



AROUND THE PALACE

Encapsulating Energy Dance Show



Anyone who saw this week's spectacular Dance Show at Seniors will agree that the standard of dance was truly exceptional. Congratulations to all the performers; they should be really proud of themselves.

More photos to follow next week

Head And Deputy Head Girl Announced

Mrs Jewell is delighted to announce that Megan and Yasmin have been appointed Head and Deputy Head Girl respectively. Congratulations to both of them!

Welcome

We have all been treated to two nights in a row of a truly fabulous dance show, 'Encapsulating Energy'.

Congratulations to all students who took part and of course my warmest thanks to Miss Khan and Mrs Barber for their dedication. I am certain that students recognise their unstinting levels of effort to making all of this happen. It was lovely to welcome so many parents to this event, thank you for your support.

We must also congratulate Urwah and Yasmin in Sixth Form on their respective outstanding performances in the French Debate Grand Final.

Last Friday I had the pleasure of attending a production at Whitgift called *The Sneeze*. A number of our Sixth Form students took part and gave memorable performances. Congratulations to Emily, Yasmin, Thakera, Megan and Holly.

At Preparatory parents have enjoyed an informal concert with a number of young musicians giving solo performances. Next Thursday there is a parent workshop 'Tune in with Your Child', taking place at Preparatory.

We are now looking forward to our week of House Suppers and the Easter Service to which parents are welcomed, in the Minster on Wednesday morning.

Carol Jewell, Head

Old Palace Team Reaches Grand Final



The crème de la crème of the 10 best Years 12-13 teams in Great Britain reach French debating grand final at the French Institute.

This year again, the Francophonie UK group (which includes the representations of France, Canada, Switzerland, Monaco, Belgium, and Quebec in the UK) placed the 10 best schools in the spotlight by organising a grand debating competition for British pupils in Years 12 and 13 learning French in secondary schools in the country.

These debates are very impressive in terms of eloquence and the high quality of exchanges and only the best debating teams in the country are selected. First of all, the jury panel, which featured the Swiss Ambassador, the Canadian First Consul and the French Cultural Attaché, members of diplomatic missions of French-speaking countries, and representatives of educational circles, warmly welcomed and congratulated the students as they came first out of the 10 teams in the preliminary round to qualify for the grand final.

Urwah and Yasmin qualified to take part in these exceptional competitions which included other selected schools: Perse, Eton, King's Wimbledon, All Saints, Haberdashers' Askes's, Cheltenham, Hills Road, Alleyn's and Saint Paul's Girl School.

Once again, The Old Palace School students exhibited their flair for discussing topics in French by tackling topics such as 'We must continue to develop nuclear energy', 'Cannabis should be legalised' and 'The concept of national identity is obsolete'. They worked extremely well together and really complemented each other's debating style – strong yet courteous, statistical yet passionate.

They were congratulated for the quality of their arguments and their spoken French. Bravo, chères demoiselles! Sincères félicitations!



Mothers' Day Assembly - Preparatory

On Tuesday 26th March, RJ, 1J and 2J performed their Mothers' Day Assembly to parents and the rest of the school.

Before the assembly, Mrs Elliott collected us from the playground to get dressed into our leggings and leotards in the classroom. As soon as I walked into the hall, I saw my mum and she waved at me happily. We sat on the benches at the front. I felt a little bit nervous because I might forget the words.

First we sang a song called *My Mum* that we had been practising in our music lessons with Miss Fitzgerald. Then, RJ came up on the stage wearing beautiful glittery owl and pussycat masks that they had made in class. They recited *The Owl and the Pussycat* really well. After that, we performed a wonderful dance to the music *When I was seven years old*. The dance was about children and their mothers in different stages as they grow up.

Next it was Year 1's turn. They recited and did actions to *Five Minutes Peace* and they spoke beautifully. They also showed everyone the front cover of their versions of the story which they are giving as Mothers' Day presents. After that, it was our turn again. This time we performed our own class version of *My Mum* by Anthony Browne, using a line from

each of the poems that we had written in class. We used lots of different props. The audience laughed when Adelise said "My mum could be Prime Minister" and held up 'My Plan for leaving the EU'!

Finally, we all joined in with a song called *Don't Forget to Tell Your Mum You Love Her*, before handing out daffodils to the happy mums in the audience.

We loved the Mothers' Day assembly!

Tamalia, Ruby-Lee and Avika, Year 2J



It's A Fish Out!



On the evening of Saturday the 23rd March, a team of eight Year 6 girls who had been practicing hard for many weeks, met Mrs Tamplin at Dorking Leisure Centre to take part in *It's A Fish Out*; the annual Surrey Lifesaving competition.

When we got there, we changed and were ready to go! We started the activities at different sides of the pool. We took advantage of the lucky fact that we weren't swimming at the same time and cheered each other on.

For me, the highlights of the competition were the rope throwing station and the underwater basket relay, which both our teams excelled at. It was such hard work but so much fun that the amount of effort didn't really matter!

