



Dame Alice Owen's School

April 2025



Letter from the Head **Hannah Nemko**

This term has been a hive of sporting, musical and dramatic activity with a plethora of matches, concerts, productions and alike. Our students have shone in a number of maths competitions, taken part in a Youth COP conference, celebrated Careers Week and even made their debut on BBC [radio](#) and [television](#), talking about mobile phone use and their involvement in the University of Hertfordshire's Bootstrap

project. I never cease to be amazed by the versatility of our young people, their wide range of interests and curiosities and just how articulate they are!

We were delighted to be celebrated in *The Times* and then in *The Welwyn and Hatfield Times*, championed as the happiest school in Welwyn, Hatfield and Potters Bar, as shown through comments on the Ofsted ParentView site. A huge thank you goes to the staff at school for the way in which they look after our young people. We really do place student well-being at the heart of all we do and we are so pleased that this is recognised and reflected in what parents and carers note about the school and their young people.

Welwyn Hatfield and Potters Bar schools make happiness list

14TH MARCH EDUCATION



Data released by *The Sunday Times* ranks the happiest schools in the country, using data from Ofsted which shows the percentage of parents who said their child was happy in school in 2020-2025.

Here are the Welwyn Hatfield and Potters Bar schools which made the cut, followed by the percentage:

1. Dame Alice Owen's School, Potters Bar

97 per cent

2. Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

93 per cent



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

BEYOND CLASSROOMS

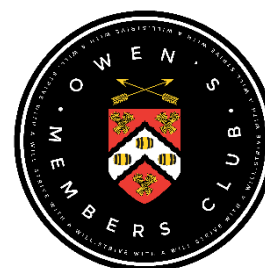
Read more on pp.11-20.

SUBJECT BY SUBJECT

Read more on pp.21-54.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLS GUIDE
2025

COMPREHENSIVE
SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
SOUTH EAST



At this time of year, our student leadership teams swap over as our Year 13s turn their full attention to securing those all-important A level results.

I would like to thank the outgoing Senior Student Team for their enthusiasm, commitment and creativity and welcome in the new Senior Student Team: Alfie, Bella, Eleanor, Emily, Ewen, Flora, Harry, Omead, Samim and Shaniya.

Congratulations to our new House Captain Team: Niamh, George (**Clerkenwell**), Ella, Lloyd (**Goswell**), Anaya, Marco (**Hermitage**), Francesco, Sasha (**Isledon**). And our thanks go to the outgoing House Captain Team for all they have done to promote the friendly and healthy competition and rivalry between houses this year.



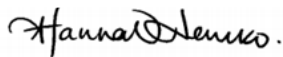
This term, the OSA has had their AGM and I am delighted to welcome Mbalu and Tricia back as co-chairs, ably aided by a fabulous committee, a mix of old and new faces.

The work of the OSA is increasingly important to the school (and your young people!) as, without them, we would not be able to provide as many additional resources and opportunities as we can, currently. [This 1 minute video](#) highlights just what they do and what they bring to the school – have a look!

One of the most effective ways to support the OSA is to be in touch if you work for a company which runs a **match funding programme** or alike. The support of companies whose social action strategies support this kind of charitable giving allows the OSA to literally DOUBLE the amount that they raise for your children at school. Participation in the programme is easy. Information about the letters and steps you have to take to learn about and join your company's scheme are set out [here](#). Please contact Nadine via email: matchfunding@theosa.org.uk, if you would like more information or support. It is only when we work together and are aligned in our actions and vision that we can continue to be able to mitigate, albeit little, risks of the real term cuts to our budget, and thus shielding your young people, as much as we can, from the school's financial difficulties.

Finally, our thanks, as ever, go to Olena, our parent volunteer, for all her work in pulling the articles together into this fabulous celebration of our school. Olena has been editing and growing the newsletter for several years now and, as her work commitments are growing, she is looking to share the project with someone else. If you think you could spare a few hours two or three times a year to help produce the school newsletter, please get in touch with me via my EA, Lona Hennigan (ea@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) to arrange a time to chat about what this might involve. Essentially, we are looking for someone who wants to help out and give back. Experience in desktop publishing/design is desirable but not essential

Wishing you all a restful break,



Hannah Nemko
Headteacher



SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL

With the changes to National Insurance thresholds and the increase in employer contributions, compounded by yet *another* unfunded pay increase, the school is, once again, facing an enormous deficit which the DfE has told us will need to be resolved through 'efficiencies'.

This makes your voluntary contributions and donations to the school more important than ever.

We ask all parents, and anyone else who may wish to do so (grandparents, alumni etc.) to make a monthly donation, of whatever you can afford, to the school. Ideally, this would be in the region of £30 per child although some families generously donate more, some others a little less. **All contributions go directly to enhancing and supporting your child's education.**

If you can donate under the **Gift Aid Scheme**, the school can claim another 25% from HMRC at no additional cost to you. To set up your regular donation or **to refer someone you know who may like to support the school** monthly or with a one-off donation, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code to be taken directly to our donations page.



We thank you in anticipation of your help!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We were delighted to receive such a glowing report from the Good Schools Guide in October 2024 and were further delighted to be awarded a certificate of excellence by School Guide.co.uk this March.

Congratulations and thanks go to

- all the staff for their tireless work with our young people,
- our amazing students for their curiosity and interest in everything around them,
- the governing body for their thought and challenge, the Brewers for all that they give the school and
- you, our supportive parents!

It is only through working together, that we can make our school community the amazing place it is to be.

Hannah Nemko
Headteacher

**TEACHERS NEED YOU**

On Sunday, 26th April, M J Bird, Head of Social Sciences, will be running the London marathon in aid of **Cancer Research UK**. Although he's had a few setbacks to get this far, he's found that the students have all been a great source of support and hopes his story may inspire some of them to get out, be active and stay healthy.

Should you wish to make a donation, please [click here](#).



On Sunday, 4th May, Mrs Nemko will be completing a marathon in order to raise money for **Great Ormond Street Hospital**.

If you would like to understand why or to help support this fabulous charity with their work, please [click here](#).



WHO is the OSA? It's you and me – us, busy parents/carers – volunteering a little where we can, to raise money which directly enriches the daily life of our children at DAOS..... and a secondary school parent network.

WHAT is the OSA? It's a charity to raise funds for the benefit of our young people at DAOS. and an opportunity to meet other parents, have fun and make a difference.

WHERE is the OSA? We aim to reach (and reap!!) as widely as possible, at events throughout the year... and we meet on the first Monday of the month in term-time, at 7:30pm in the Old Library above Reception in the main school building (although the next meeting will be on Monday, 31st March!). Please consider coming along, meet other parents and support your school community.

WHY join the OSA? Because families move on and the OSA needs new volunteers, every yearY7s exploring their new school are soon Y9s choosing their CGSEs The OSA exists to benefit them all the way.

2024 was the OSA's best year so far, reaching the 50th Anniversary target of £50,000. The OSA target of £52,000 in 2025 is already on track (mainly due to match funding at this early stage).

THIS TERM's fundraising events included:

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALE– thank you for your support and congratulations - an amazing £750 was raised in March. This is a win-win: saves you money, reduces environmental waste and boosts OSA funds for your children. OSA volunteer Sheena could definitely do with some extra help!

MATCH FUNDING – thank you!!! This charitable top-up scheme offered by many employers makes a large contribution to OSA fundraising and does not require a lot of time or effort on your part – could you please ask if you, your friends or family are in the scheme?

REFRESHMENTS – many out-of-hours events have drinks and snacks (both for proud parents and performing pupils). OSA volunteer Tony (aka the 'CEO') would love to add you to his rota of occasional OSA volunteers, if you could help out once in a while?

DAOS MERCHANDISE – exclusive mugs, tote bags and trolley coin keyrings – very usable - buy a multipack.



Save the dates for the summer term events:

THAMES BOAT PARTY (adults only) – 26th April, 8pm to 12am – offers an evening of delicious buffet food, live DJ music, spectacular views and great company.

Tickets are £60 per person and limited, book now to avoid disappointment:

<https://buytickets.at/theosa/1475626>.

OWENSFEST 2025 – 29th June 2025, 12noon to 5pm – a hugely popular, Owen's own summer festival of fun, food, music, art and entertainment. Details to follow.



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 you will find links to ticketed events, the Online Nearly New Uniform Shop etc.



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, 12th May.** 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: Have a quick look at this please - it is the easiest way for us, friends and extended family to raise money for DAOS daily. It involves doing nothing more than we're already doing, when shopping online and with over 8,000 retailers. There were 235 donations in February and we're now aiming to achieve 500 donations a month. Please follow this link when signing up:

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

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.

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 **Tony** at refreshments@theosa.org.uk, if you could spare a couple of hours.

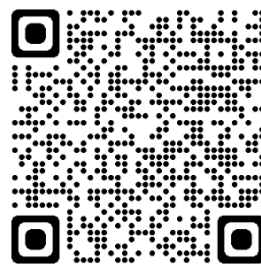
OSA's '200 Club': OSA's '200 Club': the OSA operates a Lottery Style 200 Club with a £50 and a £25 prize draw every month and an extra draw in December. A one-off annual membership fee of £24 per number and nothing more to do other than wait to hear if your number is drawn. For further details, please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

OSA Match Funding: Many companies offer a MatchFunding scheme for employees who volunteer time to charities, like the OSA. MatchFunding is available to staff in a wide range of companies. Friends and family can match fund too – it doesn't only have to be a parent. It can make a substantial contribution to the OSA's annual fund-raising for the school. We would love to hear from all of you. Please contact OSA volunteer **Nadine** 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 these QR codes:

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

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



National Careers Week 2025

During National Careers Week, on 3-7 March, our Year 9 -13 students had the exciting opportunity to explore possible future careers. We had a fantastic line-up of 15 speakers, all Old Owenians, who kindly volunteered their time to come into school to speak to the students during lunchtimes.

