



Letter from the Head Hannah Nemko

As I write this introduction, the sun is shining, the public exams are over and the Year 10 and 12 exams are coming to a close. The timetable has been written for next year and plans are underway for Visitation, Open day, Beer Money and, of course, the Lashings event as well as all the amazing trips that will be happening over the summer including to Barbados and South Africa.

The end of the academic year is in sight and what a year it has been!

With thanks to some incredible private donors as well as the Dame Alice Owen's Foundation and the FE Cleary trust, we are well on the way to securing the funds that we need to build our **new Sports Hall**. We expect demolition of the old building to begin in the last throes of July and we hope to be able to open the new facility early on in the following academic year. However, we have some way to go to ensure that the School is able to finish and equip the building to the high standard that we would like. To be able to do this, we have a target of raising **ONE MILLION POUNDS** between now and the end of the project.





There will be an array of opportunities and events over this next year which will allow you to get involved in supporting your school to provide the very best sporting opportunities that your children deserve.

Our campaign kicked off, almost literally, at Arsenal's Training Ground in London Colney where key supporters of the project were taken on a 'behind the scenes tour' of the training facilities including a no-holdsbarred look at the team's locker and trainer rooms — who knew that even footballers needed that many boots each!



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

OWENSFEST highlights – see p. 6

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Academic Life – see pp. 20-61





We were treated to an explanation of the science and rationale behind the way the building has been constructed as well as how the recovery facilities are used. For many though, the highlight was the opportunity to meet 'Win' the Arsenal dog! I was honoured to share our fundraising vision, our campaign video (coming soon to a screen near you) as well as the first artistic impressions of the sports hall with all our guests.

Fundraising events to look out for

To mark the 50th anniversary of Owenians in Potters Bar, we will be having a **whole school photo** in early September to make sure that this moment is captured for posterity. This will be a year that goes down in Owen's history so you will want to remember you were part of it! Every photo bought brings money back to the school.

Amongst other things, we are looking forward to hosting a **Beer Lecture and Quiz (including tastings and dinner, with even more beer)** at Brewers' Hall, Moorgate, in early November. This will be an exclusive event for no more than 80 adults.

The legendary **Harold Moore Luncheon (for Old Owenians and their partners)**, including a tour of the school on Sunday 19 October.

It would not be a celebratory year, if it did not include a fabulous concert. Owen's will be playing at the **Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday, 3 March 2026**. Be sure to save the date!

Towards the end of the academic year, we will be hosting a closing **Black Tie Ball**, with a **special sporting guest**, to be announced nearer the time.

We hope you'll consider getting involved and supporting these events in any way you can, whether by attending, making a financial contribution, donating goods or services through your workplace, or offering your time and expertise to help with planning and running the events. Every bit of support makes a difference and helps ensure things run smoothly.

Staffing Update

As we turn towards the end of this year, as ever, we are having to say goodbye to a few people, some paid members of staff but it is not only the paid staff who help the school to run efficiently and effectively. Now is the moment for me to thank, again, the members of the OSA, our parent association body, who do a great deal for the school to raise the funds that help us to keep so much of what we enjoy being able to provide at Owen's going. They have set themselves a target of raising £52,000 this year to go towards the sports hall and, after raising over £18,000 at OwensFest — thanks to everyone who supported the event! — they are well on their way.



A special member of the committee is Olena Mankovska who has, for several years now, compiled our Newsletter with creativity, diligence, professionalism and care. It is quite a feat as there is always so much to cram in. The newsletter has looked bright and brilliant and the recent addition of snippets of poetry have brought a smile to many a face! We cannot thank Olena enough for all that she has done for the school in this role.

The secret password to the school newsletter email address is being passed on now and huge thanks also go now to our new volunteer group, Vicky, Claire, Kirpani, Ella and Bonnie who are going to be stepping into those huge boots. I have seen some first glimpses of the new format which I hope you will all enjoy from October.

Keith Hannah, teacher of MFL: Keith joined Owen's in September to teach both French and Spanish, after a career in financial services. He has worked hard to master his new craft, and students have benefited from his excellent subject knowledge. Keith is leaving us to dedicate more time to his family, and we wish him the best of luck.

Charlotte Hillan, senior administrator/HR assistant: Charlotte (an ex-Owenian) joined the school as maternity cover for Mrs Burrowes. She has been a huge help in a number of areas, helping organise visitation, vaccinations, student mentoring, with HR, interview days, reception, the list goes on. She has enjoyed her time working in a school so much that she is leaving to train to be an MFL teacher next year and we wish Charlotte all the best.

Sofia Simeone, teacher of PE: Although Sofia has only been here a short time, she has made a huge impression on the PE department and has a big impact on the students. In particular, her gymnastic prowess led to the showcasing of some amazing acrobatics at the Gym and Dance Display. She is moving to the private sector to take up the position of Gymnastic lead, a role designed perfectly for her skill set and one which we have no doubts she will excel in. We will miss Sofia greatly and wish her all the best.

Debbie Kilbey, teacher of Maths: Debbie has been with us for too short a time! She arrived 3 years ago and quickly showed her dedication to detail in her lessons and her deep care for each student in her groups. Students that have been fortunate enough to have had Mrs Kilbey will recognise that her lessons are always an oasis of calm. She is always well organised with reassuring routines and helpful assessment. Debbie has been a wonderful asset to the department and a very valued colleague.

Aysun Pakoglu, teacher of Computer Science: Aysun has been an integral part of our Computer Science department for the past three years. From the moment she joined us, her passion for Computer Science and dedication to teaching were evident. She collaborated with colleagues to change the look and quality of teaching resources, and her contributions extended beyond the classroom as well. As she embarks on a new journey as the head of department at another school, we wish Aysun the very best in her new role.

Nicole Stavrou, teacher of Food & Textiles: Nicole joined us to teach both Food and Textiles. Her degree was in machine knitting, but she quickly became as at home in the food rooms as the textiles classrooms. She inspired students to enjoy being as their most creative. She is going to a school nearby to be head of the Food department. We wish Nicole the best of luck in her new role.

Lucy Turner, PE technician: Lucy is leaving Owen's after 3 years as the PE technician. During her time she has become an integral part of the PE department not only through her exceptional organisational skills but also her commitment to enriching the experiences of students in school. She has created a structured girls' cricket programme, including developing a leadership pathway and enhancing staff knowledge through providing CPD opportunities and has assisted greatly through her expertise in netball. We will all miss Lucy greatly but wish her all the best as she returns to the role of SENCO in a primary school.

Chloe Pettengell, teacher of PE: Chloe began her time at Owen's as a trainee teacher. Since she has made a huge difference to the PE department and has had a massive impact upon students of all age groups. She has been responsible in particular for driving our netball, athletics and tennis programmes forward and has also helped secure national success in badminton. Chloe is moving to the independent sector to a school which is looking to build up their girls' PE programme, a challenge we have no doubt she will have huge success with. We wish Chloe the very best of luck in her new role and both staff and students alike will miss her enthusiasm, knowledge and presence greatly.

Kim Dorling, assistant librarian: Kim first came to Owen's in 1978 as a student! She has also seen her children go through the school and volunteered with Owen's for many years before becoming Assistant Librarian in 2019. She played a vitally important role keeping the library going during and after Covid. Throughout her time here, the library has benefited from her amazing creative talents and displays — if you have never noticed it before, look above the fiction library door next time you are passing to see her beautiful papercraft 'LIBRARY' sign. Kim is stepping back from work to enjoy other activities but is planning to continue to volunteer with us; and so we say 'huge thanks but not a final goodbye'.

Tom Festa, teacher of PE: Tom started with us as a PE technician and continued this role for a few years whilst he was studying at university. He then went on to undergo his teaching training at Owen's and has spent the last 3 years as a fully qualified PE teacher. During his time here he has set up an amazing tour programme which has seen students travel to Florida, Holland and, shortly, Barbados. His work with the senior football sides in particular has made a real difference leading to County success. His overall commitment to the extra-curricular programme has been superb and he will be missed by many students and staff. We wish Tom every success with his new adventure developing his own business.

Isabelle Perrin, teacher of Maths/head of PSHRE: Izzy is a force of nature. We cannot believe how much she has achieved; her talents show no bounds. She can fix anything from a broken spreadsheet to an unfitted kitchen! Her dedication to this school and the students she teaches is phenomenal — giving of her time relentlessly and generously. She has a beautiful way of explaining maths and her lessons are imaginative and engaging. The Maths department will be at a loss without her. Miss Perrin, you will always be welcomed back!

