



# Dame Alice Owen's School

May 2025

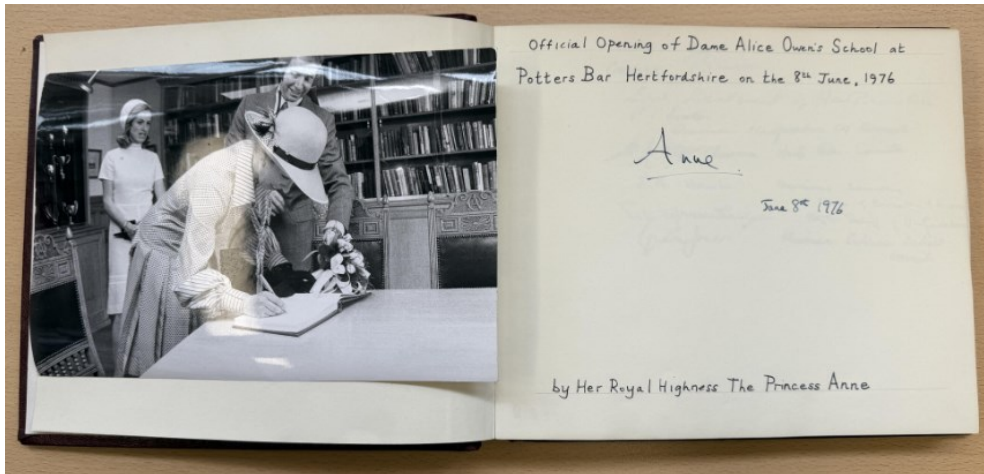


## Letter from the Head **Hannah Nemko**

This half term is usually quite sombre. A quiet hush falls over the school as Years 11 and 13 begin their public exams and a nervous excitement about papers and next steps takes hold.

This year has been a little different as the school started gearing up to launch our **50th Anniversary Fundraising Year.**

The new school site, in Potters Bar, was officially opened by Princess Anne in June of 1976 making the academic year 2025-26 our Golden Anniversary Year, which we fully intend to celebrate.



Over this year we hope not just to look back on half a century of excellence, growth and community spirit but we are looking forward, imagining what the next 50 years could look like for our students, our staff, our alumni and the broader Owen's family. In particular, we have a bold ambition: to **raise £1 million** to allow us to build a brand new, state-of-the-art sports hall.

Why a sports hall? Because we know that physical activity is not just about health, more than anything, it's about confidence, teamwork, resilience and opportunity. Right now, we are working within the limits of a space that no longer matches the talent, energy and ambition of our students. A new facility would mean more sports, more inclusion, more

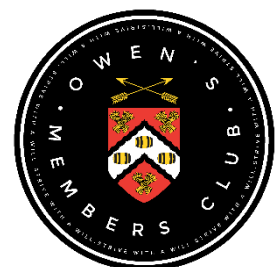


### ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

**A Year to Remember** – see p. 2

**What a Drama!** – see pp. 10-15

**Whodunit** – see pp. 21-22



excellence and a space the whole community can be proud of.

Throughout the year, we want to do more than just raise money for bricks and mortar. We want to mobilise the power of the Owen's community, past and present, reigniting connections with our alumni and reinvigorating the spirit that has carried this school forward for generations. Therefore, we will be celebrating with a calendar full of fundraising and friend-making events that bring people together and we hope that you will be able to enjoy many of them, including, but not limited to:

- **'The Lashings' — on Thursday, 17 July 2025, international cricket legends come to Owen's!** We are delighted to be welcoming **Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose and Monty Panesar**, amongst others, to the school to play a game of T20 cricket against a team of Owenians (current students and alumni) to help raise vital funds for our Sports Hall Rebuild Campaign. Commentated on by **Harry Blofeld (aka Blowers)**, this is going to be a fantastic event! For more details see [here](#).  
**Tickets are now on sale for the hospitality event**, which includes a 3-course VIP lunch, an afternoon of entertainment from the Lashings player and a ticket to watch the match which starts at 4pm. If you would like to buy individual tickets or a table for corporate entertainment purposes or as a group of cricket fans, please contact us at [Lashings@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Lashings@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk).
- **Sponsorship & advertising** — there are also opportunities to sponsor parts of the event or take an advert in the programme. If you know of any businesses that might be interested, please get in touch for more details at [Lashings@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Lashings@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk).
- **OwensFest — Sunday, 29 June 2025** — DAOS's answer to Glastonbury with music, stalls, inflatables and food and drink tents to rival any other festival! Entrance is £1 (children go free) and there is plenty of entertainment for the whole family. With raffle prizes including a PS5 games console and a AirPods, it might be worth getting your tickets now, whilst you still remember by clicking [here](#).
- A **whole school photograph**, the first one since our 400th anniversary in 2013, will be taken in September to mark the start of the celebrations and ensure the 2025-26 year is remembered forever.
- A **once in a generation invitation from the Worshipful Company of Brewers to attend the historic Brewers' Hall** to receive an entertaining talk about Beer, from hop to home, followed by a fully immersive Beer Tasting Quiz (can you tell your Porter from your IPA?) to test whether you were listening! Culminating with a delicious meal, and still more beer, this will be an exclusive evening to remember. The event will be held in the autumn term (more details to follow).
- An exciting **50th anniversary concert at the Royal Festival Hall in March 2026** to rival the still widely spoken about 400th Anniversary Royal Albert Hall concert of 2013. Everyone is invited to come and be captivated as the Owen's students, staff and alumni sing, perform and play to celebrate the occasion.
- A **walk** from the new site to the old, which will very likely end in the Dame Alice Owen's pub! (date to announced in due course).
- A celebratory **Black Tie Dinner** and a guest speaker (with a sporting theme) to close the fundraising campaign in the summer 2026.
- A whole school, 'Dragon's Den' style, student **House Competition** to see who and which house can get the biggest return on the school's investment into their entrepreneurial endeavours.

