



Old Owenians Newsletter

~ Dec 2017

Dear Old Owenians,

Welcome to your new look newsletter!

The school year has got off to a characteristically busy start! After a hectic summer, this has been an exciting term, full of events, fantastic trips and occasions.

Thanks go first to the staff who gave endless amounts of their time over the summer holiday to help our students gain the 'window on the world' that as you know we love to encourage at Owens.

Teachers led a wonderful visit to Tanzania where, among other experiences, students were able to volunteer in the Amani centre in Zanzibar to learn first-hand the terrible impact of childhood deprivation. The students camped in Cusuco National Park, where their scientific research and activities may have helped in the discovery of a new species of dung beetle! Students then travelled to a Caribbean island where they learnt to dive and swam with turtles, eagle rays, nurse sharks as well as angel, butterfly, parrot and surgeon fish. Students enjoyed daily lectures on the ecology of the ocean and were able to present papers on the threats to our seas. Students told me that they were amazed at the splendour of the nature they witnessed, from the seabed to the top of the jungle canopy.

Adding to the international theme, the ever-successful South America Sports Tour saw 53 of our Year 11 and Year 12 students take part in football, hockey and rugby fixtures against independent schools in Chile and Argentina – and all three teams played to an impressive standard. Students were hosted by the international schools for two nights, giving them the opportunity to truly experience South American culture and to bond with other students. As well as sports, students headed out for sightseeing trips, including visits to the famous Boca Juniors football stadium and the Gran Torre Santiago, which is the tallest building in South America.

The new term started with the excited arrival of our new students into Year 7 and Year 12. It has been particularly rewarding to see how well our new students have settled in, especially Year 7 students. They have quickly grown into a warm, friendly and welcoming year group

In October, the school was asked to host a delegation of secondary school teachers and education dignitaries from Shanghai, who visited to observe our teaching styles and use of technology (there is more on this later on in the newsletter).

The trip was a resounding success and it was fascinating to exchange ideas on the different ways in which people learn around the globe.

The English department has also been busy organising trips, including gripping productions of *The Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe and *The Red Room* by HG Wells as part of their studies on Gothic Literature. Also *A Christmas Carol* and an opportunity to visit the home of Shakespeare, with a trip to see the RSC's production of *Coriolanus* in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

From theatre to sports, where we've had a very successful term. Our football and netball teams have chalked up numerous victories, and our newly founded ski team enjoyed their first success, with all of the team achieving personal bests in the ESSKIA competition and the boy's U16 team being offered a place to compete in the English Schools' final where they finished a respectful 6th.

To contribute to
the next edition
contact:

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Follow us on
Twitter:
[https://twitter.co
m/DAOSAlumni](https://twitter.com/DAOSAlumni)

A team of eight students competed against Aldenham School in our annual golf match, which they all thoroughly enjoyed, not least because they tied! Students undertaking the Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Awards have completed their first expedition, with more than 40 students hiking through Tring, Hertfordshire. The students faced the wind and clouds in good spirits, demonstrating exceptional navigational skills and teamwork; it's good to see how all of the hard work planning and training for the expedition paid off!

16 geography students also braved the weather on a geography field trip to Snowdonia, where they were able to complement their learning with first-hand experience in data-collection and independent investigation. The expertise of the tutors allowed our students to develop their interest in ecology and geography, all while admiring the beautiful views of Snowdonia National Park.

The Physics department also arranged an amazing opportunity for 44 students to visit the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge to see the Physics at Work Exhibition. This trip to a world-class research centre helped students see the applications of science beyond the classroom and kindled a real curiosity in students.

We had wonderful support this year for our Harvest Festival Donations for The Trussell Trust and the Watford Foodbank was very grateful for all of the donations.

In other charity news, I am pleased to announce that *Jamnesty*, the whole-school concert for Amnesty International, was a terrific success! It was an amazing night of music and raised an impressive sum for this important organisation. Congratulations went to the students of Owen's Amnesty International Youth Group for organising such a wonderful night.

Last month we held our usual Remembrance Service around the war memorial, led by Mr Hamilton-Hinds and well attended by staff and students.

A big thank you went to staff and students who produced 83 shoeboxes for this year's Christmas appeal (the Link to Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal – a project which involves assembling a shoe box of small gifts and essential items to be sent to families or the elderly who live in poverty in Eastern Europe).

