



AROUND THE PALACE

A Celebration Of Christmas



A Celebration of Christmas was just that; plenty of festive music, dance, drama and poetry – all delivered with great enthusiasm by Years 3, 4 and 5.

Special thanks go to Mrs Frost, Miss James, Miss Bovey, Mrs Wallis, Mrs McMullen, Mrs Coster, Mrs Newlands and Miss Fitzgerald for all their hard work on making the production such a great success.

Welcome



Enjoy this bumper bulletin which includes photos from Preparatory's wonderful *A Celebration of Christmas* and Seniors' production of *The Ash Girl*.

Many I wish you all a peaceful, relaxing and very Happy Christmas and my warmest wishes for 2019

Carol Jewell, Head















Macbeth at Whitgift School

Last week, Mrs Jewell was captivated by a splendid performance of *Macbeth* at Whitgift School. Well done to Sasha W, Charlotte W and Yasmin.



PTA Christmas Fair

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those who contributed to the Fair: the school office, caretakers, volunteers, parents who donated raffle prizes, Mr Horton and Mrs Jewell, and all those who helped set up and hosted stalls. We are very grateful to have your support, which enabled us to deliver the Fair smoothly to the family and friends of Old Palace and helped foster a great community feeling!

The Fair had a fantastic turnout of more than 200 people and raised in the region of £1350 for the school. The money from this and further fundraising events will be used to fund a special project in 2019. In the New Year we will be launching a competition for students to pitch ideas on what the money should be spent on.

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



London Youth Games Cross Country



The London Youth Games Cross Country marked the opening of the 2019 London Youth Games season and is where all 32 London Boroughs took part in a short run on Parliament Hill.

On a crisp, autumn morning, I set off early by train to the iconic North London venue to run as part of a team of ten girls in the under 15 team, representing Croydon.

Compared to previous years, although it was still very cold, weather conditions were good and were a lot less muddy. After warming up and walking the course, we gathered at the starting line looking up at the big hill we were about to race up. The tense, competitive atmosphere filled everyone with nerves as we eagerly waited for the gun to fire.

After what seemed like ages whilst the officials pushed us back to the start line, the starting gun finally fired and everyone shot off. At first I struggled to keep my position due to the narrow path which made it difficult to overtake but throughout the race, when everyone had spread out a little more, I gradually increased my speed, overtaking more people. The race was only two kilometres, so it was surprisingly short. However, it was quite a hilly course which made it difficult on the up hills. Luckily, the finishing stretch was downhill, making it easy to do a sprint finish.

Overall, Croydon came 22nd out of 30. Although this doesn't sound like a great result, the under 15 team came 9th out of 26 teams and won most points for Croydon girls!

Alice

Year 6 Croydon Schools Athletics

A small team of Year 6 girls were excited to travel to Royal Russell to take part in a Sports Hall Athletics event against other schools in the Croydon area.

They joined Elmhurst School to make a mixed team for the competition. The girls were able to try a variety of different athletic events such as Standing Long Jump, Standing Triple Jump, Chest Push and many more.

All students took part in a variety of different relay races and all tried extremely hard. They won a few of their races and went on to win the final relay event! Well done! Overall, the combined team of Old Palace and Elmhurst came fifth which was a great result! The Year 6 students really enjoyed the experience and also took pleasure in taking part in such a competitive but fun atmosphere.

Students involved were: Neha, Neeha, Amarachi, Daisy, Grace and Harmony.



Year 9 Netball v Sydenham High



The Year 9 Netball B Team, with the addition of some Year 8 players, claimed a victory of 2-1 in an intense 16 minute game against Sydenham High.

There was some fantastic play across the court as we linked passes and it all came together in the second half, when we took the lead by scoring the winning goal.

Overall, the game helped us to develop both our defending and attacking skills, and highlighted areas we need to focus on for future matches. Our hard work paid off in the end and we were satisfied with the end result: a well-deserved victory.

Sophia, Year 9

Professional Improvisation Workshop

On the 10th December, Drama students in Years 9, 10 and 11 were treated to an improvisation workshop led by professional actor Lisa Lynn. Students enjoyed the opportunity to stretch their acting skills and challenge their creativity. They certainly enjoyed being put on the spot!



Chemistry Society Gets Festive



Over the last two sessions, our Chemistry Society members have entered into the festive spirit. They made crystal decorations to hang on our **chemistree** (see what we did there!), supplemented by beautifully coloured solutions of transition metal ions. We finished the term with our Christmas Quiz.