Tania Jackson, KS3 pastoral manager: Anyone who has ever worked in pastoral care knows that Key Stage 3, especially Year 7, is its own special kind of roller coaster. It takes someone truly exceptional to deal with the daily dramas, the friendship fallouts, complaints and, of course, the mystery of a missing tie. Somehow, Tania has handled it all with grace, patience, wisdom and the perfect amount of humour! But Tania has been so much more than a firefighter. She's been a rock for so many of our younger students, especially those just finding their feet in secondary school as well as to many of the staff. Thank you, Tania, for everything you've brought to this role and to this team. You've made a difference every single day.

Sinead Morrissey, teacher of Food & Textiles: Sinead has been a valuable member of the Food team, inspiring students with her love of food. Her knowledge of food science and nutrition in particular has been invaluable in her teaching of GCSE Food. Sinead currently has her hands full at home with 3 young children and we wish her all the best for the future as she leaves to spend more time with them.

Charlotte Surry, KS4 pastoral manager: Just to emphasise, pastoral care is no small feat. It takes patience, empathy, a strong stomach, and — on more than one occasion — a good sense of humour. Luckily for us, Charlotte brought all of the above and more! Whether it was talking a distressed student out of a meltdown, helping a staff member through a rough patch, or lightening the mood in a staff meeting with a perfectly timed quip, Charlotte has been the heart and soul of all we do and is a very much respected KS4 pastoral manager. We thank you for everything and will miss you immensely.

Sue Hughes, teacher of Maths: Sue has been a rock in the Maths department for over 12 years now. She is deeply caring and a good listener — you can always go to her with a problem. She is passionately keen for everyone in her group to do well, especially those who don't understand something straight away. She has a wicked sense of humour that keeps us all grounded and sometimes in stitches. Her commitment and generous giving of her time for the department will be impossible to replace. We wish Sue all the best for her retirement.

Joan Anderson, cover supervisor: Joan has been at the school for 24 years and in that time has been a stalwart of the departments she has been in — most recently as a cover supervisor. She has been a calming influence with the classes she has overseen and has been committed to making sure that students get the best out of each lesson. Joan is now retiring and we will miss her down-to-earth approach to the role. Thank you and we hope you enjoy filling your time with exciting things.

We are delighted to be welcoming the following new members of staff to our team from September: Victoria Allard (Food/Textiles), Riley Chalfen (PE), Christopher Emmerson (Computer Science), Patryk Korczak (Maths), Aoife Locke (PE), Laura Marchant (Accounts admin), Itzhak Matthai (English), Toria Maze (RS), Charlotte Rose (PE), Antony Silvey (French/Spanish), George Smolenski (Pastoral), Natasha Stewart Cooper (Maths), Ellie Williams (PE technician).

As one year closes, we all look forward to recharging our batteries over the summer in order to return excited and ready for teaching, learning, growing and exploring once again.

For now, all that remains to say is a big thankyou to our amazing staff for their dedication and care, to our students for all their energy and effort, and to our parents for the wonderful support you have given us all throughout the year.

Wishing you all a restful, happy summer filled with joy and well-deserved downtime,

Hannal Denuco.

Hannah Nemko Headteacher

Owen's Super Prize Draw — win a VIP Experience at Manchester City vs Arsenal!

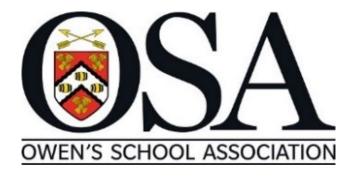
As part of our sports hall fundraising campaign, we have secured a once in a lifetime experience in the Chairman's box at Manchester City. One lucky winner will enjoy:

- A table for six in the Chairman's Box at for the Manchester City FC vs Arsenal game on 18 April 2026
- A delicious three-course meal
- · All table wines, beer and soft drinks included
- Best seats in the house: front row in the Director's Box

<u>Click here to enter</u> this once in a lifetime Super Prize Draw for £20 a ticket. We're incredibly grateful for your support. Every ticket purchased brings us one step closer to building our new Sports Hall.

Now that the students are looking forward to some unstructured free time over the school holidays and teachers are decluttering their desks after yet another busy year, the OSA is happy to announce that together with the wider school community we have finished this year strong.

£18,500! This is how much was raised at **OWENSFEST** thanks to your support and participation, which makes 2025 the most successful OWENFEST to date.



And what a marvellous afternoon it was! Whether in the searing sun or in the cool of EGH, we got to experience and revel in the diversity and excellence of Owen's community ranging from musical escapades to taste bud tickles, traditional games and a variety of stalls. See the photos below to feel the Owen's spirit and work up ideas for the next year.







Sincere thanks are due to a lengthy list of participants:

OSA organisers for many hours of preparation, parent volunteers, community contributors, our hugely talented musicians, stall holders, Dragon's Den Y7 enthusiasts, extra-curricular staff contributions, Peter and the Wolf producers and performers, our very own PIMMS Bar maker, caretakers, raffle ticket purchasers, Estate Agent Board homeowners, Match Funders, and Tech Crew to name just a few!

Special thanks also go to long-standing **OSA members** who step down and move on this year after generously giving their time and invaluable support over years! What you've done matters and we trust you know this.





















Warm and welcoming thanks also to those amazing parents who have already expressed an interest to volunteer with the OSA — your willingness to get involved, in whatever capacity you can contribute, however big or small, is vital to ensure the OSA can continue to raise funds to benefit all of our children in the future.

Still wondering whether OSA is for you? Come, see and talk to us at our next meeting on **Monday**, 8th **September**, **7:30pm**. And for now, whatever the rest of the summer has in store for, make sure to enjoy some well-earned rest, make time for your loved ones and savour leisurely summer afternoons.

See you in September!

OSA Team









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, 8th September.** 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 Fundraising: 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. Please follow this link to sign 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 <u>here</u> 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.



In this summer term of heatwaves, the library has offered students a cool and calm space to read, revise, research and relax throughout the school day and after.

Library lessons for Years 7-9 have been devoted to work for reading challenges: Year 7 have been exploring children's classic books; Year 8 have all read a non-fiction book on a subject of their choice (we loved seeing everyone deep in books on the most diverse range of topics imaginable, with choices which really reflected their individuality); and Year 9 have all tackled an adult classic book, which was quite a tough task requiring resilience! They have then chosen from a menu of challenge tasks to respond to their reading and present their discoveries to their classmates. Students have produced some really amazing work which will be on display in the English Department on Open Day.

Just before the end of the previous half term, we were delighted to welcome back to school Old Owenian Gareth Dace, who came to talk to Year 9 about his book about Tottenham Hotspur, *Is Gascoigne Going To Have a Crack?* and about being a sports author. His talk gave students a fascinating insight into his career path and into the process of writing a non-fiction book and getting it published. We loved his reminiscences about his time at Owen's as well! Gareth told the story of how he had taken his own very personal path through life, following his own passions, and we all took away the message that you need to "run your own race" rather than comparing yourself to others or to an imagined ideal.

Behind the scenes, the library team has continued work on reorganising and updating the non-fiction stock, and we have welcomed classes from both the younger and older ends of the school for research and reading lessons in the Non-Fiction Library to support learning in Modern Languages, including our new range of graphic novels in French — and History — as well as the famous Year 7 Castles project!

One of our objectives this year has been to improve the Sixth Form provision, working together with the Sixth Form team and Careers. We have now updated the Sixth Form display area with lots of new stock to support A-Level wider reading and post-18 study and career choices, an up-to-date range of university admissions tests preparation books, dedicated sections for prospective medical and law students and a selection of study skills, wellbeing and self-help books.

As the summer holidays approach, we have launched a summer reading challenge open to everyone in the school. Students (and teachers!), make sure to call into the library to borrow some great books for the break and to collect a challenge sheet. Bring it back in September and tell us about your reading to earn some house points and get the new school year off to a great start (and all that reading is guaranteed to help you do better at school too)!

And finally... as we come to the end of the year, we would like to say a big thankyou to our student librarians and Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteers who have been so reliable and helpful all year — we really appreciate your assistance with our work to keep the whole school reading.

Happy holidays everyone from the library team!



CHESS CLUB NEWS

It has been another great year of chess at DAOS and we finished it with an adventure in Nottingham as we had two teams in the Chess Team Challenge Finals. Held at Nottingham University, the event consisted of 16 teams in the Junior event and 22 teams in the senior event. We started off well in both events and at one stage in the senior event, we reached 3rd place but alas, the further up you go, the harder it gets! In the end, the Junior team came 7th and the Senior team came 8th.

As you can see in the results below, both teams over-achieved in terms of the initial rankings going into the event, so well done to all involved. There were also some excellent individual performances, most notably by Sebby in the Junior event and by Rock and Ridhuan in the Senior event.

