



# AROUND THE PALACE

## French Debating Competition At Whitgift



Our two amazing finalists Urwah (Year 13) and Yasmin (Year 12) must be congratulated on their exceptional performances throughout the three-hour long competition.

Earlier this week, we made our way to Whitgift School and were warmly welcomed by the MFL staff members and team of prefects. We faced St. John's School, Leatherhead and then Sutton Grammar School. Both debates were equally matched but Old Palace managed to gain higher points in both rounds. Next we faced another team from St. John's School, followed by Royal Grammar School. We were again successful in both of these rounds and advanced to the final round, against Alleyn's. Both sides presented their primary points before descending into the 'lutte acharnée' or free debate, where each side could argue their points and address responses that the opposing side had made. The debate ended with a brief conclusion from each side before the judges adjourned to make their final decision. Congratulations to Alleyn's on being the overall winner.

**Urwah, Year 13**

*A full version of this article will appear in next week's bulletin*

## Welcome



I am so thrilled and proud to congratulate Urwah and Yasmin on their outstanding performance in the French debate at Whitgift School. The two students simply shone in every way. Many congratulations.

At Preparatory our youngest students have enjoyed the teaching of our Year 11 Silver Arts Award students in a series of workshops. I know that the Year 11 group found the preparatory pupils' enthusiasm immensely engaging.

I look forward to welcoming families on Saturday at Seniors for Head's Surgery in the morning 10am to 12 noon followed by our Open Afternoon and tea from 2 to 4pm.

Do not forget my successor Mrs Jane Burton is in attendance in the afternoon and she is looking forward to meeting you.

Carol Jewell, Head

## Learning 4 Life

As part of our innovative Learning 4 Life programme, this Thursday pupils in Years 9, 10 and 13 took part in a number of sessions including *First Aid* and *A Financial Workshop*. Most memorable was a performance by the Dan Spargo-Mabbs Foundation of a play entitled *'I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die'* which was written by award winning playwright Mark Wheeler. This provided students with a poignant reminder of the dangers of drugs.



### Who was Dan Spargo-Mabbs?

Dan was the younger son of Fiona and Tim Spargo-Mabbs. They, along with Dan's older brother, Jacob, live in Croydon. He was in the lower sixth form of Archbishop Tenison CE High School in Croydon, where he'd attended since Year 7.

On the evening of Friday 17th January 2014, Dan persuaded his mum to let him go to a party, with a group of friends. As Dan was usually responsible, Fiona agreed that he could go. Dan and his friends went to an illegal rave in Hillingdon instead of the party. It was the first time he'd been to a rave. At the rave Dan took MDMA, along with four of the others. He had no way of knowing that there was a lethal amount of MDMA in the bag he had. The other four were fine, but whichever of them had had that bag would have died. It happened to be Dan.

At 5:30am the following morning, the police knocked on Fiona and Tim's front door and gave them the shocking news that Dan was unconscious in intensive care and fighting for his life. During 18th January, Dan was transferred to King's College Hospital Liver Unit, one of the most specialised units in Europe. There, machines did the work of his heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and circulatory system. The staff did everything they could to save Dan's life, but at 12:50pm on Monday 20th January, Dan died, surrounded by his family.

Dan was just 16 when he died. He was one of the very last people anyone would have expected to come to harm from drugs, but he did. Tim, Fiona and Jacob felt if this could happen to someone like Dan, it could happen to anyone, and they wanted to do all they could to prevent this. Dan's death is a tragedy that needn't have happened. The Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation exists to make sure no harm happens to another young person through drugs or alcohol, and that all other young people get to go home safely.

# Writing COMPETITION

Open to girls in Years 6-13

## “My Unforgettable Moment At School”

Can you think of an unforgettable moment at Old Palace (a good one hopefully!).

If so, why not enter the OPA competition.

Just write an article of no more than 250 words and email/send it to Mr Seddon by **Friday 1st March**

The winner will receive a **£50 voucher** of their choice

  
Old Palace  
Alumnae

## The Greatest Dancer Update



Congratulations to Jaéda (Year 8) and the rest of Prospects Fraternity on going through to the next round of BBC's The Greatest Dancer competition. We can't wait for this Saturday at 7:30pm.

## U13 Netball



The U13A team recently took part in a tournament at Croydon High. Our first game was against Bromley High, where we got off to a great start by winning 8-2. The next match was against Riddlesdown and we managed to hold onto a 5-4 lead. We fought hard against Coloma and were able to equalise 2-2, before beating Hayes 6-4. Old Palace did an extraordinarily good job keeping the ball in our possession; some excellent interceptions were made, there was clear spacing down the court and some accurate shots went in. We hope to build on the successes from this tournament.

Jessica, Year 8

## Year 7 Netball A & B v Sutton High



On Tuesday 29th January, the Year 7A and B teams went to Sutton High School. The competition was fierce and Old Palace put on a really strong performance. We worked hard together as a team and tried to think more tactically about our positioning.

