



Newsletter

Dame Alice Owen's School

October 2025



Letter from the Head **Hannah Nemko**



Issue highlights

- 4** Owen's Super Prize Draw!
- 6** Beyond the classroom ...
- 10** What our new Year 7s say ...
- 13** From our departments ...
- 22** News from the library ...
- 24** Bulletin board

The school year always starts at full speed! Lots of new children and staff to induct into the school, new systems (this year a new catering team) and new challenges. It is busy but always exciting.

This 50th year has been even more exciting than normal. Work started on the Sports Hall over the summer and things are moving at pace. Lots of the utilities infrastructure has already been put into place, plans have been finalised and I am already asking if it is too early to start planning the big opening yet (apparently it is).

Thank you to everyone who came to **The Lashings Cricket day** in July of last year. Through your generosity, we were able to kick start the fundraising year to the tune of **£30,000!**

There was a wonderful atmosphere in the tent and the game went off beautifully, in spite of the weather trying to give us a run for our money! You can read a full account of the day inside the newsletter but suffice to say that the Owen's team did not really stand a chance against the Lashings stars, not even when they were being nice! We did all have an amazing time however and our young cricketers benefitted massively from the coaching sessions the professionals gave them that morning.

You will have heard about the other fundraising plans in store for throughout this special year. Please keep your eyes out and get involved with as many of these opportunities as you can, many of which only Owen's could possibly provide for you and your children, and help us raise those all-important funds for the school.

Currently, our new staff and students are settling in well and we are delighted to have them all with us. We were equally delighted to meet new Year 12 and Year 7 parents at the recent **Cheese and Wine evening** and to learn that there were several Owenian parents who were excited to now be sending their children to Owen's in turn.

Over 1000 children came to sit the entrance exam on September 1st and more than that number of parents came to participate in one of the school tours which were offered during the first week in September. It is wonderful to see that the school has far from lost its appeal! Indeed, the appeal of the school was most likely further boosted when The Telegraph announced that we were **the most successful non-grammar/state sixth form in the country** and that they felt that we were the ninth most successful sixth form in the country, overall (including all fully selective and independent schools). Congratulations go to Ms McClean and the sixth form team who work tirelessly to ensure the best support and opportunities are available to all those in the sixth form. This was a well-deserved recognition of all that they do.



Indeed, this was not the only award the school has won this year. In October, we were delighted to receive a **Gold Award from the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA)**. This marked the culmination of a two year process and a huge audit which outlined all that we do to reduce bullying and promote kindness at this school. This was submitted and scrutinised by the ABA as part of the process. Congratulations go to Mrs Blackburn, the student body and the pastoral and the teaching and wider staff body whose work and commitment to our **supportive community*** was recognised through this award.

The outstanding Pastoral Care that our students receive was further recognised by the National Association of Pastoral Care in Education (NAPCE) who, at their Annual Conference this October, announced **Mrs Blackburn** as their **Pastoral Leader of the Year**. Our congratulations and thanks go to her for all that she does to support our young people, their families and her teams at school. It was wonderful to see all of her efforts acknowledged through this accolade.

I hope that you enjoy reading about all the wonderful things that Owen's has had to offer you and your young people since our last publication. We also hope that you enjoy the new look and layout of the newsletter. Huge thanks now go to the expanded editorial and creative team of parent volunteers, Claire, Ella, Kiki, Michele and Vicky who are putting this together on behalf of the school.

Wishing you a restful break, if you get one,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Hannah Nemko'.

Hannah Nemko

the latest from the **Owen's School Association**

Coming up...

A very **warm welcome** to our new Y7 and Y12 young people and parents. Owen's is an extraordinary school, and it is a joy to see our newest community members looking excited, slightly daunted but delighted to be here – and that is just the parents! The first few weeks of term are exciting and exhausting but if your child managed to get to the end of September without losing something from their kit bag of brand-new uniform, you can consider yourselves very lucky parents! My daughter lost one shoe, a sports top and a lunch bag but she gained some lovely new friends, the ability to manage her travel to and from school and the feeling that she really has found a place to grow and thrive!

On the topic of luck, our **Superdraw** is still open and someone is going to win an amazing prize – **Win a VIP Experience at Manchester City vs Arsenal!** – see overleaf for details.

It has been a brilliant start to the Autumn term with some new Y7 parents joining the OSA Committee and a tremendous **Cheese and Wine** welcome event which took place on 30 September. New Y7 and Y12 parents enjoyed a range of interesting cheese, carefully curated wine, delicious alcohol-free alternatives, and lively conversation. There was lots of laughter and perhaps a smattering of nerves but as always, it was a great opportunity to meet other parents and soak up some of the wonderful atmosphere of Owen's. We had terrific feedback and many compliments for the event. If you have ideas as to how we could make the welcome event even better next year do get in touch or visit **the OSA website** for comments, suggestions and offers of help.

On Monday 20 October Mrs Nemko and the OSA hosted a **Match Funding Evening**. Many companies across the UK run match funding schemes, where they will match the money raised by employees for their chosen charity, often doubling the impact of your support at no extra cost to you.

Match funding is available to staff in a wide range of companies. Friends and family can match fund too – it is not just for parents. So please consider asking grandparents or others to see if they can access match funding through their employers. See page 5 for contacts and match funding FAQs.

Belinda Quinian, OSA



Save the date!

The ever-popular **OSA Quiz Night** returns on Saturday 29 November with a Mexican theme. Join us for trivia, laughter, and a Mexican feast! Open to all adults and 6th Formers. Whether you're a seasoned quizzier or just keen to meet other parents, challenge the teachers' team, and enjoy a good laugh, this is a night not to be missed. It's all in support of raising vital funds for our children's school.

What to expect:

- A lively, good-humoured quiz (with some serious contenders!)
- A chance to connect with fellow parents
- Raffle and Auction with exciting prizes
- Plenty of laughs and a great cause

Can you help?

