



Newsletter

Dame Alice Owen's School

May 2026



Letter from the Head **Hannah Nemko**



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As we reach the end of another busy half term, it is fair to say that this has been a term of both building and goodbyes. We recently said farewell to our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they left for study leave, and with a mixture of excitement and nervous anticipation, we sent them on their way towards their public examinations. So far, we have been delighted to see mostly happy faces emerging from exam rooms and we wish all of our students the very best of luck for the remainder of the exam season, followed by a thoroughly well-earned and restful summer.

Alongside this, there has been great excitement around the continued progress of our building projects. The sports hall is coming on in leaps and bounds, and it has been fantastic to see the new brickwork and walling taking shape. We are delighted that everything remains on track for the sports hall to open from November 2026, with an official opening planned for Summer 2027.

We have also been pleased to begin work on the curtain walling project, made possible through a successful government bid. Although work has temporarily paused until the end of the public examinations, we are looking forward to the long-term benefits this will bring. Once completed, the thermo-glass should help make the



school more comfortable throughout the year – warmer in winter and cooler in summer – and, perhaps most excitingly of all, significantly reduce the flooding issues in classrooms and offices on rainy days!

As part of our celebrations this year, we are particularly looking forward to marking the anniversary of the opening of the “new school”, on 8 June 2026 with a birthday cake extravaganza! Students are invited to bake and decorate a birthday cake (strictly NO NUTS PLEASE!) to enter into a House competition to find the very best cake, both in looks and taste. We will then sell slices of these cakes to continue raising money for the school. As always, every pound raised will be turned into a housepoint, helping the houses towards the coveted house trophy and the trip to Thorpe Park in July.

With thanks to the incredible generosity and support of our community, we are now only around £130,000 away from reaching our ambitious £1 million fundraising target. We are hopeful that, through our final fundraising efforts, we can meet (or even exceed!) this goal. There are still many ways to support the school: you, or any friends or family member, can make a donation to us directly by following this [link](#). Any friend or member of the school can buy a commemorative **brick**, attend the **Closing Ball** on 11 July 2026, or purchase some of our celebratory Owen’s **merchandise**, as seen at the Royal Festival Hall. The teddies, mugs, bags and thermal mugs have proved especially popular and are all still available to purchase and would certainly make a great ‘going away’ present for any Year 13 student who might just want to take a little bit of Owen’s with them as they start their next adventures.

The Ball itself promises to be a fabulous black-tie occasion, featuring a sumptuous three-course meal, plenty of wine and beer, music, dancing, and a legendary set from Martin Kemp and his famous 80s disco – certainly not an evening to be missed. I hope to see you there.

Until then, I wish you all a restful bank holiday weekend and half term break, if you are able to profit from that too.

With thanks for your continued support.

Hannah Nemko



Anniversary Gala Ball Saturday 11 July

Don't miss the final event to end our Fundraising campaign, our 50th Anniversary Fundraising Gala Ball! This prestigious black tie evening of celebration promises exceptional dining, dancing and glamour with some very special guests in attendance.

Get ready for a night of pure retro energy with an 80s DJ set from Martin Kemp. Best known as the bassist of the iconic band Spandau Ballet, Martin now brings the ultimate throwback party to the decks, spinning the biggest and best hits of the decade. Expect wall-to-wall 80s anthems and a packed dancefloor as Martin delivers a feel-good set full of energy and timeless tunes. This will be followed by a DJ set bringing you the best singalongs and dancefloor fillers from the last 50 years. A night of pure retro nostalgia!

All tickets include:

- Champagne Reception
- 3 course delicious dinner with wine
- Entertainment until 1am!

You can request to be seated at a particular table or choose a year group/alumni era and we can seat you accordingly.

For more details and to purchase tickets, please visit <https://owenians.com/BALL>





50th Anniversary

Fundraising Ball

SATURDAY 11 JULY 2026 | 7 PM - 1 AM

Dame Alice Owen's School, Dugdale Lane, EN6 2DU



A night of dining, entertainment, dancing,
glamour and very special guests



Hit the dancefloor with an electrifying
80s DJ set from Martin Kemp of Spandau Ballet
Plus a DJ set with classic singalongs and floorfillers from the last 50 years
A night of pure retro nostalgia!

INFO & TICKETS www.owenians.com/ball

All proceeds from the evening will go to the Sports Hall Fundraising Campaign





Opportunity for all to contribute and enjoy ...



Join the Owen's School Association

The OSA is made up of busy parents and carers who give whatever time they can to help raise funds that directly enrich everyday life for our children at DAOS. From supporting school events to helping create new opportunities and experiences, everything we do is for the benefit of our school community.