The alumni were from a variety of industries and professions including journalism, law, finance, insurance, art and design, government policy and technology.

For many of our speakers it was the first time they had returned to the school since leaving and they really enjoyed the chance to meet and speak with the students as well as having a tour of the school.



The students seemed really engaged during the sessions so hopefully they found them to be a valuable and inspiring insight into potential future careers. Many thanks to the Old Owenians for the time and eagerness to inspire the new generation of Owenians!



Library Lessons

Library lessons this term for Years 7, 8 and 9 have explored literature to tie in with themes including International Women's Day and Children's Mental Health Week. We held a special 'book speed-dating' event for each class to celebrate World Book Day, and the Librarian also delivered sessions to everyone on 'Making Good Reading Choices', encouraging students to reflect on their own individual reading journeys and introducing them to different tools to support them in choosing books.

Year 7s have used a library lesson slot for one of their Learning to Learn sessions, which explained how the library can support them with their independent learning. Years 8 and 9, meanwhile, spent a session looking at the books shortlisted for this year's Carnegie Medal for Writing, the most prestigious award for new books for children and young people. Year 8 and 9 students are now invited to take part in our 'Carnegie Challenge', which will run until May half-term, reading and reviewing this year's shortlisted books or past winners.

Student Librarians

Our team of student librarians continues to grow and we are really grateful for all their invaluable assistance with keeping the school reading! This term they have been working hard staffing the desk, shelving returned books, helping students to understand the library catalogue and creating displays, including wrapping up lots of books in recycled paper for an amazing 'Blind Date with a Book' display for Valentine's Day! They have of course also benefited from being the first to get their hands on lots of lovely new books!



'Blind date with a book' display



Student librarians on duty at the library desk and hard at work processing new books



Super Series

In our annual Reading Habits survey, students fed back to us that they were frustrated when the library was missing part of a series. So one of our goals this year is to put this right! As we have been reviewing the fiction stock this term, we have been matching up all the parts of each series,

mending books, replacing missing titles, ordering more recent volumes and also adding completely new series to the library. It has been really satisfying to see some super series reunited on the shelves and, most importantly, to see students borrowing and working their way through these books. The student librarians are now creating shelf labels for the most popular series, explaining the order in which the books should be read - look out for more of these labels on the shelves soon!

Excelsior Award

An exciting new venture this term has been the introduction of a group shadowing the Excelsior Award, the UK's only fully independent, nationwide book award for graphic novels and manga. Graphic novels and manga are hugely popular amongst our young people; they provide an accessible route into reading for more reluctant readers but also offer a challenging reading experience for everyone, blending visual and narrative elements. Many of the graphic novels we offer in DAOS Library introduce students to challenging classic or modern literature in a format that appeals to them. For the Excelsior Award, we chose to shadow the Blue level (books aimed at KS3). Students who joined our Google Classroom Group were able to drop in to the library over this half term to borrow the shortlisted books and return ratings forms. Twenty-six students from across the year groups joined the shadowing scheme; all those who have participated are invited to join us for a final meeting very soon at which we will be revealing which book 'won' at DAOS, before we send off our votes to count towards the real award.

Reading Champions Quiz

The National Literacy Trust National Reading Champions Quiz is an event that recognises and celebrates the book knowledge of more than 2,000 keen readers aged 10 to 14 each year. 23 regional heats are delivered across the whole of the UK and the winners of the heats go on to compete in a grand final.

This year, two teams of Dame Alice Owen's students from years 7-9 were selected to enter the quiz and competed in the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire regional online heat on 31st March. The teams tackled 8 varied rounds of questions which tested their knowledge of children's and young people's books, as well as their thinking skills. Rounds included 'Odd One Out', a horror-themed round, a video round, book-themed puzzles including 'book maths', a round on illustrations and images (including mystery 'melted book covers' and identifying the title of a book from the image generated when its blurb is fed into AI) and a video round.

Our teams rose to the challenge magnificently and finished in joint 3rd and in 2nd place overall in our region. They were just pipped to the post for a place in the grand final by Parmiter's School. Both teams won book tokens to share. They should be very proud of their results and of their amazing book knowledge.



The Reading Champions Quiz underway



Know Yourself, Grow Yourself

To celebrate Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week 2025, all pupils from Year 7 took part in the Art Room's activity of this year's theme: Know Yourself, Grow Yourself. The task encouraged our young people to learn more about themselves by imagining a plant growing.

It started off by inviting children to reflect on the roots of their identity, what is important to them, and what helps them develop as a person. They were asked to think about what is growing from these roots, as with greater understanding of oneself also comes an increased capacity for personal growth, resilience and connection with others.

Their core values including words such as Respect, Determination and Kindness were engraved onto copper sheets, cut into the shape of a leaf.



Over 200 leaves are currently on display in the foyer forming a spectacular art installation. Well done to everyone involved



Sustainability

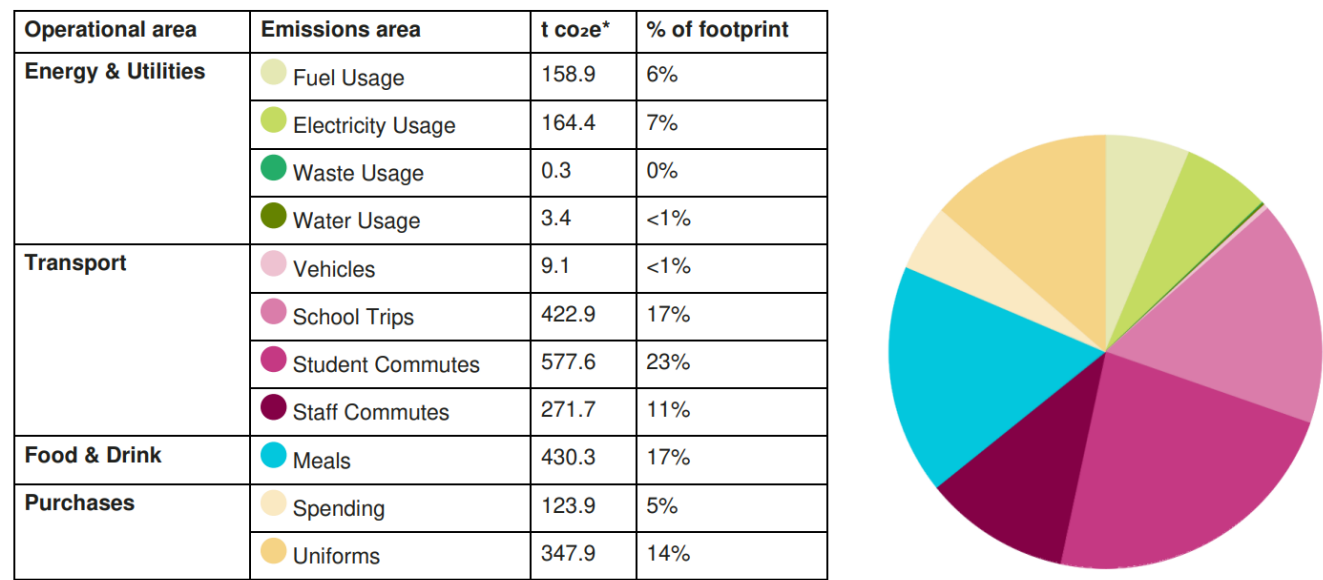
Climate Action Plan – As big organisations, UK schools are now required to have a Sustainability Lead (at DAOS this is Mr Tanner) and Climate Action Plan setting out how we are responding to the climate emergency in four key areas: Carbon Reduction, Adaptation and Resilience, Biodiversity, and Climate Education & Green Jobs.

The first step on our journey towards Net Zero is to complete a detailed audit of the school’s carbon footprint - this will allow us to monitor what progress has been made. A lot of people worked on producing this data, from Mr Wileman (site manager) and the brilliant accounts office team (who drilled down through trip data and vehicle log books), down to year 8 and year 12 students who helped to conduct the travel survey.

We’re working on a Climate Action Plan which we hope to share with you very soon. For the time being, here are the results of our carbon survey.

Your Carbon Footprint Report

Your schools total carbon footprint is estimated to be: 2,510.40 tonnes co2e* per year



Hertfordshire Youth COP25

On 11th February, four Eco-Committee members from Year 10 and Year 12 attended the Hertfordshire Youth COP25 event at North Herts College. Here’s a report from Tom in year 12:

After an early start (8:15!), we arrived at North Herts College at 9am, where we joined delegates from schools across Hertfordshire for a welcome speech. We then quickly moved into our first activity of the day: a mock United Nations climate debate, with each table of 8 people representing countries in a specific stage of development, for example Emerging Developing Countries. The aim of this debate was to work out how to keep global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, whilst negotiating with different groups with conflicting interests. We used the EN-ROADS climate simulator to see the impact of specific environmental policies on global warming, for example introducing carbon pricing or reducing deforestation. After 90 minutes of teamwork, and each table contributing their adjustments twice to the simulator, we managed to succeed in lowering expected warming to 1.5°C!

In the next session we separated into four climate workshops, each focusing on Carbon Reduction, Enhancing Nature, Cleaner Air or Adaptation. In each workshop we discussed the factors that affect progress in these areas, while using online models to forecast the impacts of these issues. In the case of Cleaner Air, we went outside to collect data about the number of pollutants in the air. I was allocated the Carbon Reduction workshop, where we talked through the basics of the carbon cycle, before exploring our misconceptions about the most carbon intensive ways of transportation and foods. Unsurprisingly, beef and domestic air travel were amongst the most carbon intensive, but I was surprised to learn that the accolade for lowest carbon intensity travel went to the Eurostar, whilst for food it was citrus fruits. After this, we calculated our individual carbon footprints and compared them to the UK averages, investigating which factors had the greatest impact upon our footprint. Finally, we used online resources to explore measures we could use to adapt our economies to reach net zero emissions.

