



AROUND THE PALACE

Senior Sports Day



Overall Laud were the winners of Sports Day and held the House Cup High!

Welcome

We have all enjoyed a really fabulous Sports Day. It was wonderful to have the school community enjoying the beautiful grounds at Whitgift School and we are so grateful to them. My warmest congratulations to the entire PE staff for their energy and enthusiasm. Our Director of Sport Mrs Smith even organised the weather!

It was delightful to welcome all Preparatory families to Prep Prizegiving on Monday evening and I was most appreciative of the opportunity to say farewell to so many of you.

Congratulations to our musicians on a most spirited performance for the Croydon Commitment Grassroots Awards at the Urban Exchange Bar on Tuesday. There was some super singing thanks to Yasmin, Olivia, Sorrel, Constanza and Megan.

I would like to thank staff for the Parental Workshops on Wednesday evening. My thanks to Ms Ford, Mr Talleux and Mrs Williams.

Year 7 and 8 are looking forward to their disco tonight and my thanks to the PTA for organising this.

I am now looking forward to welcoming our Alumnae to their Summer Reunion tomorrow, followed by our musicians performing with the London Mozart Players at St John's Church, Upper Norwood in a *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Carol Jewell, Head

Senior Sports Day *continued*

Sports Day in the Senior School went ahead on Wednesday – despite lots of concerns about the weather! Who would have thought we would be able to go ahead after the dreadful rain? But, the weather was kind to us and, despite a few minor changes to the programme, Sports Day went ahead on the athletics track at Whitgift School. And what a great event it was!

The students participated with great enthusiasm and the staff and Year 12 students played their part in ensuring the morning ran smoothly and safely.

The morning was divided into three sections; the formal athletics events including track and field events, the fun House events and the relays.

Years 9 and 10 started with the House events and entered fully into the spirit of winning points for their house with the variety of activities including football slalom, ski track walking and group hoop challenge. Thanks, in particular, to Miss Richards and Mrs Barber who helped this section run smoothly.

Years 7 and 8 competed in the formal athletics disciplines during this time trying to improve on their times and distances on the track, long jump, discus, shot and javelin. Were any records broken? Mrs Smith is checking last years results – wait and see!

Year groups swapped over and we do know that Alice (Year 10) broke the record for the 800m running in an impressive 2.43 minutes. Well done! There were some extremely competitive events to watch and possibly some more records broken – watch this space.

With any athletics event, the highlight is often the relay events – and Old Palace Sports Day was no different. A fine display of competitive running and battling for placings. Change overs worked well in most cases and there were some close finishes. The staff v Year 12 relay was very competitive, (and a little chaotic!) but again, a good display of team work. Mr Nolan (Anselm) held off Mr Taruwona (Hatton) to win for Anselm!

A big thank you to everyone who helped the day run smoothly.







Flower Festival

Saturday June 22
11am-3pm

Sunday June 23
11.30am - 3pm

Summer Fair

Saturday June 22
11am-3pm

Stunning Flower Displays
Tours of Church & Bell Tower
Stalls, Food, Crafts
Tombola, Games and more....

Introduction to the Sixth Form and Work-Related Learning Programme

Don't forget to sign up to our Introduction to the Sixth Form and Work-Related Learning Programme.

This is open to all Year 11 students and takes place from Wednesday 26th June – Friday 5th July.

There are limited spaces for the Work-Related Learning Sessions, so please reserve your daughter's place on WisePay asap.

There is no charge for sessions except the trip to Oxford University.

If you have any queries, please email Mrs Williams directly at: wwilliams@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk

Celeste Plays At Piano Recital



Recently Celeste in Year 7 played the piano to open a fabulous piano recital from internationally renowned pianist Janusz Piotrowicz at St Johns Church, Upper Norwood.

Janusz performed a selection of Chopin's most loved music, from his Nocturnes, Preludes, Mazurkas, Waltzes and Polonaises, and Celeste too performed a Chopin piece - the famous Nocturne in C#minor with typical romantic lyricism and expression.

Rosalind Franklin Women In STEM Conference: A Student's View

Sixth-form student Shannon joined Newnham College for the annual 'Rosalind Franklin Women in STEM Conference', an opportunity to experience life as a Cambridge undergraduate. This article is Shannon's report on the conference.

The event was focused on exploring the wider implications of our society's use of plastics, and the various actions we can take to combat these problems to ensure a sustainable future. Plastics are one of the most incredible inventions of humankind, with widespread uses from sanitary medical equipment to construction and packaging. So why have they obtained such a bad reputation? The major problem with these polymers is that the properties which make them so useful and ubiquitous – durability, strength, inertness etc. – are the very same properties that cause the range of problems associated with them, as they do not biodegrade and therefore remain in the environment for thousands of years.

The college had organised talks from renowned academics and environmental researchers, as well as government and retail representatives. Having sat in the lectures and heard a wide range of perspectives on the topic, we then had the opportunity to engage in academic discussions within our syndicate groups. Various questions were raised during these discussions, a few of which include: Should we turn our attention to the development of alternative materials with the ultimate aim of eradicating plastic altogether, or should we be focusing on using plastics more wisely, such as improving our recycling systems with the goal of achieving a closed-loop system? How can we go about reducing the damage that has already been done? With whom does the responsibility for this plastic pollution lie?