It has been a real pleasure to see everyone return to school with such enthusiasm and ardour. The dedication of the staff and students to excellence both inside and beyond the classroom continues to push the school to new heights, and I cannot wait to see what next year has in store (and on that subject, read on for exciting news on our brand new building!)

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Nemko



Harold
Moore
Reunion
Lunch
~23.10.2017



This year's Harold Moore Reunion Luncheon was held on Monday 23rd October at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London. The speaker, Linda Cooper, nee Todd, (1969-76), travelled from her new home in Varanasi, India to share her experience at the Girl's school in Islington and the impact it had on her, which led Linda to finance a school and Women's centre in her adopted town.

www.vwfoundation.com.

The attendees were also treated to the amazing talents of Close Harmony, a group of students from the school who sung an array of numbers acappella style, led by Ms Katrina Makepeace. This new tradition of inviting music/drama groups to perform for the attendees has been very much appreciated and bridges the gap between the Old Owenians and the present school.

Appreciation was also extended to Derek Webb of Metalweb for the after luncheon drinks, another tradition that was well received.

The Hotel was very obliging in our support to feed the homeless and 11 meals were distributed around the St Pancras and Kings Cross area, on a cold and damp night; a token that all attendees supported wholeheartedly.

This annual event is now at risk of dissolving as many of the attendees are too frail to attend. The luncheon is for all Old Owenians from both the Islington and Potters Bar schools. A great opportunity to mix with your contemporaries or meet new associates of the school who have had the same memorable experiences of Dame Alice Owen's School and come together to share those memories and reminisce. Next year's invitations will be sent out in August 2018. If you would like to be included in this most enjoyable event please email sandyannc@annon.co.uk
~ by **Sandyann Cannon**

Harold Moore Reunion Lunch ~23.10.2017

The Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon took place on the 23rd of October at its usual venue of the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square. The event, for all Old Owenians and staff, was set up in the 1970s by alumnus and Head Boy (1939) Harold Moore, and continued by Ray Coomes, Michael Harold and Stanley Gould. It is an opportunity for Owenians to connect through common experience, reminisce, and generally wallow in the Owen's spirit whilst being treated to a three course meal.

Indeed, the legacy was continued this year; alumni from the boys and girls schools alike enjoying the chance for discussion. Continuing Owenian tradition, Niamh Griffin (Head Girl) and I were given the privilege to attend, accompanying Mrs Nemko. Amongst those with whom we spoke, topics ranged from the school's move to Bedford, and teaching lessons in the upstairs of pubs during the Second World War, to working for the RAF and in industrial physics, as well as details of Mr Hamilton-Hinds' masonic lodge activities. It was enriching to talk to people about their times at and after Owen's, and how it influenced their lives.

The meal was preceded by a grace given by Niamh drawing attention to the luck/prosperity that we have, in the light of recent world events. A speech given afterwards by Linda Cooper about her life, and charity work through the Varanasi Welfare Foundation, supporting disadvantaged children and families and empowering women, reinforced this message.

Within tradition, the Close Harmony Group performed multiple numbers following the lunch, including 'Moon River' and 'They Can't Take That Away From Me', providing a special atmosphere. Many thanks also to Barry Hyman for his speech dedicated to those Owenians who passed away this last year. His address showed a respect for individuals, and was not without a fine humour, sprinkled on the speech like the salt on the food. Following the toast to the pious memory of Dame Alice Owen (I delivered), the Boy's School Song was sung with customary virility and volume; the last note of each chorus sustained for several seconds.

The afternoon was memorable truly fulfilling. Despite the attendance, there were decreased numbers as compared to previous lunches. It should, therefore, be reminded that the luncheon is open to all Old Owenians. Having enjoyed the occasion thoroughly, I see its value in expanding the Owen's family, and without an increased support, it may be difficult to organise in the future. If those reading wish to be added to the Owens alumni database (*for information and to help with future events, view names of those in your year group, and message friends,) they should email Sonja Winborn at alumni@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk. Expressed gratitude to Sandyann Cannon for volunteering and organising the luncheon, this year as always, and not without some personal sacrifice.

