



# Farewell Mrs Jewell

# AROUND THE PALACE



## Welcome

Enjoy this final bumper bulletin for the year.

May I also express my thanks to you all for such kind messages for my forthcoming retirement. I wish every happiness and success to Mrs Jane Burton as she takes up post in September.

Enjoy peace, calm and relaxation over the summer in preparation for the rigours of the new academic year.

I am now looking forward to public examination results in August and to celebrating with you all.

*Carol Jewell*

Carol Jewell, Head

Mrs Jewell would like to thank families for the many kind gifts she has received on her retirement.

She is also very grateful to those who have donated to her Just Giving page, which has been set up to raise money to restore the bells at Croydon Minster. Any one wishing to make a donation can do so by going to:

[www.justgiving.com/  
CarolJewellMinsterBellsAppeal](http://www.justgiving.com/CarolJewellMinsterBellsAppeal)







Families had a thoroughly enjoyable time at last week's Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Sports Day. We were blessed with beautiful weather and the competitors received plenty of encouragement as they took part in the heats and the finals.

Mrs Coster would like to thank all the girls for their good behaviour and sportsman-like conduct. Thank you as well to the staff and Senior School students who helped make this such a successful event.

Finally, it was lovely to see the beaming smiles of our medal winners. Many congratulations to you all.



Preparatory Sports Day Years 3-6 *continued*

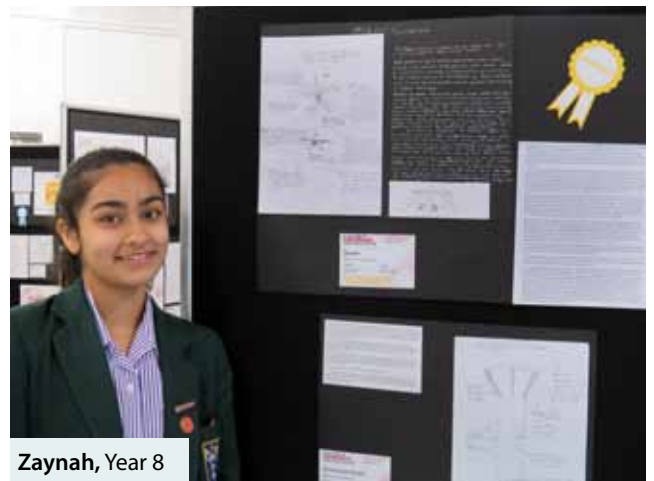


## PTA Summer Fair

We had fantastic weather for the PTA Summer Fair - the hottest day in June! Children and adults alike enjoyed various activities, among which the water balloon game was the biggest hit!

As we draw a close to all PTA activities for this academic year, the committee would like to thank everyone who supported and helped us throughout the year. We really appreciate the whole Old Palace community coming together to make it work! Have a lovely summer and see you all again in September!





Zaynah, Year 8

## Once again, students at Old Palace set an extremely high standard in this year's competition.

We were thrilled with the results achieved with their innovative designs. Year 8 students' work had to get through many rounds of intense scrutiny before being selected. Work is graded Pass, Merit or Distinction. From the Distinction entries some are shortlisted to go on to a further round of judging. Some of these entries particularly caught the judges' eye and were given Judges' Highly Commended. From those, the winners were chosen.

From the thousands of entries, there were six winning entries in London in the Senior section. Two of those were Year 8 and both those students are Old Palace students. We are hoping that one of these may yet be chosen by the Engineers to be built as a prototype.

Congratulations to Patricia and Zaynah, our two winners and to Summayyah, Sarah, Iona, Clarrisa, Charlotte, Catherine and Amelia, who all received Judges' Highly Commended.

At Preparatory, across Years 2 to 4, Amelia, Ellie, Zarina and Rhianna were all chosen to receive Judges' Highly Commended. These students had their work put on public display at Kingston University in recognition of their success. Our two winners attended an award ceremony in London with their families, where they were presented with a trophy.

All the Judges' Highly Commended entries that were chosen for display are in the top percentile in London and as such have achieved an astonishing feat

Last Friday, a trip was organised with the above students so that they could see their work at Kingston University. We spent time looking at the entries and celebrating the students' success.