Following our workshops, we had a short lunch break, before a future pathways talk and careers fair, where the exhibitors ranged from the Herts Wildlife Trust to various environmental consultancy firms. This was a fantastic experience and opened our eyes to future careers in environmental sustainability. Finally, our trip concluded with a brief talk from Paul Porter, professor of glaciology at the university of Hertfordshire, in which he commended our input and innovative thinking and stressed the importance of a sustainable future.

A big thank you to Mrs Knight and Mrs Chan for organising this trip, and to Mr Dugan and Mr Festa for giving us a lift there and back!



Eco Committee Fashion Swap

Our focus in March was on fast fashion and the impact it has on the planet, and we challenged members of the school community to buy no new clothing in this month. At the heart of this initiative was one of our most popular events yet: the annual Fashion Swap. This is an event where students from all year groups bring in unwanted clothing items during a period of about 2 weeks. All these clothes are set up in the main hall and the students who donated can come and pick up some preloved clothes. This year, the swap took place on the 14th March and we had around 200 donations - and we

were really pleased with the increase in boys taking part this year.

The Eco Committee is very proud of the success of the event and we look forward to making it even bigger next year!

Charlotte (Y8) and Elizabeth (Y9)



Online Safety Tip: Navigating Online Influences

The recent Netflix series *Adolescence* has sparked important conversations about the impact of online communities on teenagers. The show highlights how certain online forums can promote harmful ideologies, sometimes leading to serious real world consequences.

Last week, Mrs. Blackburn shared a document explaining the hidden meanings behind certain emojis used by young people online. This serves as a great opportunity to start a conversation with your child, not just about the series, but also about the digital content they engage with daily.

To support you in keeping your child safe online, here are some key takeaways:

Engage Open Conversations: Regularly talk to your child about the online platforms they use. Show interest in their digital world and the communities they interact with.

Raise Awareness of Online Risks: Help your child recognise the dangers of certain online groups, particularly those that spread toxic behaviours or harmful ideologies.

Encourage Critical Thinking: Teach your child to question what they see online, differentiate between reliable and misleading content, and recognise when they are being influenced in negative ways.

Stay Involved in Their Online World: Maintain supervision over their digital activities to ensure they navigate the internet safely.

By staying informed and encouraging open communication, we can empower young people to engage with the digital world in a safe and responsible way. If you are looking for additional ways to keep your child safe online visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Ms Ogufere

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



'On Virtue'

Phillis Wheatley (c. 1753-84)

O thou bright jewel in my aim I strive
To comprehend thee. Thine own words declare
Wisdom is higher than a fool can reach.
I cease to wonder, and no more attempt
Thine height t'explore, or fathom thy profound.
But, O my soul, sink not into despair,
Virtue is near thee, and with gentle hand
Would now embrace thee, hovers o'er thine head.
Fain would the heaven-born soul with her converse,
Then seek, then court her for her promised bliss ...

CHESS CLUB NEWS

It has been a very busy term of chess at Dame Alice Owen's School with our continual involvement in the National Online School's Chess League (NOSCL) where we now have three teams regularly involved across the two divisions. There have also been lots of tournaments we have been involved in, most importantly the Hertfordshire Chess Championship that was held at this school in March.

Here is the write-up by Mr Khan on this event plus photos:

"On Tuesday the 4th of March, Dame Alice Owen's School hosted the 2025 Hertfordshire Secondary School Chess Championships. Schools from across Hertfordshire were in attendance, from Tring, Rickmansworth, St. Alban's, Watford, Broxbourne, and Potters Bar.

[\(Chess-Results Server Chess-results.com - 🏆 Hertfordshire Secondary School Chess Championship 2025 - Major\)](#)

In narrowly contested combat, the Dame Alice Owen's School Major and Junior Chess Teams managed to prevail in points for their respective Sections, and have now qualified for the National Schools Chess Championships held at Nottingham University during the last week of June."

So, as you can see, we have qualified for both ECF Chess Team Challenge Finals! This is big news. Last year we managed to qualify for the Junior but now we have both teams involved. Congratulations to Rock Y, Stephen G, TaoHai K and James C in the senior event and Tudor A, Uthmaan K, Firdaus Z and Sebastian E in the junior event.



Also exciting at the Hertfordshire Chess Championship was a Girls Tournament and it was brilliant that we put two teams into the event. It's also brilliant that we won that as well!

Congratulations to Olivia G, Rachel G and Alexandra M.

Well done also Ridhuan Z, Kian T, Jacob S, Alexander B, Callum P, Ethan-James T, Yo-Yo C, Christopher L-S, Elisabella T, Neela P and Eesha M for taking part in this excellent event organised by Mr Yu. It was great that so many DAOS students got the opportunity to play.

Students from DAOS have also had success in another tournament and here is the write from Olivia G on the 2nd SPTW Eagleide Schools Chess Tournament - Secondary Event (Under 19):

Checkmate!

It is our absolute pride to announce that our school chess teams participated and flourished in a tournament on the 1st March. The DAOS A team had a great start, winning 4-0 against Habs' B team and overall finished second place to Habs' A team. The DAOS B team had a shaky start but made an excellent comeback and after a few intense, action-packed games, landed themselves in 4th place, getting very close to winning a trophy. In the end, DAOS A team won the silver trophy but both teams received a medal of commendation.

In the ECF English School's Chess Championship, we lost in the semi-final of our area against a very strong QE Boys team 5-1. It was much closer than it sounds...honest! However, all was not lost as we have put into the Repechage Events online and so far we have qualified from the 'D & E Repechage Events' and have one final round to conquer in order to reach the Finals in Nottingham in June.

Happy chess playing everyone!

*Mr Simpson
Director Chess*



Duke of Edinburgh Award

This term has seen exciting developments in the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) journey for students across the school, with expedition preparation in full swing for Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 participants.

Year 10 Practice Expeditions

In March, 115 Year 10 students completed their practice expeditions, where they worked on their navigational and camp craft skills. The students showed impressive map reading abilities and demonstrated their skills in cooking—ranging from expedition-specific meals to more ambitious dishes like fried steak, a surprising but welcome addition to their menus! While most students stuck to their planned routes, a few ventured off the beaten path, testing their navigation abilities further. These practice expeditions have laid a solid foundation, and the students are now set to complete their assessed expeditions in September.



Year 9 Bronze Award Progress

A total of 130 Year 9 students have enrolled in the Bronze level of the DofE Award. This term, they have begun working on the volunteering, physical, and skills sections of their awards. Their Bronze practice expeditions will take place in July, with the assessed expeditions scheduled for September. The goal is for all Year 9 and Year 10 students to complete their Bronze awards by the end of September, allowing them to progress to their Silver and Gold awards in the near future.





Year 12 Gold Award Preparation

51 Year 12 students have been busy preparing for their Gold expeditions, with two evening planning sessions held this term. These sessions focused on route planning, meal preparation, equipment discussions, and crucial safety and first aid training. The Year 12s are now eagerly looking forward to their Gold practice expedition in the Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) in May, followed by their assessed expedition in the Lake District in July.



DofE Expedition Dates for 2025

- **19-22 May:** Gold practice expedition (Year 12)
- **11-12 July:** Year 9 Bronze practice expeditions
- **14-18 July:** Gold assessed expedition (Year 12)
- **2-3 September:** Year 11 (current Year 10) Bronze assessed expedition
- **13-14 September:** Year 10 (current Year 9) assessed expedition (Group A)
- **20-21 September:** Year 10 (current Year 9) assessed expedition (Group B)

With so many expeditions on the horizon, it's clear that the DofE Award remains an exciting and challenging journey for students. We wish all participants the best of luck in their upcoming expeditions!

Dare to Play

On 23rd March, Musa L and Eesa L, both in Year 8, participated in the Hertfordshire Schools Symphony Orchestra (HSSO) as part of the double bass section for the 30th Anniversary Gala of Hertfordshire Schools at the Royal Albert Hall. This is a huge flagship event organised by Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS).

Having received an invitation just a week prior to the event, the youngest double bassists in the orchestra eagerly undertook this fantastic opportunity and played two concerts that day – in the afternoon and in the evening. We wish the young musicians all the best in their orchestral adventure!



It was a pleasant experience for me to play at the Royal Albert Hall. The extra-curricular clubs in music has helped me. (Musa)

It was good. Being in the second orchestra and junior chamber strings had prepared me for this. (Eesa)

Guess What? Guess WHO!

'Guess Who', who many students will have seen in the Christmas Concert and alike, are going on to great things – they played a mix of cover and original songs at the Battle of the Bands in March at The Horn, St Albans and came away victorious!



Spandau Ballet started here... We can only Guess Who might be next...

Well done and look out for details of their next gig!



Make a Difference – vote Ada!

Do you live in Enfield? If so, vote Ada Hayvaci for Enfield Youth Council!

The Enfield Youth Council is a platform where young people across the borough can have a real say in decisions that impact their education and future. It works with local leaders to influence policies and create meaningful change.

I'm running because every student should have the support and opportunities they need to succeed. If we want to improve our schools and community, we need to take action—and that starts with voting. Every vote is a chance to make a difference!