JCTC - https://chess-results.com/tnr1197591.aspx?lan=1&art=0
BCTC - https://chess-results.com/tnr1197590.aspx?lan=1&art=0



Congratulations to Olivia for winning the Archer Simpson Chess Prize this year. She led our first girls' team to victory in the Hertfordshire Chess Challenge Event and has always been a very polite student who has had a great deal of success this year in the world of chess. I would also like to thank Stephen for all his contributions to chess throughout his time at DAOS and wish him best of luck at university.

After school on Mondays, we have continued to take part in the National Online School Chess League and have been in the top 5 most times this year but even more impressive has been Rock tutoring lower school students at chess (at the same time but in a different room) in order for them to improve their game. A great effort and excellent leadership!

After 20 years or so of running chess at DAOS, I am no longer doing so next year. Hopefully chess is in a healthier position now than when I first took over. It has been great to see so many students playing the game at lunchtime and giving them the opportunity to take part in events and play against other teams. Hopefully this will continue in the future!

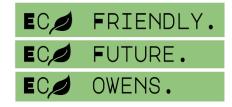
Happy chess playing everyone!

Mr Simpson, Director of Chess (for the last time)

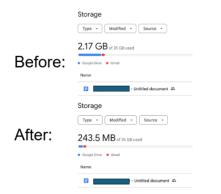
ECO-COMMITTEE

Digital Footprint Initiative

Sustainability challenge for this term was to reduce our digital carbon footprint. Eco-Committee created a series of hard-hitting and fact-packed assembly presentations which made us all think more about the real world impacts of our digital lives. For example, did you know that the average person takes up **300-500 gigabytes** of storage per month — that's **1,500 kg** of CO₂! Or that data storage accounts for more **carbon emissions** than the commercial airline sector?



Inspired by the chance to make a real difference very easily, many students deleted their old emails and unwanted photos and videos hereby reducing their carbon footprint.





UCL Ocean Health Challenge

Diego (Y9) was awarded a runner-up prize in UCL's prestigious Ocean Health Challenge 2024, a national engineering design competition. Encouraged by Mrs Knight and Ms Chan (with advice from Mr Macdonald and Mr Jackson), Diego suggested a creative way of tackling ocean plastic pollution. His idea was for a reusable water bottle with a built-in filter; the system was designed to work in Mexico City where tap water is not safe to drink.



Brighton Beach Clean-Up Trip

On Saturday, 28 June, the Eco-Committee took the trip to sunny Brighton for the annual Beach Clean-Up.

We walked for 2 hours along the beautiful coastline and managed to collect over 5 bin bags full of litter including packaging, lids and straws. After all of our hard work, we treated ourselves to fish and chips by the seaside, followed by a bit of downtime in the arcade on the pier.



KS3 Climate Conference

10 students from Year 7, 8 and 9 attended the KS3 Hertfordshire Climate conference at North Herts College in Hitchin. There were talks and workshops to learn more about climate change, where the theme was about creating hope through action.

We learned a lot about climate change, for example, that to have a 50% chance of keeping global heating to within 1.5 degrees, each of us needs to consume no more than 2.5 tonnes of CO2 per year — the equivalent of a one-way flight to Australia.







Culture and Identity Day

Monday, 7th July, saw Owen's in our true colours as the school community celebrated their Culture and Identity Day. And what beautiful those true colours are! Students and faculty alike revelled in this explosion of vibrancy, energy, music and food presenting all continents of the world!

Run by students, stalls showcased the music, art, crafts, language and dance of their culture, creating for us an opportunity to celebrate and honour what we have in common as much as what makes us distinctly us. The highlight of the event was watching, learning and participating in traditional dances of various nationalities.

Thank you to everyone who spent all weekend cooking, planning stalls and practicing dances! It is days like this that allow us to grow in appreciation of our diversity and build cohesion to last beyond the classroom. If your culture has not had its stall yet, consider to fill in the gap in summer'26!

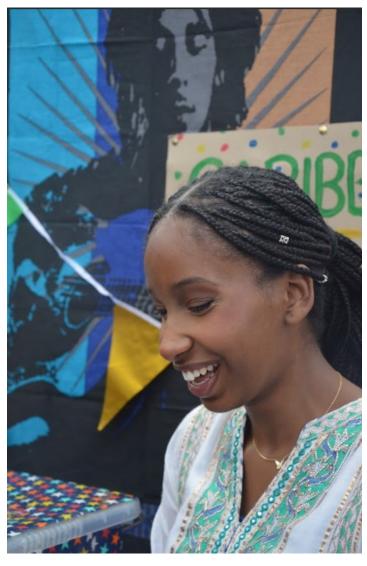


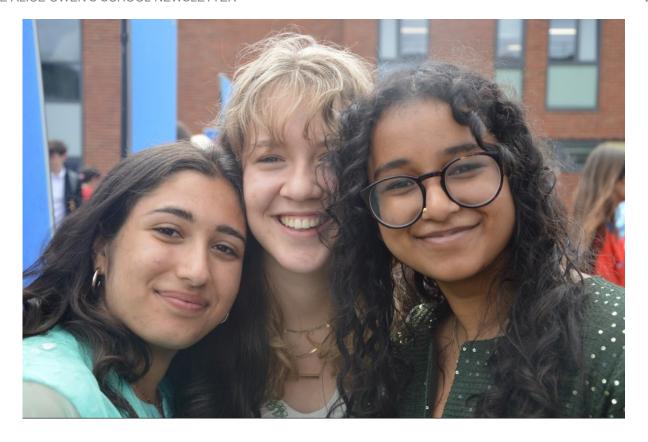














Routes to Law: 6th form team ran a workshop after school whereby a number of lawyers working in a variety of settings came in to talk to Year 12 students about their routes to their current roles followed by a Q & A session. This included ex-students currently studying law and current students with recent LNAT and interview experience. Speakers included an ex-student currently completing a law apprenticeship; an alumnus working as Legal Counsel at Burberry via Science Degree then MSc in Law, Business and Management and a Deputy Solicitor to the Post Office Inquiry, Government Legal Service.

Window to the World of Work: Year 10 students were encouraged to spend a day with relatives or friends, giving many the first glimpse into various careers and industries. Year 11 students were supported to take part in longer work placements after their GCSE exams. Year 12 students are supported to undertake work experience throughout the year and were also given two days off curriculum at the end of June to visit work places. These placements help the students to decide whether a certain career path really is for them, supporting them with making post GCSE and Post-18 choices. Some of the workplaces visited include banks, engineering companies, fashion designers, transport companies, accountants, law firms, newspapers and the Bank of England.

GSK Data Day: On Tuesday 15th July, volunteers who work with data in GSK, banks and insurance companies ran a Data Day at DAOS. Forty Year 10 students, and a few Years 11 and 12 students worked in teams using real GSK data to solve a real-life problem. They learnt how to work with data in google sheets, how raw data are being interpreted to draw conclusions and gained key employability skills such as problem solving, storytelling and presentation. They were also provided with an overview of meaningful and rewarding careers at GSK.

From The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien

All that is gold does not glitter, Not all those who wander are lost; The old that is strong does not wither, Deep roots are not reached by the frost.

From the ashes a fire shall be woken, A light from the shadows shall spring; Renewed shall be blade that was broken, The crownless again shall be king.

Oxbridge Panel Event

On Wednesday, 9th July, the Sixth Form welcomed back ten of our alumni who have just finished their first or second year at Oxford or Cambridge universities to speak about their experiences of the application process and university life. The degrees they are studying covered a wide range of subject areas from Natural Sciences to Human, Social and Political Sciences and Medicine to Modern and Medieval Languages, with several students taking joint degrees. All of the students were from different Oxbridge colleges so they were able to advise on how they made this extra choice necessary for a collegiate university, as well as explaining why they chose Oxford or Cambridge.

The event was very well attended by a large number of current year 12 students who are interested in applying for degrees at either university. They were able to talk to the alumni in small groups relevant to their subject choices, as well as hearing the whole panel's answers to more general questions on topics such as interviews and balancing study with extra-curricular activities.

Here are some of our students' comments on what they found most useful on the day:

"Being able to ask and hear answers about a broad range of questions from the application process to the course of a specific subject, and hearing honest opinions about how different life is there in comparison to other unis."

"Hearing their experiences about the application process, particularly the interviews, and learning about their experiences at Oxford as well as their advice. I liked being guided to students with relevant courses to me and talking to them was very helpful."

"I thought that speaking with the students about life there and how much work there really is gave me a good idea of what studying at Oxbridge would be like."



"The subject-specific small group sessions gave us the chance to get answers to as many questions as we wanted specific to our needs, based on what we want to apply for."

We are hugely grateful that our alumni were so generous with their time and expertise, putting our students at ease and offering them lots of help with the process. This created a brilliant atmosphere at the event, which we would love to repeat in the future.