We are always delighted to welcome new volunteers. Whether you have fresh ideas, professional skills, practical help to offer, or simply an interest in getting more involved, your contribution could make a real difference.

We're a friendly, inclusive group of parents from many backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. Some people help occasionally, others become more involved – it's entirely up to you and what works for your family. And alongside the fundraising, we genuinely enjoy getting to know each other too.

At our April meeting, we celebrated two much-valued long-serving OSA parents, Eleanor and Tony, who will be 'retiring' from the OSA at the end of this school year. As families move on, new parents and carers join our community—and each year brings new opportunities, fresh ideas, and new faces.

If you have ideas for future events, fundraising, or ways the OSA could grow, we'd love to hear from you. Why not start by having a look at the [OSA website](#), or speak to one of the volunteers at an event.



Owensfest, Sunday 28 June

The OSA is thrilled to launch the OwensFest 2026 Grand Raffle Draw – and this year's prizes are huge! First prize is a brand new Nintendo Switch 2 Console – with more fantastic prizes on the way.

Tickets are just £1 each, and you can buy as many as you like online. Grab your tickets, join the fun, and take your shot at winning big while making a real difference for our school community.

Want to get even more involved?

There are so many ways to help make OwensFest 2026 our best one yet:

- **Host an Auckland Estates Advertising Board**
Auckland Estates will donate £10 per board in EN5, EN4, Potters Bar, Northaw & Cuffley, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, Colney Heath, London Colney, Ridge, North Mymms and Welham Green. Fill in the [Sign-up Form](#) by Fri 22 May.
- **Donate a Raffle Prize**
- **Advertise in the Festival Brochure**
Promote your business to the school community: £40 half page | £70 full page
- **Book an External Stall**
- **Volunteer Your Time**
Help set up, run a stall, or support on the day – every pair of hands makes a difference.
- **Lend a Gazebo**
- **Donate Cash or Essential Items**
We'll share a list soon – or you can donate online anytime.

If you can help in any of these ways, simply fill out our short [OwensFest Support Sign-Up Form](#) and we'll be in touch.

Thank you for your incredible support – and GOOD LUCK in the raffle!

More about the OSA and ways to support

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.

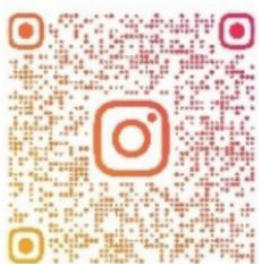


OSA Match Funding

One of the simplest and most effective ways to support the OSA is through match funding. If your employer offers a match funding scheme, they could double the money raised through OSA events and activities – at no extra cost to you. Many companies across the UK offer match funding as part of their community or employee giving programmes, and the impact can be incredible. By taking part, you can help provide even more opportunities, experiences, and resources that directly benefit our children throughout their school journey.

Below are some examples of organisations that offer matchfunding. It's quick, easy, and can make a real difference. If you think your employer may offer match funding, or you'd like to find out more, please contact OSA volunteer Nadine at matchfunding@theosa.org.uk. Further information and useful documents can be accessed through the QR codes.

Instagram



OWENSSCHOOLASSOCIATION_DAO

Match funding FAQ



Suggested Match funding email to employer



OSA Easy Fundraising

As parents of busy, ambitious teenagers, life is often full of deadlines, activities, and endless online shopping for everything from school essentials to family life. That's why Easyfundraising is such a simple way to support the OSA – without spending anything extra or adding another task to your list.

By signing up, everyday online shopping with over 8,000 retailers can automatically generate donations for DAOS. Whether you're ordering books, sports kit, technology, travel, or household essentials, the retailers donate to the school community at no extra cost to you.

It's one of the easiest ways for parents, grandparents, friends, and extended family to make a real difference every day, helping to support opportunities, activities, and resources that enrich our children's school experience.

Please take a moment to sign up and start raising funds simply by shopping as you normally would.

Follow this link to join: [Easy Fundraising – why wouldn't you?](#)

OSA Nearly New Uniform and Merchandise

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. The next sale will be in June. We will publish the exact dates on our Instagram and through WhatsApp groups, however we really need some help with organising this. If you could offer to help, please email **Sheena** at uniform@theosa.org.uk



for your diary

Monday 1 June

OSA Committee Meeting

All parents and carers are very welcome to join the OSA. It's a great chance to meet other families, share ideas, and get involved in school life in a way that fits around busy schedules.

We usually meet on the first Monday of each month during term time (excluding December and January) at 7:30pm. Meetings are held either in the Old Library (above Reception in school) or online, making it easy to join in whichever works best for you.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 1st June** and will take place online. After that, meetings will alternate between in-person and online.