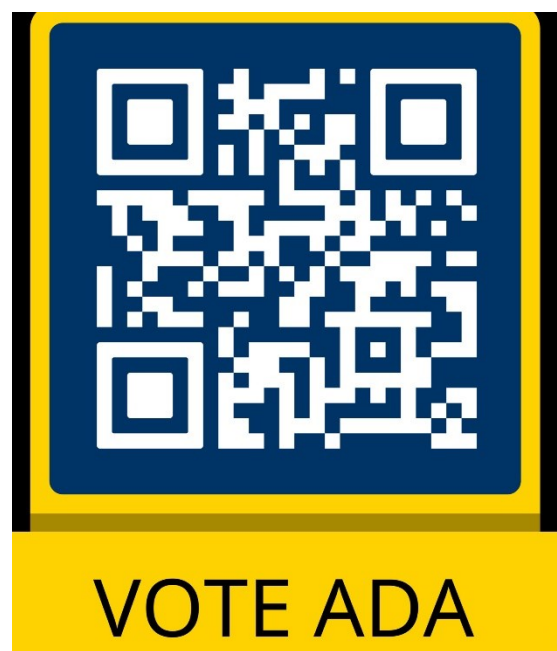
I was inspired by some of the very successful initiatives I've seen at Owens, and I want to introduce similar ideas introduced into Enfield schools and eventually improve our own school as well. My key goals include:

- ❖ Mentorship programs to support Year 6 students transitioning into secondary school by pairing them with older students for guidance and support.
- ❖ Expanding work experience opportunities by partnering with local firms, businesses, and hospitals so that all students—especially those without connections—have access to placements that will help them in their future careers.
- ❖ Increasing financial literacy and life skills lessons to ensure students leave school with essential knowledge about budgeting, taxes, and real-world financial decisions.
- ❖ Reducing unnecessary homework in KS3 so students can focus on extracurriculars and personal development while still receiving a high-quality education.

You must live in Enfield to vote. Scan the QR code to register, and within three days, you'll receive a voting link where you can select your candidate. The names are listed alphabetically, so I should be second on the list!

I'll also be outside reception every morning before form if you'd like more information.

Let's make a difference together—VOTE ADA HAYVACI!



ART

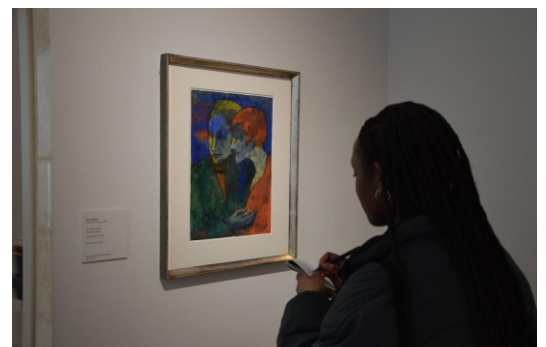
Art Study Tour Madrid 2025

Earlier this term, our A level artists visited the beautiful metropolitan city of Madrid in search of inspiration for their respective themes, Contrast and Union. We were fortunate enough to view some of Spain's most famous paintings including Picasso's *Guernica* in the The Reina Sofia, one of the three golden triangles of Museums, including The Thyssen-Bornemisza and The Prado. We also spent an afternoon sketching in the breathtaking El Retiro Park which has recently been named a UNESCO world heritage site.



Our students produced outstanding work in their sketchbooks documenting their experience of Madrid's amazing architecture and Spanish culture. We were extremely proud of their attitude to learning, togetherness and enthusiasm for what was a memorable tour of the Spanish capital. Malaika said, 'It was a great bonding experience', and Amina described our journey as, 'Truly memorable, I just loved everything about Madrid and I would definitely return'. For more photos please visit the school website under news & updates.

Well done to all our young artists and we look forward to seeing their work in our exhibition in June.





DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

F1 in Schools Competition

Congratulations to Year 10 students Henry, Artian, Sam, Ammiel, Ansh and Dhruv, for their outstanding teamwork at the F1 in Schools Regional Finals on 12 February. The competition, an all-day event at Harlow College, involved a record 23 teams in the 11 to 19 age range. Teams were judged on a range of criteria including design engineering, enterprise, car performance, pit display and a verbal presentation.

The team is to be commended for the time and effort put into preparing for the competition; time spent designing their car, raising sponsorship funding, liaising with manufacturing and printing companies, designing the team branding, budgeting, time planning, and for their overall enthusiasm and commitment to competition. During this time, team members have developed design and engineering skills and life skills that will benefit them for years to come.

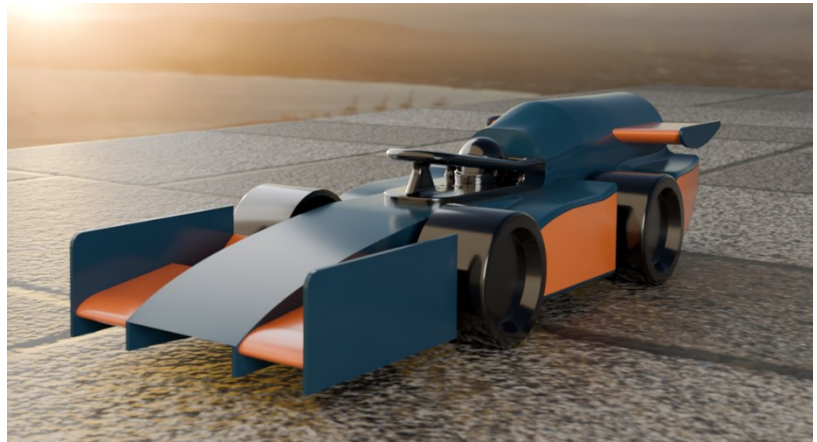


While the team narrowly missed out on a place at the National Finals, they did come away with an award for the best pit display across all classes, including the professional class. This was an incredible achievement and one the team can be very proud of. Huge thanks go to those family members and friends who so generously supported the team both financially and with their time. Watch this space as our Year 9 teams are already preparing for next year's competition!

In student's words

Having done F1 in Schools for the second year in a row now, I can say that it's been one of the best experiences I've ever had. The skills you learn, getting to know and working alongside your team, the excitement you get from building such a huge, intricate project from scratch, are but a few of the many things that make this competition so amazing. The sense of achievement you get from engaging in something of a large scale is far beyond anything the normal school curriculum offers, and so I would definitely recommend it to anyone interested in STEM and looking for a fun challenge!

Ammiel G (Y10)



Budget & Risk Management

Budgeting

We created a **Budget Fig. 6** to analyse and effectively plan our estimated spending for each area of the project. The breakdown of our estimated expenses on our budgeting sheet allowed us to manage our costs effectively throughout the competition. The estimated expense helped us to track our financial performance by comparing our estimated cost against our actual cost, helping us to decide and control our allocation of money to each resource and identify cost-saving opportunities, as well as overspending. This helped also enabled us to plan ahead by looking at the pit display, team uniform and the entry fee. To understand this we created our **Chart Fig. 7** as a visual representation of the estimated allocation of finance across our resources compared to the actual expenditure of money. The table below is an example of our estimated expenses or financial breakdown of a project, making our financial planning and ensuring that our expenditure was controlled well.

Resource	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost	Variance
Entry Fee	£2000	£2000	£0.00
Transporting	£5000	£5000	£0.00
Pit Display	£7500	£6500	£1000
Team Uniform	£1000	£1000	£0.00
Refreshments	£500	£500	£0.00
Contingency	£5000	£5000	£0.00
TOTAL	£25000	£24500	£500

Fig. 6 - Budget

To assist in tracking our expenditure and income, we created a **Cash Flow Statement Fig. 8** which provided us with a clear picture of our cash flow and income by tracking our spending and income, highlighting our overall financial health at any given point in the project. It allowed us to see if we had enough money to cover our planned expenditure and to manage any financial commitments. It was used to create our **charts Fig. 9** and **graphs Fig. 10**, showing income and spending, we were able to see where we had any financial difficulties and hence the project smoothly on track.

Date	Item	Category	Cost	Income	Balance	Comments
2024/01/01	Initial	Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2024/01/01	Entry Fee	Income	2000.00	2000.00	2000.00	
2024/01/01	Transport	Expense	5000.00	0.00	3000.00	
2024/01/01	Pit Display	Expense	7500.00	0.00	2500.00	
2024/01/01	Team Uniform	Expense	1000.00	0.00	1500.00	
2024/01/01	Refreshments	Expense	500.00	0.00	1000.00	
2024/01/01	Contingency	Expense	5000.00	0.00	0.00	
2024/01/01	Total	Income	2000.00	2000.00	0.00	
2024/01/01	Total	Expense	25000.00	0.00	25000.00	

Fig. 8 - Cash Flow

Risk Management

Risk management was a crucial part of the project management process, as it involved the identification of events with potentially serious consequences on the project, assessing their impact to ensure that the project team could avoid, reduce or transfer the risk. This was done by creating a **Risk Register Fig. 10** to monitor and manage the project's risks.

Risk	Probability	Impact	Severity	Response
Financial risk (budget overruns)	High	High	High	Monitor budget closely, cut non-essential costs, seek sponsor support.
Time risk (delays in project completion)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Set clear milestones, allocate resources effectively, communicate delays early.
Technical risk (design flaws or component failure)	Medium	High	High	Conduct thorough testing, consult with experts, have backup components.
Human risk (team conflict or lack of commitment)	Low	Medium	Medium	Establish clear roles, encourage open communication, provide support.
Reputation risk (negative publicity)	Low	Medium	Medium	Engage with media, highlight achievements, respond to criticism calmly.
Weather risk (adverse weather conditions)	Low	Medium	Medium	Check weather forecasts, have a contingency plan for indoor events.
Health and safety risk (injury to participants or spectators)	Low	High	High	Implement strict safety protocols, provide first aid, ensure clear evacuation routes.
Legal risk (intellectual property or contract issues)	Low	Medium	Medium	Consult with legal advisor, ensure all contracts are clear and signed.
Logistics risk (transport or accommodation issues)	Low	Medium	Medium	Book transport and accommodation well in advance, have backup options.

Fig. 10 - Risk Register

The **Risk Register** is a table that documents potential risks, estimates their magnitude, identifies the causes of risks, and outlines the project team's response. It is a key tool for project management, helping to identify risks early and take action to avoid, reduce, or transfer them. The register is a living document, updated regularly as risks are identified and as the project evolves.