We're collecting donations for the Raffle and Auction to make the night even more special. If you have something to contribute, please drop it off at the school reception by 14 November, clearly labelled OSA.

Want to get in touch or help out?

Email us at events@theosa.org.uk

Join our team

We want to send a big thank you to those amazing parents who have already expressed an interest in volunteering with the OSA – your willingness to get involved, in whatever capacity you can, is vital to ensure the OSA can continue to raise funds to benefit all our children in the future. Did you know that the OSA raised **over £50,000** last year – an incredible amount which we are very proud of. However we want to raise even more this year, and we need your help to do so.

If you are not sure whether OSA is for you, why not come over and talk to us at our next meeting on **Monday 3 November at 7:30pm**. We are a friendly, inclusive group of parents from all backgrounds and cultures. You can get involved as little or as much as you want. Why not start by having a look at [the OSA website](#) and the information about what we do on page 6 of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Current OSA Committee vacancies

Social media and website

We are seeking someone to manage the content of the **OSA's Instagram account** including promoting all things OSA and forthcoming events.

Total of three to four hours per month required. Skillset requires basic website backend experience for making updates along with good knowledge of Instagram with some creative skills to design posters although not essential. If you think you can help out, we would love to hear from you at [the OSA website](#).

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**

[Click here](#) to enter 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.

thank you!



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 3 November. We had our first ever online meeting on 6 October and will be alternating between face-to-face and online going forward. Please come along and meet other parents aiming to support our young people and the school community. Visit [the OSA website](#) for 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: [Easy Fundraising – why wouldn't you?](#)

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 an additional source of funding and demonstrates environmental conscientiousness. Our **uniform sale** is currently open (from Tuesday 21 October to Friday 24 October). Collection will be after half term on Tuesday 4 November.

If you could offer 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 them? 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 Instagram

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

OSA's '200 Club'

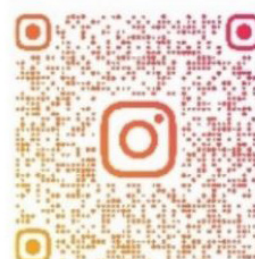
The OSA operates a Lottery Style 200 Club with a £50 and a £25 prize draw every month and an extra draw in December. A one-off annual membership fee of £24 per number and nothing more to do other than wait to hear if your number is drawn. For further details, please contact OSA volunteer **Alan** at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



Suggested Match funding email to employer:



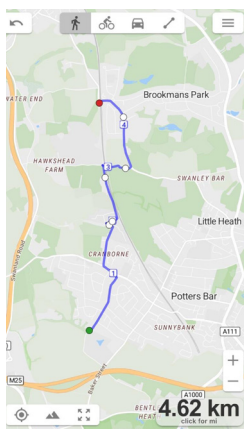
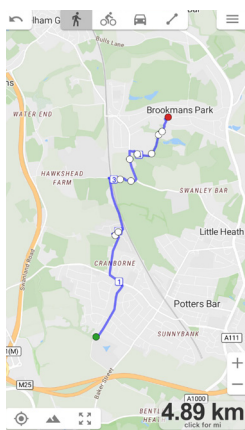
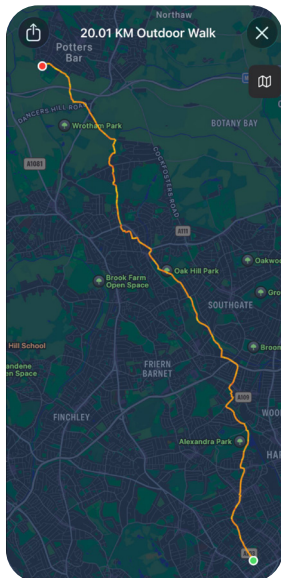
Match funding FAQ:



**Opportunity
for all
to contribute
and enjoy ...**

OSA Match Funding

Many companies offer a Match Funding scheme for employees who volunteer time to charities, like the OSA. Match Funding is available to staff in a wide range of companies. Friends and family can match fund too – it doesn't only have to be a parent. It can make a substantial contribution to the OSA's annual fund-raising for the school. We would love to hear from all of you. Please contact OSA volunteer **Nadine** at matchfunding@theosa.org.uk. Completing the form [here](#) can add you to our match funders database. Further information can be accessed through the QR codes.



Window to the world beyond the classroom ...

News from Eco Committee

Eco Committee has been very busy this half term, with teams of students working on numerous sustainability projects, and benefitting from the energy of our new Year 7 members.

One of our big projects this half term was organising the **Sustainability non-uniform day** – we were grateful to all students and families who contributed to this, as well as to Ms Chan, Ms Knight, Ms McClean and all the Year 13s who helped to make it go smoothly. The money raised will make an important contribution towards sustainability projects around the school, including **solar panels** for the new sports hall.

Ms Knight and Ms Chan have also been busy running this year's **Ocean Health Challenge** – with students from a range of year groups meeting every Tuesday lunchtime to plan their entries to this big annual competition organised by UCL. The aim is to use their ingenuity and engineering skills to design a project to reduce ocean plastic pollution. There are generous cash prizes at stake both for the individuals and for the school, as well as the satisfaction of contributing to fight a major source of pollution, so we wish them all every success.

Thank you to everyone who took part in **Walk to School Week** (and to Juliet in Year 13 who oversaw the project this term). It was wonderful to see so many students getting involved – from quick strolls down the road to longer treks from London, every step counted. A big well done to Tom, Sam, Olivia, Aasha and Neela who all walked from Islington to school! They left at around 3.45am to walk the 20km route. The week was a great reminder of how fun, healthy, and sustainable walking can be. Well done to all our walkers! The winners of the prize will be announced soon.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

The October half term sees the end of a very busy D of E expedition season.