Our desire and intention for the above, along with a number of planned alumni reunions and network events, to be more than just fundraisers but first and foremost opportunities for us to achieve our aspiration and invite everyone into our vision for the school as we keep on fostering a wider school community, share stories and remember why this school matters so much to so many.

So please, as families who have and continue to benefit from everything the school does and has to offer, help us continue to ensure that the facilities we can provide for your child remain in line with



those that you would expect from Dame Alice Owen's. Kindly support our events, activities and fundraisers, encouraging friends and family from further afield to join you and support us too.

Together we can continue to make a real difference, together we can keep Owen's sparking in and beyond its Golden Year in Potters Bar.

Wishing you all a restful break,

*Hannah Nemko.*

**Hannah Nemko**  
Headteacher



**LASHINGS**  
**CRICKET DAY**  
RAISING FUNDS FOR THE SPORTS HALL REBUILD  
**THURSDAY 17 JULY 2025**  
DAME ALICE OWEN'S SCHOOL, DUGDALE HILL LANE, EN6 2DU

## OWENIANS VS LASHINGS WORLD XI



Come and watch a legendary Owen's team take on the Lashing Legends including **Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Monty Panesar** and **Chris Schofield**.  
With **Henry Blofeld** commentating!

### PROGRAMME

**11.30AM** - ARRIVAL & DRINKS RECEPTION  
**12.30PM** - LUNCH & ENTERTAINMENT WITH THE LASHINGS PLAYERS  
**4PM** - MATCH STARTS  
**7PM** - CLOSING CEREMONY  
**FROM 8PM** - CARRIAGES

### TICKETS

Full Day Hospitality

Individual Tickets:

[https://uk\\_damealiceowens.ptly.uk/lashings](https://uk_damealiceowens.ptly.uk/lashings)

Table Packages - email

[lashings@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:lashings@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk)

GENERAL ADMISSION MATCH TICKETS  
WILL GO ON SALE IN DUE COURSE



# CORPORATE ENTERTAINMENT



Some of the greatest names in world cricket will be at Dame Alice Owen's School for this exciting fundraising event, including Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh. Commentary for the game will be by the voice of cricket, Henry Blofeld.



This is your chance to treat staff, clients, friends or family to a fantastic day of entertainment, in the company of some of the best cricketers to have ever played, while raising vital funds the school's new sports hall.



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**FROM 8PM** - CARRIAGES



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

are also available, including HEADLINE, SHIRT, STUMP & OUTSIDE AREA

For more details, please contact:

[lashings@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:lashings@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk)



DAME ALICE OWEN'S  
SCHOOL  
est. 1613

**LASHINGS**





# CORPORATE ENTERTAINMENT TABLE PACKAGES



## ALL TABLES WILL ENJOY THE FOLLOWING:

- ✦ Welcome drink and 3 course meal with wine in the company of the Lashings players
- ✦ Pre and post match entertainment provided by the Lashings players
- ✦ Opportunities for autographs and photos



**BRONZE TABLES      £1,200**  
 10 GUESTS (or individual tickets available at £120 each)

**8 X SILVER TABLES      £1,500**  
 9 GUESTS plus Lashings World XI player to sit at your table

**3 X GOLD TABLES      £1,900**

- 9 GUESTS plus choice of Lashings World XI player to sit at your table
- Company logo on Sponsors' board, programme and menu

**1 X PLATINUM TABLE      £2,200**  
**Exclusive package for headline sponsor**

- 9 GUESTS plus First choice of Lashings World XI player to sit at your table
- Presentation of man of the match award
- Signed Lashings shirt
- Company logo prominently positioned on Sponsors' board, event ticket site and menu
- Company advert in event programme



**PLEASE CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS**  
[LASHINGS@DAMEALICEOWENS.HERTS.SCH.UK](mailto:LASHINGS@DAMEALICEOWENS.HERTS.SCH.UK)





**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 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 year .....Y7s 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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).

### **LAST TERM's biggest fundraising event was adults only Thames Boat Party!**

Huge thanks to everyone who made that spectacular evening possible and such a success too! They picture is worth a thousand words – see the photos below for what you've missed and make sure to join us next time as we have a good time and help raise the much needed fund for the school.

Special thanks go to everyone involved in planning and organising this fundraiser. You and everyone who attended allowed us to raise over £6,000! Upwards and onwards!







Mark your calendars for our much-anticipated **OwensFest 2025 on Sunday, 29 June 29.**

Remember, every ticket you purchase directly supports Dame Alice Owen's School and enhances the educational experience for all our students. For just £1.00 per ticket, you can buy as many as you'd like through this [online platform](#). Join the excitement and seize your chance to win big while making a difference!

**Get involved to make OwensFest even better!**

- **Place an Auckland Estates Advertising Board outside your home**

Auckland Estates in Potters Bar will donate £10 for every board in:

EN5, EN4, Potters Bar, Northaw & Cuffley, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, Colney Heath, London Colney, Ridge, North Mymms and Welham Green

Please sign up by Fri 24th May Auckland Estates Ad Board [sign-up Form](#)

- **Donate a RAFFLE prize**
- **Advertise in our Festival Brochure**

Promote your business to the school community:  
£40 for half page | £70 for full page

- **Book an External Stall**
- **Volunteer Your Time**
- **Lend your GAZEBO for use on the day**
- **Donate cash or a specific item we need on the day to run OwensFest.** Donations can be made via [here](#)

If you can help in any of the ways above, please fill out this short form and we'll be in touch [OwensFest Support Sign-Up Form](#).