Mrs Brady

Corpus Christi College Cambridge — Pelican Podcast Competition

Two groups of students have each made it to the final of the prestigious Pelican Podcast competition this year. The only stipulation is that the podcast has to centre on a local artifact (although that word can be taken quite broadly, as you will see!).

One group (Sophiya L, Rihanna U, Liya O and Kareena K) has looked at the artifact of the local Puddingstone, exploring themes of misogyny in folklore and superstitions embedded within Britain's 17th century society.

The other (Jack F, Rotimi G, Omead H and Sami C) are using a much larger artifact, the Underhill stadium in Barnet, to look into themes of community, regeneration and beyond.

Both groups, as finalists, are now invited to attend a residential at the college, and their podcast will be published on the university's podcast streams. I am hoping to be able to report a winner in the October newsletter.

Very well done to both teams for reaching the final!

Jeni McClean, Head of Sixth Form

Jiselle N made her mark as the youngest leader at the **Great Patrol Hunt 2024/2025**, a competitive event organised annually by Hertfordshire Girl Guiding. The event, a highlight in the guiding calendar, challenges participants through three dynamic rounds, culminating in a two-night camping experience designed to test **teamwork**, **resilience**, **and leadership**.

Jiselle's rise to leadership is especially inspiring, having previously competed and triumphed as a member of the winning patrol in the 2023/2024 season. Her transition from participant to leader marks a full-circle journey that showcases her growth and commitment to Girl Guiding.

Among her many accomplishments, Jiselle is also a Gold Award recipient, the highest honour a Girl Guide can achieve — a testament to her dedication, skill, and all-round excellence.

Her impact stretches beyond national borders. Last summer, she was selected to participate in the seven-day Essex International Jamboree (EIJ), representing Hertfordshire Girl Guiding. This summer, she is set to visit "Our Chalet," the Girl Guide World Centre in Switzerland, and in August 2026, she will represent Anglia Girl Guiding at "Our Cabaña" Girl Guide World Centre in Mexico, at a friendship and cultural programme.

Jiselle's journey reflects a remarkable trajectory of inspiration, leadership, and unwavering passion for the Girl Guiding movement — a young role model, making her mark



Business Simulation Challenge

Year 12 students recently took part in an and immersive exciting business simulation day, where they were tasked with running a fictitious mobile phone business using a computer simulation. Organised by Enterprise Skills, the day was designed to test the students' ability to respond to a range of business scenarios and make strategic decisions in order to maximise profits. The students faced challenges such as adjusting to market changes, managing production costs, and responding to competition all while working under time pressure.



The students placed a respectable 3rd and 4th, demonstrating impressive teamwork and strategic thinking. Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and achievements, and thank you to *Enterprise Skills* for providing such a valuable experience!

Year 7 & 10 Students Complete Enterprise Challenge

Students in Years 7 and 10 have recently completed the *Teach a Man How to Fish* Enterprise Challenge — an exciting programme designed to develop entrepreneurial skills, creativity, and teamwork. Our school was honoured to be selected as a pilot school and is proud to be the first in the UK to successfully complete it.

The challenge gave students the chance to experience the full business journey — from idea generation and product design to production, marketing and pitching. Working in teams, they developed their own business ideas and applied problem-solving and leadership skills in a real-world context.

A huge congratulations goes to the winning team — **Year 7 students Erim T, Alfie S-J and Yusuf K & Achintya K** whose business *3D MULTIVERSE* impressed the 'dragons den' judges on the day. The team designed and manufactured bespoke toys using a 3D printer, demonstrating both technical ability and an understanding of customer needs.



Their entrepreneurial spirit truly stood out — and the numbers back it up: they have already generated £400 in revenue and have agreed to reinvest their £50 prize money back into the business.

All participants should be incredibly proud — the commitment, teamwork and enthusiasm shown throughout the programme was outstanding.

Jamie Bird, Head of Social Sciences

JPMorgan GenerationTech programme

On Saturday, 5th July, Arhaan M (Y9) attended the JPMorgan GenerationTech programme, which took place at their London office. The aim was this exciting design-based ideation challenge is to enhance tech skills among youth, specifically 13014 year-olds, through empowering them to design tech solutions for social good under the mentorship from JPMorganChase employees.

At the end of the programme, Arhaan was selected for a special individual award — one of only three students recognised out of over 70 participants. He was commended for his presentation and leadership skills, having helped guide his team with confidence and clarity.

The mentors and judges mentioned how well he responded to some very tough questions during the presentation, demonstrating maturity, composure, and teamwork throughout the day.



It was a fantastic experience for him — both enriching and enjoyable — and one that he'll carry forward with real pride and he represented DAOS well.

Mrs D Asaffo, Head of Computing

ESA Python Space Challenge

Hello everyone! I'm excited to share that I recently took part in the ESA Python Space Challenge, and my code was actually sent all the way to the International Space Station! It's a truly incredible experience to think that my programming work is now orbiting above us in space.

The ESA Python Space Challenge was a fun and educational competition organized by the European Space Agency. Participants from around the world were tasked with creating innovative Python



programs to solve real-world space-related problems. The challenge aimed to inspire young programmers, who were grouped in a team of six, to create a code that could find the speed of the International Space Station (ISS), which is a satellite orbiting around Earth.

What made this project really interesting was that I didn't just use simple data like altitude or orbital period. Instead, I used images of the Earth taken from the ISS — pictures of the Earth's surface — and analyzed them to help determine its speed. I wrote code that could process these images, look for specific landmarks or features, and then use that information to calculate how fast the station was moving.

It was a challenging process that involved lots of testing and refining, but I learned a lot about image processing, coding, and space science along the way. After many trials, my code finally worked well

enough to meet ESA's requirements. The fact that my program is now part of space missions feels incredible — like I've contributed to real scientific research! It's inspiring to think that my work is helping scientists better understand the ISS and how it moves through space.

This experience has motivated me even more to keep learning about programming, space exploration and technology. I hope to take part in more projects like this in the future, and maybe even help make new discoveries someday. I'm really proud of what I achieved, and I can't wait to see where my skills will take me next!

Disha D (Y7)

Extract from Oh, the Places You'll Go!

by Dr. Seuss

Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places!
You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.
You're on your own. And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.

You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care. About some you will say, "I don't choose to go there."
With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet, you're too smart to go down any not-so-good street.

And you may not find any you'll want to go down. In that case, of course, you'll head straight out of town.

It's opener there in the wide open air.
Out there things can happen and frequently do
to people as brainy and footsy as you.

And then things start to happen, don't worry. Don't stew. Just go right along. You'll start happening too.

OH! THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

You'll be on y our way up! You'll be seeing great sights! You'll join the high fliers who soar to high heights.

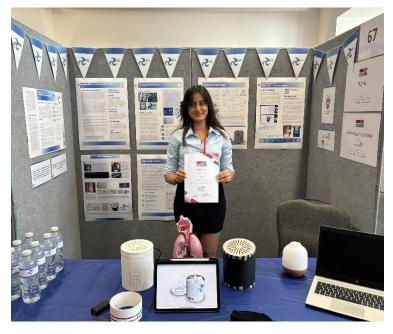
You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed. You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead. Wherever you fly, you'll be best of the best. Wherever you go, you will top all the rest.

Except when you don't. Because, sometimes, you won't.

TeenTech 2025

On Friday, 27th June, Bhavya R (Y12) won an award at the TeenTech Awards 2025, taking home a fabulous trophy for her highly competitive Patient Safety category.

She was one of 72 finalists selected from over 1,500 submissions across the UK to present her project at the Institute of Engineering and Technology in London. Bhavya's innovative solution, 'Richa' aims to improve safety and outcomes in healthcare settings. The project was praised by judges for its real-world impact, and inventive potential to support NHS services.



Experts from both healthcare and technology sectors noted that the solution demonstrated "outstanding research and awareness of patient needs".

TeenTech, founded by broadcaster Maggie Philbin, is a UK-wide initiative that encourages young people to explore careers in STEM and tackle some of society's most pressing challenges. Winners receive mentoring opportunities, industry recognition, and ongoing support to further develop their ideas. Alongside this amazing achievement, £1000.00 will be awarded to our school.

Lisa Chan, Head of Design & Technology

Extract from Oh, the Thinks You Can Think!

by Dr. Seuss

You can think up some birds.
That's what you can do.
You can think about yellow
or think about blue...

You can think about red. You can think about pink. You can think up a horse. Oh, the THINKS you can think!

Oh, the THINKS you can think up if only you try!

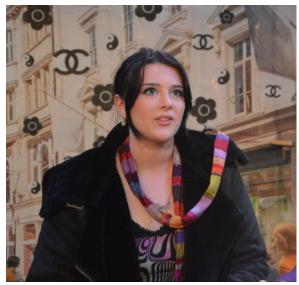
If you try, you can think up a GUFF going by.