Years 10 and 11 Bronze Assessed Expeditions

This half term has been very busy with expeditions and enrolments. We have completed four weekends of two-day Assessed Bronze Expeditions which have taken place in the local area, enabling over 200 hundred students from Years 10 and 11 to complete the expedition section of their D of E award. This was the final section for many of the students who have now completed their award, enabling them to move on to the next level. Students from Year 10 can now take on Silver, whilst those in Year 11 and 12 can sign up for the Gold Award once they are 16.

D of E Gold

At the end of the summer term 55 Gold students headed into the wilds of the Lake District to complete their Gold assessed expedition. Despite some very wet weather on the first day of the expedition, the students remained positive and determined to complete their challenge.

On the second day they enjoyed a wild camp followed by a superb walk along the ridge to Haystacks. On the last day they walked triumphantly into Keswick to complete their expedition. Well done to all students that took part.





85 Bronze
24 Silver
14 Gold

Congratulations

To all those that have completed their awards so far this year.

It is great to see the enthusiasm the students show towards the award and I hope we will continue to build on this in the future.

Year 9 start their D of E challenge

160 Year 9s have now enrolled to start their Bronze award and on the school INSET day they came in to complete a training day for their expedition taking place next June. Students looked at kit, food, navigation and general camp craft. They are now looking to complete the three other sections of the award over the next 8 months.



INSET day

The students hopefully enjoyed a day off school on the INSET day on Wednesday 8 October, but for staff it provided an opportunity to improve their practice. All teachers went into another school for the day to observe and ask questions about how their subject is delivered, how the school runs and to focus on their area of Professional Development for the year (there were eight choices including Promoting Literacy, The Use of AI, Oracy, The Transition from KS2 to KS3 amongst others). A wide range of schools were visited, some similar

to DAOS, some very different; staff went into primary schools, secondary schools, 6th form colleges, universities, private schools, state schools, single sex schools, inner city schools, rural schools to see what we can learn from our peers. We all know that DAOS is an excellent school in many ways but having an opportunity to see things done differently in a different environment can help us learn new methods and also reflect on our own practices to try and improve to be even better.

Mr Fry

Other news



Pelican Podcast competition

As Part of Corpus Christi Cambridge's Pelican Podcast, two groups from our school were tasked with researching unique objects in our local areas. In the form of a 10-minute podcast, we presented our findings on both Barnet Football Stadium and the Hertfordshire Puddingstone. Both Owen's teams were deemed finalists for the competition, which included a residential at the prestigious college. On the residential we had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and enjoy punting on the river Cam. The Puddingstone Team, which consisted of Rihanna, Liya, Sophia and Kareena were awarded first place overall, but the entire experience was deeply rewarding and a massive stepping stone for many members into Cambridge life.

Sporting success

Alex K-W (Y10) is an elite squash player. At his most recent competition in Chichester, Alex played superbly and won the tournament! It was a gold event that counts for national selection so a very important win for him. He was really focused and only dropped one game in his 5 matches. It's a great start to the season for Alex.



Senior Maths Challenge

210 of our sixth formers recently sat the Senior Maths Challenge. This is a new record for the number of entries. We eagerly await their results!

Lucy B, Year 7

At Dame Alice Owens, the clubs and committees are so varied that it is almost impossible to choose between them. There are over a hundred clubs to choose from, with something for everyone, no matter your age. They are also an incredible chance to meet new people and socialise with other years as well as your own. As a new Year 7, I have been taking every opportunity to make friends and in just four weeks, I have tried almost twenty clubs! These have been a mixture of different sorts: like music, sports, languages and many more.

Most of the clubs run at lunchtime and are free of charge and require no commitment whatsoever. Therefore, you can try any club you want and either stay or try something else. Overall, if you are looking for new hobbies, interests or just friends, students should definitely come along to one of our classes or committees both in and out of school hours. Don't forget the full clubs list is displayed on the Dame Alice Owens website here: <https://damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/academic-life/extra-curricular-activities/>

Kai S, Year 7

What a start to secondary school! At first, I thought that I would get lost all the time but my map saved me; and now coming up to half-term, I know most of my way around! Starting at a new school was a little daunting but has proved to be wonderful – I have made lots of new friends and the teachers are incredibly inspiring. I have joined SO many clubs with my friends as well! I cannot wait to see what the next 7 years at Dame Alice Owens School brings!

Transition to Dame Alice Owen's

It has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 cohort to Dame Alice Owen's School. Over the past month, they have made a wonderfully positive impression. The transition from primary to secondary school can be a big step, but our new students have approached it with enthusiasm, resilience, and a genuine eagerness to learn.

From the very first day, students have quickly learned new routines and begun navigating the school with confidence and independence. Mrs Blackburn and I recently had the opportunity to take a learning walk around Year 7 lessons, and we were so impressed by the wonderful learning and positive interactions taking place. The students were engaged, focused, and clearly enjoying the wide range of subjects and activities on offer.

Beyond the classroom, Year 7 have already shown fantastic teamwork and creativity during their Ideal Island Day, working together to design and present their own unique island communities. Their collaboration, problem-solving, and imaginative thinking were outstanding. They also took their CATS assessments in their stride; another example of their adaptability and positive attitude.

What has stood out most is how quickly our new students have embraced The Owen's Way – showing respect, kindness, curiosity, and a strong sense of community in all that they do. They are already demonstrating what it means to be true Owenians, both in their learning and in the way they support one another.

We are incredibly proud of the way Year 7 have begun their journey at Dame Alice Owen's School and look forward to seeing all that they will achieve as the year progresses.

Mrs Lofthouse

what our new Year 7s say...

Aarav S, Year 7

Dame Alice Owen's is a wonderful school full of adventures and incredible learning. I am so privileged to be at this amazing school and as I walk through the gates, I remind myself of how lucky I am – truly a dream come true.

The teachers have been very welcoming, kind, helpful and patient from the day I started. They challenge and inspire me to do my best.

I have made many friends, and I am settling in well.