OSA  
OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS  
**OWENSFEST**  
SUNDAY 29th JUNE 2025  
12.00-17.00 AT DAME ALICE OWEN'S SCHOOL  
GRAND RAFFLE DRAW  
FIRST PRIZE PS5 GAMES CONSOLE  
MANY MORE PRIZES TBC  
£1 per ticket  
COME AND JOIN IN THE SUMMER FUN

**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, 2nd 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](http://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](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](mailto: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](mailto:refreshments@theosa.org.uk), if you could spare a couple of hours.

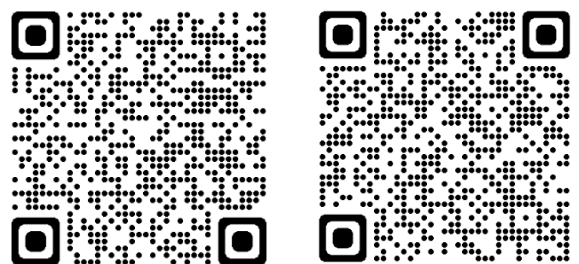
**OSA's '200 Club':** OSA's '200 Club': the OSA operates a Lottery Style 200 Club with a £50 and a £25 prize draw every month and an extra draw in December. A one-off annual membership fee of £24 per number and nothing more to do other than wait to hear if your number is drawn. For further details, please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



**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.





**Year 8 Sky Studios Assembly:** Lauren Christy, talent manager and Marcus Watling, digital lead came to address the Year 8 about the myriads of roles and opportunities at Sky Studios Elstree. They emphasised that whilst many of the roles are in the creative and production areas, there are also roles in areas such as HR, finance or construction for people who want other careers but love the film industry.

**Newsquest Young Reporters Scheme:** Over 20 students from Years 10–13 signed up to participate in this exciting extra-curricular which allows them to experience what it is like to work for a real live newspaper. This unique scheme is structured as if students are working directly for the paper, as they are given deadlines to work to, topics to write about and every article is published on Newsquest's range of online newspapers.

**Careers Fair:** On 2 April, Owen's ran our annual Careers Fair for all students in Years 9–13. The school gym was filled with an exciting and diverse range of organisations, professionals and further and higher education providers. Our aim is for the students to learn much about the rich and exciting range of career possibilities and pathways awaiting them in the future.

The range of participants provided something to interest all students. Companies represented included HSBC, Roche, GRIGGS Homes, SKY and Noah's Ark hospice. Sectors covered included sports, construction, healthcare, environment, IT and pharmaceuticals. Professions represented included lawyers, engineers, dentists, architects, surveyors and the armed services.







### Drama Department: Extended News

#### Autumn Term: Component 1 – Devised Pieces

Our academic term started off with a bang with the fabulous production of the **Year 13 Devised Piece** which was inspired by the play *'Blood Wedding'*, leading to our students creating a piece about *'The Disappeared'* in Argentina. Andrew, Libbie, Sesadhi, Anna, Iona and Connor created their piece in the style of Artaud and Frantic Assembly, bringing to life the reality of families torn apart by the murder of those who resisted the oppressive regime in Argentina.

This was followed by the **Year 11 Devised Pieces**, exploring themes such as emigration, *'A House without Windows'*, the cycle of harassment and stalking, *'Scars'* and finally a piece exploring the rise of fashion designers from diverse backgrounds making it in the industry *'Not Made By Children'*. All our young people were complimented on their performances by their friends, family and peers who came to watch their work in rehearsal or on the evening of their exams.







### Winter Term Production: Twelfth Night

The Winter play was a comic delight with undertones of peril as the twins Viola and Sebastian played brilliantly by Sesadhi and Krishan were washed up on less than welcoming shores.

As Orsino, a Brooklyn mobster, Sami was perfectly conflicted by his love for Olivia and the constant rejection that he faces to comedic effect. Unable to force her to love him in the way he can in most of his business ventures, Orsino sends Cesario (Viola) to woo Olivia.

Having a live band enabled our leads to share their passionate feelings for one such iconic moment being 'Fever' with Iona (Olivia) singing about her desire for Viola.

The comedic craziness of Olivia's household who were constantly up for a good time at Olivia's expense provided excellent opportunities for Andrew playing his namesake, Tabitha as Lady Hermione, his mother, and Bella as Olivia's Aunt.

Thrown into this mix was their foil, Malvolio who disapproves of everyone other than Olivia whom he is in love with. Fed up with his demanding ways he is tricked into serenading Olivia with 'Can't take my eyes off you' in Orsino's bar dressed as Marilyn Monroe which Rotimi performed to great acclaim.

This was followed by a hilarious interrogation led by Feste, Maria and Fabian posing as the supposed Dr Topaz and his nurses played by Theo, Emily and Aron. Valentine & Curio (Lloyd & Luca) attempted to protect Orsino while the latter also failed to impress Loretta (Uma) whose wisecracks went over his head to comedic effect. As an undercover PI in an elegant blue number and a glamorous wig, Feste's rendition of 'Blue Moon' was so convincing that the audience genuinely didn't recognise him.

The finale was a reprise of 'Somethin' Stupid' with Sami and Sesadhi leading the whole cast, a perfect end to a romantic comedy.





