



AROUND THE PALACE

Fun In The Snow At Prep



Pupils at Prep couldn't wait for break time today. Although the snow was a bit thin on the ground the children still managed to make some rather impressive snowpeople!

Welcome



My successor, Mrs Jane Burton, is close beside me as I write these words. We are looking forward to this afternoon as she joins us at the first of the many teas we are holding to welcome her to Old Palace.

Congratulations to the Year 4 Netball Team who, in a very exciting final, won the St Christopher's Netball Tournament. Warmest congratulations also to the Year 12 Debating team of Jessica and Rida, on their success in progressing through to the Regional Final of the Schools' Mace – the largest and oldest debating competition in the UK.

Finally, we are very excited to hear that Jaéda and her dance group, Prospects Fraternity, are through to the next round of The Greatest Dancer. We are all cheering you on!

Carol Jewell, Head

Fun In The Snow At Prep *continued*



ESU Schools' Mace



shock), to hear 'Old Palace' being announced as the team progressing though to the Regional Final. Yes, the Regional Final!

The Schools' Mace is the oldest and largest debating competition in the UK with approximately 250 initial entrants; now only 70 schools remain in contention. We eagerly await details of the East London Regional Final and commence preparations for what will prove a tough but exhilarating experience.

Thanks to Old Palace alumna and governor, Shiraz Engineer, for giving her time to support the team last Thursday.

If you are interested in debating, then come along to one of the following clubs held in school.

Year 7-9

Friday (Week 2) in Durham at 1pm

Year 10-13

Tuesday (Week 1) in York at 1pm

Mrs Parker

Last week was certainly a busy one for our debating teams. On Thursday evening, Jessica and Rida (Year 12) headed to Whitgift School to participate in the second round of the Schools' Mace competition. As expected, the standard of debating was exceptionally high from the

other competing teams (Whitgift, Trinity and Woldingham schools), and rigorous arguments and rebuttals were proffered by all sides. Being the first time Old Palace has participated in this competition, we were already overjoyed to have reached the second round. So, imagine our utter joy (and

UNA Debate

Last week Zoe and Natasha (Year 12) participated in the second round of the United Nations Association debating competition.

They proposed the motion 'this House would call for a second Brexit referendum', putting forward a range of compelling arguments. While judges commended their research, Zoe and Natasha lost to the Caterham School team, but getting to the second round was a great achievement of which they should be extremely proud.

Thanks to Government and Politics students and members of the Current Affairs club for attending the debate and posing some challenging questions to both teams and to Jessica for her expert chairing of proceedings.

Moving On From Old Palace

Many of us have been part of this great institution since Reception. Now we are deciding on universities and contemplating a new life in the working world; the opportunities are endless! The 'set' plan is not something we have to stick to. Diversity of career pathways is evident throughout the Sixth Form; from studying Anthropology, Medicine or Economics to starting to build a new career.

The Sixth Form timetable includes under the umbrella term 'carousel' *Food, Finance and Medication*; all of which encompass valuable skills that are needed beyond our schooling years. *Motivation, Drive and Aspirations* are some of the acquired qualities that we now possess for the exciting journey we are about to embark on.

Year 13S



Meet The New Head



Current Parents are invited to meet Mrs Jewell's successor, Mrs Jane Burton, on:

Friday, **1 February** 4.30pm – 6pm
at the Senior School

Note: this occasion is for parents only

Prospective Families are invited to meet Mrs Jewell's successor, Mrs Jane Burton, at our next Open Afternoon on:

Saturday, **9 February** 2pm at the
Senior School

The Greatest Dancer

Many congratulations to Jaéda and her group Prospects Fraternity, for getting through to the next round of The BBC's Greatest Dancer. We are following her progress with great excitement.



Prospects Fraternity are a Street dance group from South London made up of 13 members aged between 10 and 18.

The crew describe themselves as "amazing friends", and being in Prospects Fraternity is like "a big mad house with loads of people."

Eldest member Albie says, "We are like brother and sisters. Being the oldest I see them as my younger siblings."

