stanborough School in the semi-finals of the district football league. A hattrick from player of the match Zara, 2 goals from Anashe and 1 goal from Captain Amy saw the side run out as winners with a scoreline of 6-1. They now face Yavneh College in the final in June.

The under 14s also reached the semi-finals of this competition and were due to play Ridgeway Academy. Unfortunately, Ridgeway did not attend the semi-finals and so the squad received a walk over to the final. They will now play Hertswood in the final in June.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Football Tour to Florida

Over the Easter holidays, forty-four Year 9 and 10 students travelled to Florida on a football tour. During the 7-day trip students had the opportunity to play 2 fixtures against local club sides (their third fixture was unfortunately cancelled due to thunder and lightning). In addition, they went to watch Orlando City play against New York Red Bulls in the MLS, spent the day at Aquatica Water Park and also visited Universal Studios. Of course, there was also some time for relaxing by the pool and a little(!!!) retail therapy at a local shopping mall!

The students seemed to have had an amazing time and represented the school brilliantly. A huge thank you goes to Mr Festa for organising this once in a lifetime trip.



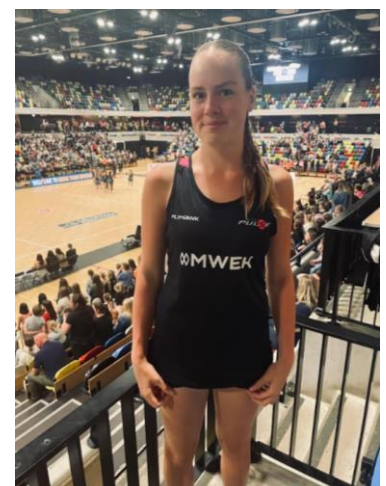
On Sunday, 21st April, Mrs Turner ran the London Marathon for the local Charity Chickenshed.

She completed the 26.2 mile course in a time of 5.02 hours. She has now convinced the rest of the PE Department to enter the marathon ballot next year.



Hannah J got the opportunity to play at the Copper Box Arena representing the U15 London Pulse Netball squad.

Well done, Hannah!





Congratulations to Fred T from Year 11, who was recently selected for the Saracens Academy Under 16 Squad. The latter boasts of training some top rugby players from Hertfordshire, Essex and Kent.

Fred was selected for the Warwick Festival in April which involved all Premiership Academy teams and in which Saracens were unbeaten. Upwards and onwards, Fred!

Congratulations to Alex KW (Y8) for his ongoing success in squash. He was selected as first player in the U13 England team as the team claimed their fifth consecutive title at the Five Nations Team Championships after defeating Scotland, Wales, Ireland and France in Cardiff.

For more for details:

<https://www.englandsquash.com/news/england-retain-five-nations-u15-and-u13-titles-for-5th-consecutive-year>



SCIENCE

Biology Olympiad Success

A Level Biology students once again achieved excellent success in the British Biology Olympiad

The British Biology Olympiad is an annual advanced problem solving competition for A Level students. Students are presented with topics and ideas, with which they are not familiar and so need to apply their problem-solving skills and understanding of core principles.

Last term 18 A Level Biology students took part and over 39% achieved Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates. Many congratulations to all students, with a particular mention to Eiden, Felix, Marina and Thomas who were in the top 5% of all entrants and achieved the gold award!

For more details: <https://ukbiologycompetitions.org/british-biology-olympiad/>



Owen's Physicists at UCL

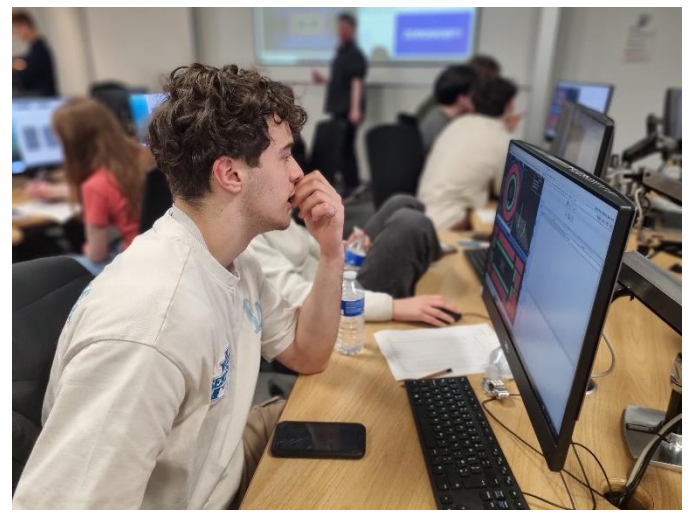
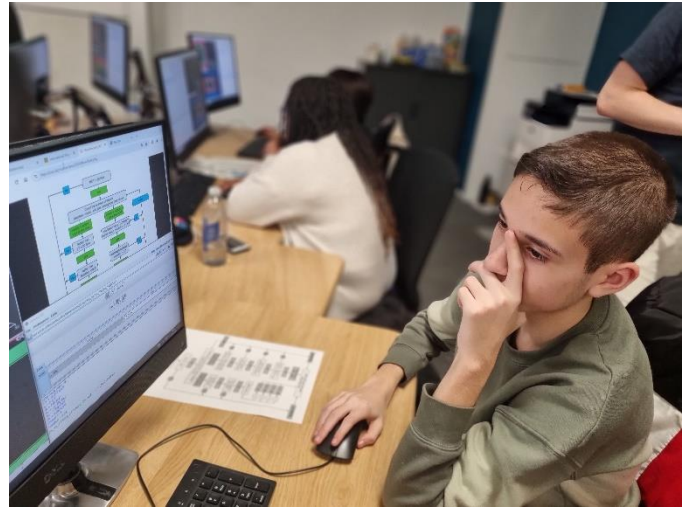
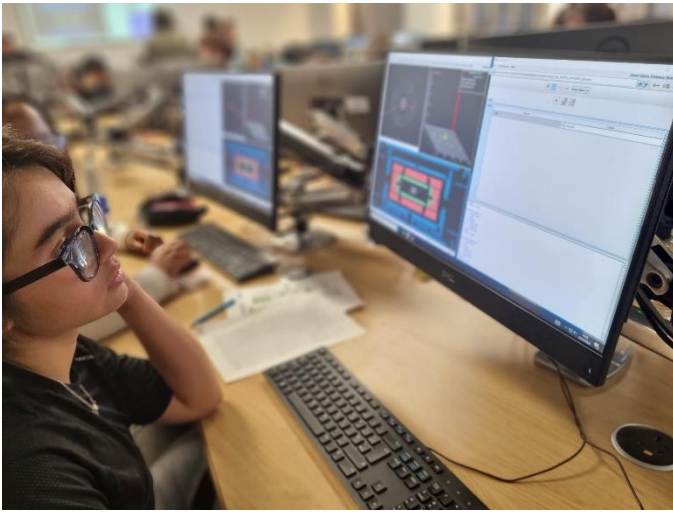
Each year, in spring, research institutes and universities around the world invite students and their teachers for a day-long programme to experience life at the forefront of research. These International Masterclasses give students the opportunity to be particle physicists for a day by analysing real data from CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