### **Spring Term: Live Performances & Workshop**

In January the Drama Department went to see *The Tempest* directed by Jamie Lloyd which was an astonishing production particularly in the use of lighting and sound to create an otherworldly setting in space. This was followed by the incredible *'Tess'* in February at the Oxford Playhouse by Ockham's Razor. We really enjoyed this production due to the visually exciting circus-skills performance style and the nuanced relationship between performer, physicality and the text itself. Again, plenty to write about for our students in Years 10 - 13.





## Component 2 – GCSE Performance Exams

In March, our students performed in their Component 2 Performance Exams which were marked by a visiting examiner and took place afterschool in our Drama Studio.

GCSE pieces included monologues, duologues and group pieces from *'The Accidental Death of an Anarchist'*, *'Boys'*, *'Home, I'm Darling'*, *'The Watsons'*, *'The Odd Couple'*, *'Memory of Water'* and *'God of Carnage'*.

All were challenging pieces and allowed our students to demonstrate the culmination of two years of learning in terms of acting and design skills.

## Component 2 – A Level Performance Exams

Our A Level students performed a week later in duologues from *'Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons'*, *'The Wasp'* and *'Hangmen'*. Their group piece was *'Anna Karenina'* by Helen







Edmundson in the style of the theatre practitioner *Shared Experience*, which really lent itself to our performers who are incredibly collaborative in terms of their use of dance, movement and imaginative response to the text.

All the performances were appreciated by their peers in Year 10 & 12 and by their parents who attended their exams in the evening.

### **Spring Musical: *Disney's Beauty and the Beast***

Our final performance was our Spring Musical '*Disney's Beauty and the Beast*' which I am happy to say was incredibly well received by many members of staff and audience in attendance to support our young people from Years 7 - 13. There were incredible acting, vocal and dance performances and yet again our musicians provided a truly professional accompaniment.

Our leads in the form of Belle, the Beast, Gaston, Lefou & Maurice were played by Imogen, Alex, Theo, Francesco and Sami with stunning vocals, emotion and wit, creating amazing numbers both as soloists, in duet and in our enormous Company numbers such as '*Belle*'. Our leads as the Castle Staff were equally fabulous, the roles of Cogsworth, Lumiere, Mrs Potts, Chip, Babette and Madame played by Rotimi, Aron, Sesadhi, Sam, Bella and Elizabeth who provided much needed comic entertainment as they collaboratively strived to overcome the obstacles they faced to become 'Human Again'.

Our choreographers, Agapi, Anvi, Charlie, Cheryl, Mya, Solomia, Sofia M, Sofia W, Gracie & Shriya didn't fail to disappoint either. They ensured that there was a visual feast in all the solos, pas de deux and company numbers such as the seven minute epic '*Be our Guest*' and the equally beautiful ballet dance to '*Home*'.

It was also really reassuring to have the Levy brothers back on board to lead the Technical Support in the Musical. We are proud to say that Sam is part of the Sound Team on '*The Devil Wears Prada*' and having seen it recently I can only say that it is a spectacular production be a part of whether onstage or as part of the technical team.

Well done to those students who led on this production, Nico as our Stage Manager, Theo on Lighting and Finlay on Sound. Of course, none of these productions would have been possible







without our Creative & Performing Arts staff who are listed below.

Ms Govier – Artistic Director

Mrs Brady – Musical Director

Ms Makepeace-Lott – Vocal Director

Mr Henshaw – Assistant Director (plays)

Miss Khan – Technical Director & Backstage Chaperone

Mrs Nicolaides – Backstage Chaperone

Ms Stark – Scenic Design

Mr Stensel – Props & Stage Furniture

Mr Anastasi – Photographs & Posters

Curriculum Support – Tickets, Programmes & Publicity

Front of House – Ms Chan, Mrs Coles, Mrs Jones, Mrs Irons & Mrs Paphitis.







**Summer Production: *Romeo and Juliet*, an adaptation by E. Govier and N. Kiernan**

Well, after all of that, you'd think we would have a nice rest, however, in the summer term we will be staging our Lower School Production which will feature students in Years 7 - 9... It's probably going to be a contemporary adaptation of Shakespeare's '*Romeo and Juliet*', set in the 1960s, which will provide plenty of opportunities for actors, dancers, stage and technical crew.

Come and support your friends and family members when our final show of the year will take place in the Main Hall at 6.30pm on the 10th, 11th and 12th of July.

**Ms E Govier, Director of Drama**





## Maths Challenge Results

Earlier this term 306 pupils from Years 7 and 8 sat the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. Of these we achieved an amazing 96 Gold medals, 87 Silver medals and 46 Bronze Medals.

64 of these students were invited to sit the Kangaroo follow on rounds this year; congratulations to them all. Special congratulations go to Anika C (Y8) who scored an impressive 130 points and was invited to sit the Olympiad follow on round in June, along with James B (Y7), who scored 129 points and to Anson C (Y 8) who scored 135 points, which is full marks! James was also awarded Best in Year 7 and Anson was awarded Best in School.

We wish them luck and eagerly await their results.

## Intermediate Maths Challenge Follow-on Rounds Results

In March, 55 pupils from Years 9-11 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

Sasha B achieved a Gold Certificate and Best in School.

The following also received certificates: Adougo N (Gold), Daniel G (Silver), Rowan W (Silver), Juhan J (Silver), William C (Bronze), Isaac F (Bronze), Rachel G (Bronze), Katherine M (Bronze), Kayne S (Bronze) and Diana S (Bronze).