Our teams of very able Year 11 and Year 12 chemists sailed through every round and we ended up with a five-way tie. A Year 11 team snatched victory by correctly answering the tie breaker question:

Which element is a solid at room temperature, yet would melt in the palm of your hand?

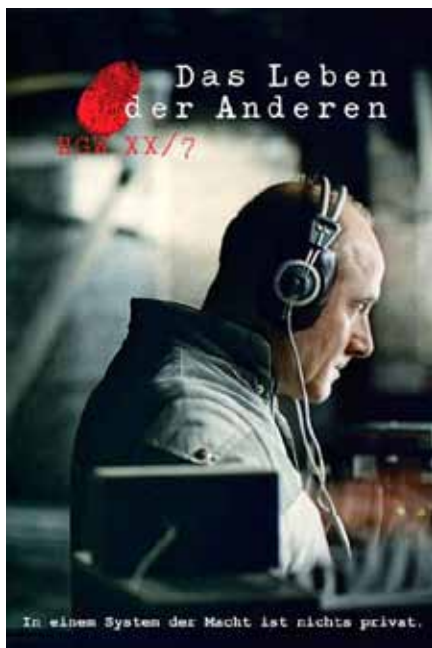
Do you know the answer?

Christmas Jumper Day At Preparatory

Prep pupils entered into the spirit of Christmas Jumper Day on Tuesday, by wearing their favourite festive jumper to school.



BFI German Film Day



Last Thursday, a group of Sixth Form students together with two from Year 11 went on a trip to the BFI cinema in London, where we were given a fascinating introduction to German cinema.

We had the opportunity to watch several clips, which were followed by a discussion of how cinematic techniques have evolved. We watched a variety of screenings and explored how the "Filmanfang" (film opening) set the mood, look, style and feeling of the film. We watched a "Propagandafilm" called "Hitlerjugend" and we were shown the reaction of the German people at mass rallies with people applauding in celebration of their leader. We got the feeling that we were part of the crowd because of the noise.

We thought of adjectives associated with this screening and we came up with adjectives such as "patriotisch" (patriotic), "laut" (loud) and "gefährlich" (dangerous). The director decided to incorporate a lot of close ups which made us feel as though we were part of this unrealistic world. Additionally, it was really interesting to see the parallels between "Hitlerjugend" and "Die Welle" (the wave).

The wave is about a teacher who tried an experiment on the class. He conveyed how easily a group of people could be indoctrinated by ideologies and how a dictatorship could be possible once again. We also reviewed equally intriguing screenings of "Lola rennt" and "Die Fetten Jahre sind vorbei" - commonly known as the educators.

At 1:30 we saw the full movie of "Das Leben der Anderen" which provided us with an unromanticised version of East Germany being under the control of the Stasi and spying on this artist. It was a truly compelling experience and I learned lots of wonderful new vocabulary and expressions, which I can now put into practice.

PoD Black And White Using Light



On Thursday 6th December, several Year 9 students were given the opportunity to explore the use of light in photography in the art studio darkroom, during Mrs Broad's PoD on light and dark.

We were able to develop our own photos with the use of chemicals and an enlarger to create an image that depicted darker objects as lighter and vice versa. We learnt a lot of useful information about the use of light in art, and how only a few seconds of light exposure is sufficient to develop an image using the enlarger. We also discovered how chemistry is a key aspect when developing a photo in the darkroom, due to the use of many chemicals which allow an image to fully develop.

To summarise, it was a very informative PoD which allowed students to be interactive and try out newly learnt skills for themselves and to see how art can be formed in a wide variety of ways.

The Ash Girl

The Drama Department's production of *The Ash Girl* proved a great success. The play is a modern, feminist re-telling of the classic Cinderella story. In this version, the Seven Deadly Sins manipulate the main characters and control their actions. Ashgirl must resist temptation and learn to find hope in the darkness.

The production was filled with fantastic performances and spectacular costumes, which were designed by Kate O (Year 10). Audiences were very impressed by their quality and creativity. Disha (Year 12) was a sympathetic Ashgirl. Bethany (Year 10), Nicole (Year 11) and Molly (Year 12) proved wickedly funny as the Stepmother and sisters.

Other standout performances included Madinah (Year 9) as Sadness and Ellen, Ashvini, Aneesa, Amy-Janet (Year 11), Vy, Ashyre-Mae (Year 10) and Damola (Whitgift School - Year 10) as the Seven Deadly Sins. Sumaiya and Rhian (Year 7) were charming as the Otter and Owl. Shazia (Year 6) and Omolara (Year 7) stole the audience's hearts as Ashgirl's lovable mice friends.