Whether you'd like to help shape events, share ideas, or simply meet other parents of teenagers, we'd love to see you there.

For updates, suggestions, or to offer support, please visit [the OSA website](#) for comments, suggestions and offers of help.



Window to the world beyond the classroom ...

Starter for Ten

I am so happy and proud to have participated and raised £751 for Starter for Ten. As a Year 7 student I felt excited about the opportunity to help raise money for our new sports facility.

I started off my journey by creating a poster which advertised my idea of selling old/ unwanted football boots. As a passionate footballer I thought this was a sustainable and profitable idea. After receiving donations from mine and my brother's football clubs I was able to restore and resell these boots.

By the New Year I had made £59 and quickly realised that I needed to branch out further with my enterprise. So I contacted local football clubs, explaining my fundraising venture. A week or so later Tottenham Ladies got in touch and kindly donated around fifteen pairs of new and used personalised boots. During this process I learnt negotiating, photography and advertising skills. My biggest sale was £70 for a pair of Jessica Naz's blue Pumas! I am most proud of being able to establish a fruitful connection with one of my buyers, where I learnt how to counter offer and he ended up buying four pairs of boots in total!

As I made the most money for Starter for Ten I was rewarded with the opportunity to watch Tottenham vs Manchester United Ladies. It was a joyous experience and it has inspired me to continue my passion in sport. I will also have my name on a brick in the new sports hall which I will be immensely proud of. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have taken part in this fundraising challenge and have learnt lots of new business skills.

I was also presented with a certificate for all my efforts and was able to meet Lawrence Rosenberg from The Apprentice. I felt inspired by his speech and am so grateful that I was able to meet him. It has prompted me to watch his series and have ideas for future business ventures.

Jessica B, Year 7



Youth Speaks Regional Final

Saturday 2 May saw the Regional Final of the Youth Speaks competition held in Cambridge. The Year 9 team of Ethan, Katie and Nylah, who had previously come through two exacting rounds, attended as champions of the Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire region and went up against two other teams from Ipswich and Reading. Nylah performed the chairperson role, taking control over proceedings and introducing our two speakers: Ethan, who spoke in favour of the death penalty being reinstated in the UK, and Katie, who spoke against the motion. The whole team performed superbly in a high-stakes environment and really commanded the room. Katie took the award for Best Opposing Speaker and the team as a whole narrowly missed out in a competition that was of an extremely high standard.

Ms Lawson

News from the Eco Committee

As we emerge from a cold and damp winter, hopefully everyone has been enjoying all the beautiful foliage and flowers that have been growing all around us. To support our local wildlife, the Eco Committee would like to encourage everyone within our school community to take part in No Mow May. It is an easy way to help the environment by letting daisies, dandelions, clovers and grasses grow while supporting bees and butterflies (even small wild patches add up to make a huge difference to nature!)

Our school celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday on May 8th; all students took part in a form time quiz on his life in the morning and were awarded house points for their efforts. In addition, the Eco Committee and SLT hosted a scavenger hunt through the woods and around the pond during lunchtime, to look out for signs of spring. We spotted lots of new life emerging and it was such a lovely way to spend our lunchtime.



Duke of Edinburgh Awards

As we reach the end of another busy half term, it is wonderful to reflect on the achievements and commitment shown by our Duke of Edinburgh Award students across all year groups.

This half term marked the start of a new expedition season, and it has been fantastic to see so many students embracing challenge, independence and teamwork with enthusiasm and determination.

Our 65 Year 10 students successfully completed their practice Silver expedition in the Chilterns. Over three days and two nights, students developed and strengthened their navigation and campcraft skills while demonstrating resilience, teamwork and independence throughout. Every participant rose brilliantly to the challenge and should be extremely proud of their achievements. We now look forward to seeing them complete their assessed expedition in September, the final stage of their award following the completion of their physical, volunteering and skills sections.

At the end of May, 40 Gold students travelled to Brecon (Aberhonddu) to undertake their practice Gold expedition. This demanding four-day trek provided students with an excellent opportunity to further develop their leadership, teamwork and expedition skills. Alongside expedition preparation, students have also been organising and completing the other sections of their award, including a five-day residential experience. These residentials encourage students to research, plan and organise activities independently, ranging from outdoor pursuits and music tours to medical training courses. Many students attend these experiences independently, helping to build confidence and develop their ability to work with new people in unfamiliar environments.



At the start of next term, 140 Bronze students will complete their assessed expedition within the local Hertfordshire area. For many, this will be their first experience of expedition life and self-sufficiency, and we wish them every success as they begin their Duke of Edinburgh journey.

A particular highlight for this half term is the 16 former students travelling to Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Awards. This is a tremendous achievement and reflects years of dedication, perseverance and commitment. We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished.