And you don't have to stop. You can think about SCHLOPP. Schlopp. Schlopp. Beautiful Schlopp. Beautiful Schlopp with a cherry on top.

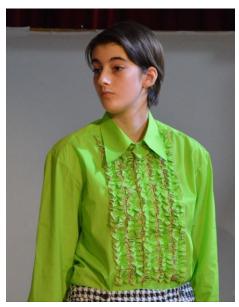


Our final production of the year was 'Romeo and Juliet' an adaptation of Shakespeare's play, directed and co-written by Ms Govier & Mr Kiernan. The adaptation was set in the 1960s in 'swinging' London with the Capulets and Montagues depicted as rival fashion houses.

The production starred Sam B and Sophia M as Romeo & Juliet and featured over 70 students, acting, singing and dancing their way through the show. Mr and Mrs Montague were played by Katherine and Lucia, who certainly did a brilliant job of convincing us that they were a warring couple teetering on the edge of divorce.







Mr and Mrs Capulet played by Laura and Meredith did a fantastic job of portraying a couple intent on using their daughter to advance their atelier with little regard of her feelings.

Our production also featured Romeo & Juliet's consciences, played by Gracie and Emre who became a cheerleader and baseball coach, intent on coaching our couple into falling in love with their contrasting advice.

Of course, no production would be complete without Mercutio, who became a wise-cracking photographer, modelled on David Bailey and played with wit and panache by the hilarious Daniel. Friar Laurence became an American Psychiatrist, Dr Goldstein, played by George who certainly demonstrated a sense of comic timing well beyond his years.

The school adaptation also featured Rosalind, however, she was in a relationship with Tybalt, allowing for realistic anger when he discovered Romeo at the Masquerade Ball.



We also had an inspired flashback, featuring Rosie (played by Seraphina) being serenaded by Tybalt (Xavier) in a nightclub which allowed for a moving duet accompanied by our brilliant dancers. There were so many commendable performances, including Juliet's wise-talking Nanny, played by Hannah, who certainly owned the stage and convinced us that she only wanted the best for Juliet, even if this came at a price. In addition, the production featured some talented choreographers: Gabriella, Gracie, Jiselle, Meredith, Sam Sophia & Charlie.









And finally, this was a play about rival fashion houses, so it was only fitting that our production featured Rosie and Juliet's friends, who were models, played by Alexandra, Mayuri, Aaliyah & Sophia N. The performance certainly demonstrated that we have students in the cast who will be our future leads in both plays and musicals due to their attention to the three Cs: Confidence, Commitment & Creativity!

Well done to everyone who contributed to this amazing production, Actors, Dancers, Stage Crew, Technical Crew, Mr Anastasi, Mr Henshaw, Miss Khan, Mrs Nicolaides & Ms Stark.

Ms Govier, Director of Drama



The Rotary Writing Competition 2024-25

We are delighted to announce that three of our students have achieved success in this year's Rotary Writing Competition! The theme for this year was 'Wonderful Water' and the participating students entered into the spirit of creativity with their entries.





In the Senior competition, Zahra H was placed first, with Agpi M – second.

In the Intermediate competition, Rosanna A L went through to the District round. All three students received certificates for their entries with Zahra also receiving a trophy.

Congratulations to all who entered and keep writing!

Ms Mangan, English teacher

Year 9 History Trip to Somme and Ypres

This year's annual Battlefields Trip to Ypres and the Somme was a thought provoking, engaging and enlightening experience for all the 90 Year 9 students that attended. The three days included a wide variety of unique opportunities for the young people, particular highlights were Newfoundland Park, the Thiepval Memorial and Vimy Ridge.

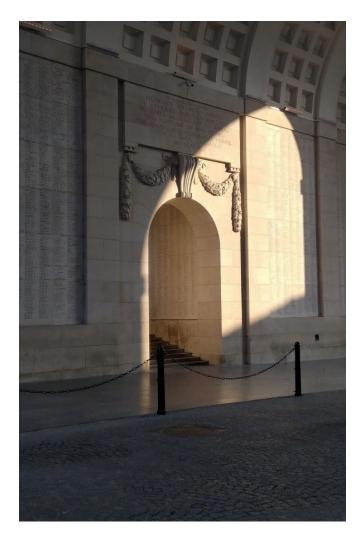
Students demonstrated a very mature attitude and were really able to put their learning of WW1 into context. The History Department were especially proud of the questions the students asked of our expert guides and the very high levels of respect shown to all the places of memorial.

The gravitas of the trip was perfectly encapsulated by the laying of the school's wreath at the Menin Gate ceremony, and a particular highlight of this year's trip was that one of our students was given the honour of doing the reading too. It was amazing for the staff to see students really immerse themselves in the history of WW1 and further enrich their love for learning. This fantastic experience allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of the war and a greater appreciation for the sacrifices made by so many during the War.

The students should be very proud of how well they conducted themselves, and the History department are so pleased that the trip was enjoyed by all, with one student saying, *'This trip is the best school trip I have ever been on'*. We look forward to giving the same experience to next year's cohort.

Finally, please take time to look at the amazing winners of the Somme trip photo competition below – three incredibly insightful and creative images, from three budding young photographers.

Chiara Smith, History teacher







Maths Challenge Results

Earlier this term 60 pupils from Years 7 and 8 sat the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge follow-on rounds.

In the Kangaroo round we achieved an amazing 17 Bronze, 19 Silver and 9 Gold certificates.

Special congratulations to Konstantin in Year 7 and to Hailey W in Year 8 who achieved Best in School with 129 points.

The Olympiad results were equally impressive. James B in Year 7 was awarded a Merit. In Year 8, Anika C, Shreya M were awarded Distinction and Anson C was awarded a Distinction and won Best in School with 37 points.

Many congratulations to them all!



Studying at Dame Alice Owen's provides me with many wonderful opportunities, one of them was participating in a regional mathematics competition in Stevenage along with Charlene S, Kush M and Shreya M. This was an excellent experience, nerve-racking but exciting, a chance for us to represent the excellence that is Dame Alice Owen's.

In the course of the competition, our maths skills were tested in several rounds that included estimation, general mathematics and memory rounds, meaning there was something for everyone; in addition, our other fundamental skills such as teamwork were improved as well. The atmosphere within the hall was eager and it was great to be surrounded by others who enjoyed maths as I did. The competition brought together schools from all over Hertfordshire. Not only this allowed me to meet people from other schools but my teammates were students I otherwise would never have talked to.

The actual questions were all extremely challenging, however, not too challenging as to be disheartening just enough for us to be stretched and develop those necessary skills such as working together, supporting one another, thinking creatively and problem solve all whilst under pressure helping us to learn how to manage our time efficiently.

Unfortunately, we did not win, and yet it was still a valuable experience that I would definitely do again if given the chance, to hone those skills even more and create an even better understanding of what these competitions are like at a regional and maybe one day national level. I would recommend it to anyone!

Thank you to all those who took part and made this day possible. It was a day full of hard work, jokes and overall fun!

Rosanna A-L (Y8)

Years 10 and 12 French Exchange

For this year's exchange with the Établissement La Malassise school in northern France, 20 students from Year 10 were joined — for the first time — by seven Year 12s. They had mainly different schedules of visits, but both groups rose to the challenge of spending a week staying with French families, improving their language skills and experiencing French culture and lifestyle... and eating a lot of croissants!

Here's a firsthand account from two Year 10 students:

In May, we had the unforgettable chance to take part in a French exchange with students in St Omer. Honestly, it was one of the best experiences we have had!

We set off bright and early on Tuesday, waved goodbye to Dame Alice Owen's and headed to France. That first evening with our host families gave us a taste of French life. It was both exciting and a bit nerve- wracking to be completely immersed in another culture. However, after the first hour, we already felt like part of the family.



Wednesday was packed with adventure. We joined our partner's schools for the morning. Their lessons were so different (let's just say we aren't going to be able to take French maths anytime soon!) After lunch, we enjoyed a peaceful boat ride through the beautiful Marias Audomarois marshlands, learning all about the wildlife and biodiversity within the area. In the evening, we all met up for a super fun bowling night — a perfect way to bond with the French students.

On Thursday, we went on a brilliant day trip to Arras. We explored historical WW1 sights and even followed in the footsteps of the Duke of Wellington. The town trail in the afternoon helped us to discover the rich culture of the area. The day was both educational and inspiring.



Friday was definitely the highlight — a day in Paris! We travelled by train and saw some of the most iconic sights: the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, a boat ride on the Seine and even Montmartre and Sacre Coeur. Paris was stunning — it felt like a dream walking around the city.

The weekend was all about spending time with our host families, trying new foods and soaking up the French lifestyle. Many of us went shopping in Lille, whilst others passed the time on the beach!