Finally, the sin ensemble proved absolutely frightening and their use of choral speaking and movement demonstrated their outstanding skills as actors. All the other performers were outstanding and there were some especially moving and exciting performances in this production.

Well done!









Whitgift House Chapel Concert



On Monday 10th December, twenty Year 4 and 5 students in Prep Polyphonic went to sing in the annual Carol Service at Whitgift House for residents, staff, family and friends. Polyphonic sang two special anthems *Mary did you know?* and *Christmas Star* as well as the more traditional carols.

The service was led by Father Andrew from Croydon Minster and accompanied on the organ by Hilary Bailey, the wife of one of the residents. We were warmly welcomed as always and the girls sang beautifully.

Futsal Tournament

Girls participate in the mixed schools Futsal tournament and came second.

They all enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon run by Crystal Palace.



Christmas Poetry Recital (Preparatory)



Congratulations to the 64 Speech and Drama pupils who staged an excellent Christmas Poetry Recital in front of their parents this week.

The girls did really well giving clear and confident performances. A lovely way to start the festive season.

Well done!

Colouring Club

For the last two weeks students in Year 6 and 7 from the Colouring Club have been enjoying colouring Christmas themed scenes, including these unusual 3-D Christmas trees.

The girls particularly liked the large baubles and each one chose very different colour themes. Some preferred glitter pens which have a slight sparkle and others more traditional colours. All looked absolutely beautiful and the girls have taken them home to complete over the holidays.

Colouring Club is a new extra-curricular club introduced for 2018-19, designed to let pupils from Years 6 and 7 mix with each other in a non-pressured, sociable setting.

The girls can select artwork to colour from a range of colouring books, covering subjects from architecture, geometric patterns, rainforest animals to cats, or are most welcome to bring their own colouring books to Colouring Club. The club is no-cost and flexible, and the girls are welcome to drop in and out depending on their other extra-curricular commitments.

Ms Samels and Mrs Doomasia



U15 Netball v Shirley High

The U15s played Shirley High outside on Wednesday 12th – a bit chilly but not raining!

We had a squad of nine players and Mrs Smith worked it so that everyone played at least two quarters. Initially, both teams struggled to score and a nil-nil score line was in place for most of the first quarter. The players were against fairly physical opponents and managed to keep their heads and play some good netball. We were a bit scrappy at times and gave the ball away too easily.

At the end of the third quarter the team were 2-5 down and so a target of half goals was set, thus ensuring we didn't allow Shirley to get more than 50% of our score. Sarah and Misghana worked extremely hard in defence and the final score was 4-5 to Shirley! While we lost the match, we achieved our target and played much better in the final part of the match.

Naomi was named Player of the Match by the opposition.

New Prefects Announced

Curriculum Area

Year 12 Prefects

Art & Design	Deborah
Biology	Alex
Chemistry	Lorelei
Classics	Thakera
Latin	Emily
English	Rida
French	Yasmin
Geography	Jessica
German	Masuma
History	Natasha
Italian	Aishah
Mathematics	Megan
Accelerated Mathematics	Shannon
Music	Kirsten
Photography	Phoebe
Physics	Holly
Psychology	Lakshitha
Spanish	Safiya

Service Area

Year 12 Prefects

Careers	Heidi
Health Promotion	Keya
Learning for Life	Edwina
Library	Fariha
Literacy	Eleanor
Palace Group	Zoe
Performing Arts	Nia
STEM Promotion	Itohan

Chemistry In The Real World



Year 13 Chemistry students had the opportunity of attending the annual Chemistry in Action lecture day for students in the Emmanuel Centre in London. With talks from various inspiring chemists about the world of Chemistry, as well as several extraordinary demonstrations on stage, students witnessed lesson theory in action.

A particular favourite of many of the girls was the 'Plastic Fantastic' talk from Jamie Gallagher of the University of Glasgow. Not only did he explore

the current global plastic problem, but he also gave a balanced view on both the pros and cons of plastics (something which the media doesn't always show) and the chemistry behind why plastics simply do not break down in the environment.

Further talks about tales from the periodic table and how scientists actually can make a new element made this day an unforgettable and very useful experience.

Shania, Year 13

Spring Term Dates

Friday 4th January

Entrance tests and practical mock exams for GCSE and A Level students

Tuesday 8th January

Start of term for students