The school offers fantastic opportunities catering for all interests. I have already joined many clubs such as basketball, football, creative writing, coding and chess. These have given me the opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and have a lot of fun.

I am really excited for the rest of the year and my time here at Dame Alice Owens.

William Mc, Year 7

At Primary School, most were nervous about secondary school, but I just felt excited. During the summer holidays I would wonder what Secondary School would be like. I figured that it would be harder, yet more rewarding than Primary School. As soon as I started Dame Alice Owen's School I knew that I was right!

I have settled in well, made a few friends and started several clubs. At first the school seemed huge but after a while it started to shrink. I also expected there to be at least one strict teacher but I have not encountered any scary ones yet! In fact, all my teachers are very nice. At breaks and lunch there is always something to do, whether it is volunteering to be a student librarian, attending a club or just relaxing and playing with your friends.

Overall I am very glad to have come to this school and I'm really enjoying my time here, despite the homework!

Maria D, Year 7

*****CLUBS*****

"What makes school life more than just textbooks and exams?"

Joining a club has brought great joy to me. The amount of new, interesting things you can learn is amazing. In year 7, you have many options to choose from. Taking these opportunities will give you more in the future. The good thing about being in year 7 is that the things you choose and like can follow you for the rest of your time at DAOS. I never knew that I would enjoy the things I do know. If I could give one piece of advice to other year 7s, it would be to join as many clubs as possible and to reach for every opportunity.

*****Friendships*****

At DAOS there are clubs for everyone. They range from chess clubs to 3D printing clubs and sport clubs. We also have a huge selection of wonderful music classes to choose from, either one to one or group lessons, such as jazz collective or piano classes. The main way I have made friends was by joining as many clubs as I could. You will find people who enjoy the same things as you. Join a club, even if you are not familiar with it, at least try.

*****Learning*****

Clubs are not only important for learning (even though that too is very necessary) but also for enrichment and friendship. Students find interests and talents they never thought they would be good at.

Last of all, attending clubs will help boost your knowledge in subjects. For example, joining a Spanish club will enrich your vocabulary.

I have learnt that fun and enjoyment are key aspects of school life, as well as studying well.

Seth F, Year 7

I really like it here at DAOS. It's been very enjoyable so far.

Before I came to DAOS, I was nervous as I was the only one coming from my Primary School. It didn't matter. Everyone was friendly and lots of others were in the same position as me. I quickly made friends and started being able to navigate around the vast school.

I really enjoy getting the bus to and from school with my friends and I'm delighted I haven't been late to school, or any lessons. I have tried to get involved in sport, music and I find time for a bit of homework! I'm really looking forward to trying out many of the exciting clubs that are available and playing a new instrument.

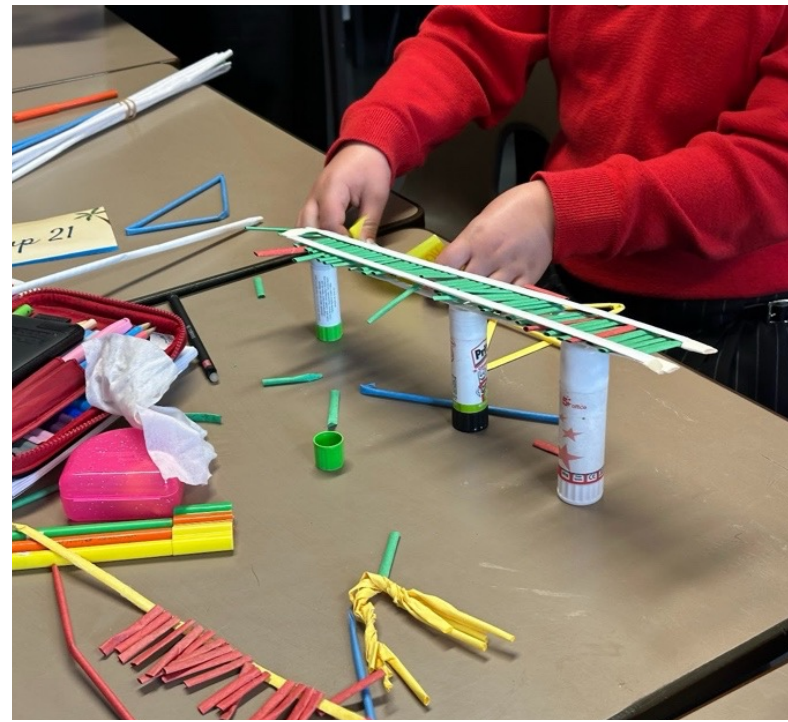
Kendrick K, Year 7

Swept by destiny, I was a nomad who went to three primary schools: a strict academy with challenging work, a resource-insufficient school with less fortunate students, and the last one with straightforward tasks and not everyone was ambitious. That's why Dame Alice Owens is such an exceptional school. There is opportunity for all.

Like all soon-to-be Owenians, I had been looking forward to venturing the vibrant campus — full of new friends and shared passions. Yet, overwhelmed by the hectic schedule, lofty demands and rapid transitions, I was glued to the sidelines. Then, I reached into my pocket and found the gleaming golden ticket which Mrs. Blackburn sold. Emboldened, I bounced to the basketball club, manoeuvred to the chess club, and jazzed to the guitar ensemble. Making shots, moves, music and friends. I have also become a Learning Ambassador along the way, as I was moved by the tremendously edifying and zealous teachers of Owens.

As Mrs Nemko said, the teachers here love teaching and helping students grow. My mum is ever so excited to announce the reward points that I have received from various teachers every day after school and watches closely for Mrs Lofthouse's Google classroom announcements. Teachers go above and beyond; my family had the best rock buns of their lives on Tuesday, thanks to Mrs. McClean who sacrificed her lunch teaching me how to make them, as my guitar lesson clashed with my food lesson.