Please note that there are still a number of certificates awaiting collection from the front office, where recipients will be asked to sign for them.

Finally, thank you to Mr Payne, Dr Mitchell, Mr McDonald and all staff who have supported the various expeditions, training evenings and opportunities throughout the year. Their dedication and support continue to make these experiences possible for our students.



Magistrates Court Mock Trial Competition

On 28 March, a group of Year 9s took part in and won the local heat of the Magistrates Court Mock Trial Competition 2026, a national competition run by Young Citizens for students aged 12–14 in the UK. We improved our understanding of how the legal system works through role-playing in a specially written criminal case scenario – in this case the theft of a phone from someone riding a rented bicycle – with student teams acting as lawyers, witnesses, a court artist, a court reporter and magistrates to compete in a heat against other schools.

When we first started off with a new case and little understanding of how a court trial works, we didn't know how we would bring together two speeches, learn four witness statements and help our lawyers create four examinations and cross-examinations. Mr Matthai brought the team together, helped us understand our roles better and prepared us for the real trial. We started off with little knowledge, but after many practice sessions and hours of rapid-fire questioning of our witnesses, we stepped through Highbury and Islington Magistrates Court's doors ready and excited to present our case.

In the actual court, our lawyers, Rosanna, Ethan, Katie and Arya-Sky, had analysed the evidence given to present the case through persuasive speeches aiming to sway the magistrates, Christiana, Sophia, Elisa and Ilinca. Aside from our

own magistrates, we even met a real magistrate from the Magistrates Court who explained more about the law behind our specific case, and helped deepen our understanding of the legal system. Annam, our legal adviser, ensured the trial was smooth, giving critical information to the lawyers and reading the legal part of the case. The witnesses, Sanam, Benedict, Charlotte and Ilinca, had especially difficult jobs requiring memorising a witness statement well enough that you could answer questions on it, whilst also staying in character and providing consistent answers during the cross-examinations. Finally our usher, Zayn, was also incredibly important in keeping the trial running smoothly and without delays.

The Magistrates Court Mock Trial helped us develop our public-speaking skills, taught us how to think on our feet under pressure, and of course, built our teamwork. The sessions we had every week with Mr Matthai helped us perfect how we work as a team. We helped each other learn statements, memorise cross exams, and prepare for anything our opposing team could bring to us. Despite the work it took to get there, we all really enjoyed the Mock Trial and we can't wait to take part in the final round in June at Croydon Crown Court, where we will hopefully win another trophy for the school.

Ilinca R and Sanam S, Year 9



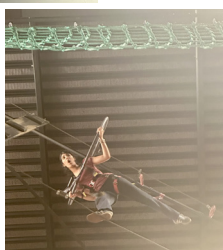
Excellence in everything from our departments ...

French Department



Years 10 and 12 French exchange to Saint-Omer

The French exchange was an experience we will never forget and will always recommend! It began with a trip to the school, which was so fun; we met so many new people and gained valuable insight into how different French school is compared to ours. This was followed by a walking tour around Saint-Omer, the picturesque town that was the site of our scavenger hunt (which proved quite difficult!). The most memorable day for us was Friday, when we visited Paris for the day. After walking up and down the Eiffel Tower and seeing some panoramic views, we took the metro to Montmartre. It was here where we had free time to explore the area; we strolled through the market filled with artists, saw the Sacre-Cœur and Wall of Love and ate lots of ice cream and crepes.



The weekend was reserved for time with family and friends, so everyone was scattered throughout and near France, for example, Lille, Calais and even Belgium! This was a great opportunity to bond with everyone, and form strong friendships. Over the weekend, some of us visited Lille with other exchange students and their partners. We explored the shops, had lunch together, and had a great time experiencing the city! In the evening, we travelled to one of the girls' houses, where we spent the evening playing games, talking, and making savoury crepes – galettes – which are a traditional French dish. It was a really enjoyable experience and a lovely way to learn more about French culture! After a tour of Lille, we visited Koezio, which was another stand-out moment of the trip, and consisted of a spy-themed game mission, with puzzles, games and a go-ape style obstacle course. Although our team may not have won, it was so much fun and we would all love to do it again!



Tara and Jess, Year 10



Similarly to the Year 10 students, all the Year 12s had a wonderful time in France. Fully immersed in French culture, we made lots of new friends, learned lots about France, and greatly improved our language skills. We did similar things to the Year 10s, although some things were different, such as the cinema-themed escape room we did in Paris and a culinary class in the school, where their own chefs taught us how to make madeleines. Unlike the Y10 students, some of the Y12 students had exchange partners who were boarders at the school, so they slept at the school for a couple of days, and went home to their exchange's family on the weekend. We all had an amazing time, all noticeably improved our French skills, and everyone would recommend it greatly.