### Pink Kangaroo

Imogen I achieved Gold Best in Year 10. Archie I achieved Gold, Best in Year 11 and also Best in School. The following received Silver certificates: Henry B, Hannah J, Johnny C, Jack G, Adam Q.

### Cayley Olympiad (Year 9)

Tao Hai K and Mark K were awarded a Merit and Mark also achieved Best in School.

### Hamilton Olympiad (Year 10)

Ammiel G and Adam S achieved a Merit and Ammiel was also awarded Best in School.

### Maclaurin Olympiad (Year 11)

Andreas E and Andrew F were awarded a Distinction and Andrew also achieved Best in School.

Ben I, Akshay M, Vishnu P, Kian T, Vanshika T achieved a Merit.

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## Herts for Learning: Final of the Year 7 Team Mathematics Competition

Kaylie W, Oliver T, Sebby E and I took part in a regional mathematics competition held at Stevenage. Representing our school, we were both excited and nervous, but ready to give it our best.

The competition brought together teams from several schools, and the atmosphere was buzzing with anticipation. The challenges tested not just our individual math skills but also how well we could work together as a team. We tackled a wide variety of problems, including general



mathematics, estimation and memory rounds.

Each round pushed us to think creatively and quickly under time pressure. Some questions were particularly challenging, but we supported one another, divided up the problems strategically, and stayed focused. Our teamwork paid off a tense wait for the final results – we were overjoyed to hear our team announced as the overall winners!

Winning the competition was an unforgettable experience. It showed us how much we could achieve by working together and staying calm under pressure. We returned to school with a trophy and stretching smiles on our faces.

Thank you to all the teachers involved in the organisation of the event. It was a day of learning, laughter and triumph.

*Elisabella T (Y7)*

## **'Proof'**

by *Emilynne Newsom*

There is a practice you will see in math.  
It is a way of showing what is true.  
In steady step-by-step it lays a path  
from what you know to what you seek to prove.

A finding takes a lot of getting lost  
in circles that we cannot comprehend,  
but even patterns knotted up and crossed  
can find a line that leads us to its end.

There is an order to the way of things.  
Perhaps it is an order we can find.  
The math is in the universe—it sings  
in such a way that we can harmonize.

And when our logic comes out sound and clear  
we hear it in the ring of truth—we're here.



## Year 8 Music Festival 2025

As we are going to print, the Year 8 Music Festival 2025 has just kicked off with a magnificent first session of performances on Monday afternoon from 8gjt1 8gjt3 and 8gjt5.

Throughout this week all of Year 8 will be performing on stage, across four sessions, in the Edward Guinness Hall with every student performing in a whole-class song, a whole-class instrumental piece and a small group piece.

Bravo to today's performers for their excellent collaboration, creativity and spirit. Your audience clearly loved listening. High quality stuff all round!

But who will be this year's winning class?







### Don't miss Anisa starring in 'The Piano' on Channel 4

We have all be incredibly proud of Anisa, our hugely talented Year 8 student, who has recently starred in the Channel 4 show "*The Piano*" alongside Claudia Winkleman, Jon Batiste, and MIKA.

After an inspiring public performance at Liverpool Street Station, Anisa was selected to perform in the Final Concert at the prestigious Glasshouse venue in Newcastle.



This is a huge achievement and it was an amazing opportunity to showcase her talent on a national stage!

Anisa told us, "I've always loved music. It's my passion and what makes me happiest. Being on the TV show has been such an amazing experience, one I'll treasure forever. I really hope I can keep sharing my music with everyone and keep doing what I love."

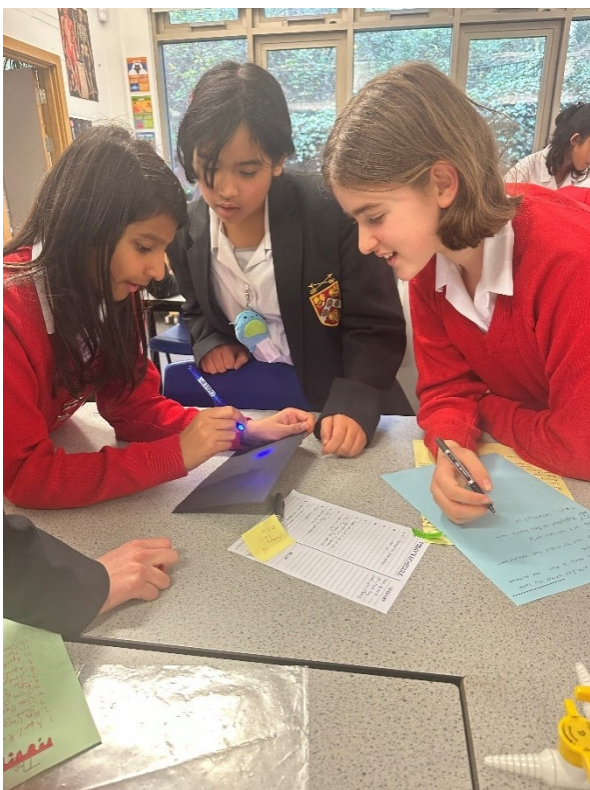
You can catch the last part of Anisa's journey when the final live performance airs at **9pm, Sunday, 25 May**. All episodes are available to stream on Channel 4 On Demand:

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-piano>



The Psychology Society has been in full swing from September 2024. The fortnightly Lunchtime Lecture programme given by external professionals on topics such as 'Living with Memory Loss' by Prof. Loveday, 'Sport Psychology and Business Coaching' by Dr Males and 'The Aetiology of Schizophrenia' by Dr Humpston inspired many. Each talk was followed by a lively Q&A.