Dance means everything to the group, and it's the one thing they say they couldn't live without. "We've had some members who have been so shy when they've started and now we're all the best of friends. We build up confidence with each other."

When the Mirror opened for them, they were blown away by the response. They said: "Everyone was so happy – not just us dancers but our mums too! It felt like a dream, we had to pinch ourselves. It was as though the whole world was looking at us."

Year 4 Wins The St Christopher's Netball Tournament



On a crisp, sunny, winter's afternoon, the Year 4 netball team set off to St Christopher's in high spirits.

After a rocky start (the first two games resulted in a draw), some super shooting from Lara and Lina led to a 3-0 victory in the 3rd game in the group stage. Some excellent captain

skills from Kara led to another victory in the 4th, whilst brilliant defending from Andrea, Ava, Marly and Sarah ensured our place in the semi final.

St Christopher's took an early lead and we were 2-0 down at half time, but we came back fighting. Daisy assisted with quick passes into the circle followed up

by some super shooting from Lara and Lina, resulting in a 5-2 win.

The final saw us take on Royal Russell. It was neck and neck most of the way but Old Palace persisted and didn't give up. Finally we got the goal we needed. 1-0 to Old Palace. We are the champions!

MedSoc

Sixth formers run a number of clubs at school, sharing their passions and showing leadership. Under Dr Edwards' guidance, we organise MedSoc for Year 10 students who are interested in healthcare careers.

We are able to share our journey of applying for medical school, can answer questions and give advice on looking for work experience and taking on roles that demonstrate the values that these professions require. Early preparation is key!

This term, we are planning to fundraise for WaterAid as period poverty for girls is an issue that we can relate to and is a prevalent issue in developing countries.

Meera and Shania, Year 13



Hip Hop Workshop

On Tuesday 22nd January, the Dance department was extremely fortunate to welcome Gemma from Boy Blue Entertainment. There were two workshops throughout the day: one for Year 8 & 9 students and the other for GCSE & AS dance students.

We started with some simple hip hop movements to warm us up, including getting familiar with the up and down beats in hip hop. Later on in the session we progressed to more advanced hip hop, as we learnt a section from Emancipation of Expressionism (a dance work studied at GCSE). I was really excited to learn it and I felt very privileged to be taught by Gemma because she was one of the seventeen dancers in the piece. The movement was challenging and extremely fast at times, but it made me work even harder to make sure I had it drilled into my brain.

For the final part of the session, we divided into groups of six to explore the motifs we had learnt. We created our own piece using the material, and shared it with the others at the end. I think I speak for everyone when I say it was such an amazing and beneficial experience.

I am very grateful to have had this opportunity, so thank you to Ms Khan and Mrs Barber for arranging it, and a massive thank you to Gemma for her wonderful hard work teaching us throughout the day. I am looking forward to other dance workshops in the future.



From the teacher:
"I very much enjoyed facilitating the Boy Blue EOE sessions with the dance students at Old Palace. The dancers were incredibly responsive and hardworking and threw themselves into every choreographic and creative task I threw at them!"

The quality of their group pieces which incorporated professional repertoire from the EOE stimulus piece as well as freestyle and group choreography elements was astounding, and both students and faculty members should be immensely proud of all whom participated in this professional workshop.

Thank you for having me and I hope to see all of your students working professionally in the future!

Gemma Hoddy
Boy Blue Entertainment



Hip Hop Workshop *continued*



Cross Country Competition

Well done to Amy and Alice who represented North Croydon in the Surrey Schools Cross Country Competition in January. The event was held at Reigate Park with students from all over Surrey representing their area.

Amy and Alice are still waiting for confirmation of their final position – but represented their region and Old Palace School extremely well.



On Saturday, the 19th of January I took part in the Surrey Schools Cross Country Championships representing North Croydon. It was a crispy January morning and I was running among the qualifiers of the Croydon schools Championships.

The arduous 3.7 km race consisted of woodland, open fields, uphill and down hills. Despite the difficult terrain the pace was brisk and it was over very quickly. It was a difficult race but still enjoyable and I look forward to competing next year.