We all look forward to the next reunion; I should very much like to return myself
~ by **Chris Dunkin (currently Head Boy at Dame Alice Owen's)**

The Dame Alice Owen's Close Harmony Group was delighted to sing at the Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon on 23rd October. This annual event for all Old Owenians is a great occasion to meet up with old friends as well as make new ones and there was a lovely atmosphere. The group entertained guests with some popular numbers, including Moon River and two Beatles songs. The audience was very appreciative and lots of guests commented to me afterwards on the quality of their performance. I'd like to thank Sandyann for inviting us to perform and organising the day - we had great fun

~by **Katrina Makepeace-Lott (visiting music teacher at Dame Alice Owen's)**

**Michaelmas
Day
Remembered!**
~29.09.2017

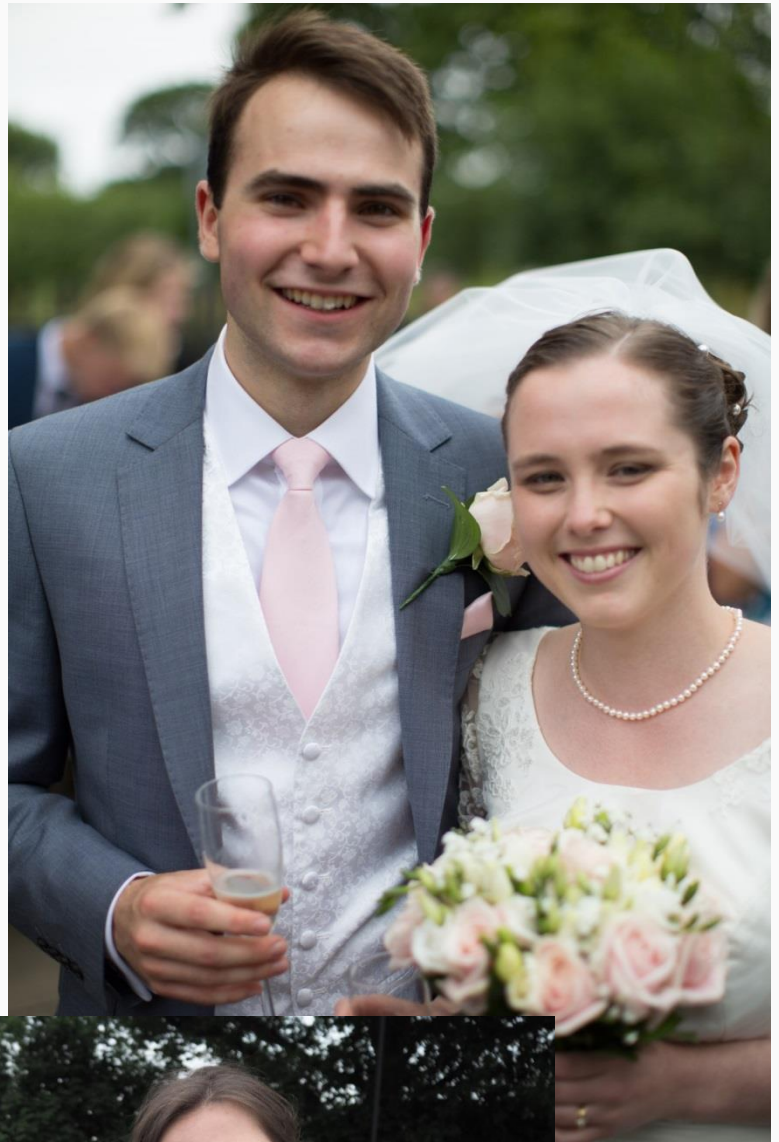
Many thanks to Old Owenians, Valerie Cross (nee Stubbs) and Pamela Mansi (nee Stubbs), two of the four sisters who attended Owen's from 1943-55, who once again sent us these beautiful flowers along with this note in honour of the old Owen's Girls' School's birthday on 29th September:

'Michaelmas Day was always celebrated as the School Birthday at Owen's Girls School. Despite the school being in a poor state following the Second World War, on that day it looked glorious, decorated in every room with Michaelmas daisies. A further treat was birthday cake, usually an iced bun for everyone! Happy Birthday everyone!'



Congrats!
~ 15.07.2017

Congratulations to Anna James and Giorgio Sterlini who were married at Christ Church Cockfosters on Saturday 15th July. Anna and Giorgio met at school and were in the same form! Both continued their studies at Cambridge where Anna read German and Italian and Giorgio read Engineering. At their wedding they were surrounded by family and friends, including many fellow Old Owenians. They were delighted that Anna's German Exchange partner, Jacqueline, from Viernheim, was also able to join them. We all wish them well for their future together.



A New School Building!