To complement this, there were student presentations and debates. We are very proud of our students, many of whom stepped out of their comfort zone to research a topic beyond the specification including 'A psychological explanation of escapism' by Ben J, 'A psychological explanation of Deja Vu' by Isabella C and 'Juror Bias in Trials' by Esme S and Olivia S. Fabian K deserves a particular mention for his regular attendance and his talk on 'perfectionism' especially considering the fact that he is not even a psychology student.



Additionally, a brilliant team of year 12s Elena S, Emma D, Maisie B and Anisa M devised two 6-week programmes for year 7s to 9s to use their deductive powers to solve mysterious disappearances as part of the ever popular Murder Mystery Club. This involved finger printing, blood splatter analysis and interpreting witness statements as well as other forensic techniques; each week taking students closer to potential suspects and the eventual culprits.

We celebrated Random Acts of Kindness and Valentine's Day with Nikita P and Beatrice R, Josie G and Alexia B, giving an informative assembly to lower school on the biopsychology behind being kind and being in love. It's all about the hormones and neurotransmitters folks!

The Psychology Society events culminated in a mock trial organised by Sophiya L. Here is her review below.

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Dame Alice Owen's School held its first-ever student-led mock trial—a landmark event that offered an incredible learning experience for everyone involved. I was proud to help organise it and see it all come together.

The trial took place over two lunchtimes and was open to all Year 12 students. To kick things off, I created a detailed Google Form outlining the various courtroom roles, including responsibilities, required preparation, and how many students each role could accommodate. The roles included prosecution and defence lawyers, witnesses, jury members, bailiffs (played by organisers), a judge (a real legal professional), and a handcuffed defendant in costume to add realism.

Due to high interest, we allocated roles randomly and shared role-specific materials—like witness statements, transcripts, and testimonies—a week in advance to ensure participants could prepare thoroughly. The fictional case was designed to simulate a real Crown Court trial as closely as possible.

We were fortunate to have Solicitor Howard Cohen, who regularly appears in the Old Bailey, serve as our judge. His opening talk offered deep insights into courtroom roles and questioning techniques, and he gave real-time feedback to the student lawyers. After the trial, he stayed to answer questions about his career, which many students found inspiring.

To ensure authenticity, I also consulted another lawyer I had met during work experience, and fellow organiser Kareena and I visited the Old Bailey to observe real trials. We then recreated the courtroom layout in our classroom, complete with a jury box and witness stand.



During the trial, the prosecution and defence teams presented their arguments and examined witnesses. Jury members, selected to reflect diversity, submitted questions via the bailiffs, which the judge read aloud.

After closing statements, the jury deliberated briefly and returned a “not guilty” verdict—matching the real-life outcome of the case.

Our Judge then revealed the actual details, confirming the accuracy of the verdict.

Around 25 students participated and over 40 spectated. We promoted the event through word of mouth, Google Classroom and posters on the common room TV, and it clearly made an impact—several students told me afterward they were now considering careers in law.



Overall, this mock trial was a tremendous success and a proud moment for the school. I hope it's the first of many student-led trials to come.

Whether you are a student or parent reading this, and you would like to get involved in Psych Soc in any capacity in the autumn term 2025 email [rutlina@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:rutlina@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk), or [ohanlonf@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:ohanlonf@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk).



## Athletics

### **Under 14 Boys**

The boys have started the season off well both in the county league and track and field cup. They are currently 3rd in the county league and if they can continue with these great performances they should qualify for the county finals.

In the track and field cup they came 4th with some good individual performances.

### **Under 14 Girls**

The girls have had a good start to the season with great performances in both the County League and Track and Field Cup. Especially due to the fact that the team has been made up of mostly Year 7's so the girls are competing well in their first season!

They are currently 7th in the County League so we are hoping to continue this for the girls to make the Plate Final. They came 4th overall in the Track and Field Cup which was a good result. Standout performances so far are Anashe in both the 100m and high jump as well as Nicole in the shot and Iman in the 800m.



### **Under 16 Boys**

The boys have been working hard in training and have individually performed well. They are currently in 14th place in the county league but with their weekly performances improving and finding our best selection for the team, we hope they will qualify for the county plate.

In the track and field cup they finished 8th with some great individual performances.

### **Under 16 Girls**

The girls have had an exceptional start to the season with amazing performances in both the County League and Track and Field Cup. The girls are currently 1st in the County League so are right on track to make the County League final.

They also came 2nd overall in the Track and Field Cup by only 10 points and will hopefully qualify for the Regional A Final. Standout performances so far are Izzy in the hurdles, Tia in the long jump and Isla in the triple jump and 300m!



## Hertfordshire Combined Events

A great day at the Multi-Events Athletics Competition for our Junior girls & boys teams as well as Izzy competing as an Inter girl! Congratulations to the Junior girls who came 2nd overall! As well as Isla who finished 2nd and progressed through to the Regional finals.

## Cricket

### Year 7 Girls

The girls have made a good start in weekly training sessions. Special mention to Autumn, Marissa, Autumn, Phoebe, Anaiya, Isabella and Nicole who have been playing for the U13s in softball friendlies. Their next match is a softball friendly against Aldenham on 11th June. Keep up the good work in training girls!

### Year 7 Boys

The boys started the term off with large numbers in training and lots of enthusiasm towards representing the school. Up to now the boys have had a tough introduction to school cricket where they have lost 3 out of 4 games and sadly being knocked out of the county cup to a very strong Bishop's Stortford College, but have taken it extremely well and are taking each game as a learning experience. A big mention for Nayan, Firdaus and Ben who all 3 of them have been great role models in getting everyone to training and setting expectations for everyone else in matches on and off the field.