Alice



The Liberation Of Auschwitz

In form time we discussed the significance of the 27th January. The date marks the anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz – the Nazis's biggest concentration camp. Hundreds of thousands of Jewish people from Poland and a number of other European countries were held prisoner there, living in appalling conditions and many were killed in the gas chambers.

It was decided that the 27th January, the anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz, should become International Holocaust Memorial Day. This was after 44 governments from around the world met in Stockholm in 2000 to discuss the importance of Holocaust education, remembrance and research.

As a class, we concluded that British schools should discuss the history behind Auschwitz on the 27th January; this is common practice in many German schools. We were disappointed to see the scaremongering tactics used by the Nazis infiltrating global politics. Nigel Farage's migrant poster was influenced by Nazi propaganda and Trump's use of derogatory language (language that carries negative connotations when describing the perceived "enemy"), to describe Mexican people. We think that discussing the Liberation of Auschwitz in schools will ensure that we can stand up against those who use discriminatory rhetoric to justify their actions.

Year 13L

LAMDA Public Speaking Exams

It hardly seems possible that another year has gone by and here are some of our talented girls preparing again for their Public Speaking exams on February 14th, a good day for an exam!

This is a very popular course run by Mrs Redgrove, and she is expecting the girls to show their competence in their own choice of speeches ranging from such diverse subjects as Stem Cell Research, Knife Crime and Holidays Being Good For You!

The standard has been extremely high in the past, and next year, 2020, Mrs Redgrove intends to encourage girls to enter for the competitions run by the English Speaking Union, and the National Speaking Academy.

For now, we wish the girls the very best of luck!

Mrs Redgrove



Westfield STEMbassadors

On Wednesday 23rd January, 15 students from Year 9 were invited to attend a STEM workshop run by representatives from Westfield at the Whitgift centre. To begin the day, we were given a briefing about what Westfield was potentially going to look like, design-wise, and how it would affect and benefit us as a community. If all goes to plan, the Westfield Croydon should hopefully be completed by 2023.

Next, we did some STEM activities where we used our personality traits to see what career or type of career would best suit us. The categories included an *Explorer*, *Investigator* and *Developer* amongst many others. We had a Q&A session about what it was like to work at Westfield with interviews from the Marketing Executive at Westfield London, Sasha and the Risks Manager at Westfield Stratford, Amy. She told us that there was no point in anyone trying to lie about injuries in order to gain compensation - there are cameras everywhere! We were taken on a tour around the Whitgift Centre, including to the control centre and storage bays underground, which is usually restricted access. It was like being a VIP.

Finally, the last, very highly awaited activity... designing the standout features of our very own Westfield, as well as how we would advertise this and what our launch event would look like. The responses were extremely varied - from one group offering an exclusive personal shopper experience to another group offering a cylindrical aquarium. Stingrays and pink dolphins would populate this and of course, there would be a weekly scuba-dive by Bear Grylls. It would also feature a custom-made glass elevator through the centre. The day ended with us all having received certificates and a summary of the day's activities. I would like to thank Mrs Aldred for this wonderful experience.

Suraiya, Year 9



STEMbassadors Trip

We were given the chance to visit The Whitgift Centre Management Suite to learn about different STEM careers in Westfield.

We took part in a range of activities throughout the day, some of which were learning about Westfield Croydon: finding our 'job' personality; a security tour of The Whitgift Centre and working in groups to create an 'overview' of Westfield Croydon, whilst thinking of aspects such as services, advertising and launches.

It was nice to see and learn about different careers all working together to create a launch event; one which would require people who worked in the fields of health and safety, business, marketing and advertising.

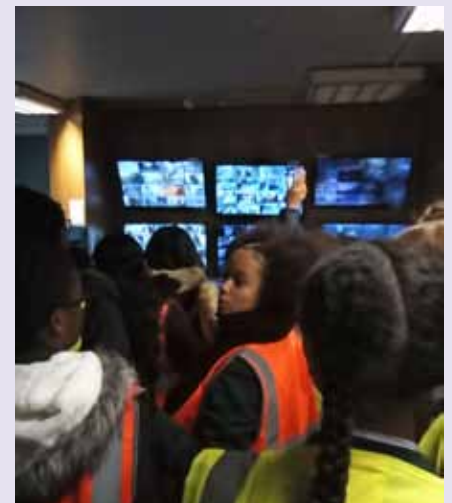
I enjoyed figuring out my job personality using my 'gut instinct' in a grid of adjectives. My three highest results were *Supporter*, *Regulator* and *Trainer*. Overall, I was happy with these results as I hope to be a lawyer, which is similar to the *Regulator* personality.