Out of approximately 130 entries on public display, 13 were from Old Palace – an outstanding achievement for such a small school. Well done to all the students who entered!

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to apply the knowledge gained across different subjects to a real life situation. We will be registering the school to enter next year's competition. This will again be held for Year 8 in Seniors as well as several year groups at Preparatory.



Patricia, Year 8

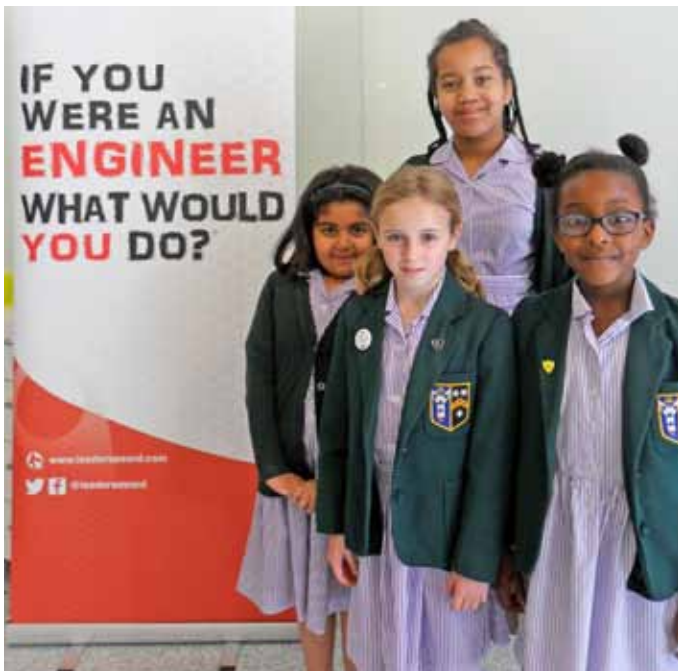


Sarah, Year 8



Clarrisa, Year 8

## Primary Engineer Leaders Award



In March, girls in Year 2-5 entered the Primary Engineer Leaders award. The girls had to think of a problem and design an invention which would solve it. The girls then had to write a pitch letter to persuade the judges to select their invention to be made into a prototype.

Amongst the Year 2-5 entries four girls at Preparatory were selected to have their designs exhibited at a public exhibition at Kingston University. Amelia - Year 2, Ellie and Zarina - Year 3 and Rhianna - Year 5. This is an amazing achievement by Old Palace Preparatory students and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them.

The four girls visited the exhibition last Friday along with nine girls from Year 8 at Seniors whose work was also exhibited and two of which were selected as winners.

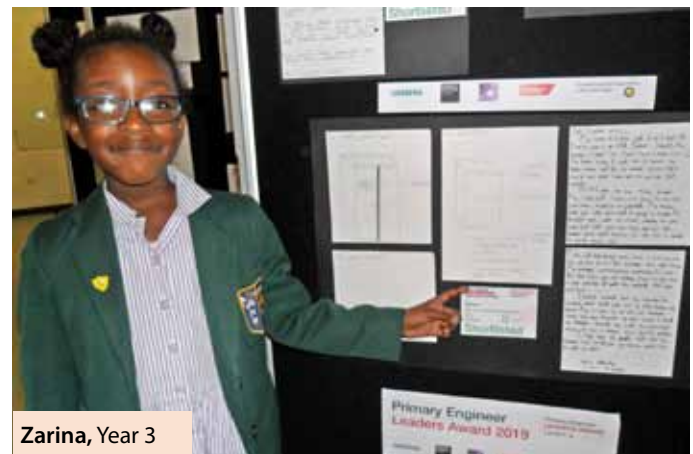
The girls enjoyed seeing their work displayed and also enjoyed testing out some of the prototypes from last years' entries, which had been selected to be made by the engineers.

I would also like to congratulate all the girls who entered the competition for their wonderful and imaginative inventions. Many girls achieved Merit or Distinction and will be receiving a certificate soon. Well done girls!

Mrs T Wallis



Amelia, Year 2



Zarina, Year 3



Ellie, Year 3



Rhianna, Year 5

## Year 6 Creative Design Tea Party

On Monday 1st July, we held a Creative Design Tea Party, inviting all the teachers that had taught us over the course of the academic year. We made the food ourselves during our DT lessons.