### Year 8 Girls

This season we are trying to transition the girls into hard ball cricket by combining Year 7 and Year 8 cricketers with a mixture of softball pairs matches entering some hard ball cup competitions. I am incredibly proud of the way the girls have embraced this, led by their inspiring captain Emily M. We are introducing more hard ball drills and getting the girls used to batting, bowling and fielding with the hard ball, as well as running with pads and helmets. This is the beginning of an exciting journey for these players.



In their first match this season, the A and B teams played a softball pairs match against Aldenham. Both teams won comfortably and demonstrated the strength in depth we have in this squad.

Congratulations to Eva who took 3 wickets and Amy S and Esha who also took a wicket. Well done Emily for hitting 22 runs off 4 balls in the final over and sealing a very comfortable victory.

### U13 Girls Hardball

On Wednesday 30th April, the U13s girls team played our first ever girls hard ball match against a very strong Haileybury team. Despite a few nerves Emily opened the batting confidently, scoring a solid 35. Everybody had a chance to face their bowlers, who were highly skilled and bowled fast and straight. The girls narrowly lost by three wickets, but should be commended for their teamwork and positivity, especially Autumn and Marissa in Year 7. Emily, Betsy and Zara bowled brilliantly, taking several wickets and congratulations to captain and player of the match Emily.





### **Year 8 Boys**

High numbers in training led to a great choice of players from a great group of boys with high expectations for each other. The boys have played 3 games up to now where they have won 1 from 3. Unfortunately they were knocked out of the county plate by St Edmunds who won by 5 wickets convincingly in the end. Winning in a very tight game Vs Lochinver by 6 runs was their highlight so far with many more to come hopefully. Special mention to Ethan Dunn who has started the school season positively with the bat with a couple strong contributions and Zach too who has looked very good bowling wise having batters in all sorts of trouble facing him.

### **Year 9 Girls**

It has been a great start to Year 9 cricket this year. Our first match was a softball friendly against Aldenham on the 29th April. The girls put on a convincing batting performance in pairs and their bowling is becoming more consistent. We are now trying to expose the girls to more hard ball situations. Special mention to Anaya, Sienna, Tanishka and Mahdi, who played in the U15 Paper Cups hard ball cup at Mill Hill. This is the first time we have entered this competition and the standard was incredibly high. Nevertheless, the girls did incredibly well to face the hard ball and are a year younger than the opposition.



## U14 Girls Hardball

On Monday 19th May, our girls U14 cricketers entered the Herts County hard ball Cup competition for the first time at Haileybury School.

Despite a shaky start, losing our first match to the hosts, we recovered well to comfortably beat Ashlyns School. Emily and Betsy took two wickets each and Anaya took an incredible 6, as well as knocking an impressive 51 runs with the bat. Despite a three way tie, we topped the group with the highest run rate. We now faced last year's champions, Berkhamsted in the final. We lost the toss and were put in to bat first.

Once again Anaya was formidable with the bat, knocking a massive 61 not out. Zara kept her company for much of the innings, scoring a solid 17. We set a monstrous target of 110. Now it was our turn to bowl them out. Emily got us off to the best possible start, sending the bales flying twice in the first over. Betsy, Zara, Anaya and Sienna added to the wickets.

Berkhamsted fell short and we bowled the favourites out for 55, resulting in our girls being crowned County Champions!!! This was an amazing team performance with contributions from all the girls! Special thanks to our captain fantastic Anaya, who inspired, supported and guided the girls all the way! We are so proud of you all!!! Girls cricket is going from strength to strength.



## Year 10 Boys

The Year 10 boys started their season off with a loss to St Albans which saw them knocked out of the county cup, despite losing a great knock by Albert who helped set a more respectable score. Then playing Aldenham and winning by 6 wickets saw a great team performance from everyone and left high spirits going into their next game against Hitchin boys where they lost on the last ball of the game, a great partnership from Franklin and Aayush saw Owen's 107 for no loss after 12 overs with both of them scoring 50s each.



## **Under 15 Girls**

The Under 15 squad faced an extremely tough test in the first round of the National Cricket Paper Cup competition against a very strong Mill Hill School, featuring an entire team of U15 Middlesex pathway cricketers. With some girls playing hard ball cricket for the first time and a young squad the girls performed very well batting first and scoring 44 all out. Mill Hill played some exceptional cricket and chased down the total in 8 overs.

Special mention to Emily who hit over 20 runs to keep us in the match and also to captain Anaya who led by example, opening the batting and inspiring and supporting the girls in their first hardball County Cup! Great effort girls! We are extremely proud.



## **Tennis**

### **COUNTY TENNIS**

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

In the first County League Tennis fixture of the season the U13A girls put in a fantastic performance to defeat Queenswood School 8-4.

This was particularly impressive as we entered the girls in Division 1 this year for the first time so they are competing against high level opponents! Whilst the U13B team lost 10-2 against older opposition.





### Year 7&8 Boys

The U13A boys have had an amazing start to the County League. In their first game against St Albans Boys the team won overall 10-2 with some very impressive performances. In their second round the boys won overall 8-4 against St Columba's School. Some great results against two very strong private schools!

### Year 9&10 Girls

In their first County League game of the season the U15A girls performed exceptionally well to beat a strong Queenswood team 8-4. Well done girls!

### Year 9&10 Boys

In the first County League game of the season the U15A boys played very well against a strong opposition in St Columba's winning overall 8-4.

### Under 14 Girls County Doubles Tournament

A very successful day at the U14 County Doubles tournament! Both pairs of girls made it to the semi-finals but unfortunately had to play one another.