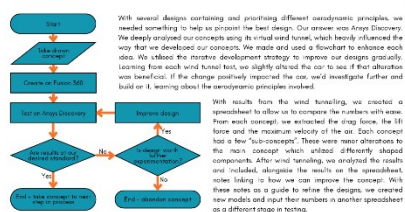
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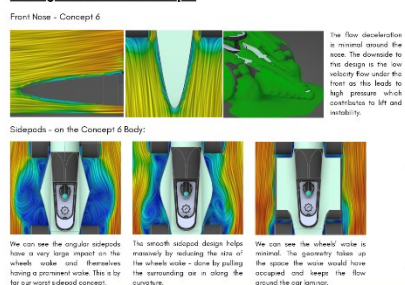
Fig. 10 - Risk Register

Computer Aided Analysis & Development

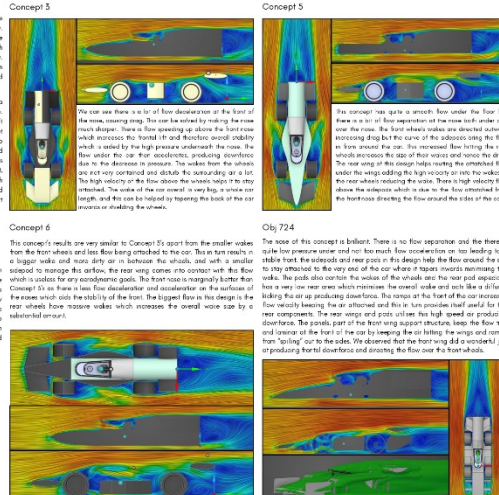
Computer Aided Testing



Testing Of Individual Concepts



Testing Of Concepts



ECONOMICS

Year 12 Economists Explore the Future of Risk at the Raleigh Lecture 2025

On 25th February, a group of our Year 12 Economics students had the exciting opportunity to attend the Raleigh Lecture 2025 at Drapers' Hall, London. This year's theme, "Catastrophe! Using Data from Space to Predict Catastrophic Events," explored how cutting-edge satellite and AI technology can help predict natural disasters and mitigate economic risks.

The event featured inspiring talks from industry leaders, including Professor Paul Davies, Chief Meteorologist at the UK Met Office. Students engaged in thought-provoking group discussions on the economic and business implications of predictive data, from the costs and benefits of forecasting extreme weather to the ethical considerations of sharing such data globally.

This experience provided invaluable insight into how economic decision-making is increasingly shaped by technology and risk management. It also challenged students to consider the role of entrepreneurs in responding to global uncertainties. As one student put it, "It was fascinating to see how data can be used not just for business decisions, but to save lives."

The Raleigh Lecture was a fantastic opportunity for our students to step beyond the classroom and engage with real-world applications of economics. We look forward to seeing how this experience influences their future studies and career aspirations!



MATHS

Maths Challenge Results

In November, Dom P, Matei P, Stephen G, Leo N and Sunny Y sat the BMO, congratulations to them all. Special congratulations to Sunny, Stephen and Matei who were awarded Merits. Sunny was also awarded Best in Year 12 and Matei was awarded Best in School.

Earlier this term 237 pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11 sat the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Of these we achieved 82 Gold medals, 71 Silver medals and 44 Bronze Medals.

We had 47 students invited to sit the follow on rounds this year; congratulations to them all. Special congratulations go to TaoHai K (Y9), who achieved best in year with 119 points and to Adam S (Y10) who achieved Best in Year with 118 points and Andreas E (Y11) who achieved joint Best in School with an amazing 135 points. All three were invited to sit the Olympiads.

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

Grey Kangaroo (Year 9):

Jasmine, Sasha, Nishka, Xavier, Anna, Isaac, Alexander, Martin, Diana, Sienna, William, Yuhan and Kayne

Pink Kangaroo (Years 10 and 11):

Matthias, Clara, Rahee, Deen, Ruhani, Harrison, Murat, Tom, Imogen, Henry, Hannah, Cailen, Bryan, Ira, Ammiel, Adam, Zahra, Niamh, Archie, Jonny, Evan, Adrian, Jack, Jacob, Adam, Andrew, Vishnu and Vanshika

Olympiad:

Year 9 – William H, Zishan S, Megan H, Mark K and Taohai K

Year 10 – Adam S

Year 11 – Ben L, Akshay M, Kian T and Andreas E

We eagerly await their results.

Year 10 Maths Feast

On Thursday, 20th March, Bryan X, Ammiel G, Hannah J and Adam S participated in the Year 10 Maths Feast at Barnwell Upper School, run by the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme.

The afternoon was incredibly enjoyable, consisting of four rounds which covered a wide range of topics, including quite bizarre things such as finding the length of a ribbon wrapped around a cube!



Overall, although the team did not win on the day (although they did finish top 3 in three rounds!), it was an incredible experience, providing great insight into some of the practical, day-to-day aspects of maths, and stretching mathematical reasoning beyond the scope of the GCSE curriculum.

Ammiel G (Y10)



Maths in Action Year 10 Trip

In March, thirty Year 10s were offered the chance to escape to Pimlico for the day for a series of maths lectures aimed at GCSE students.

With six speakers, we enjoyed interactive and humorous talks given by notable names in the world of mathematics. Enter Alex Bellos, creator of The Guardian's Monday Maths Puzzle – and, coincidentally, Pele's ghostwriter for his autobiography – with his series of logic puzzles that confused and bemused us with the

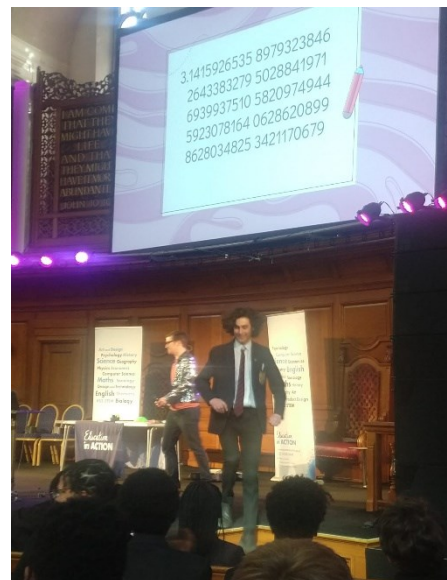


questions like: you walk completely around the earth once: how much further does your head travel than your feet, assuming you are 180cm tall?.

The talks concluded with a mathematical game show, which two of us had the fortune to compete in. Notably, in the head-to-head round Sam managed to beat his opponent in naming digits of Pi, wrongly (name the right digit in the right place and you are out!). Sam named 29 incorrect digits of Pi before falling to the number nine, whereas his opponent managed 24 digits. In the quickfire quiz round, Ammiel made it an impressive fifth out of 21 students from the other attending schools.

Thanks go to Mrs Bond for organising the trip and Mr Lawlor and Mr De Jong for accompanying us at this stimulating event!

Sam R and Atticus L (Y10)



Year 8 and 9 Team Maths Competition at Haberdashers' School

On Wednesday, 5th March, Owen's Year 8 & 9 maths team participated in the Regional Team Maths Challenge hosted at Haberdashers' School. Our team was represented by Anson C and Lucas C from Year 8 and Cameron G and TaoHai K from Year 9 competing against team from other 17 schools to qualify for the National Finals.

The challenge consisted of four rounds, in which each answer helped to find the subsequent one, and the team managed to achieve an honourable 4th place, being only a few marks off of 1st! Overall, the team represented the school extremely well!

TaoHai Kh (Y9)



MODERN LANGUAGES

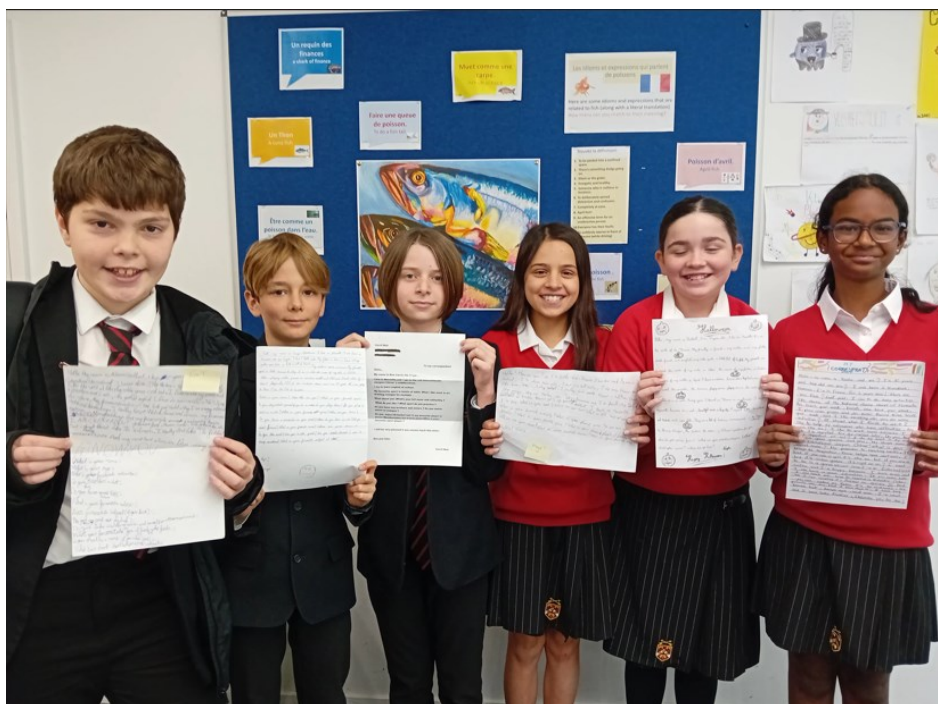
Year 10 and Year 12 French Exchange

Last week DAOS welcomed visiting students from the Lycée La Malassise in St Omer, northern France - students in Year 10 and Year 12 had fun getting to know their partners, helping them to practise their English, and discover British culture. One of the highlights was the two theatre trips, where Owenians accompanied their new French friends to the West End to take in a show: the photographs show Year 12 outside 'Stranger Things, the First Shadow' (Year 10 were around the corner at The Lion King). It has been a fantastic trip for all concerned, with lots of new experiences and opportunities for personal growth, as well as language learning. We're all looking forward to our visit to St Omer (with a day trip to Paris) in May!