We also surprised Mrs Jewell by singing her a leaving song and presenting her with gifts and presents.

We had a wonderful time and the teachers seemed to enjoy themselves. We all owe a big thank you to Mrs Evangeli and Mrs Osborne for organising the event and to Mrs Solari for helping out on the day.

Fatima, Year 6J



## BAFTA Young Games Designers

In our computing lessons and at 'tech future girls' (Whitby, Friday 1pm) you may remember creating entries for BAFTA Young Game Designers (YGD). At Old Palace girls have been entering for a number of years and this year, on Saturday, 29th of June, Catherine, Faith and I went to BAFTA HQ as we were 2019 finalists.

There were five enormous gold faces, so there were lots of photo opportunities. You could play all the games, including Faith and Catherine's 'Deep Sea Dash'. There were cameras everywhere and I was asked to do an interview with BBC Newsround, but I declined!

We got bags with loads of freebies, including headphones, cards and pens, pens and more pens! We were even given popcorn during the Awards ceremony. We didn't bring any trophies home this year but maybe we will in 2020. We were encouraged to keep designing and programming as there are lots of careers in gaming.

Natalie, Year 6





## Year 6 Activities Day

On Wednesday 3rd July, Year 6 were lucky enough to go to Wimbledon Lake. There we changed into suitable clothing ready for our water activities.

6J did sailing first while 6W did kayaking and then we swapped. The kayaking was great fun and we played lots of games including being brave enough to stand up in our kayaks. The instructors made it really fun and splashed us a lot. We all wore buoyancy jackets and so when Teni fell in she was fine and quite funny. She was not the only one!

Getting into the sailing boats was quite tricky but once we were on our way we were fine. As we were paddling in our kayaks we saw many little turtles and fish. At the end we had a chance to jump into the lake. After lunch we had a game of rounders and we had lots of fun. We would like to thank Mrs Fowler, Mrs Smith and Mrs Tamplin for taking us on the amazing trip.

Teni and Alyssa, Year 6J



## Year 7 Visits Greenwich

The Year 7 Geography, DT & Science trip to Greenwich was a welcome reward at the end of exam week in early June. The girls visited the Greenwich meridian line of latitude as well as enjoying a show at the Planetarium. They also visited to Crystal, which is a fantastic exhibition showcasing designs for sustainable cities of the future.



## Year 10 Activities Day

Last weekend, 10 French students travelled to London for a day filled with exciting activities.

We started the day off at the V&A to admire a fabulous exhibition that displayed the work of Christian Dior, the famous French fashion designer who was the founder of one of the world's top fashion houses. The dresses on show were just splendid and it gave us an insight into the history of French fashion and the way in which it has a huge influence on fashion all over the world.

After this first brilliant visit, we went to the French Institute. We were given an in depth tour of the famous Médiathèque. We had the chance to see the library and all the books and movies on offer for us to borrow.

Then, we were fortunate enough to attend a masterclass on the glorious Comédie Française. Three exceptional actresses; Sylvia Bergé, Elsa Lepoivre and Jennifer Decker shared their

experience on their French careers. We also saw an exhibition of photos at the French Institute: Costumes of La Comédie Française designed by Christian Lacroix.

At the end the day, we saw a movie at the brand new cinema room at the

French Institute called "Une saison en France". The weather was amazing and it was a lovely day out. There was certainly an element of "Ohlala!"



## Cricket v Coloma

Well done to the students who played Cricket against Coloma on Thursday. Two teams, a combination of Years 7 to 9, played on the grass at Coloma. The conditions made it difficult as the grass was not really prepared for cricket. Kwik Cricket was the format of the game so everyone batted the same amount of time.

**Team 1:** (Nissi, Mia MJ, Megan, Sumaiya, Mia S, Tahalia, Grace and Catherine) took a fine victory with 241 runs to 223.

**Team 2:** (Lakshmi, Lilia, Skye, Abhirra, Rebecca, Ruby and Natalia) narrowly missed out losing 234 – 251.

However, they bowled well but found it difficult to bat against a team who struggled with their bowling. A good bowl is easier to hit and so it was quite frustrating.