We came away with two, well deserved, victories: the A's winning 8-0 and the B's 2-1.

Zoe, Year 7

## Prep and Senior's Dance Collaboration



On Wednesday, 6th February our Year 11 Silver Arts Award students taught a series of workshops to the Year 4 and 5 Prep students. The sessions explored the theme of 'mystery' in a variety of creative ways. The Year 11 students delivered their sessions for three hours and in this short amount of time managed to produce a whole group showcase in which the Year 4 and 5 dancers performed to Reception, Year 1 and staff members.

The Year 11 students really enjoyed this experience and felt very privileged to teach such talented dancers. Equally the Year 4 and 5 students very much appreciated meeting the older girls from Seniors and had a thoroughly enjoyable morning! We hope that we can collaborate on more Senior and Prep dance workshops in the future!

*More photographs to follow next week.*

## Year 9 Printing Workshop

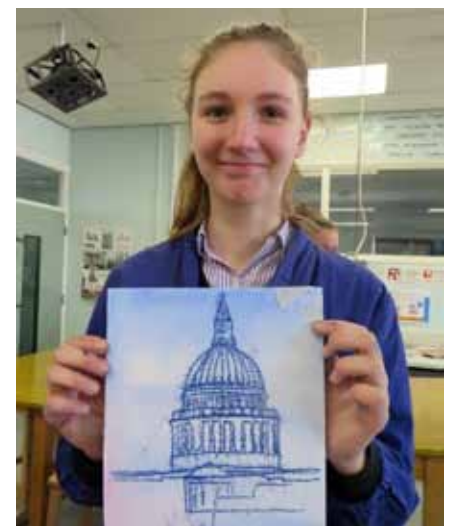
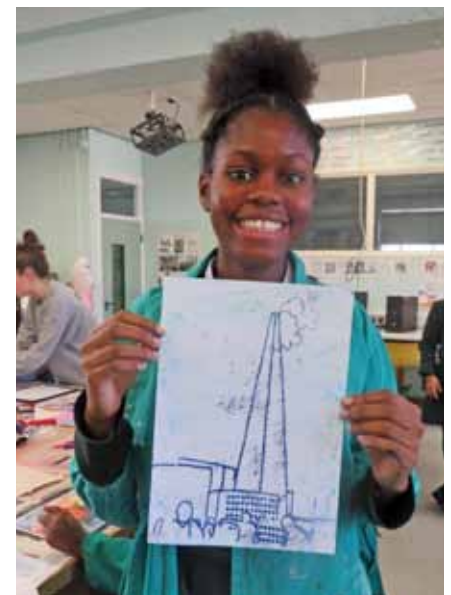


We attended a Printing Workshop for Year 9, to give us a taster for GCSE Art before we have to choose our options. I came to get an idea of what it would be like as I had already decided to do Art as one of my GCSE subjects. I really enjoyed it as I had never done printing before. I did a City at Night skyline and I really liked the way it came out. We could choose whether to use chalk pastels for the background or create a monochrome print.

**Mia, Year 9**

I came as I was considering choosing Art GCSE. The workshop was really fun and the current exam students were really helpful. We did Monoprinting. Mine was a black and white lotus flower, which came out really nicely. I've never done Monoprinting before so it was a new experience for me and I really enjoyed it a lot.

**Sarah, Year 9**





**Old Palace *of*  
John Whitgift School**

Independent Girls' School

Nursery to Sixth Form



# The Alternative Fashion Show

**Saturday  
9th February 2019**

Doors open at 2.15pm

**Show starts at  
2.30 pm**

Run time approximately  
30 minutes

All tickets £2.50 each  
available via Wisepay

## Lunchtime Recital



On Friday, five students taking GCSE and A-level music performed at the Croydon Minster lunchtime recital.

The varied programme ranged from Bach through Tchaikovsky to Debussy. There were some wonderful performances and an appreciative audience.

Well done to all girls involved.

## Prep Swimming



On Thursday morning 20 very excited Prep swimmers from Year 3 to Year 6, along with Mrs Tamplin and Mrs Fowler, attended the Croydon Schools Primary preliminary heats at Purley Swimming Pool.

The atmosphere was electric with competitors from several local schools taking part, all rapturously cheering their swimmers on. Some of the Old Palace girls were representing the school for the very first time. Everyone swam exceptionally well, producing some great swims.

Mrs Tamplin is hoping we will get some girls through to the finals which take place in March.



## Year 2 Enjoy A Tennis Workshop

Year 2 enjoyed a morning of tennis this week and had lots of fun learning the basics of tennis. They learnt how to feed the ball and performed lots of footwork drills. The best part of the morning was the game at the end called "cross the river". There were balls flying everywhere!