**Year 7 French Pen Pals**

The last week of March students in 7M were excited to receive letters from their new penpals at the Cité Scolaire Internationale Jacques Chirac in Marseille. In many cases this was the first time they'd ever received a hand-written letter!

Pupils are enjoying writing their replies, and looking forward to getting to know their 'correspondants' better as they exchange more letters.



MUSIC

Spring Term MUSIC events

The first week of February saw the first ever **Owen's Year 7 Music Festival** in which, at some point during the week, every student in the year group took to the stage in the Edward Guinness Hall performing with their Music class, both a djembe drum piece and a whole-class arrangement of Nkosi Sikelel iAfrika. With three classes per session, it was wonderful to see Year 7 being both an excellent audience for each other as well as focused, communicative and organised performers. It was amazing to see all the different versions of these two set pieces from eleven different classes across the four days of the festival! Thank-you to the Year 7 Music teachers, Ms Bamber, Mr Southorn and Ms Sutherland for all their work for the festival!



On **Sunday 9th February at 9am** three groups from the DAOS Chamber Music Programme headed to Harrow School to take part in the masterclass rounds of the **South East Schools Chamber Music Competition**. Performing quite brilliantly, and receiving tutoring from Royal Academy of Music professor, Nicole Wilson, were the Y9&10 Piano and Strings Quintet, the Y12 Piano, Clarinet and Strings Sextet and the Y12 Espinazi String Quartet.

Thank-you to Ms Bamber and Mr Widden for accompanying the trip and congratulations to all the performers: Sasha, Emer, Atticus, Phoebe and Artian; Hassan, Ourania, Mathilde, Chloe, Sami and Emmanuel; and Catherine, Ewen, Evelyn and Mirai.

On **Wednesday 12th February** the excited buzz that always accompanies Owen's very own **Soul Band Evening** returned to the Main Hall. With a packed the audience seated around tables, cabaret style, and looking fantastic thanks to the Tech Crew's magnificent lighting, Soul Band 2 took to the stage and delighted us with a full first-half set of toe-tapping soul and pop, including songs by Alicia Keys, Madonna and the Emotions, among others. The first half was rounded off by two of Owen's very own original song compositions, 'Sunny Day' by Philip in Y13, beautifully performed by the composer (keys) and Y13, Anna (vocals), and by 'Lovesick' by Y12 Rotimi, produced and performed by Rotimi.





In the second half Soul Band 1 took to the stage, again bringing the house to their feet with numbers by, among others, the Commodores, the Jackson 5 and Aretha Franklin. Y13 Philip, once again, took a major role, giving a brilliant performance on keys in in New York State of Mind by Billy Joel. The evening was rounded off as, tables now abandoned, the audience danced the night away, with the stage packed with more than 40 performers of the two massed Soul Bands in a joint performance of Kool and the Gang's 'Celebration'.

Our thanks to the Tech Crew for making it all sound and look even more amazing and to the Bands' Directors, Mr Crossley, Mr Page and Mr Southorn, and our Music Admin, Miss Jones.

Congratulations to all our amazing performers. We're already looking forward to next year!



The Music performance season continued on **Thursday 27th February** with the **Chamber Concert**. With the hall buzzing with excitement, this was a wonderful, varied and enthralling evening of an enormous range of music, both in terms of instrument, group and genre, featuring students from Year7 to year 13.

The Percussion section was out in force, with the Drumming Club, Junior Percussion and Senior Percussion all delighting their audience with their thrilling and ambitious pieces, including Coldplay's 'Viva la Vida', Duke Ellington's 'Caravan'.

The Brass Section were represented by the Brass Ensemble and the Horn Quartet, reminding us the beauty of these instruments playing together in close harmony.

The Y9 Vocal Trio, accompanied on the piano by David, also in Y9, delighted the audience with their performance of 'I Don't Know How to Love Him'



There was a range of items from various woodwind instruments with Spiritus and Vivace wind quintets giving polished, assured and charming performances, the Recorder Ensemble showing the stylistic versatility of finely played recorders. Also appearing was the 'Pop-up Sax Choir' who packed the stage with every sax player in the school (27 of them!) all playing together in a performance of Michael Nyman's 'Time Lapse' under Mr Crossley's direction. It sounded and looked amazing!



Following this was an equally novel, but completely different, item as Hassan and Matthew gave a performance that showed how the seemingly minimal resources of a fourteenth century tune by an anonymous Italian composer, a recorder and a djembe drum could, in the hands of these two highly creative and communicative performers be entrancing and thrilling for their audience. The second half of the concert was framed by string ensembles performing Russian music. The Guitar Ensemble opened with Tchaikovsky's elegant Waltz from Swan Lake while, in the final item of the evening, Catherine, Ewen, Evelyn and Mirai took their audience on a vivid journey into the struggles and conflicts of artists under Stalin's Soviet regime in 1946.



Our thanks to all staff involved, Mr Crossley, Mr Kelly, Ms Makepeace-Lott, Ms McChrystal, Mr Moutoussis, Mr Niesyto, Ms Wild, Mr Southorn, Ms Sutherland and Ms Bamber, as well as Miss Jones, the Music Administrator.



On **Friday 28th February** the first ever **Year 13 Soloist Festival Masterclass** took place as visiting violin superstar, **Charlie-Lovell Jones** worked with some of our outstanding Year 13 musicians on large-scale solo repertoire. Charlie opened with an enthralling performance of a solo sonata by Ysaye. A question and answer session with the audience gave us some insights into comparisons between his time studying at Oxford University, at the Royal Academy of Music and Yale University (US), as well as his day-to-day schedule as a professional orchestral leader and soloist.

He then listened to and worked with Laura, Kait, Anna and Alissa on repertoire for violin, for harp, for double bass and for cello by Prokofiev, Glière, Ditters von Dittersdorf, and Barber, giving each student a half hour public masterclass. Year 12 flute and clarinet duo, Hassan and Maya, also took part, bringing an ensemble aspect to the event.



Supported by the brilliant accompanying of Jennifer Carter, the students' work was impressive as they explored further the musical and technical possibilities of their instruments and repertoire in the run-up to the follow-on concert on Monday 10th March.

Check out Charlie's newly released recording of Walton's Violin Concerto!

We are immensely grateful to benefactor Ms Rita Porzi, whose generous support made the event possible.



The concert on **Thursday 6th March** culminated in a performance of **Fauré's Requiem** featuring massed choirs and orchestra that overflowed the stage in the EGH. The Music department's annual presentation of red and yellow roses posies to the community of Year 13s musicians, celebrating their contribution to the musical community, followed this. Earlier in the programme we had heard a beautiful rendition of Frank Bridge's String Sextet given by the prizewinning Year 13 String Sextet who have been playing together in various permutations from Year 7, Caitlyn, Anna, Clio, Laura, Alissa and Dyllen. In the first half of the concert, the audience had been treated to a range of performances by the Concert Band, the Chamber Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestra.

It was a wonderful evening of music from our (mostly) senior musicians. Congratulations to ALL our performers and thank you to Ms Bamber, Mr Kelly, Ms Makepeace Lott, Mr Page, Mr Southorn and Mr Widden for all their work directing and preparing the musicians for the concert. And thanks to our Music Admin, Miss Jones.

On **Monday 10th March** the performing season continued to celebrate our Y13 musicians in the very first **Owen's Young Musicians Concert**, featuring the **Year 13 Festival Soloists** from the previous masterclass as well as Philip on Jazz Piano.

The ensembles part of the evening also celebrated Year 13s in the Year 12 & 13 Jazz Ensemble and the Close Harmony Group. while the Year 7 and Year 9 String Quartets and the Junior Chamber Strings, conducted by Laura in year 13, added an element from the younger year groups with music by Bach, Mendelssohn, Grieg and Haydn.





Having had a chance to develop the areas worked on in the masterclass the Year 13 musicians performed their solo concertos and sonatas quite superbly well done to Laura, Kait, Anna and Alissa, as well as Philip for his brilliant solo rendition of Duke Ellington's 'Caravan'.

Congratulations to all the performers and our thanks to Ms Bamber, Ms Carter, Mr Hunt, Ms Makepeace Lott, and Mr Widden, and our Music Admin, Miss Jones, for their help in preparing the young musicians for the evening.



Tuesday 11th March – congratulations to the **Year 12 Espinazi String Quartet** for their prizewinning performance of Shostakovich's String Quartet no. 3 at the **South East Schools' Chamber Music Competition** finals concert at **St George's Hanover Square**. Performing last in an evening of outstanding chamber music playing by school groups from across London and the South East, their performance was greeted with rapturous applause and received well deserved plaudits from audience members and adjudicators alike. We were delighted when our musicians, Catherine, Ewen, Evelyn and Mirai, were awarded the Runners Up prize in the Senior Category.



The **Spring Concert on Wednesday 19th March** saw an enormous range of ensembles take to the stage to delight their audience. We opened with Owen's very own Jazz Collective, where about 25 instrumentalists of every type, including keyboards, guitars, saxophones, flutes, clarinets, violins, cellos and more, take to the stage, with no sheet music to perform jazz standards, learnt entirely by ear, and with many of the musicians also performing improvised solos within the ensemble.



On display in this concert were also Second Orchestra, Second Band, Junior Ensemble, Brass Band, Junior Choir and Junior Chamber Choir. With our musicians all performing like seasoned professionals, including students taking the roles of choir conductors, choir accompanist and co-directing the Jazz Collective - a special shout out to Meredith, Laura and Raffy - the audience were delighted, and music teachers very proud of the musicians' achievements. Well done!