All of our players bowled overarm with a straight arm and their batting and fielding has come on no end. We look forward to next year's season now that we have grasped the idea of cricket. Well done everyone.



## Swimming And Water Polo



My name is Sarah EK. I participate in Sport in school and outside too. I feel like I spend most of my time in one swimming pool or another, as some of you will know. In a normal week I train for swimming between 10 and 12 hours, covering more than 6 kilometres in each two hour session.

I also do Water Polo training which takes up another 10 hours. As well as this I study GCSE PE, which has helped me understand the different sides of Sport. I've really enjoyed learning about how the body works and about the physical and emotional benefits sport provides. Mrs Smith and Mrs

Fowler have given me this opportunity and I am enjoying broadening my knowledge.

Swimming and Water Polo are my passion. I can't imagine what I would do without having them in my life. In fact, many years ago Mrs Tamplin taught me swimming at Beckenham Swimming Club. I was only six years old then. She is still helping me develop and refine my skills now in Year 10.

**Sarah EK, Year 10**

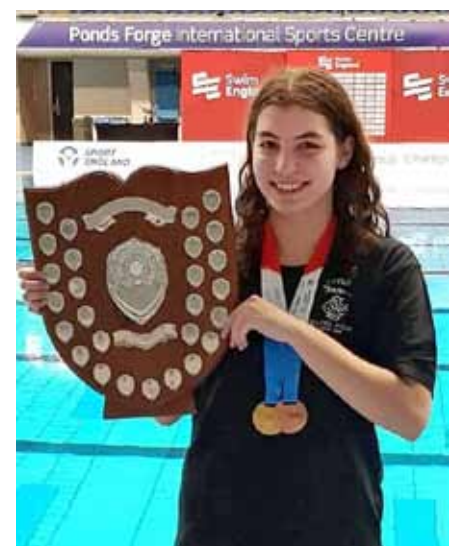
During the half term holiday back in May, while you were all having a very well deserved break, I went to Sheffield to take part in the Water Polo National Age Group Championships.

Sarah EK and I both played in the under 17's competition for our club, Otter. We both played really well and won the bronze medal comfortably. In fact, Sarah was one of the top goal scorers. I was also given the opportunity to play in our under 19 team. We played extremely well and won! Gold medals all round and National champions! All of this happened thanks to dedicated training six days a week, and most

importantly, team work. That's what Water Polo is to me; team work, communication, friendship and mental and physical strength. We were there to celebrate together, support each other and console and lift each other up, when we occasionally lose.

I would not have started on this journey had it not been for Mrs Tamplin introducing Water Polo into our school swimming lessons and putting a Water Polo ball in my hands.

**Sarah M**



## Money Week At Seniors

### Money Week was most certainly a week to remember at the Senior School

Learning about the importance of money in lessons greatly influenced the way we use and think about money. In Maths, we focused on the links between money and maths. For example, the Year 7s had to decide on the best deals on loans by working out the interest rates. Through using our basic numeracy skills to work out the interest, we were also able to learn about how loans work. As we grow older, this will help us to consider the positives and negatives of loans.

Students from most years experienced different real-life scenarios in Maths lessons, where understanding the use of money was very important. During the house activities, we learnt about the importance of planning our spending and saving. Students were asked to put forward savings tips, and house points were awarded to the groups with the best ideas.

As well as this, Year 8 students completed an exam in financial education, and higher up the school students were taught about the impact of gambling, money, mental health and how to be a savvy consumer were three of the highlights of Money Week for me, together with the 'Make Money Grow' House Fair event. Blood, sweat and tears went into carefully designed business plans in order to get a £5 investment from the school enterprise fund.



On the day of the event the Banqueting Hall boasted a range of stalls from mocktails to 'guess the smell'. Other stalls included: sweet cups, henna, baked treats and a second-hand book stall.

A favourite of mine (and most students I think) was 'Sponge the Teacher'. Students were able to get back at the teachers using wet sponges! Planning our stalls for the House Fair involved planning, budgeting, marketing and team work. In addition, it taught us about opportunities for investment and small business enterprise. It was truly wonderful to see students come together to run stalls in such a professional manner.