We would all like to thank Mrs Tamplin for the thoroughly enjoyable experience and the opportunity to gain these useful skills.

Natalie, Year 6W

The *It's a Fish Out* competition this year was again fiercely contested by boys and girls schools from all over Surrey. Twenty four teams in total took part in three hours of intense competition. Eight activity stations are located around the pool, with two much needed rest stations between each of them.

The stations consist of practices such as rope coiling and throwing to perform rescues, and an underwater basket relay, both mentioned by Natalie. There was a very difficult feet-first sculling event, a throwing rescue where a ball is thrown to a casualty, a questions and answers station on all types of water safety including swimming pools, coastal, rivers, canals, locks and weirs. There was also a brick retrieval station that required each team member to head first (surface dive) for a heavy brick and take it to the surface, as a continual relay. In this event Sara, Zainab, Beatrice and Alyssa did extremely well finishing with 32, the highest score of all twenty four teams competing!

The remaining events were a continuous head-up relay and a straddle entry station; the latter of which consisted of a step-in entry to the water from full height, creating as much surface area as possible to stop your head and shoulders going into the water. All the girls performed magnificently and I am sure slept very well that night. I was exhausted from just going around the poolside with the teams! Mrs Tamplin would like to thank Mrs Edwards for being the team manager.

GCSE Dance Performance Exam

On Wednesday 20th of March, Year 11 Dance GCSE students performed two solo set phrases and a duet for 30% of our final Dance GCSE grade. This is combined with the Choreography element, which was previously examined, to form the practical element of our grade.

The first set phrase 'Breathe' explored the concept of inhalation and exhalation, whilst the second set phrase 'Flux' displayed the notion of off-balance. We have been preparing for this exam since the beginning of Year 10, developing our physical, technical and mental skills. The duets were based on the stimulus of beneath the surface of emotions. This was inspired by *Infra* which is one of the set works. Overall, we enjoyed this experience and will use some of the transferable skills in our future careers.

Here are some quotes from the Year 11 students of their individual thoughts about the exam:

Myah: *'It was an interesting experience and put me out of my comfort zone as a performer.'*

Lydia: *'It allowed me to build my confidence as a performer and enabled me to build on relationships with my peers.'*

Maddy: *'It helped improve my partner work, in particular focusing on contact work.'*

Sahi: *'As first I felt quite out of place but I learnt to step out of my comfort zone and become more confident when performing.'*



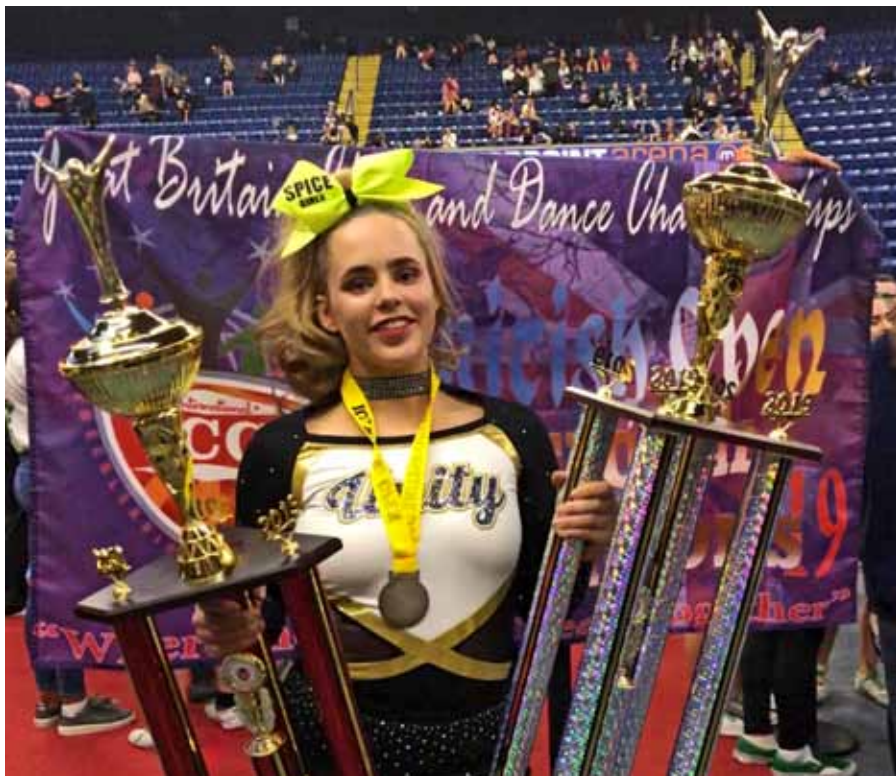
Informal Concert At Preparatory

On Monday 25 March 2019 there was a wonderful 'Informal Concert' held in the Prep Music Room. Twenty-five girls from Years 1-5 performed on a range of instruments and delighted us with their solos. For some students, it was the very first time they had performed in public! Thank you very much to the large number of parents who came to watch and congratulations to everyone who took part.

Miss Fitzgerald



Cheers To Victoria!