"solutions to questions such as these are rarely black and white"

However, solutions to questions such as these are rarely black and white, and in solving one problem we often find ourselves creating another. Something I found particularly surprising was the fact that alternatives are not



necessarily the better, more ethical choice that we generally assume them to be.

Another focus of the event was the importance of encouraging women into STEM. I have always intended to go into scientific research, but before attending the conference I didn't fully recognise the importance of female representation in these fields. However, across the three days I began to understand why it is vital that we be present in these male-dominated areas, where, even after all the progress that has been made in increasing equality, we are still by far the minority. The need for more women in STEM roles goes beyond just the want for diversity and gender parity; when women design new products or services, they bring a different perspective that too often hasn't been considered before. Lack of female representation may also discourage talented young women from pursuing careers in these fields; girls need to see women in the industry to believe it's a viable reality for them.

I personally found it very rewarding talking to some of the fellows of the college and learning about the history of Newnham. Even though lectures for women became available at Cambridge in 1870, it wasn't until 1948 when women would finally be awarded the right to a degree (after several failed attempts due to protesters). So many incredible and

highly deserving women went entirely without recognition for their hard work and contributions to academia.

"the overwhelmingly welcoming, supportive and inclusive atmosphere at the college"

We were immediately hit with the overwhelmingly welcoming, supportive and inclusive atmosphere at the college, with women from diverse backgrounds coming together to discuss the shared goal of a sustainable future. We are the generation growing up in a society where we are increasingly aware of the implications of the choices we make and how we can make a difference through our actions; the recent global warming protests led by teenagers are an example of this.

Overall, it was an invaluable experience that challenged me to reconsider my previous understanding and assumptions about plastics, and was a great chance to meet others with similar interests in science and mathematics.

Shannon, Year 12



Old Palace
PTA

Summer Fair

Saturday 29 June

12 noon - 3pm at Preparatory School

Tug of War

Hula Hoop Competition

Water Balloon Game

Face Painting

Unicorn Game

Hook a Duck

Obstacle Course

Giant Jenga

Horse Racing Game

Stalls

Raffle

Food includes:

Hotdogs, Samosas,
Ice Cream, Freshly Made
Candy Floss/Popcorn,
Drinks and Snacks

Nearly New Uniform Sale

Student Stalls:

For £5 you can set up and run
your own stall and practice your
money skills

Volunteers Required

Please email the PTA if you are
able to help:
pta@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk



£1 entrance fee

Bring your own picnic and blankets, relax and enjoy
the company of the Old Palace community

Year 5 Flatford Mill

We arrived at Flatford Mill on Monday and were shown to our accommodation by our tutor, Simon. We stayed in Valley Farm, the oldest building at Flatford Mill. Our rooms were very nice because they had walk in wardrobes, ensuite bathrooms and a number of beds.

The first activity we did was disappearing animals and it was great fun. The first question we were asked was, 'how do animals disappear?' We came up with answers such as because of camouflage, being nocturnal and that they could run quickly or fly away from their predators. We were put into groups of three and given a tray with a magnifying

glass, a spoon and two tubes. We had a net to catch small disappearing bugs that we shook of trees and we looked under logs for other little creatures. We tried to identify all of them.

Before dinner, we placed our mammal traps, to try to catch a mouse, a vole or a shrew overnight. We made the house very comfortable with food and straw.

After that, we enjoyed a scrumptious dinner of Spaghetti Bolognese followed by a mouthwatering lemon drizzle cake with cream.



Year 5 Flatford Mill *continued*

On Tuesday morning, after breakfast, we set out to check on the mammal traps. We caught two mice and a vole which was exciting. We loved watching them scamper across the grass when we released them.

Next, we learnt how to use a compass and revised our map work skills before going off on an orientation walk.

After lunch that day, we walked up to the National Trust shop and gardens and were treated to an ice cream which we ate in the sunshine.

Pond dipping followed and was great. We put on our wellies, took a net and gently swept it through the water to see what we could catch. When we went back to the classroom we chose one creature to look at under the microscope.

We were so lucky on our Twilight walk as we got to see a barn owl flying out from and back to his nest. We saw it three times and got to see how gracefully it flies.

We were ready for bed that night after a full day of fun and interesting activities.





When we woke on Wednesday morning, it was really sad that it was our last day at Flatford Mill. We were in such a rush to get ready because, before breakfast, we had to make sandwiches for lunch and then breakfast was delicious with toast, bacon, scrambled egg, hash browns and baked beans.

After breakfast, we did shelter building but before we started building we had to figure out where we should build. We were pretending that we were living in the Saxon times and we had to find somewhere that had water nearby and good defence. When we made our shelter, we made it out of leaves and logs and to test if it was waterproof, Simon poured half a bucket of water on us and some of us got quite wet.

We were sorry to leave Flatford as we had had a wonderful time in a beautiful place.

Year 5J



Embroidery Club

Pupils have been busy stitching at Embroidery Club this term. Here are a few of the pieces they have been working on.

Congratulations to Clodagh and to Maryam for achieving their Level 1 Certificates.



Clodagh, Year 7



Maryam K, Year 8



Freya H, Year 7



Isabel A, Year 7



Rebecca C, Year 7