Our thanks to Ms Bamber, Mrs Brady, Ms Brooks, Mr Crossley, Mr Kelly, Ms Makepeace-Lott (who stood in at short notice), Ms McChrystal, Mr Southorn and Ms Sutherland, and our Music Admin, Miss Jones.



Congratulations to all of the performers, solos and ensembles, in the series of five **Performance Platforms on Fridays at 4pm**. Our thanks to Ms Carter, Mr Crossley, Mr Kelly, Ms Makepeace-Lott, Ms McChrystal and Mr Widden for organising and running these lovely events!

Tuesday 25th March 4pm-5.30pm – *Exploring the Symphonies of Haydn and Beethoven* with DAOS Chamber and Symphony Orchestras. A lecture recital for A level Music students, including an A level set work, with live illustration from the school orchestras. Congratulations to the orchestras for their brilliant performing of movements from Beethoven's 5th Symphony and Haydn's Symphony no 103, and to the A-level students for partaking in this event.

Football

Boys Year 7

While the Year 7 footballers have enjoyed a very positive first year at DAOS, having progressed through the group stage of the District Cup with ease, the A team was disappointed to lose their semi-final against Hertswood Academy 3-2, in what was a very close match. Despite having 80% of the possession and numerous chances to score, the team weren't able to convert enough of these and the season finished on a disappointing note. Despite this, all students who played for the school this year should be proud of their efforts and be looking forward to the start of a new season in September. Huge thanks to everyone who has represented the school this year, particularly all those students who have turned out on Saturdays.

District Cup Squad - Conor Stapleton, Max Barker, Adetola Adeleke, Emre Yap, Jack Gilbert, James Bernstein, James Tsui, Jamie Spicer, Jonathan Sing, Josh Lothian, Lucas Rud, Marcos Terzopoulos, Murray Lees & Yannis Wagner

Boys Year 8

The boys ended their season in a very dramatic district semi-final against Monks Walk where they lost 3-2 where all of these goals were scored in the last 10 minutes, truthfully the game could have gone both ways. They also lost in the county plate quarter final to a strong Ashlynns school side 2-1. Despite ending the season with a loss the boys should be very proud of their last few Saturday and midweek games where they have shown some real character and have played some very attractive football.

Boys Year 9

It has been a fantastic season for the U14s. The season finished with a 5 game unbeaten streak (3 victories and 2 draws). Much fun was had with an exciting end of season el classico battle between the boys.

Boys Year 10

The boys have continued to work hard in training and have played a couple of Saturday morning friendlies which they narrowly lost. In the district semi-final they played Onslow but sadly lost that game. Now they look forward to next season and are working hard to get back to winning ways.

First XI

Congratulations to the 1st XI, who won their District football final against Chancellors – a fantastic 2-1 win in extra time!

What an amazing end to the season. Well done boys!



Girls Under 12

The U12 Girls football squad have had a very successful first season at Owen's in the District league competition. In their group games they remained undefeated, beating Queenswood 4-3, Yavneh 7-0 and Chancellor's 1-0. This meant they qualified for the semi final where they faced Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School. The team weathered the early onslaught from the opposition and then found their feet. Once they started scoring they were incessant and went on to win 10-0. Arya, Lydia and Zara B – all scored hat tricks and Aasha scored the other goal. Erin pulled off a couple of excellent saves in goal and captain Nicole stood firm at the back and was awarded player of the match.

In the final of the competition the team faced Monk's Walk School who had won their semi final 6-0.

The first half was very evenly matched and finished 0-0. In the second half stand-in goalie and player of the match Isla pulled off a fantastic save to keep the scores level and we then went on to score through Zara B and Arya to be crowned District Champions.

An amazing achievement, well done girls!



Girls Under 14

The under 14 squad which consisted mainly of year 8s put in some good performances in their District League competition. They narrowly lost 3-2 to Queenswood, were defeated 3-0 by Chancellor's and beat Yavneh 5-0. Unfortunately they did not qualify for the semi-finals but should be encouraged as they head into next season when they are in year 9 and playing at the higher end of the age bracket.

Girls Under 16

In their District League competition the under 16 girls drew 4-4 with Hertswood School in a game that they should have won. They subsequently went on to defeat Chancellor's School 2-0 and with Queenswood conceding their match due to injuries, they qualified for the semi-final.

They faced Bishop's Hatfield in the semi-final and were very depleted due to injuries. Despite going two goals down the girls pulled it back to 2-1 courtesy of a goal from Freya. Unfortunately in scoring Freya got injured which left us short of players.

The team tired in the second half and despite battling hard lost to some excellent strikes from the opposition.



Girls Under 18

In the County League competition the under 18s defeated Beaumont School 10-6 with Eva and Freya both scoring a hat trick, Ellie scoring 2 and Emilie and Lilly getting 1 each. Freya was voted as player of the game.

Hockey

Girls U12

The under 12 A and B hockey teams faced stiff opposition in the form of Queenswood and the Royal Masonic School for Girls'. The A team had previously played both schools in the County tournament, losing to Queenswood 3-0 and defeating RMS 3-0. Against Queenswood the A team showed excellent determination and were rewarded with a 3-2 victory thanks to 2 goals from Autumn and 1 from captain Izzy, with the 2 girls sharing player of the match. The B team battled hard but were defeated 4-0 by a strong Queenswood side, Zoe was selected as player of the match. Against RMS the A team ran out 4-1 winners with Izzy and player of the match Autumn scoring 2 goals a piece. The B team were 2 nil down at half time and fought back to 2-2 with goals from Zoe and Annabel. They were then unlucky to concede a third goal which meant they lost 3-2. Captain Robyn was as voted player of the match.

Rugby

1st XV

On the 5th March the Senior rugby team competed at the Herts U18 plate competition. The team performed really well with 2 narrow losses and a win against strong opposition.



Netball

Year 7

The year 7A and B team have had an up and down season however have triumphantly come second in the district league through their efforts. They have continued to grow and improve as the season progressed. The year 7A's came third in the district tournament and the 7B's came second in the district tournament.

Congrats girls, keep up the good work! Special mention to the following players:

A Team

Players' Player - Lydia

Coaches' Player - Zara

Most Improved - Autumn

B Team

Players' Player - Marissa

Coaches' Player - Lana

Most Improved - Amelia



Year 8

It has been a successful season for the U13s. The STAHS County league has certainly challenged the girls, but they have continued to dominate the district, winning both the league and the tournament. Well done to all of the squad!

It has been a pleasure to coach you this year. Special mention to the following players:

A Team

Players' Player - Emily M

Coaches' Player - Zara

Most Improved - Izzy

B Team

Players' Player - Cara

Coaches' Player - Amy S

Most Improved - Ellie L





Year 9

Well done to a mixed U14A&B team who played against the Royal Masonic School on Tuesday 28th January. The girls got off to a scrappy start but settled down after the first quarter.

It was a great opportunity to try out some different combinations. Sharp shooting from Anaya and Sophia gave us a convincing lead and we won the game comfortably 21-2.



On Saturday 25th January the A and B teams played against Aldenham. The B team got off to a flying start. Great shooting from Shanti and Liz gave the girls a convincing lead by half term. Strong defensive work from Mahdi and Yasmina prevented their attack from entering the final third. The final score was 14-5. Congrats to player of the match Liz.

The A team had a stronger opposition with some decent talent in their mid-court. Sophia put in an impressive display at GA and was well supported by Ayla and Bailly.

Special mention to Megan who put on a fantastic defensive display and controlled the ball really well coming down the court.

Despite the scores being 9-9 at half time, Aldenham pulled away in the second half winning 23-16. Well done to POM Sophia!



On Saturday 18th January, we started our first Saturday netball fixtures of the year. It was a challenging start against St Edmunds, but thank you to all 14 girls who turned up on a cold, misty morning to play. The A team had a very challenging match against a very talented St Edmunds team, with several academy players.



Despite the score, the girls didn't give up and continued to encourage each other. The final score was 35-7. Well done Isra who defended incredibly well.

The B team had an entirely different match, but this is testament to the strength in depth of our Year 9 netballers.

Impressive performances from Gracie and Freya lead to a convincing 21-2 victory. Well done to player of the match Sophia.

On Wednesday 12th March, 9 girls travelled to Wodson Park in Ware for the annual Janice Cook Emerging Netball Tournament. The standard was higher than expected and we didn't get off to the best start, playing the overall winners in our first match and losing 7-0. The girls improved throughout the day and finished off with a 4-2 win over Parmiters. We finished 7th overall with 4 wins, 5 losses and a draw.

We finished the season with a flurry... winning matches against Highgate (19-18) and Onslow (21-1). Congratulations to the girls on an interesting season, which certainly had highs and lows. We finished as District Champions and runners up in the District Tournament. The squad was incredibly fluid and we played some very varied teams from week to week. Next season we will aim to work on consistency. However special mention to captain Bailly, who has been incredible this year and was awarded coaches' player of the year. Mahdi was awarded B team coaches' player of the year. Congratulations to Anaya and Sophia who were voted players' player and Megan and Liz who were awarded most improved player.

Year 10A

The U15A team had a very strong second half of the season only losing one game in one of our Saturday block fixtures where the team were missing many players due to injuries. A huge highlight of the season was the fact that the girls finished runners-up in the group for the County Cup competition.



This meant they progressed to the Plate semi-final against St Edmunds. The girls played the best I have ever seen them play winning overall 47-19. This means very excitingly the girls have progressed through to the final which will be the first Tuesday back after Easter against Broxbourne! We have everything crossed for this brilliant team of girls!

Congratulations go to Izzy who was awarded most improved player of the season for her brilliant progression throughout the whole season particularly within her crucial role of C passes. Rhiannon was awarded coaches' player as she was a very crucial member of the team and massively stepped up when a key member of the team was injured. Finally, Annabelle and Freya who were deservedly awarded joint players' player of the season both having received an impressive 5 POMs each!