Victoria was cleared from concussion on Friday afternoon and then competed with her team on Sunday at the ICC British Open Nationals Competition winning their Senior Level 3 division, making them National Champions. They were also awarded Grand Champions with the highest score across all senior teams Levels 1 to Restricted 5!

Year 8 Croydon Schools

A squad of seven girls travelled to Shirley High to compete in the Year 8 Croydon Schools Tournament. Unfortunately, due to an injury in the first few minutes we had to play with only six players.

We were unlucky to lose our first game against Coloma but then worked hard to gain a win against Tenisons, before narrowly missing out against South Norwood in a very fast paced match.

However, we ended the tournament on a high with victories against Shirley and Norbury Manor - allowing us to finish 3rd overall.

Lily D, Year 8



Encapsulating Energy Dance Show



Bedtime Story



Coming to school in our pyjamas felt awesome but also really strange. Seeing all the teachers in their onesies felt weird, especially when you're so used to seeing them in normal clothes.

The library was decorated really nicely with little fairy lights and a beautiful starry painting covering the window. It felt almost magical and I loved seeing everybody in their pyjamas. My sister Harriet in Reception said "I really like it!" and I liked it too!

The story I enjoyed the most was *Farmer Falgu and the Windy Day*. Chitra made it really enjoyable and so we all felt free to join in. I also enjoyed reading our own books and it was fun seeing what books other children had brought with them.

Lydia, Year 3 (Harriet's sister)

'Best day ever' **Lottie**, Year 1



Bromley Festival Of Music And Speech

Ria participated at the Bromley Festival of Music & Speech over the last three weekends and came away with two shields, three cups and a number of medals in the Instrumental (Cello) , Performance (Piano & Vocals) and Vocal classes.



Over the last three weeks, I took part in the Bromley Festival and competed against people from all over Croydon.

In the Instrumental section, I took part in the Cello Graded 5-6 class and came third. I also took part in the Performance class (played the piano and sang).

In the singing classes, I won three of the classes I entered on my own; Own Choice, Folk Song and the Sacred Song class.

I came second in the Recital class where I had to sing two songs. I came third in the Musicals class, where I had to sing a song from a musical.

Ria

People Who Help Us

Reception had a visit from Croydon Police on Thursday. David Eaton explained the skills needed to be a good police officer and how evidence is collected with powder and a brush. Most importantly, David told us how we can stay safe when crossing the road or out and about shopping. After a question and answer session, the girls had a fantastic time dressing up.





Old Palace *of* John Whitgift School

Independent Girls' School

Nursery to Sixth Form

Tune in with your Child

'Good early language and communication skills are crucial building blocks for literacy'.

Jonathan Douglas, Director of the National Literacy Trust

Parent Workshop

Thursday 4th April

3.30pm - 4.45pm

Location: Preparatory School



In this workshop delivered by Sue Utley of Parents in Partnership, we will be providing parents of the very young with an overview of early communication. We will be exploring different ways to communicate and equip parents with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to support their young child's language development at home.



'It was really important to help me to relook at non-verbal cues and question behaviour, understand having fun, getting a different perspective and using everyday objects to make things interesting'

'Sue's experience as a parent really contributes to the workshops she runs'

'I am feeling more confident about how to communicate with my child'

Please book your place on this free workshop via [Wisepay](#)

U11 Croydon Netball Finals



On 22 March, eight Year 6 pupils went to the finals of the Croydon School Netball Tournament.

We played against six schools instead of seven, because Oakwood arrived late. We played against schools including Cumnor House, Croydon High and Royal Russell. At the end of the tournament we finished in 3rd Place.

Well done to all the girls, parents, coaches and schools.

The UKMT Group Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 19th March, four students from Years 8-9 went to Pimlico Academy to compete in the UKMT Group Maths Challenge, against over 25 other schools.

There were four tasks that we had to do: the group questions, cross-number, shuttle and relay. In the group challenge Anna 9L, Catherina 8L, Clarissa 8H, and myself answered ten difficult questions as a group in 45 minutes. The questions were especially hard this year but we completed all of them within the time set. This was our most successful round as we worked together methodically as a team. After this challenge we were even told that we were in the Top Ten schools at this point.

Next, we had the cross-number, where we split off into partners (half doing the down questions and half answering the across). We answered questions that had seemed impossible at one point, which then really boosted our own confidence. Then we had lunch, which gave us time to relax and talk about strategies. After the break, we had the shuttle task, where we answered questions and passed them on to the other pair within the eight minutes set per section. The last questions were incredibly difficult, but we carried on and completed this too.

Last but not least was the relay task. We were running around the hall, answering questions and handing papers in a flurry, but we continued to strive no matter what lay ahead of us. In the end, we came 9th; a considerable achievement

bearing in mind that we had been against some of the top schools in the country including Westminster School.

We have learnt that no matter what we should always carry on and do our best. All our hard work throughout the term had paid off. I thoroughly enjoyed partaking in the Maths Challenge and wish all the best to those partaking in next year's competition.

Suraiya, Year 9A