On Monday, after we packed our bags and said our goodbyes, we, still tearful, had a final stop at Cite Europe, a huge shopping centre.

A huge thankyou to: Mrs Conte, Mr Tanner, Miss Brunner and Madame Stellard for accompanying us on this trip. This trip gave us a chance to practice our French, make new friends, and experience life in another country. We will never forget it!

Ayla and Katherine (Y10)





Year 8 Normandy Trip

During the halfterm, a group of 40 students in Year 8 went to Normandy, France accompanied by Mr Tanner, Mr Jackson, Mr Jayapal, Dr James and Mrs Canty. First, we got on a coach at 2.15am (so early!) and made the epic journey to the place we were staying: Chateau Beaumont.

On the first day, we visited a French market where we got to practice our French skills buying crepes and souvenirs, and in the afternoon, we went on a scavenger hunt in a picturesque village of Bagnole D'Orne.





The next day we, visited Fougeres Castle and enjoyed an ice-cream in the village. Of course, we visited the iconic Mont Saint Michel with free time to explore the shops. One of my favourite parts of the trip was the peaceful farm we also visited, where we were shown the animals and next enjoyed some delicious homemade goat's milk ice cream.

We also did activities within the Chateau Beaumont centre,. There was ziplining, a blindfolded activity trail in the woods and fencing. On the last night we did a walk and discovered the history of the castle. We had no idea it was such a significant place in World War 2 especially and it was fascinating.

On our way back, we saw the Bayeaux Tapestry which was very immersive and taught me a lot about Normandy's history. The return ferry crossing was a bit rough because of the wind. It was good fun for some of us, but most were very happy to get back on dry land. We returned to school after midnight: exhausted but happy, and pleased to know we had the halfterm to recover.

Charlotte (Y8)









In Music we started the term with two evenings of **A-level Recitals** from our amazing Year 13 musicians. In the course of twelve separate recitals, their performances treated us to an enormous range of styles and instruments including violin, piano, saxophone, double bass, voice, electric guitar, drums, jazz piano and harp! Congratulations to Alissa, Anna, Ed, Gabriel, Jago Kait, Laura, Layla, Natasha, Philip, Rian, Sina.

These were fantastically rich evenings of music and was another opportunity to wish our final year musicians all the very best for their exciting next steps after Owen's.

Our attention turned to Key Stage 3 in the week before half term with the **Year 8 Music Festival 2025**. The week featured 73 separate performances across 4 festival sessions as every student in the year took to the stage in the Edward Guiness Hall, each performing in a whole-class song, a whole-class instrumental piece and a small-group piece. The week was full of the spirit of collaboration and the thrilling performances were received with enthusiastic support from the audience. Some classes even managed to put on fabulous programmes in the absence of their teacher, displaying outstanding levels of preparation, self-leadership and mutual support.















On Thursday, 5th June, Year 12 A-level musicians were in charge of the Pedestal Stage (next to Dame Alice Owen's statue) for the musical offering at the Owen's Open Arts Evening.

In addition to the Year 12s' various ensemble and solo offerings, there were also performances from the Guitar Ensemble, the Saxophone Ensemble, the Y12 Octet. Clarinet Ensemble, Senior Chamber Choir. Flute Ensemble. Senior Percussion Ensemble. **Junior** Percussion Ensemble, and the Drumming Group.



Entertaining both the gathered audience and also the passing visitors to the Art, Textiles and Product Design exhibitions, this was a brilliant opportunity for our fabulous musicians to bring their performances to a wider audience!

Our thanks to Ms McChrystal, Mr Crossley, Mrs Smith, Mr Widden, Mr Niesyto and Ms Makepeace Lott for their work preparing the musicians for the performances. And our congratulations to the Year 12 Music students for their excellent performances!











Tuesday, 10th June saw the **Y10 Music students** take to the stage with their ensemble performances, one of the favourite parts of the GCSE! Complete with their Y10 group supporters in the audience, we enjoyed a lovely selection of styles and genres, delivered with musicality, ensemble sensitivity and panache!

Congratulations to all the performers, and thankyou to Mr Page and Mr Southorn!



On Wednesday, 19th June, the **Summer Concert** featured performances by the Brass Band, Junior Choir, Junior Chamber Choir, Junior Ensemble, Junior Chamber Strings, Second Band and Second Orchestra. This concert included a beautiful performance of a double bass concerto movement by Year 13 soloist, Anna. However, in general, with the Year 11s and 13s on exam leave, and Year 10 and 12 exams imminent the next day, this was an evening dominated by our younger musicians. And, with the dying chords of the Second Orchestra's 'Wicked' medley still resounding around the Edward Guinness Hall, the closing speeches affirmed the buoyant pride across the community for the prowess of our younger musicians!

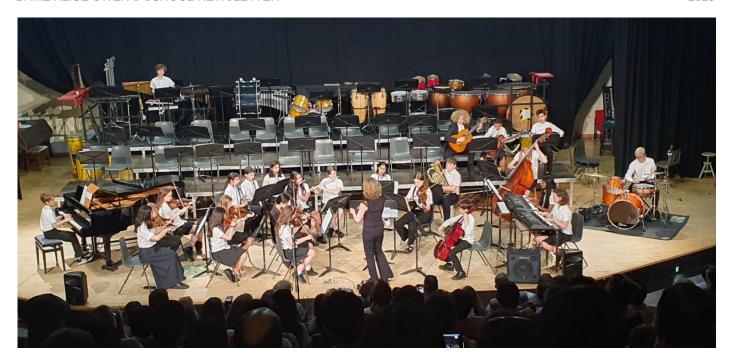
Our thanks to Ms Bamber, Mrs Brady, Mr Crossley, Mr Kelly, Mr Southorn and Ms Sutherland for their inspiring work with the musicians!













Small groups and soloists from Year 7 and Year 8 provided the musical entertainment at the **Transition Evening** for next year's Year 7 students on Thursday, 19th June.

The range of musical items which included singers, string quartets, piano soloists and a Y7 band playing an original song certainly gave a sense of what our new friends can look forward to in their time at Owen's!

Congratulations to all our excellent performers!





The **Year 9 Music Festival** brought to the stage four festival sessions that were richly packed with exciting musical items, 82 performances in all!

Once again, every student in Year 9 took to the stage in a whole-class instrumental piece, a whole-class song and a small-group piece. With this year group being the first ever Year 8 festival cohort in 2024, their extra experience was evident in the quality and ambition of all the items. Audiences, teachers and performers alike all seemed to be having a brilliant time!

The Tech Crew helped us all look and sound even better! In addition to the set pieces, we were treated to a wealth of extra items, including popular

songs, classical pieces and original compositions, some live and some created on computer. The entertainment was often led by engaging and witty presenters and embellished with choreography. It was truly a Year 9 festival to be proud of!

Separated by a matter of mere decimal points, the winning Tech Groups were 9gjst4 and 9lmn4 with 9gjst narrowly taking the overall crown. The winning house was Clerkenwell.











OwensFest on Sunday, 29th June once again saw a feat of music as stages increased again to include a performance of Peter and the Wolf in the Edward Guinness Hall addition to the Amphitheatre Main Stage and the Acoustic Stage in the café. In the brilliant midday sunlight, the Main Stage included performances from the Owen's Jazz programme, by the Jazz Collective, Big Band 1 and Big Band 2, as well as series of student rock bands, where it was brilliant to see such a spread age groups entertaining all the many visitors.



The Acoustic stage had a packed programme featuring soloists - in particular pianists and singers - as well as chamber music items from wind and strings. Half way through the afternoon the Chamber Orchestra put on a special performance of Prokofiev's 'Peter and the Wolf', performing to a packed Edward Guinness Hall as the musicians brought to life the characters of the Bird (Maya on the flute), the Duck (Andrew on the oboe), the Cat (Hassan on the clarinet) the Wolf (Emily, David and Rafi on 3 french horns), Grandfather (Theo on the bassoon), the Hunters (Ishan on the timpani), and Peter (all the strings). The story was told by our special guest narrator Mr Dugan.



Our thanks to Mr Crossley, Mr Kelly, Ms Makepeace Lott, Mr Hunt, Mrs Brady, Ms Bamber and Mrs Khan and, of course, to the OSA for organising such a brilliant event!

Following OwensFest a group of Alevel Music students and friends went to the Queen Elizabeth Hall at the South Bank Centre in London to see a performance given by the Aurora Orchestra under their chief conductor and founder, Nicholas Collon. We were wowed by their performance. bv heart. Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony, even more so when they repeated the finale as an encore with performers spread throughout the audience - we were surrounded by the clarinets, flutes and oboes!