I thank all the teachers and fellow Owenians for a meaningful, memorable and mesmerising journey so far!



Year 7 Ideal Island Day

On the 16 September Year 7 took part in Ideal Island Day, which is part of the Wider World strand of Learning for Life. There were a range of activities for the students who worked in groups of 9 or 10 to design their Ideal Island. Some of these included learning the struggles of starting your very own government, including what type of government out of all the hundreds of them do you use and why? What are the pros and cons of your chosen government? Will this affect what type of people come to your island? These are a mere fraction of the anxiety of starting a new Island.

Furthermore, the organisation of this event was phenomenal, and made sure our schedule was crystal-clear for this unique day. This day also made us use our creativity and independence (as previously discussed) to create a flag that the teachers trusted us to independently choose the artist that would draw and brainstorm ideas for our new flag. Some truly fascinating and geographically accurate flags were designed.

It was truly great for all!

Cassandra T and Diego RA, Year 7





Textiles

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

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

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

Ms Cerny

Head of Food and Textiles

Excellence in everything from our departments ...



Music

Year 11 Music GCSE Ensembles Evening

On Tuesday 14 October the Year 11 Music students gave a wonderful concert in the Edward Guinness Hall showcasing their GCSE Ensemble Performances.

An evening rich in variety, the audience of students, family and friends enjoyed a full concert, including piano duets, string quartets, a wind quintet, a guitar duet, vocal duet, piano accompaniment and several bands performing classic pop and jazz numbers, as well as a specially composed original student composition for voice, trombone, organ and piano. It was lovely to hear, as part of this, the organ loaned from Viscount Organs in partnership with the Royal College of Organists. We were also delighted that several students from outside the GCSE groups, including some from other years as wide-ranging as Year 9 to Year 13, joined the Year 11 GCSE community as performers.

In the daytime one of the Year 11 groups, a string quartet, also performed their piece, Haydn's 'Emperor' Quartet, to the Year 12 and Year 13 Music classes, the live performance breathing extra vibrancy into a typical analysis piece in the A-level syllabus.

Our congratulations to all the musicians for their brilliant work and our thanks to all the teachers involved in helping with the preparation, especially Mr Southorn and Mr Page. We were deeply proud of the range, quality and commitment in their performances.



PE Department

Football

Boys Year 7

The Year 7 teams have all made a fantastic start to school football. Both the A and B teams have put together strong performances in our Saturday fixtures. Our A team progressed to round 3 of the national cup after beating Verulam 5-4 followed by a 15-0 victory against Chiltern Hill Academy. The B team will begin their national cup journey after October half term!

Boys Year 11

The boys have played 3 games so far this year. They played in the county cup and narrowly lost on penalties, but now go into the county plate. They played in the district competition and lost, so now they are out of the competition. In the national cup they narrowly lost 4-3, so now out of that competition. Some of these boys have also been involved in the senior 1st XI team which is a great thing for their development.

1st XI

The team has started the season with a mixed bag of results. They have played and won in 2 rounds of the national cup, beating Latymer 3-0 and then Mill Hill County High School on penalties after a hard-drawn game. They now progress to round 3 which is after half term. In the county cup they unfortunately lost 2-1 in a very tight game. They start their district and county league fixtures in the next few weeks.

Girls U12

Whilst some of the U12s have played in the under 13 fixtures, their season starts in earnest after the half-term break with a game away to Presdales School in the second round of the County Cup and the start of their District League campaign.

Girls U13

The under 13 Girls squad travelled to Parmiter's School in the first round of the County Cup. In a very close game a goal from Zara proved the difference as the team progressed to round 2 with a 1-0 victory. Nicole was awarded the player of the match accolade. They now face St Albans Girls' School in the second round in November.

In the first round of the English Schools' National competition the girls were hosted by Marlborough Science Academy. A hattrick from player of the match Arya alongside goals from Zara and Etti earned the team a 5-2 victory and a tie with Monk's Walk School in round 2 on 13 October.

Girls U14

The under 14 Girls squad faced Simon Balle School in the first round of the English Schools' Football competition. The girls took an early lead thanks to a goal from Anashe but were pulled back to 1-1 before half time. The second half saw them trailing 4-1 but the team demonstrated some great resilience and got themselves back into the game with goals from Zara and Emily making the score 4-3. Unfortunately in pushing forward for the equaliser the girls conceded a fifth goal but they should be very proud of their efforts. Arya was selected by the opposition as player of the game.

Football continued

Girls U15

The U15 girls have successfully made their way through to the next round of the county cup after a strong 7-1 win against Chancellors school. Goal scorers include a hat-trick from Anashe, Lily with 2, and Emily and Amy both also on the scoresheet.

Girls U18

The U18 girls have made a strong start to their season, showing great teamwork and resilience across a series of challenging fixtures. Despite facing tough opposition, the squad has demonstrated commitment and continual improvement in their performances.

In the County Cup, the team battled hard against Katherine Warrington but were ultimately defeated 7-3 in a high-scoring game. In the National Cup, they faced Berkhamsted and, despite a spirited effort, fell to a 5-1 loss.

With valuable lessons learned from these cup matches, the focus now turns to the District League, where the girls still have plenty to play for. Upcoming fixtures against Broxbourne, Beaumont, and Haileybury will offer further opportunities for the team to showcase their development, teamwork, and competitive spirit as they look to finish the season on a high.

Cross Country

On Monday 6 October our cross country teams competed in the county round of the ESAA Cross Country cup held at Queenswood school. All of our runners ran well and demonstrated the skills they had worked on in training. The Junior girls team came 4th overall and our Junior Boys, Inter Boys and Girls teams came 6th against the next school in the county. Great effort from all involved. We now look forward to the district competition after half term.



Hockey



Girls U12

Playing their first games of hockey for the school, and for some of the girls their first ever games of hockey ever, the U12s came up against some very strong opposition in their County Tournament. They showed excellent team work and made great progress throughout the day. The highlight of the day was a 1-0 win over Hockerill thanks to a goal from player of the day Sofia.