Plans are afoot for a brand new teaching block! We are hoping work will start on site late March/early April 2018., with construction likely to be completed late June 2019. This is what the new block is planned to look like:



Old Owens Cricket Season

Old Owen's Cricket Club has 3 XI's that play on a Saturday during the cricket season at Old Owen's Sports Ground, Coopers Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 4NF. The 3 teams cater for players that are past pupils of Owens School and from the local community. There are 2 cricket pitches available that include facilities of recently refurbished changing rooms, pavilion and a Clubhouse equipped with bar, TV lounges and a function room.

In the last cricket season 2017 all 3 teams played in 'The Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League' in their respective divisions i.e. Division 1, Division 7A and Regional Division A East.

It was a fairly successful season as a whole for the Cricket Club in 2017. The 1st XI, a young team eventually finished 4th, only 17 points from promotion in their first season in Division 1 after leading the division for most of the season only to fall away in the last few weeks. The 2nd XI finished 5th in Division 7A and the 3rd XI finished 4th in Regional Division A East, contesting promotion until the last game. Availability of players for all 3 teams throughout the season was good.

As well as Old Owen's Cricket Club using the ground and facilities in 2017, other Community groups and Clubs used the facilities on a Saturday or Sunday i.e. Finchley CC, Finchley Ladies, Archway Ladders and Rosslyn CC.

During Midweek, the pitches were used by Hertfordshire County for School matches and for Over 60's and Over 70's matches against other Counties.

Old Owens Association and Sports Club Limited that encompasses Old Owens Cricket Club are pleased and happy to promote Community participation in healthy recreation by the provision of their facilities to the groups and clubs mentioned above.

If anyone is interested in joining and playing cricket for Old Owens Cricket Club in 2018, please contact Tim Lane (tlane@cosmur.co.uk) for further details.

~ by Alan Hunter (Old Owen's CC)

Dear Old Owenians,

Funds are required to maintain the survival of the Old Owens Association and its facilities based at Old Owen's Sports Ground.

Survival of the Old Owen's Association can be achieved by paying an annual subscription to become a Member of the Association, providing long term support for this worthwhile organisation. The number of current members are dwindling on a yearly basis, so new members are imperative to allow the Association to continue its' good work.

The Old Owen's Association has been in existence since 1889 and was originally set up to help former Owenians to advance in life by the following objectives.

- The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare.
- Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- To help advance the education of the pupils at Dame Alice Owen's School by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education at the School.

In August 2015, Old Owen's Association was given Charitable Status and is now known as Old Owen's Association and Sports Club Limited but the objectives for Owenians are still the same plus the local community also now benefits.

The committee of Old Owen's Association and Sports Club Limited are aware that former Owenians might be reluctant to enrol as a Member as they don't use the facilities based at Potters Bar, but enrolling as Members would be beneficial to the future of the Association'.

As a result we are offering former Owenians who are not already members of the Old Owen's Association and who are not Sporting Members of Owens Football and Cricket Teams, the chance to enrol for annual membership as a **NEW MEMBER** for **** a special price of £10.00 for Adults and £5.00 for retired persons ****

The current annual membership fee is £22 which is paid by both current Full and Associate members and for Sporting Members that use the facilities at Coopers Lane.

If you do become a member, you are also entitled to a 10% discount on drinks at the bar at the facilities in Potters Bar.

If you are interested in joining the Old Owen's Association and Sports Club Limited, you can download the OOASC Membership Application Form from <http://www.OLDOWENS.COM/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/OOASC-membership-new-application-form01082017.pdf>.

Old Owens Association

Payments can be made as follows:

1. Setting up an annual Bank Standing Order payment to the bank details on the OOASC Membership Application Form. The completed OOASC Membership Application Form can be either returned in the post to the address below or scanned and emailed to 53hunteralan@gmail.com.
2. A cheque payable to Old Owen's Association and Sports Club Limited accompanied by the completed OOASC Membership Application Form and sent to Alan Hunter, Hon. Membership Secretary to the address below.

If you would like to make a **DONATION** to the Association rather than become a member, please get in touch and I will give you the details to do so.

The Old Owen's Association has a website www.OLDOWENS.COM that gives information on the facilities, news and all events taking place.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me by email or to the address below.

Look forward to you joining or hearing from you!

Alan Hunter

Hon. Membership Secretary

Old Owen's Association and Sports Club Limited

Old Owen's Sports Ground

Coopers Lane

Northaw

Potters Bar

EN6 4NF

Familiar Faces on ITV...