The first half of the performance, with added dramatisation and creative use of the performance space, including lighting and staging, brought Berlioz's *'Harold in Italy'* to life vividly, as well as the narration adding context, all of which is highly relevant to one of the A-level Music modules.



On Thursday, 3rd July the Main Hall was set out with tables, cabaret-style, and the audience settled down with their refreshments (provided, as ever, by our wonderful OSA) for **Owen's Jazz on a Summer's Evening**. A performance showcasing much of our Jazz programme, including performances by the Senior Jazz Combo, where Philip was taking his final turn on stage as a Year 13, as well as the Dots, a student-led jazz combo of Year 11s and, of course, our very own Big Band 2 and





Big Band 1, which included a special appearance from members of the Senior Chamber Choir, huddled around 2 mics, 1940s style.

The evening featured a range of standards from across the jazz era, as well as original compositions from the Dots (Raffy). Congratulations to all our brilliant performers!

Our thanks to Mr Kelly, Mr Southorn, Mr Croissley and Mr Hunt for all of their work with the musicians as well as to Ms Sutherland, Mr Tagg and Mr Bean for joining the performers on stage.





We were delighted and proud that two Owen's ensembles were selected to represent the school at the **National Festival of Music for Youth** in Birmingham on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th July. Performing in the CBSO Centre, the Close Harmony Group and the Senior Strings played to a packed hall of other young performers, teachers and parents from all around the country, as well as hearing the other groups' performances. At the end of each session, Music for Youth's expert mentors gave all the groups feedback, highlighting all our special qualities and adding some tips or suggestions for next steps.





The choirs' session also had the added bonus of a quick singing workshop for all the gathered masses led by the National Youth Choir.

Congratulations to all our performers (from Years 8-13) and thankyou to Ms Makepeace Lott, Mr Widden and Ms Bamber.





The term will be rounded off with our **End of Year Concert** on Monday, 14th July, featuring performances by Close Harmony Group, Concert Band, Senior Chamber Choir, Senior Choir, Senior Strings and Symphony Orchestra.

Thank you and congratulations to all our amazing musicians for another brilliant year of Owen's music-making!

We look forward to another exciting year next year, which will include our 50 Years in Potters Bar celebration concert at the **Royal Festival Hall on 3rd March 2026** and the **Music Tour** (Concert band and Symphony Orchestra) to the Netherlands in July 2026.

Mrs Bamber, Director of Music

Athletics

Under 14 Boys

Well done to the U14 boys who came a solid 6th today in the County League Athletics final. The boys have had a great season and battled hard in the heat! Well done to Luke who came 2nd in both the pole vault and 800m and Kush who came 3rd in the hurdles.

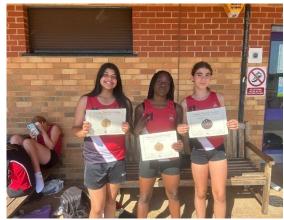




Under 14 Girls

The U14 girls' athletics team had a great season especially due to the fact that the majority of the team is made up of Year 7s competing in their first year. The girls finished 7th overall at the end of the six County League meets which meant they qualified for the plate final.

The team came an amazing 3rd in the County Plate Athletics final, which is a brilliant achievement! Some standout performances from Aasha, Anashe and Nicole all winning their events and Arya coming 3rd.







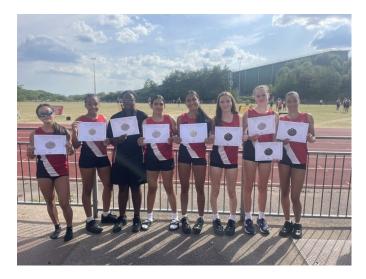
Under 16 Girls

The U16 girls' athletics team have had an unbelievable season! Firstly, they had an AMAZING performance at the Regional Track and Field final where they finished 2nd overall scoring over 50 more points than in the County round. A brilliant achievement, well done girls! The girls also finished overall 1st after the six County League meets which meant they not only qualified for the County final but also received the Silver Salver.

In the County final the girls found something special and finished 1st meaning they became County champions, the first time in the school's history at this age group! The girls scored a very impressive 83 points with many standout performances. Izzy, Isla and the relay team came first in their events. Hannah, Anaya, Isla and Izzy came 2nd in their events.

Finally, Hannah, Lilly and Tia came 3rd in their events which shows the amazing all round team







District Athletics

Well done to all involved yesterday at the District athletics! We won overall school! All teams performed really well, we are proud of you all!

The girls' results are as follows: Year 7 — 2nd, Year 8 — 3rd, Year 9 — 1st, Year 10 — 1st and accumulating to overall 2nd.

Well done to Nicole who also got a District Record in the Y7 girls shot, Isla in the Y9 300m, Tia in the Y10 LJ & Hannah in the Y10 discus.

The boys results as follows: Year 7-1st, Year 8-3rd, Year 9-2nd, Year 10-4th and accumulating to overall 1st.



Well done to Kanyi who represented Herts at the English Schools track and field championships on 12th July.

He came 5th with a new PB of 42.97m in discus.

















County Athletics Championships

We selected some of our top athletes to perform at the County Athletics Championships. This is where they compete against the best in the County and try and achieve the standard to compete at the National English Schools competition.

Boys' results:

Well done to Aryan in Year 12 who won the 200m and came 2nd in the 100m, to James in Year 7 who came 2nd in the high jump and to Kanyi in Year 9 who won the discus.

Girls' results:

Some great performances from our Junior Girls. Congratulations to Nicole who became County Champion in the shot putt. Well done to Arya who came 2nd in the hurdles. Also, well done to Iman who came 3rd in the 800m and Layla who came 3rd in the javelin and Lydia who came 3rd in the long jump. Finally, two brilliant performances from our Inter Girls. Anaya finished 2nd in the javelin and Isla finished 2nd in the 300m and 3rd in the triple jump.















Cricket

Year 7 Boys

It was a challenging season for the Year 7s as we found out after the first couple of weeks of winter training that we had very little experience of hardball cricket and very few club players too. We took it upon ourselves as a team to set targets of high participation and getting as many people to training as possible to try and create a team of persevering and motivated players.

Sadly, we went out of the County Cup round 1 to a very strong and well put together side of Bishop Stortford College. After our Cup run came to an end our focus went straight to doing our best learning how to manage different situations on a cricket pitch as a team and working together. Overall, a season of ups and downs but most importantly a season for lots of learning and practice.

Under 12 Girls

It has been a fantastic first season for the Year 7 girls cricket team. I am amazed at how much progress they have made since starting the winter sessions with Becky. Several of the girls have played with the Year 8s and developed their batting and bowling skills.

On Thursday, 3rd July, we played our final match of the season against Katherine Warrington School. We fielded first and took three wickets. Congratulations to Isabella who took her first wicket with the final ball of the over. We batted incredibly well with several of the girls' scoring boundaries. It was a close game which came down to the final ball. Thankfully we won by 5 runs. Well done girls, what a great way to end the season!



Under 13 Girls

The Girls U13 team have had a fantastic season with strong wins against Aldenham and Latymer. We sadly bowed out of the Chance to Shine competition early this year, not making it out of the group stages. However, we were knocked out by the overall winners.

It has been a pleasure to coach you all this year and I have been so proud of the progress all the girls have made!

Year 8 Boys

The Year 8s have had a good season form wise where they have won as many as they have lost. Being knocked out of the county plate in the first round wasn't ideal but after that loss they started to pick up some form and were bowling and batting in partnerships very well. Special mentions to loseph and Ethan who both excelled towards the back end of our school season individually.

It was great to see such large numbers at training each week and have such a large squad to rely on. All the boys were very enthusiastic and always wanted to be there. A massive mention to Felix who was captain this year and did a great job of getting everyone to training and matches and leading as a proper role model throughout the whole season. Looking onto next season with a group like this I feel like they can achieve bigger things with the skills and motivation of the group to win cricket matches.

Year 9 Girls

The Year 9s have had an amazing season of cricket. On 16th June, the girls became County champions winning the Herts U15 Chance to Shine tournament at St Margaretsbury Cricket Club! Congratulations to Anaya, Sienna, Emily, Zara, Tanishka, Jiselle, Betsy, Mahdi, Ottie, They have now qualified for the Regional Finals at the Essex County Ground in Chelmsford on 16th July.

It has been great to see the progress the girls have made this year. I am particularly proud that some of the girls have been coaching the Year 7 teams.



Under 15 Girls

Playing a soft ball pairs match v Aldenham a mixed year 9 and 10 side lost by 37 runs. Rosie took 1 wicket with an excellent bowl in her first game.

With exams looming for year 10 a team of mostly year 9s took on St Albans High School for Girls. Bowling first, the girls took 2 wickets in 8 overs courtesy of Mahdi and Reva.