Year 12 students



Physics Department

University of Cambridge Masterclass

Just after Easter, five Year 12 Physics students attended a masterclass at the University of Cambridge. Those lucky enough to secure places on this oversubscribed trip were Talya A, Ethan C, Vishnu P, Katerina P and Yutong Y. Thank you to Yutong for providing the following summary of the event:

On April 13, we had the pleasure of going to the Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, to attend a high energy physics masterclass. Throughout the day, we were able to participate in a few workshops and seminars that looked into neutrinos, dark matter as well as things like exotic particles with more than three quarks and the LHC research. Overall, we would like to give a huge thank you to the physics department and Mr Friedlander for organising this opportunity, and the coordinators at Cambridge for this unforgettable experience.

Maths Department



Maths Challenge

Earlier this term, 294 pupils from Years 7 and 8 sat the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. Of these we achieved an amazing 73 Gold medals, 84 Silver medals and 70 Bronze Medals; 47 of these students have been invited to sit the Kangaroo follow on rounds – congratulations to them all. Special congratulations to Sebby, Kamran, Aubrey and Jasper in Year 8, and Leya and Jacob in Year 7 who have been invited to the Junior Maths Olympiad later in the year. Jasper and Jacob scored an impressive 124 points and were also awarded joint Best in School.

We wish them luck and eagerly await their results.

Intermediate Maths Challenge Follow On Rounds Results

In March, 46 pupils from years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the follow-on rounds for the Intermediate Maths Challenge. A special congratulations to those who achieved additional certificates.

Grey Kangaroo (Year 9): Anika C (also best in school), Shreya and Jayden S achieved Gold Certificates; Joseph, Uthmaan and Rosie achieved Silver certificates; Lucas, Tudor, Teddy, Nylah, Anika P, Ilinca, Rafi and Owen achieved Bronze certificates.

Pink Kangaroo (Year 10): Isaac and Katherine achieved Silver certificates. Isaac was also best in the year group; Clarabelle, Gianluca, Cameron, Yuhan, Zain and Lily all received Bronze certificates.

Pink Kangaroo (Year 11): Raphael and Deen achieved Gold certificates, Raphael was also awarded Best in School; Kushal, Henry and Ira achieved Silver Certificates; Eleanor, Dillon, Imogen, Harrison and Artian were awarded Bronze Certificates.

Cayley Olympiad (Year 9): Anson C was awarded a Distinction.

Hamilton Olympiad (Year 10): Tao H was awarded a Merit.

Maclaurin Olympiad (Year 11): Ammiel, Adam and Bryan were awarded Merit certificates; Ammiel also achieved Best in School for this category.

Huge congratulations to them all.

Herts for Learning Team Maths Competition



Year 7

On Thursday 23 April, two teams took part in the final maths team competition, after qualifying in a heat last term; 83 teams took part in the heats and we made it through to the final with 14 other teams.

There were four rounds which included two general maths rounds, a memory round and an estimation round.

The competition included a variety of questions, ranging from logic puzzles to more complex mathematical problems that required careful thinking. We enjoyed the questions that made us think in unusual ways, as they were different from the kinds of problems we usually do in class, and also the memory round, which required teamwork and being able to recall information accurately. Even when we found some questions difficult, we liked the challenge of trying different approaches to solve them.

One of the teams (Anuva, Jacob, Josh and Mark) came third place in the final.

It was a really enjoyable and rewarding experience.

William X, Josh S, Jacob I (Year 7)

Year 8

On Thursday 7 May, two teams from Owen's entered the Year 8 HFL Education Annual Maths Challenge. Team IKEA (Izzy V, Koz V, Emilia S, Aubrey P) and team JYCE (Ethan X, Yannis W, James B and myself) competed in the third and final heat which took place online.

The challenge was divided into four rounds: General maths questions, Memory round, Estimation round and more general Maths questions. Each of these required excellent communication, problem-solving and team-working skills, as well as mathematical skill and insight. Success relies on much more than mere mathematical calculation! I found the Memory round the most challenging: two people had to memorise a complicated mathematical poster and describe it to the other two members of their team, who had to replicate it.

Remarkably, our two teams came joint first place in our heat, both achieving 192 out of 240 points. A total of 80 teams from 37 Hertfordshire schools entered the competition. This means we – along with 15 other teams – are invited to take part in the final, a face-to-face event which will be held on 11 June at Hertfordshire Development Centre in Stevenage. We are very much looking forward to it!