Girls U13

In preparation for their County tournament on 14 October the U13s faced opposition from Aldenham School and Belmont School. The A team proved too strong for Aldenham School running out comfortable 5-0 winners with Izzy scoring 4 goals and player of the game, Autumn the other. It was a much closer affair against Belmont School. Trailing 1-0 at half time, the A team turned things around in the second half to win 2-1 with 2 goals from Zoe. The opposition selected Autumn and Maya as their players of the game. Against the same school the B team found themselves 1-0 up at the interval thanks to a goal from Zoe but tired in the second half and conceded 2 goals to lose 2-1. Lara was voted as player of the match.

Girls U14

On a very wet Friday evening the U14 girls travelled to Aldenham School. In a very close-fought match the girls led 1-0 at half time thanks to a goal from Anashe. With no substitutes the girls started to tire in the second half and conceded a goal which meant the game ended all square. The team should be proud of their efforts in awful conditions.

In their County tournament the girls competed well against some very strong opposition, winning 1, drawing 1 and losing 2. Well done to goalkeeper Zara who was selected as player of the day.



Netball



Year 7

vs Keeble Prep (Game 1) – Final Score: 34-0

The Year 7 netball squad kicked off their season in sensational style with a 34-0 win against Keeble Prep in their very first competitive match. The girls showed confidence, composure and incredible teamwork from the outset, dominating all areas of the court. The first half saw some excellent passing and movement, with the team quickly taking control of the game and building a strong lead. In the second half, the players showed great versatility by switching positions, yet maintained their intensity and continued to dominate the play. This adaptability was a testament to their understanding of the game and willingness to support each other.

A huge congratulations to Elysia, who was named Player of the Match. She was fantastic in her usual position and stepped up brilliantly when playing out of position in Goal Shooter, showing calm finishing and great movement in the circle.

Every player contributed to this impressive team performance, and it's exciting to think this is just the beginning. A brilliant way to start the season, well done, girls! We can't wait to see where your hard work takes you next.

Year 8

The squads have been training hard at lunch time and after school to ready themselves for their first game of the season on 16th October.

Year 9

On Tuesday 30 September, the U14A team played Berkhamsted U14B team away. Despite facing a difficult opposition with a full squad for rotations the Owen's side utilised the opportunity to develop key relationships and adapt to playing around

opposition who had a clear height advantage. Learning to give the first time ball and pressure every pass to try to force errors, the team won the third quarter. Unfortunately, this was not enough to win and Berkhamsted won the County League Match 36-14. Opposition Player of the Match was Cara and Coach's Player of the Match was Ottie for her instant response to feedback.



Year 11

On Saturday 4 October the Year 11 Netball Squad competed in the Hertfordshire County Netball Tournament at Stanborough School. Facing a strong group of schools and well-versed players to this level of competition, each player had to demonstrate their resilience and determination to perform against the odds. This is particularly the case for the shooters who had to overcome the winds of Storm Amy. Under the leadership of Captain Annabelle, the team worked on maintaining possession and converting interceptions to goals. Despite all efforts, the team played 7 matches and lost 7. Player of the tournament went to Hannah for her performance in defence and numerous interceptions.

1st VII

The 1st VII played their first game of the season against an extremely strong U16 Berkhamsted side in The County Cup. Frankie was voted Player of the match for her defensive skills and Jenna was awarded Coach's Player of the Match for her determination and consistent attacking drives to support the team. Whilst they put out a good performance, they were unable to take the win and move into the County Plate quarter-finals against St John Henry Newman School which they are training hard for.



Cricket



Girls Cricket Programme and U15 Regional Champions

On Wednesday 16 July, we took a talented group of Year 8 and Year 9 cricketers to the Chance to Shine Girls U15 Regional Finals at the Essex County Ground in Chelmsford. Considering we were playing underage in this competition, I knew we had a fantastic chance of winning. In our first match, we played Henlow CE Academy, and despite a slow start to the batting we got going with Emily and Betsy both retiring on 23 and 24 respectively. We set a solid target of 111 and it was a comprehensive win by more than 30 runs with Anaya taking 2 wickets.

Our second match was against Comberton School, who were certainly a stronger batting team, but Ottie and Zara took early wickets and we won convincingly by 25 runs. We had deservedly secured a spot in the final against a very strong Saffron Walden team of much older and more experienced. The girls certainly did not disappoint. It was the best performance I have seen from them all season. Anaya, Emily, Betsy and Zara all batted well, being retired not out, we reached an impressive target of 108 after 10 overs. Despite some sloppy fielding in the last match, the girls

stepped it up big time, starting with an early run out. Then super-slick bowling from Sienna and Ottie led to wickets, following a few solid catches. However the highlight of the match was an incredible catch from Zara at mid-on. It was struck with such power by their best batwoman and Zara dived down to her left and expertly held it. As the wickets continued to tumble we bowled them all out for 43.

We were crowned Regional Champions and I couldn't be more proud of these girls. Despite being much younger than their opponents, they showed how brilliant they are. For me it was the perfect end to a hugely successful programme of girls cricket this year (2024–25) but also the end of my time coaching this group of players. Wishing them and all the students at Owen's all the very best for the future. I promise to come back and continue to support girls cricket moving forward. Thank you also to the Lashings Team for presenting us with the trophy the next day.

Regional Winners – Anaya P, Sienna S, Emily M, Betsy M, Ottie B, Zara L, Amy S, Mahdi A-R, (Squad members Tanishka K, Jiselle N)

Mrs Turner



Huge congratulations go to Anaya in Year 10 who, after becoming the youngest player ever to represent Middlesex Senior XI at Cricket last season aged just 14 and helping the side to win the inaugural Vitality Blast Women's League Two title, was awarded Girls' Youth Player of the Year in a very prestigious ceremony at Lord's Cricket Ground.