Facing some fast pace bowlers the girls batted well and were ahead leading into the final 2 overs but the last two STAHS bowlers proved too strong and the girls were unfortunate to lose.







Tennis

County Tennis

Under 13 Girls

The U13 Girls' Division 1 team have had an up and down season winning 2 of their games and losing 2 of their games. They had difficult games against both RMS and Berkhamsted where they lost overall 8-4 and 10-2. However, they finished the season on a high beating a very strong STAHS team 7-6 in a very tightly fought shootout 10-8!

The Division 2 team have had a tough season losing both of their games. They played Monks Walk this half-term losing narrowly 8-4. But they have learnt a lot and should take some confidence into next season with nearly all the team being Year 7's.

Well done to Layla, Iman, Zoe, Hailey, Maya G, Maya V-O, Edie, Emilia and Ela-Maria who were all involved this season!

Under 13 Boys

The U13 boys have had a very strong season. This year, we entered two teams in the County competition. Between both teams and out of all 6 games played we won 5 out of 6 overall which is a very impressive achievement. This half-term the boys started off playing a very strong Beaumont team which they unfortunately lost 12-0. However, they then played both Sandringham and Marlborough school which they won both of those games 7-6 in nerve wracking shoot outs!

The boys finished off by playing Watford Grammar Boys and once again won in a very exciting shootout overall 7-6!

Well done to Jason, Noah, Laurence, Kanghong, Joseph, Yauheni, Kaylum, Kaylan, Anselme and Mateo who were all involved this season!

Under 15 Girls

The U15 girls have had a very good season winning overall 2 out of 3 of their games and only narrowly losing one! This half-term the girls played against Beaumont School where they drew 3-3 in sets and were unfortunate to lose their doubles shootout 10-4. The girls then played Sandringham and this time were 7-6 winners, being successful in the shoutout!

Well done to Hannah, Riya, Clara, Cami and Dinelly who were all involved this season.

Under 15 Boys

The U15 boys have had a very successful season not losing a single match which meant they have won their County group! This half term the boys played against Beaumont school and ran out winners by 4 games to 2. They then played Marlborough school winning overall 7-6 and finishing it off in the shoot out!

Well done to Max, Markos, Taohai, James, Fred and Ed who were all involved this season.

Year 7 County Doubles Tournament

The Year 7 boys gave the County Doubles a very good go against some really difficult opposition. A shout out to Jack and Christopher who made the semi-finals of their tournament!





Under 14 Girls National School Sports Magazine

The U14 girls have had an amazing run in the National competition this half term winning all 3 of their matches. In their 3rd round match they played St Columba's once again not dropping a single set. In their 4th round match the girls had a difficult battle against a very strong opposition in King Edward School from Birmingham.

The game was tied at 3 sets all, it then meant it was on count back of games won and luckily the team came out winners by only 2 games. The girls then progressed to the quarter finals against Kings School Ely and once again performed amazingly winning overall 5 sets to 1. A very successful season for this team!





District (Nicola Mabbitt Trophy)

Just before half term the U13C and D, U14A and U15B Girls and Boys tennis teams took on Ridgeway Academy. All year groups won all of their matches and in total Owen's only lost 16 games out of the 112 games played!

The teams also played other schools in the District including Chancellors, Yavneh, Monks Walk and Sherrardswood. After, all the games were played the winning team in each age group then progressed to the Nicola Mabbitt finals at Radlett tennis club.



Well done to the U14 girls, U15 girls, U13 boys and U15 boys who all progressed to the finals! On the finals day the pupils played all the best schools from Hertfordshire. The U15 girls finished an impressive 3rd and the other three teams all finished 5th!







Other Announcements

Blast Cricket Trip to Lords

On Thursday, 5th June, a group of 45 Owen's students visited Lords Cricket Ground to watch Middlesex compete in a 20:20 Blast Cricket match against Kent Spitfires.

Kent opened the batting and we watched England International Zac Crawley score an impressive half century. Sadly the weather was against us, the heavens opened and we only got to watch the first innings. Kent's target was very reachable and it would have been a thrilling run chase. Nevertheless, much fun was had by all and it was a great experience.





Wimbledon Trip

This year we were lucky enough once again to be successful in the LTA schools Wimbledon ballot. This meant we received 10 tickets, as well as being on the first day and on No.1 Court! We took 8 pupils on the trip, experiencing the outside courts at the start of the day and then in the afternoon watching the likes of Sabalenka, Fearnley and Raducanu inside No.1. The pupils had an amazing time and coped well on the hottest first day at Wimbledon in history!





Sports Day, 3rd July

All field events took place in the morning as well as the hurdles, 800m and 1500m races. In the afternoon all students in years 7-10 were either competing in sprint races, the relay, tug of war or cheering their House on out on the field. It was great to see so many students taking part and winning points for their House. Special thanks to Ms Palfrey for organising and to the Tech team for their top DJing as well as providing the sound system. The final results were as follows:

Year 7: 1st place Clerkenwell

Year 8: 1st place Goswell

Year 9: 1st place Clerkenwell

Year 10: 1st place Clerkenwell

Overall: 1st Goswell; 2nd Clerkenwell;

3rd Isledon; 4th Hermitage













Congratulations to Noah (Y9) who continues to excel in waterpolo.

In June, as part of his team North London Waterpolo Club Noah won the U15 National Conference League. Keep up the good work, Noah!

Hertsmere & Arsenal Interfaith Education Day

On 15th May, six of our current Year 12 students (Aryan B, Lyla M, Ruby P, Rahil S, Shaalini S and Theo S) were invited to represent the school (along with four other Hertsmere schools) in the Hertsmere Interfaith Education Day.

This event took place at the Arsenal Hub, next to the Emirates football stadium. The students were tasked — at short notice — with organising and educating pupils from local primary schools on the theme of 'Festivals of Faith'.



The focus for our students was the Hindu festival of Diwali, where they acted out musical and visual presentations in front of four different primary school audiences.

The purpose of this event was twofold: firstly, to provide an opportunity for a small number of 6th formers to engage with students of multiple faiths in a neutral and relaxed space and; secondly, to give primary school pupils an opportunity to learn and experience other faiths through the work of secondary school students. However, it was also a great opportunity for our students to develop important organisational, team and leadership skills — crucial for life after Owen's.

Towards the end of the day we were given a tour of the Emirates Football Stadium. Although we did not meet any first team players (they had trained earlier that day), we were able to access the media conference room, home and away changing rooms and the pitch. Some of us even managed to meet members of AFTV who were recording at the time. All in all, this was an enjoyable day and the students were a credit to the school and themselves. We have already accepted an invite to return next year.

John Johnstone, Head of Religious Studies









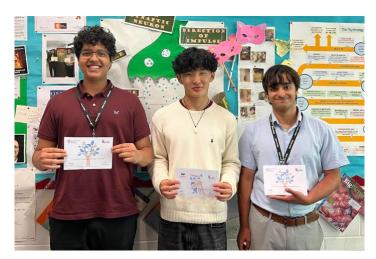
Biology Olympiad Success

Once again, A Level Biology students achieved great success in the British Biology Olympiad competitions — https://ukbiologycompetitions.org/british-biology-olympiad/

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

Last term our Year 12 A Level Biology students took part in the Olympiad competition and despite the competition being aimed at Year 13 students, 63% of students achieved Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates. Many congratulations to all students, with a particular mention to Rui and Jafar who were in the top 5% of all entrants and achieved the Gold award!

The intermediate Biology Olympiad yielded equally impressive results, with 93% of students achieving a commendation and above and six of our students achieving a Gold award. Well done to Tabitha, Victoria, Rui, Reeshab, Jack and Jafar!





FREE ONLINE COURSES FOR STRONGER FAMILIES AND BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

Hertfordshire County Council is very excited to be able to offer two free online courses to parents and carers of children aged 0 to 18.

Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities course — this 6-week online course covers:

- Understanding and managing behaviour
- Enhancing children's self-esteem
- Emotions and empathy
- What to expect for the age of your child

There are sessions available in the evenings and daytimes

Sign up for Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities

Stronger Relationships — this 6-week online course covers:

- Managing disagreements between co-parents
- Understanding the impact of parental arguments on children
- Strengthening the parent-child relationship
- Reducing stress and improving communication

There are sessions available in the evenings and daytimes.

Sign up for Stronger Relationships

Children's Social Care in Herts

Hertfordshire families are invited to help shape the future of children's social care by completing a short questionnaire, you can share your experiences ideas and hopes for a system that truly supports every child and family.

This is your chance to co-design services that reflect your community's needs, because no one understands what works better than you. Whether you're a parent, carer or young person your insights are invaluable.

Let's build a brighter, more supportive future together.

Please use the QR code or link below to complete a short questionnaire

https://forms.office.com/e/wvHbv3t7qt