Our students have the X-factor!

Fans of ITV's X-factor might have recognised Joel Fishel (2006-2013) from this duo – he used to come to the school, where he was part of the chess team! He performed at The Great Gig in the School (causing some controversy as he sang a Rage Against the Machine song with swear words in it!)

Chinese Delegation visits DAOS ~03.09.2017

On Tuesday 3rd October, a delegation of 25 Chinese teachers and dignitaries along with Hertfordshire University representatives and interpreter Mr William Wang visited Dame Alice Owen's School as part of a month-long visit to the UK. The visitors from Hubei Province in central China (famous for the Three Gorges Dam) are based for one month at the University of Hertfordshire and asked to come to Dame Alice Owen's School to discuss the curriculum in England and the use of technology in education.

The group enjoyed looking around the school, experiencing among other things, life drawing in an A-Level Art lesson and a food technology lesson in which eager Year 9 students explored the science behind heating food while preparing sizzling hamburgers. Mrs Nemko then spoke to them about some of the challenges and opportunities facing schools today, from budget concerns, to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, to the many wonderful extracurricular opportunities we have open to our students.

That was followed by a presentation and discussion of curriculum design and timetabling by Dr James, who impressed the guests with a few carefully chosen phrases in perfect Mandarin. Interesting comparisons were made between the education systems of China and the UK, but the liveliest discussion came when the issue of teachers' salaries and performance-related pay in England was raised.

After a tasty two-course Chinese buffet lunch in the school canteen, the delegates were treated to a presentation by a group of Year 9 Digital Leaders who have been training teachers in the best use of technology and apps in the classroom. That was followed by a teacher's perspective on the introduction of mobile devices by Physics teacher Matt Pickering. Teachers were able to share their own Teacher-Led Development Work and show how a move towards evidence-based research is enhancing the quality of teaching and learning in schools across the country.

One of the highlights was when the Chinese party had a go at using *Kahoot!* and *Quizlet Live*, which are two interactive apps that are often used by students to recall vocabulary and show understanding of concepts in a fun and competitive way.

Before saying farewell, the group was treated to a hilarious performance by A-Level Theatre Studies students under the direction of Emma Govier, Head of Drama, demonstrating the power of physical expression and great acting to transcend cultures and the inevitable language barrier.

~ by Jonathan Robinson, Director Advanced Learning Alliance



SCHOOL DIRECT

Working in partnership with a number of local schools, Watford Grammar School for Girls is acting as a Lead School for the School Direct route into teacher training.

Ever thought about Teaching?

Are you:

Passionate about your subject?
Seeking a rewarding career?
Qualified to degree level?
(relevant subject, 2:1 or above)
Looking for a new challenge?

**Watford Girls - Watford Boys - Queen Elizabeth Barnet
Yavneh College - Rickmansworth School - Dame Alice Owen's School - Hertswood
Academy – Chancellor's School – Mount Grace School – The Park – Onslow St
Audrey**

This group of schools is seeking to appoint well-qualified applicants to train as teachers through the School Direct (salaried and unsalaried) Programme for the academic year 2018-19.

Places are offered in a range of subjects but we are particularly interested in:
Mathematics / Physics / Chemistry / English

Working in partnership with the **University of Hertfordshire**, the schools can offer a high quality and comprehensive training programme. All schools have a proven track record in providing a stimulating and supportive environment for teacher training. Successful applicants will spend most of the week in school, with some time at the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield. Applicants are required to have a good degree in a relevant subject to the one they wish to teach. For the salaried route, 3 year career experience is preferred. All candidates should have some school experience. Generous bursaries are available in shortage subjects. Information can be found on the Department of Education website – please follow [this link](#).

You may also click on the school names at the top of this document to go directly to the school websites for more information. Although the initial application is made to Watford Girls as the Lead School, the School Direct place will be offered in one of the collaborating schools. Application is made though UCAS from November 1st 2017. Early expression of interest can be made to the headteachers of the schools in the consortium and information can be gained from Jane Hart - j.hart@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk

The following links may also be useful:

For verification of equivalency of overseas qualifications - **NARIC**
For skills test information – **DfE Skills Tests**

All schools and Hertfordshire University are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Anyone interested in training to teach, please contact the school to arrange a visit to the school or to do some observations prior to applying. We are always happy to support alumni who wish to enter the profession. There is a growing need for Geography and humanities teachers, so Humanities graduates are particularly sought after.