Christopher L-S (Year 8)



Music Department

A Level Music Recitals

The new term kicked off with two evenings packed with wonderful solo performances as our Year 13 A Level musicians took to the stage in the Edward Guinness Hall on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 April. With the repertoire spanning over 400 years, these performers demonstrated poise, musicianship and communication honed by years of playing and singing in this space, thrilling and moving their audience with their performances. Our thanks to our Visiting Music Teacher, Mr J-P Muir, for his wonderful accompaniments.

Congratulations to Chloe (viola), Darina (voice and piano), Evelyn (viola), George (clarinet and cello), Hassan (recorders), Imogen (voice), Matthew (drums), Maya (flute), Mirai (cello), Oshoze (harp) and Stephanie (flute). Keep loving your music and entertaining audiences in years to come!

Spring Concert

Our late Spring Concert on 29 April featured heavily our younger performers with the Brass Band, Junior Choir, Junior Chamber Choir, Junior Ensemble, Second Band, Second Orchestra and Jazz Collective taking to the stage. However, a number of Year 11s were also there, sharing their music-making in the midst of our musical community, just days before the start of their study leave. We took this opportunity to say a special thank you to them and to wish them good luck with their forthcoming exams.

The Jazz Collective opened the evening with a mesmerising set, including a beautiful rendition of 'My Funny Valentine', featuring, as ever, a range of smoothly confident and expressive solos from a range of performers from Years 7-11 on instruments as wide ranging as saxophone, violin and french horn. We are very much looking forward to hearing more from them in the summer jazz events, OwensFest and Jazz on a Summers Evening! The Junior Choir and Junior Chamber Choir then delighted the audience with their renditions, including 'For Good' and 'What Was I Made For'. The first half was brought to a rousing end by the Brass Band's 'Parade of the Tin Soldiers'.





The second half of the concert opened with Junior Ensemble's invigorating performance of 'Havana', learnt by ear and arranged by the performers themselves, swapping between different parts and also featuring improvised solos. Second Band's set ended with the exciting and upbeat 'Livin' La Vida Loca', before the Second Orchestra filled the stage, taking us on the epic journey of the river Moldau, from the two springs at its source in the mountains (flutes), through various scenes in the Bohemian countryside before bringing us grandly into its full glory as it enters Prague, in Smetana's programmatic tone poem, 'Vltava'. It was a wonderful and uplifting way to end an evening of joyous music-making!

Our thanks to our musician teacher directors, Ms Bamber, Mrs Brady, Mr Crossley, Mr Kelly, Mr Southorn and Ms Sutherland, as well as to our very own Ms Jade Brooks, accompanist (and more!) and Ms McChrystal and Mrs Doust for musical support, to Mr Page for his logistical management and support and to Miss Jones, our Music Admin, for organising everything for us. Most of all, congratulations to all our wonderful performers – thank you for all your work and inspiration!

As the half term draws to a close we are very much looking forward to all our Year 8 students taking to the stage in the Edward Guinness Hall for the Year 8 Music Festival.

Read all about it in the next newsletter!



Football

Girls U12

The Year 7 girls finished off their season with two cup finals. In the District League final they faced a tough Monk's Walk side. Despite falling behind to an early penalty, the team had the lion's share of both possession and chances on goal but were unable to convert their opportunities and eventually succumbed 4-1, our goal being scored by captain Sofia. Lucy and Eloise were selected as players of the match.

In the County Plate final against Kings Langley School, the team once again dominated possession but the scoreline remained goalless after full time and the match went to penalties. The scores once again remained level after five penalties each and the girls were extremely unfortunate to lose on sudden death spot kicks. The player of the match for the final was captain Sofia.

All of the squad should all be extremely proud of the progress they have made this season and their achievements. Well done girls!



Girls U14

The Under 14 squad played Ridgeway Academy in the District League final. Despite dominating possession and chances, they found themselves on the wrong end of a 3-0 scoreline. Captain Amy was awarded player of the match.

PE Department



Senior Girls

After a bumpy start to the season, the Senior Girls squad made it through to the county plate finals. They showed grit, determination and played their best game of football all season! Despite their incredible performance their opponents, Parmiters, took the win. It was an incredible day out for all involved and all the girls should be immensely proud of themselves.

To keep up to date with everything Owen's PE, follow [DAOS.PE.Dept](#) on Instagram.



[@DAOS.PE.DEPT](#)

Football continued



Boys Year 7

The Year 7 football team had an excellent first season at Owens, showing determination, hard work and team work to reach the County Plate Final. After a series of impressive performances on their journey, they faced strong opposition in the final and, despite their best efforts, were defeated 3-0. The team should be very proud of their achievement in reaching the final.