However, I was rather surprised to get *Supporter* as this can often lead to careers such as a personal assistant or client relations manager. However, this activity has given me a wider insight into what I would like to do in the future.

Although I enjoyed every activity, my favourite was the final one. This involved us creating and planning the opening of Westfield Croydon, whilst thinking about all the aspects mentioned above. We worked in

groups and it was nice co-operating over the different things that are used in a huge project like the future of Croydon.

Fizza, Year 9



Badminton Club



The Banqueting Hall is a great venue for badminton with fantastic vaulted ceilings allowing lots of overhead clears! While there are no actual lines marked, we have started a badminton club allowing students to learn the basic strokes and enjoy playing small matches.

Thanks to Heidi and Thakira for taking this club under the supervision of the PE Department!

The Club takes place on Tuesday lunchtimes:

Week One for Years 7 – 9

Week Two for Years 10+

La Nouvelle Vague

Last Friday, a group of Year 12 and Year 13 French students were extremely fortunate to attend a fabulous conference on La Nouvelle Vague and its continued influence on films. The presentation was led by Dr Emily Salines, Senior Lecturer in Teaching and Learning at the University of Greenwich.

Conducted in French, the morning session's clip-based presentations featured various themes following the prescribed film texts of the new A-Level specifications, which deal with present social issues while acknowledging the past. Truffaut's masterpiece, *Les 400 Coups* (1959) and Agnès Varda's less well-known, *Cleo de 5 à 7* (1962), were compared to contemporary films which present current social issues of class and ethnic divisions like Nakache & Toledano's *Intouchables* (2011), Kassovitz's *La Haine* (1995) and Cantet's *Entre les Murs* (2008). What a successful day!



Hockey At Croydon High

A 7-a-side hockey team played at Croydon High on Monday – their first match this year.

Some of the players have been playing during lessons at an astro off-site. The Year 7s had a promising first match, and there was some great attacking play from Sumaiya and Krystal. The girls did some really nice transfers around the back then using the width to push up the pitch.

Players in defence worked hard and Tahalia, who played in goal for the first time, did really well and saved four shots on goal. The girls are now looking forward to playing in more hockey fixtures and gaining experience in hockey throughout the rest of Year 7.



The Year 6s also played hockey at Croydon High. They passed the ball well and there was some great defensive work at the back. It was good experience for the Year 6 to play on a 7-a-side pitch in a competitive match. They played well and had fun! The girls are very keen to now practice more hockey skills and practice game formation.



Drama Festival 2019

FREE Workshops

Tuesday 5th February

Improvisation Years 9-13
12:45-1:30pm DRS 20 spaces

Wednesday 6th February

Acting and 'An Inspector Calls'
GCSE taster Years 8 and 9
12:45-1:30pm DRS 20 spaces

Actors of Dionysus Workshop
GCSE, A-level Drama and Classical
Civilization students
4:00-6:00pm DRS 24 spaces
£10 via Wisepay