Year 10B

The U15B team have had a very successful season only losing two games in the whole season which is very impressive! The girls have really improved over the season and with some new members have become a lovely unified team. A highlight for the team is that they were unbeaten within the District League and therefore won overall! The girls also won the District B tournament!

Congratulations go to Ellie who was awarded most improved player of the season for her brilliant progression throughout the whole season as well as her fantastic shooting. Cami was awarded coaches' player as she was a very crucial member of the team and a fantastic defender. Finally, Arya was deservedly awarded players' player of the season!



Year 11 & 2nd VII

The Year 11 and 2nd VII have had an up and down season with some losses and some wins. It has been really nice to have had so many external girls who have joined the Sixth form be part of the 2nd team. The girls have been very committed to training and have come on leaps and bounds and hopefully they continue onto next season. A highlight was the fantastic 20-19 win against Aldenham!



Year 11 – Congratulations go to Emilie who was awarded most improved player of the season for her brilliant progression with her GA role and her confidence going from strength to strength. Lucy was awarded coaches' player as she has really developed her centre court positions this year. Finally, Mia who was deservedly awarded players' player of the season!

2nd VII – Congratulations also go to Grace who was awarded most improved player of the season for her brilliant progression within her GK role. Lexi was awarded coaches' player as a very committed and steady player and a fantastic defender. Finally, Alexia who was deservedly awarded players' player of the season!

1st VII

The 1st VII have had an amazing season and I have been really impressed with how they have come on and worked together as a team! Since Christmas the girls have not lost a game and this is against some very strong teams such as Aldenham, Chigwell, Forest and Highgate. A huge highlight of the season is the girls finished runners-up in the group for the County Cup competition. This meant they progressed to the Plate semi-final against HABS. The girls played really well against a very strong and physical opposition in HABS pulling away in the final quarter winning 33-21. This means very excitingly the girls have progressed through to the final which will be the first Thursday back after Easter against Haileybury! We have everything crossed for this brilliant team of girls! Congratulations go to Bella who was awarded most improved player of the season for her

brilliant progression within her GK role and moving to a new position this year. Holly was awarded coaches' player as she was a fantastic role model and an unbelievable captain this year. Finally, Alice who was deservedly awarded players' player of the season for her unbelievable shooting and performances!



Basketball

Boys

Year 7

The boys have worked very hard in training and this has been seen in their desire and passion within games so far, but unfortunately, they haven't been able to turn this into wins. Hopefully they can continue to work hard and get the win in the upcoming weeks. They came 6th in the Mid Herts Rally earlier this term. The boys finished the half term with a 23-18 win over Stanborough in a very tight and tense game.



Year 8

The boys have started the season off well with wins against Yavneh (26-6) and Hertwsod (28-18) but narrowly lost to Stanborough (23 - 19).

They came 3rd at the recent District rally where they missed out qualifying for the final by 1 point.



Year 9

The boys qualified for the Mid Herts District Final where they played against a strong Hertswood team and came away victorious with a 49 -32 win and became District champions. Well done boys and deserved with all the hard work you have put into training this year.

Year 10

The boys qualified for the Mid Herts District Final where they played against a strong Onslow team and unfortunately lost 53 - 19. Now to start practicing for next season.

Senior

The boys have continued to work hard in training and this paid off with a win against Ridgeway (65-51) towards the end of this half term. They finished off their season with a great game against Latymer but narrowly losing 43-42 from the free throw line.



Girls

Years 7/8

The U13 girls basketball team have done really well for their first year in the County League. The girls came joint second overall in the league but unfortunately narrowly missed out on a final place on points difference. The team managed to win against two very strong schools in Beaumont and Queens within the league. The girls also finished winners of the District League as well as the A team finishing winners of the District rally!



Years 9/10

The U15 girls basketball team have had a very successful season in both the District and County League. They were unbeaten in the District League and in the District rally we entered both an A and B team and both teams progressed to play each other in the final. Therefore, the girls finished winners and runners-up in the rally!

The girls also progressed to the County final against Beaumont. The girls lost out to a very strong opposition 49-28 finishing runners-up!



Cricket

U13 Indoor Cricket Competition:

On 27th February, eight year 8 students travelled to Hertfordshire Sports Village to compete in the Herts U13 Indoor Cricket competition. It is the first time we have entered this tournament and we got off to a flying start, comprehensively beating Abbots Hill School by 50 runs. Captain Emily batted incredibly well and was retired on 22. Top bowling from Esha saw her take two wickets and well done to Ottie who kept wicket well throughout the competition.

In a close match against Berkhamsted we narrowly lost by 12 runs. Although we didn't qualify for the next round, it was a solid performance from the girls in a new and different format.

We look forward to more action from this group of players as we develop their hard ball game in the summer.



Year 7 and 8 Indoor Cricket sessions

On Thursday 30th January, we started an indoor cricket programme for girls years 7 and 8. This is a continuation of our work with Herts County Cricket, who have been supporting us for the past two years with developing our girls cricket.

Chance to Shine: Girls Leadership through Cricket Course

On Tuesday 21st January, 13 girls from years 8, 9 and 10 attended our first Chance to Shine: 'Girls Leadership through Cricket' course. This is a fantastic initiative designed to empower young girls through cricket and leadership development. The girls were supported with planning and



delivering cricket activities, developing their knowledge of umpiring and scoring and then leading sessions to the rest of the group. The hope is that this group of talented cricketers will help deliver parts of our summer programme at Owens and also support Hertfordshire County Cricket with their Chance to Compete initiative, later this year. We would like to thank Rebecca Kelly from Herts Cricket for delivering the course with Mrs Turner. Well done to Amy S, Betsy M, Zara L, Izzy G and Emily M in Year 8, Sienna S, Anaya P, Jiselle N in Year 9 and Rhiannon T, Riya G, Freya M, Rosie K, Ellie N in Year 10.



U14&U16 girls badminton

A fantastic day at the East Regional badminton finals for both our U14 and U16 girls! The U14s came 2nd overall only losing one game narrowly. The U16s finished the day unbeaten which means they progressed to the National finals at the National Badminton Centre on Saturday 29th March!



At the National Badminton finals the U16 girls were there representing team East! In a very hard group the girls won two out of three of their games which meant they progressed through to the semi-finals second in the group.

They faced the winners of the other group and battled very hard, winning overall 3-2 in games. This meant that the girls progressed to the final facing the team that they had lost to in the group stage 4-1. The girls completely turned it around in the final with both Aditi and Aayushi winning their singles game. With the score level at 2-2 it went down to the final game, unfortunately the girls narrowly lost out in the final doubles match 21-19. However, the girls finished 2nd in the whole country!

We are very proud of Aditi, Aayushi, Perla and Anna for their amazing achievement and how they conducted themselves so professionally throughout the day!



Cross Country

On Saturday 1st February our cross country runners competed in the County Championships at Verulamium Park in St Albans. All students competed well and a special mention to Aasha (Y7) who finished 5th on the day and has been selected to represent Hertfordshire in the Southern Championships later in the year.





Sportshall Athletics

On Thursday 6th March our Year 7 and 8 teams competed in the Watford and Hertsmere school sports partnership sportshall athletics competition.

Our Year 7 boys and girls teams as well as our year 8 girls team won their respective competitions and our year 8 boys team came narrowly second.

The Year 7 teams then qualified to represent the partnership at the County Schools games Sportshall finals on Tuesday 18th March. The girls team came 2nd and the boys team came 5th. Well done to all the students involved and great preparation for the upcoming summer athletics.





Other Announcements

Alex (Y9) is currently ranked 9th in the country for Squash at the under 15 age group. This is a great achievement when he is still young in the age group.

Noah (Y9) represented his county, Middlesex and secured silver medal position at the U14 Inter County tournament.

Annie (Y10) came second in the London Gymnastics Double Mini Trampoline challenge Level 1 and has qualified to represent London at the inter-regional national finals in July in Birmingham.

Max (Y11) recently became the London Boxing champion in the Under 67 kg category. He went onto win his quarter final and then he qualified for the semi-finals of the National competition which was hosted in Sheffield, but narrowly lost to a good boxer. He now looks forward to fighting for other titles later this year. He also represented the Borough of London in a European competition.



Congratulations to Eva (Y11) who has been selected to play for Watford FC Women reserves.

Congratulations to former student Issy Boffey who won both the Keely Hodgkinson Classic and UK Athletics 800m titles. She now has been selected as part of the GB squad for the upcoming European Championships in Apeldoorn, Netherlands.



Inter-House Sports Events

This term has seen all years competing in Inter-House netball and football.

The Year 7 netball competition was won by Clerkenwell and the football – by Iseldon. In Year 8 and 9 Clerkenwell were victorious in both netball and football. Year 10/11 had a combined event. Netball was won by Clerkenwell and football by Goswell. Year 12/13 also had a combined event with Goswell victorious in the football.



Success

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

We have not wings, we cannot soar;
 But we have feet to scale and climb
 By slow degrees, by more and more,
 The cloudy summits of our time.
 The mighty pyramids of stone
 That wedge-like cleave the desert airs,
 When nearer seen and better known,
 Are but gigantic flights of stairs.
 The distant mountains, that uprear
 Their solid bastions of the skies,
 Are crossed by pathways that appear
 As we to higher levels rise.
 The heights by great men reached and kept
 Were not attained by sudden flight,
 But they, while their companions slept,
 Were toiling upward in the night.

Your Newsletter Needs You

We are looking for someone to join our team to help produce the school's newsletter. If you think you could spare a few hours, two, or three times a year, please get in touch with Mrs Nemko through Lona Hennigan ea@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

Experience with publishing/design is desirable but not required. Essentially, we are looking for someone who wants to help out, give back and is keen to celebrate and share students' successes and achievements and the wonderful work Owen's staff does on the daily basis .



How did it get so late so soon?
It's night before it's afternoon.
December is here before it's June.
My goodness how the time has flown.
How did it get so late so soon?

Dr. Seuss