Well done Anaya!



Lashings Cricket

On Thursday 17 July, Dame Alice Owen's School hosted an incredible afternoon of cricket which culminated in a match between the Lashings team and a current and former Owenians team.

The Lashings team, featuring many former international cricketers, including Sir Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh, kicked things off with a coaching session with around 20 of our talented cricketers here at Owen's.

Congratulations to Aayush J who made quite an impression on the Lashings coaches and players, who invited him to play for them in the afternoon match. Thanks to all those attended and helped on the day. Congratulations and well done to current Owenian Anaya P (Year 10) who batted magnificently against the Lashings bowlers and was awarded the Player of the Match award.

What a magnificent experience for these young, talented cricketers. Thanks also to Mr Lloyd and Mr Festa who played in the Owenians team.



Barbados Netball/Cricket Tour – Summer 2025

On Sunday 20 July, 4 members of staff and 33 students boarded the plane to the sunny shores of Barbados on a sports tour. The boys were playing cricket and the girls were playing netball. The plan was for all teams to play 3 games over the week alongside experiencing some local culture, food and entertainment.

The cricket team only managed to play one full game due to being very unlucky with having the odd rain storm before or during their matches. The one game they did play in full they won by 4 wickets and Stan T scoring 50 runs. For the games that got rained off, this didn't stop the boys entertaining themselves with a game of tape ball on the playground with the opposition for that day.



The netball teams managed to play their matches against a mixture of local club and school teams despite the odd game in rain showers and downpours. Due to being unlucky with this weather this meant some days playing more than 1 game in the baking hot sun. The girls had a mixture of results with wins, draws and a loss but they also enjoyed mixing with the opposition and sharing stories.

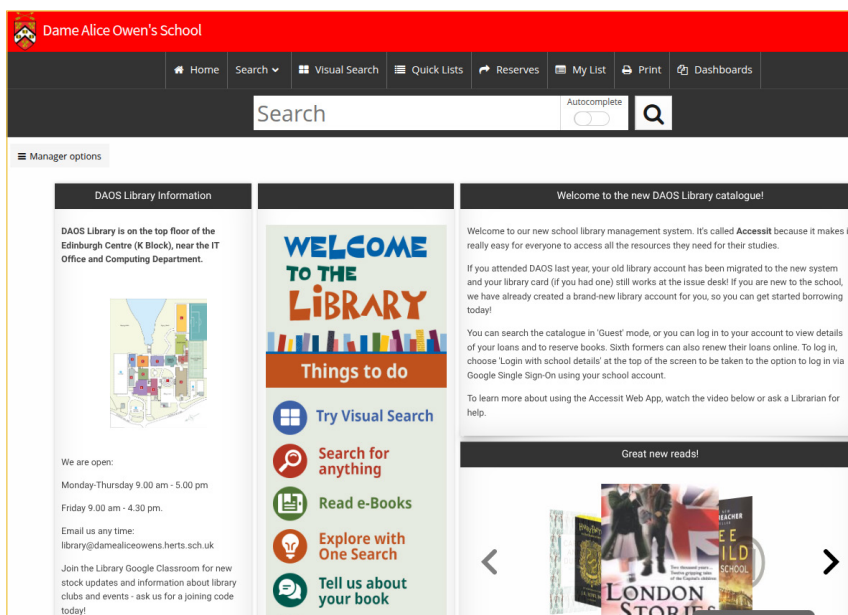
In their downtime from sport fixtures the students would entertain themselves at the beach or in the pool at the hotel.

We had a wonderful day on our own catamaran where the students were able to swim with fish and turtles in the sea and also another afternoon at the famous boatyard where they swam and played on inflatables in the sea.

The students had the opportunity on two nights to experience some traditional bajan food at the Oistins Fish Fry and the Harbour Lights Extravaganza with music for entertainment to let them have a little dance.

This was a great opportunity for these students and they grabbed it with both hands and were a delight to take on this tour.





Library catalogue new home page

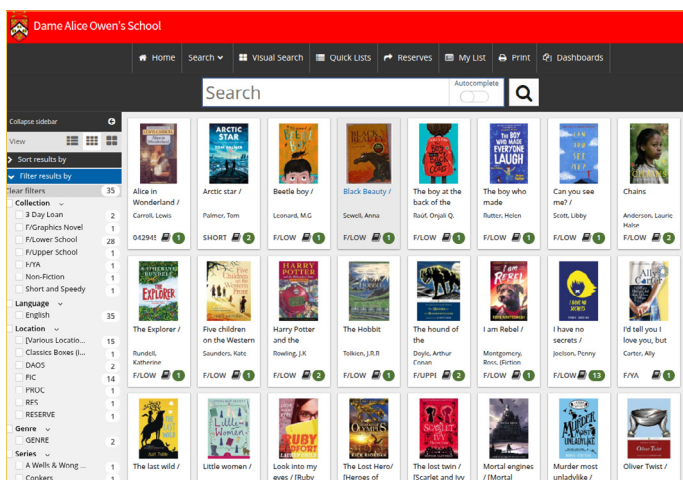
Never stop
learning
news from the
library ...

New Library Catalogue System Launched

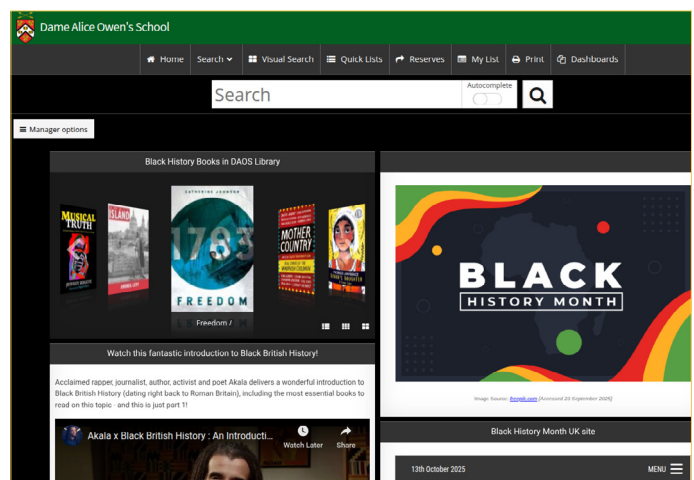
Students and staff can now enjoy much easier access to information about library books and services and to their own library accounts thanks to our new library catalogue system, **Accessit**. Accessit is specially designed for school libraries.