Thursday 7th February

Slam Poetry Years 9-13
12:45-1:30pm DRS 20 spaces

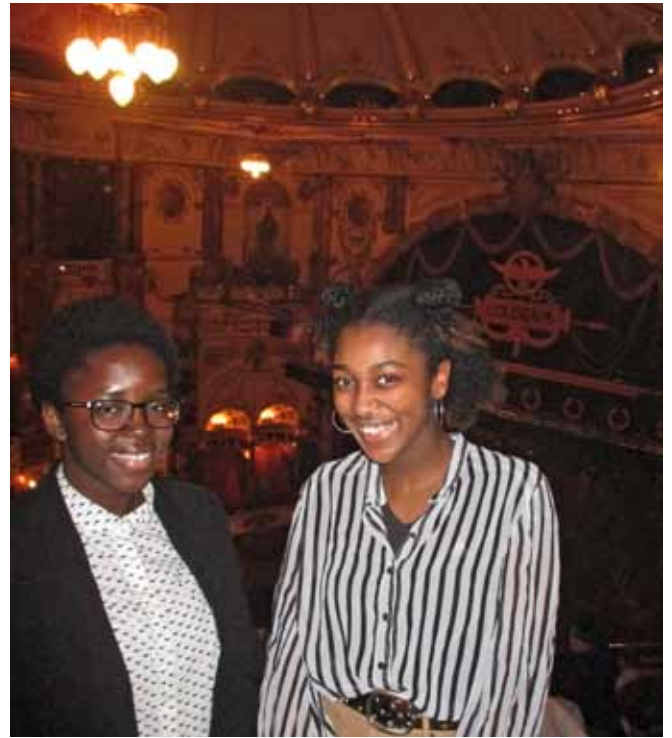
Drama Festival Performance
7pm Banqueting Hall
Book FREE tickets on Wisepay

Friday 8th February

Drama Games Years 6-8
12:45-1:30pm DRS 20 spaces
Bring your lunch along to the
Drama Studio

Sign-up sheets outside the Shah Drama
Office

Notre Dame de Paris



Notre Dame de Paris (London Coliseum) is the French musical version of Victor Hugo's epic novel which remains better known as *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

We are delighted to have been able to see the monumental musical spectacle about its celebrated hunchbacked bell-ringer in the West End last week. The show has played to more than 13 million people in 23 countries since it began life in Paris in 1998.

The piece was sung-through in French (with added subtitles), retelling Victor Hugo's tragic story of the denizens of the Notre Dame Cathedral in the late 15th century. We thought that the French-Canadian lyricist Luc Plamondon and Richard Cocciante's musical was extremely faithful to Hugo's original novel. Our favourite characters were Hiba Tawaji, a Lebanese soprano singer who played the role of Esmeralda, as well as the French Canadian veteran Notre Dame performer who incarnates Frollo, the archdeacon.

We really enjoyed the first song that Cocciante and Plamondon wrote; *Belle*, which sold 2.5 million copies as a single in France.

Yasmin, Year 12



Hockey Report

I have been playing hockey for about three years now for Purley Walcountians Hockey Club (PWHC). I train at their ground every Wednesday evening and on Sunday mornings. On Wednesday evenings I play for the under 14 girls and on Sunday I play with a mixture from under 10s up to under 14s. We warm up with various exercises then practise different skills and end with a game on a quarter of the pitch. I usually play right back or midfield.

Last Sunday, I played a 4/4 match on a full-sized pitch at Battersea Park against Spencer Hockey Club. Unfortunately, we lost 1 - 0 but for the majority of the match we had the ball in the opposition's D. For this match I played defence.

The Sunday before last, I played in a tournament at home. The pitch was divided into four smaller pitches like we practise on Sundays. We played against two Surbiton teams, and Reigate and Merton. Merton were two people down so I and one of the other girls from our team offered to play for them for two matches and then we swapped over and another two girls from my team played for them as well. I played five matches in total due to my being on Merton's team too. PWHC only played four matches and we won three games and drew one. I scored a goal against Reigate although I was playing for Merton in a forward position at the time.

I was able to use a range of skills in both positions, such as: Slapping, Roll outs, Back hand slaps, Jab tackling, Lifting, Defending short corners, Indian dribble, V drag and many more!

Next Sunday, we are playing a tournament against Tulse Hill and Dulwich Hockey Clubs.

Sofia, Year 8

Early Morning Swimming



Early morning swim happens every Wednesday morning at 7.20am.

We find it challenging getting out of bed for this time but it is fun. We work on improving our technique and stamina. We are so much more confident now in the water thanks to these sessions.

Zainab and Ebony, Year 7

Year 12 Wellbeing



PureGym was a fun experience for Year 12, instilling students with a feeling of wellbeing. Although sweaty, it was an eye opening experience for those who had not been to a gym before. Keya.