Congratulations to Iman and Layla who progressed to the finals and finished runners-up, a very impressive achievement as year 7's!



### U14&U18 boys

In the boys County Doubles tournament we had Max and Markos representing in the U18 competition and TaoHai and Jason in the U14 competition.

A particular shoutout to TaoHai and Jason who played very well and made it to the quarter-finals.

### U14 girls National School Sports Magazine

A great start for the U14 girls' tennis team in the National School Sports competition. The girls were up against Parmiter's today in the second round after a first round bye!

The girls played phenomenally, only dropping one game in 6 sets!





**Girls Netball**

Both the U15A and 1st VII netball teams made the County Plate final! The U15 team performed amazingly and won their County Plate Final against a strong Broxbourne team. The girls battled hard pulling away in the second half winning overall 28-20.

I am very proud of all of the girls and such an amazing season they have had!



The 1st VII team had a very tough challenge on their hands against a very strong Haileybury team. The girls battled hard in their County Plate Final all the way through. They finished runners-up, I am very proud of them all!

Well done to all and we will miss our Year 13s!

**Other announcements**

Congratulations to Anaya P (Y9), who has become the youngest ever player signed to the Middlesex Women's Senior Cricket Team at the age of 14. She played her first match on Easter Sunday, taking a wicket. In her latest game she faced Kent in the T20 competition and took 3 wickets from her 4 bowling overs.

Well done, Anaya, we are all so proud of you!



Adaugo N (Y9) competed in the Lexus Welsh Junior Open Girls 14U singles and doubles Nationals in Wrexham over the Easter period where she won both categories.

Well done, Adaugo!  
Upwards and onwards!





Congratulations to Aditi and Aayushi (Y11) who helped Hertfordshire claim victory in the U18 Inter Counties Badminton Tournament over the Easter break.

This competition is one of the biggest annual events in English junior badminton and sees over 30 County teams compete.

A brilliant achievement, well done girls!

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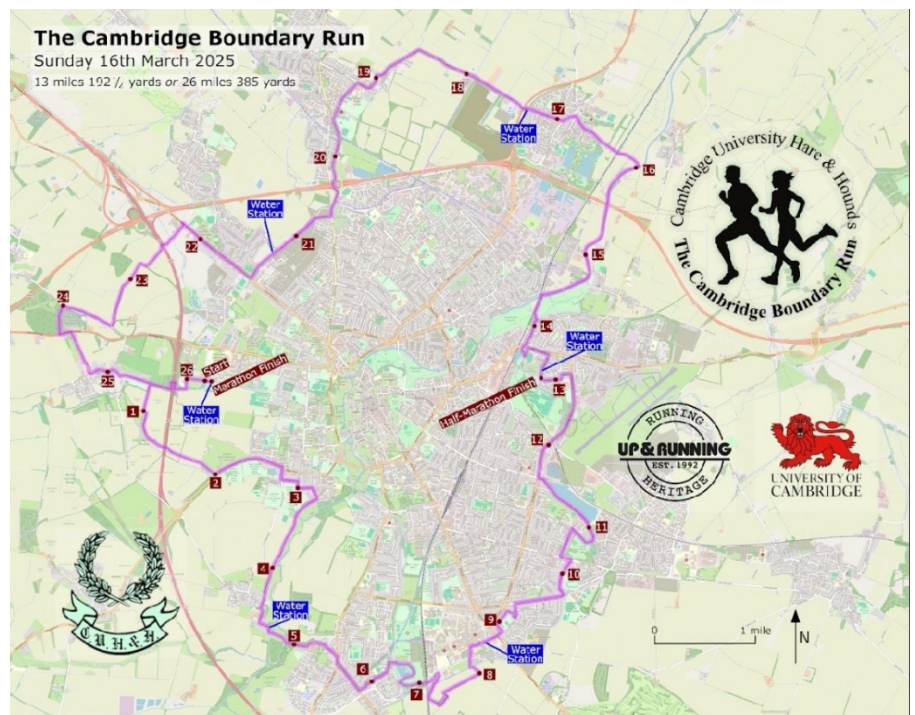
Hi, we are Harry and Alfie and on the 16th of March we had the pleasure (and pain) of running the Cambridge boundary run marathon in aid of the Make A Wish Foundation UK.

We completed it 3 hours and 45 minutes. It was a truly unforgettable experience. We were lucky enough to raise a life changing amount of money thanks to all of those generous people that donated. Our total came to £2,789! This was enough to grant a wish for a family.

The only reason we made it through training and completed the race on the day was because this was used as motivation. Anyone who has run a marathon in the past knows that once you hit the wall around 20 miles in, you don't run with your legs, it's your head and heart pushing you through.

So all we can say is thank you and we hope this can inspire you.

*Harry D and Alfie M (Y12)*



A huge thanks to everyone who supported my London marathon fundraising efforts. Together we raised over £2,400 for Cancer Research UK, which is just fabulous!

I (just about) made it round in 4 hrs 36 mins. The crowds were like nothing I've ever experienced, just a wave of love & support. It really was London at its very best & thanks to those who were there cheering us all on. A big shout out to my family, Jo Simpson & Paddy Dodd who were there supporting. The run itself was a game of two halves.... 13 miles in 2hrs 2 mins, then the old legs & heat on the day got me. A Unicorn & the Blackpool Tower overtook me in the last few miles which wasn't ideal!

I was really proud to make it round & I'd encourage any of you to give such a challenge a go if you're tempted.

*Jamie Bird, Head of Social Sciences*