Charles Baron

Charles Baron, 97, of Louth, Lincolnshire, passed away peacefully Tuesday, September 5th, 2017 at the Wolds Care Centre, Louth, surrounded by his wife and close family.

He was born May 6th, 1920 to Jewish refugees, in Colebrooke Row, Islington, North London and, after winning a scholarship to Dame Alice Owen's school, worked in a bank and then became a management accountant.

He served in the RAF from 1940-46 as a navigator flying over the Middle East, India and Burma, finally becoming a squadron leader.

After moving to Lincolnshire and settling in Louth he became a successful entrepreneur with a number of businesses, including C.K. Addison and Primo Windows. He was co-founder of the Louth Festival in the 1990s, helped to run a number of youth football teams, became a town, district and county councillor, and was well known for his wisdom, intelligence and sense of humour. He was a classically trained violinist and became a member of the Musicians Company as well as a Playing Fellow of Trinity College of Music, giving concerts in his home town well into his nineties. He was also made a Freeman of the City of London.

He was married three times, the third time just a week before his 70th birthday, and he is survived by his wife, Julia, daughters Ros and Sarah, sons Paul, Marcus, Simon, Guy, Adam and Jason, 13 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild, all of whom will feel the gap in their lives with great sadness.

John Usher

John Usher, a former Hertsmere councillor (who served on Hertsmere Borough Council for 22 years), passed away on November 14, aged 91. He was also a county councillor for Potters Bar South West from 1997 to 2001 and for Potters Bar West & Shenley from 2001 to 2013, and held the post of deputy mayor for one year.

In 2013, the father of four from Potters Bar was made an honorary alderman for Hertfordshire for his work on the council. He was only one of six people to be awarded the title when he did, which is given to someone who has gone above and beyond in serving communities.

During World War Two, when in his teens, Mr Usher played as a centre half for Fulham football club before becoming an army officer.

The grandfather was a keen Rotarian and was awarded the Paul Harris award for his services to the Rotary club, the highest accolade you can receive.

Mr Usher also served as a school governor at Dame Alice Owen's School and The Wroxham School, both in Potters Bar.

His funeral took place on 28th November 2017.

John 'Jack' Levy - an Old Owenian who passed away on 27th October 2017. His years at Owens School in Islington were 1937-1943.

David Bernstein - an Old Owenian who passed away on 25th August 2017. His years at Owens School in Islington were 1939-1947.

Old Owenians Careers Talks Week—Mon-Fri 5-9th March

We'll be mailing you in January 2018 with details of how you can volunteer for our Old Owenians Careers Talks Week in March, which is now in our 8th year.

We hold 16 lunchtime talks for students from Years 9-13 (aged from 13 to 18) over the four days as they consider their possible options for GCSE's, A Levels, University courses and the world of work.

This event is held in conjunction with National Careers Week and our students are always inspired by our alumni sharing their work and life experiences. Please pencil the date in your diary now—as always we are extremely grateful to our alumni who give up their valuable time to visit us.

Old Owenians Coffee and Tour Morning

Join us on Saturday 19th May 2018!

Music & Drama Dates – Spring 2017

Wednesday 31st January at 7.30pm
Senior Chamber Concert
Edward Guinness Hall

Wednesday 7th March at 7.30pm
Senior Ensembles Concert
Edward Guinness Hall

Wednesday 7th February at 7.30pm
Junior Chamber Concert
Edward Guinness Hall

Wednesday 21st March at 7.30pm
Choral Concert
Edward Guinness Hall

Wednesday 21st February at 7.30pm
Soul Band Evening
Main Hall

Wednesday 28th March at 7.30pm
Concerto Concert
Edward Guinness Hall

Thursday 1st March at 7.30pm
Piano Concert
Edward Guinness Hall

**All tickets are available online
via WisePay**

As you may be aware, major changes to the Data Protection Act come into force in May 2018. The General Data Protection Regulations (which replace the current Data Protection laws) state that we can only use the data we hold on individuals based on the consent given by the individual. This means that we will soon be writing to you again asking for your consent to use your details for particular purposes (such as sending you this newsletter!). Please look out for this in the new year.

Thanks to all our newsletter contributors! Please send any articles for our next newsletter to:

oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk

A reminder and deadline will be sent out later in the new year.