Here are just a few of the benefits our library users can now enjoy:

- **No more usernames and passwords:** Accessit works with Google Single Sign-On, meaning that once they are logged into their school accounts, students can click straight through from the Student Launchpad to their own library accounts.
- **No need to use a library card** to borrow books from the library: students just need to give their names for us to look them up on the system. We have now phased out the distribution of new plastic library cards for environmental reasons. However, existing library cards do still work with the system, if students prefer to continue using them.
- **Attractive and user-friendly interface** including book jacket images, detailed information about each book, clear availability information and options to reserve or like items or write reviews.
- **Online reading lists and themed dashboards** to encourage students to explore topics in greater depth within a safe online environment. We will be adding new reading lists and dashboards to our system throughout the year – keep checking back for more!
- **A range of search functions** including simple and advanced searches and a 'One Search' option to simultaneously search the library stock and a range of online resources, including our



Library catalogue reading list – Great Reads for Y7



Library themed dashboard – Black History Month

subscription databases – ideal for homework and sixth form research projects.

- **Regular library loan reminder emails** directly to students' school accounts featuring images of the books to be returned to help jog memories!
- **A dedicated student librarian account** on the system, so our wonderful team of helpers can now check books in and out at the desk professionally.
- And our **top tip**: try logging in on your birthday for a special greeting!

Students can access the library catalogue, including their own library accounts, via the Student Launchpad or from the dropdown quick link on the school website (if logged into their school Google Account).

There is also a catalogue computer at the desk in each room of the library for quick catalogue searching as a guest user. The introductory video embedded in the catalogue home page provides a very helpful overview of the system; parents and carers are encouraged to watch this with their young people.



Anti-Bullying Alliance Award

We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the **Gold Award** by the Anti-Bullying Alliance in recognition of our commitment to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all. Over the past two years, we have proudly taken part in the United Against Bullying Plus (ABA+) programme, a national initiative supporting schools to reduce bullying and promote kindness. Through staff training, pupil voice activities, and whole-school action plans, we've worked together to strengthen our culture of respect and empathy. This Gold Award is a testament to the hard work, care, and dedication shown by our entire school community.

Bitesize Parenting Workshop

We have invited Supporting Links to present their Bitesize parenting workshop on behaviour: **Why does my child behave like that?** This one-hour online session will take place via Zoom.

Date: Monday 3 November

Time: 7.15–8.15pm

This online session will help you to understand:

- The 7 underlying causes behind all behaviour
- How to reduce the behaviours we do not want to see through positive connections with our child
- practical ways we can reduce challenging behaviour.

The workshop is open to all parents and carers of children studying at Dame Alice Owen's and tickets are £12.50 with a limited number of subsidised places for those families on Universal Credit.

To book a place click [HERE](#)

Supportive community bulletin board

Last chance to book an exclusive evening at Brewers' Hall

On Monday 10 November, join us for a unique evening at the historic Brewers' Hall in the City. Learn about beer and brewing from the Brewers themselves, then put what you have learnt to the test in an exciting Beer Tasting Quiz. This will be followed by a curry dinner, with beer or wine, and dessert. Whether you're a seasoned beer enthusiast or just curious to learn more, this is an evening not to be missed. [BOOK NOW](#)



DAME ALICE OWEN'S
SCHOOL
EST. 1013

MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2025
19.00 - 22.30
BREWERS' HALL
ALDERMANBURY SQUARE
LONDON EC2V 7HR



AN EXCLUSIVE EVENING AT
BREWERS' HALL

Come and **learn about beer and brewing** from the Brewers themselves, then put what you have learnt to the test in a **Beer Tasting Quiz**

Followed by a curry dinner, dessert and more beer!

Limited tickets so BOOK SOON!

Tickets - £100

<https://uk.damealiceowens.ptly.uk/brewers>



ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL GO TO OUR SPORTS HALL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Dates for your diary

- Mon 3 Nov** OSA Committee meeting – 7.30pm
- Thu 6 Nov** Senior Concert – 6.30pm Edward Guinness Hall
- Mon 10 Nov** Chamber Concert – 6.30pm Edward Guinness Hall
- Mon 10 Nov** Exclusive Evening Event – 7pm at Brewers' Hall
- Tue 11 Nov** Remembrance Day Service for students – 1pm
- Wed 12 Nov** Year 10 GCSE information evening – 6pm
- Thu 13 Nov** Year 12 parents' evening
- Tue 18 Nov** Year 7 information evening – 7pm
- Wed 19 Nov** Winter Concert – 6.30pm Edward Guinness Hall
- Fri 21 Nov** INSET Day (no students)
- Mon 24 Nov** Occasional Day (school closed)
- Thu 27 Nov** Year 10 parents' evening
- Sat 29 Nov** OSA Quiz and Mexican Night – 7pm
- Mon 1 Dec** OSA Committee meeting – 7.30pm
- Tue 2 Dec** EPQ presentation evening – 6pm
- Thu 4 to Sat 6 Dec** Winter musical 'Annie' – 6.30pm
- Thu 11 Dec** Year 7 parents' evening
- Mon 15 Dec** Nine Lessons and Carols – 6.30pm
- Thu 18 Dec** Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
- Fri 19 Dec** Year 11 options deadline/ Last day of Autumn Term



enjoy the break!