This year 15 students from DAOS attended UCL to analyse data from the ATLAS detector in a collaborative effort to find the Higgs Boson.

This culminated in an international conference with students attending universities across Europe to present and discuss their findings with post-doctoral researchers at CERN.

Mr Friedlander, KS3 Science Coordinator



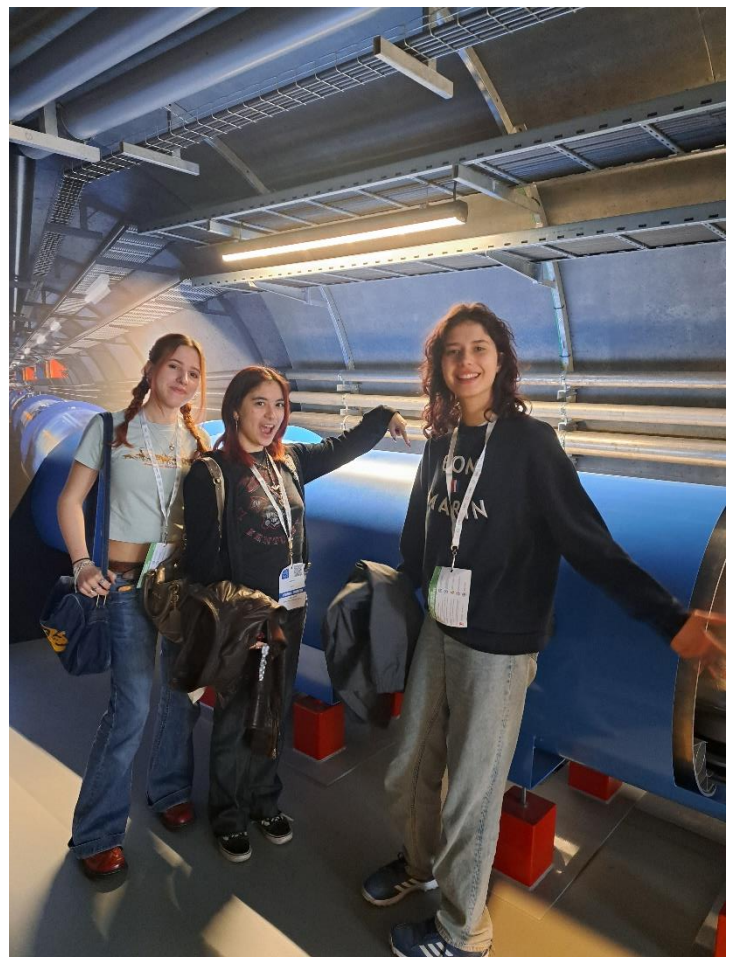


Tour of CERN

We landed in Geneva the day before our tour of CERN, which gave us the opportunity to explore the city, with many of us visiting the Geneva fountain and the old town, then window shopping in the countless designer shops. We finished the day at an Italian restaurant, where many of us had to refresh our GCSE French translation skills to decrypt the menu.

After an early start at the hotel on Friday, we took the tram to CERN and were taken to a series of exhibitions to start the day. The exhibitions ranged from proton football, quantum tennis - where you can't truly know where the ball 'is'; piloting robotic arm cameras, building your own star, quantum karaoke and even a demonstration of quantum locking, where we saw objects 'levitate'.

We then ate lunch in the infamous CERN canteen where options ranged from Indonesian to German, yet pasta still remained the most popular option.



Our tour guides then ushered us to another part of the site where we learnt in greater detail about the functions of various accelerator technology.

From the radiofrequency cavities used in linear acceleration, to the properties of superconducting materials utilised, and how magnets introduce curvature to the trajectories of the particles.

It was fascinating to learn how the plasma within the accelerator reached temperatures almost 366,000 times hotter than the sun, and yet the magnets had to operate at temperatures of 1.9K (-271C – even colder than outer space). Surely the most extreme temperature gradient on the planet!



We discussed the plethora of problems engineers had to overcome when designing and constructing the LHC, and how the technology is constantly evolving and improving, even mitigating resonant effects.

Despite spending a day immersed in some of the most cutting edge technologies on the planet, many of us were still in awe of the Swiss double decker trains.

On behalf of all the physics students, I would like to thank Ms Fradley and Dr Mitchell for taking us on this trip.

Amber K, Year 13