Boys Year 9

The boys capped off an outstanding campaign with a hard-fought victory in the district final against Hertswood. In a closely contested match, both sides showed great determination and skill, but it was our team who held their nerve to secure a 2-1 win. Their teamwork, resilience, and composure under pressure were evident throughout, ultimately earning them the title of district champions. A fantastic achievement and a well-deserved reward for their effort and commitment.

Athletics

Girls

On Thursday 24 April some girls in Years 8, 9 and 10 competed in the Hertfordshire County Combined Events competition at Woodside Stadium.

All the girls did very well across the five events and all produced some great performances throughout the day.

Isla B came 4th and Rona K 13th in the year 10/11 competition and Aasha P came 10th and Arya O 16th in the year 8/9 competition.



Boys

On Thursday 24 April some boys in Years 8 and 9 competed in the Hertfordshire County Combined Events competition at Woodside Stadium.

All the boys did very well across the five events and all produced some great performances throughout the day.

James T finished 3rd overall, Luke J 9th, Alex X 31st and Kush M 33rd.

In the county league the boys teams have started off the season well and we are hopeful this will lead on to qualification later in the season.





Netball

The PGL Netball Tour in March was a fantastic and action-packed weekend of netball, with all teams showing great determination, teamwork and skill throughout their group stage matches to reach their semi-finals – a testament to their hard work, teamwork and positive attitude. Well done to everyone involved!

Year 7A

Year 7A had a strong and competitive group stage, winning three out of four matches:

15–1 win

2–4 loss

7–3 win

12–1 win

They advanced to the semi-finals, where they played an incredibly close and hard-fought match. After a thrilling contest, they secured 3rd place, a fantastic achievement for the team.

Year 8A

Year 8A delivered an outstanding performance, remaining unbeaten in their group. They secured four impressive victories:

7–1

6–0

17–0

4–1

Their consistency and strong attacking play earned them a well-deserved place in the semi-finals, where they went on to finish in an excellent 2nd place overall, losing out on 1st place in extra time by one goal.



Year 8B

Year 8B also showed resilience and determination across their matches. Despite a challenging set of fixtures, they achieved:

1–0 win

Narrow 2–3 loss

2–5 loss

0–11 loss

Their effort and perseverance paid off as they progressed to the semi-finals, ultimately finishing in 3rd place.

The Netball PGL trip wasn't just packed with exciting netball sessions – students also had the opportunity to take part in a range of amazing activities outside of the sport. From the thrill of the giant swing and climbing challenges, to relaxing at movie night and dancing the evening away at the silent disco, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The trip was a fantastic experience that helped build confidence, teamwork, and unforgettable memories.





Cricket

Girls Year 7

In their first ever school cricket fixture, the Year 7 girls played against Belmont School Year 8Bs. It was a very close game that saw Owen's claim victory after a super over. Batter of the match was Lucy and bowler of the game was captain Eloise. An excellent start to the cricket season, well done all!

Other achievements

Squash

Big congratulations to Alex in Year 10 who, as the top ranked Squash player for the U15 age group in England, was selected to represent England U15s and went to Dublin to compete in the 5 Nations tournament over Easter.

We're also thrilled to report that the U15 team had a great time at the Team Europeans in Prague and took the European team title! The U17 team won too, so lots to celebrate for England squash. Alex played first string and played so well all tournament – an amazing end to the season for him!

Karate

Congratulations to Luke in Year 9 on obtaining his Karate black belt – a huge achievement, well done!



Rowing

Congratulations to Anselme D in Year 9, who represented the Eastern region with his squad from Lea Rowing Club and won the Bronze medal at the Nottingham Inter-regional Regatta on 25 April in the OpJ14 - 4x+ Category. He and his squad also won a Bronze medal at the UK Junior Sculling Regatta in Windsor (Eton College) on 4 May, again in the OpJ14 - 4x+ category.





Never stop learning news from the library ...

Earth Day

Earth Day is marked on 22 April every year around the world. What could be more environmentally friendly than your very own school library? Not only do libraries make lots of information about the environment available to readers, they are also the ultimate reuse and recycling centre!

“Think of the library like a big recycling centre. [...] What we recycle are stories. You all come in and you borrow a story and you take it home and you enjoy it and you bring it back and then somebody else can take that home. [...] Rather than fifty people buying the book, you have one copy that is being shared and returned and shared again. Book borrowing in itself is an environmentally friendly thing to do.”

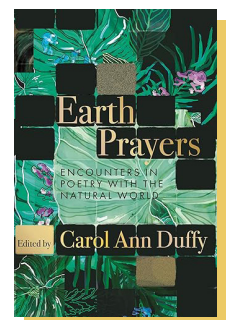
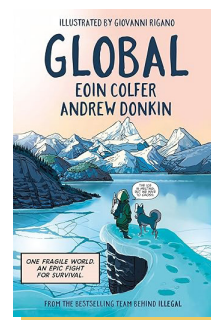
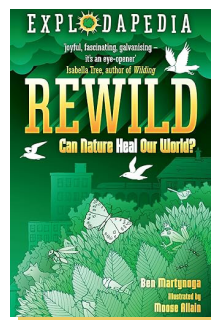
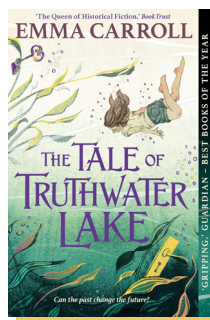
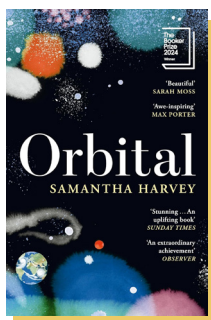
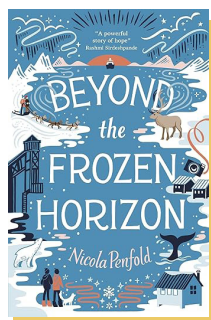
(Roehampton University Living Libraries research project blog, 16/09/2025)

To mark Earth Day, we have put together a selection of great new reads, and a couple of old favourites, for everyone to enjoy:

Beyond the Frozen Horizon

Nicola Penfold

A mystery adventure set in a fascinating vision of the future: a world in which the world has achieved a coordinated response to the climate crisis, with fossil fuels and single-use plastic banned and World Wilderness Zones established to protect wildlife and absorb carbon. However, on the trip of a lifetime to a scientific research centre in the new wilderness zone in Svalbard, Rory learns that all is not as it seems with the research project...



The Tale of Truthwater Lake

Emma Carroll

This new book from a well-loved author of children’s historical fiction slips between the globally-warmed world of 2032, with a heatwave summer drying up a reservoir and revealing the ruins of old houses, and the winter of 1952 when the reservoir was created, flooding a village. Can a child of the future learn from a girl in the past?

Global

Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin, illustrated by Giovanni Rigano

This beautiful and challenging graphic novel tells the story of two children living in very different environments but both experiencing the real effects of climate change in the near future. In the Arctic, Yuki and her dog are being stalked by a hungry grolar bear: a cross-breed between a grizzly bear and a polar bear created after their territories collided. Meanwhile, Sami’s home has been swept away in a cyclone and he and his grandpa are struggling to catch anything on their fishing trips. Sami is hoping to find a way to change their fate...

Explodapedia: Rewild

The latest title in the award-winning Explodapedia non-fiction series celebrates the vital role nature plays in human life, and explores how we can all reconnect with the wild things around us. With lively illustrations, clear diagrams and manageable chunks of text, it succeeds in offering a really accessible read whilst not skimping on the scientific detail.

Orbital

Samantha Harvey

Winner of the Booker Prize 2024, this novel is well worth exploring by readers who have been gripped by the recent exploits of the Artemis astronauts. It tells the story of six astronauts observing the Earth from space, experiencing awe at its beauty but also still tied to its humdrum everyday life. A great choice for older students looking to challenge themselves with a more demanding read that is still a manageable length.

Earth Prayers

Carol Ann Duffy

A new anthology of nature poetry curated by one of our great contemporary poets, whose work is studied by our A Level students. The choice of poems ranges across centuries, continents and styles and the book is an ideal way to discover new authors or to see the writing of old favourites from a different, environmentally themed perspective.

Dates for your diary

*Note that exams take place throughout the summer term.
The national GCSE and A Level exam period starts on 7 May.*

Mon 25–Fri 29 May Summer half term holiday

Mon 1 June Summer term begins

Mon 1 June OSA Committee Meeting, 7.30–9.30pm

Thu 4 June Open Arts Evening, 5–7pm

Fri 5–Sat 6 June Bronze D of E expedition, Group 1

Sun 7–Mon 8 June Bronze D of E expedition, Group 2

Sat 27 June Eco Committee beach clean-up

Sun 28 June OwensFest, 12–5pm

Tue 30 June Jazz on a Summer Evening

Wed 1 July Sports Day

Mon 6 July Summer Concert

Tue 7–Thu 9 July Summer Play

Sat 11 July Summer Ball

Mon 13–Fri 17 July Gold D of E expedition

Wed 15 July Visitation

Thu 16 July Open Day

Fri 17 July–Thurs 3 Sept Summer holiday

Thu 13 Aug A Level results day

Thu 20 Aug GCSE results day



enjoy the half term break!