Naturally, there was a competitive sense between the Houses but in the end we raised over £500 for the Livingstone charity! Well done to 10L who raised the most.

A big thank you to all the teachers who helped and the students who participated in Money Week. We were glad to have an opportunity to learn about financial education within our usual subjects.

**Sumaiya, Year 7**



## Year 5 Marble Run

In Mrs Salter's Science lessons, Year 5 have been applying their understanding of gravity, friction and other forces to create marble runs.

Students have been feverishly preparing their marble runs for a 'race' on the last day of term: the marble run which takes the longest to complete will be crowned the winner!



## Nursery And Pre School Round Up: June

**Money Week** was so much fun; the Pre School opened a shop bank and café that were very busy with groups of children visiting twice a day at 'opening time'. There was some great learning for our little ones who had to 'queue' at the bank, get coins to spend in the shop and vouchers for a drink, biscuit or popcorn in the café. All the Pre School children had jobs and loved taking orders at the café, serving and packing bags.

There were some lovely activities in the rooms too with coin rubbing, Jack and the Beanstalk stories, singing and acting out *Five Currant Buns in a Baker's Shop* and making coin pictures - to name just a few!

**STEM Week** is the ideal environment to explore the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

During STEM week, Nursery and Pre Prep planned a number of experiments and problems to solve; in Pre School the problem of how to cross the river was explored using Lego. Kinders experimented with bubble mixture, Transition looked at the changes in materials as they made their own slime, and the very youngest children in toddlers explored magnetism!



**The Pre School Concert** was a spectacular end to the year; *The Tale of Old Palace* followed the story of the lost cardigan, with all the children involved in the search and taking the parts of fairy tale characters. The audience were wowed by the fairies who lit up the stage in their dazzling tutus and were moved to tears at the performances of the children, some of whom are only three years old!

A very big thank you to all the staff involved in the production this year. Their energy, time, commitment and creativity provided these very young children with the opportunity to extend their experiences in the performing arts through expressive movement, resulting in an astonishing achievement.



## Year 3 Visit Wakehurst Place

Last Tuesday, Year 3 visited Wakehurst Place as part of their Science topic on Plants.

The first activity was the story stick trail. The girls were each given a plain stick with elastic bands tied around them. Their task was to collect as many natural materials from plants that were lying on the ground, like petals and cones, which they secured under the elastic bands. The girls managed to collect a few things until, unfortunately the activity, normally the highlight of the visit, was cut short due to the very heavy rain.

We headed for shelter in the laboratory classroom. The girls worked in groups to observe and identify differences between plants which had been growing in various conditions. They had to look closely at the soil, leaves and growth of each plant to identify for example which plant had had no water, no light or not enough space. They were each given laboratory coats and looked like real scientists!

As the weather was not on our side, our picnic lunch took place in a lovely tent. We were very grateful for the shelter and enjoyed listening to the rain on the tent and watching a group of ducks who were tempted to join us!

After lunch, there was a break in the weather and the girls were given time to be very creative with petals, leaves and other natural materials to make some ephemeral art; this means something which will not last. Some of the groups took inspiration from Andy Goldsworthy who created abstract art with natural materials. Sadly, the girls had to take their pictures apart and tidy away the items they had used, but not before we had taken some fantastic photographs.



## Year 2 STEM

As well as a workshop with the Happy Puzzle Company, which all of Prep enjoyed, Year 2 have also been participating in other STEM activities this week.

We built tin foil boats and counted how many pennies they could hold before sinking. The class winner was 79 pennies! We tried to make the tallest possible tower out of plastic cups. The tallest was 88cm! We watched a number of

chemistry reactions – fireworks in a jar, a lava lamp, inflating a glove using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. The glove is still standing over 24 hours later! Finally, we were set a number of building challenges using Lego.

For homework, we are going to repeat our favourite activity with our families and find out about the science behind it to share with each other next week.





## Capturing Croydon: Old Palace Hosts Prize Winners Ceremony



11 year old Estelle has been selected from 146 schoolchildren as the winner of the Capturing Croydon competition.

Over 400 images were submitted which captured the children's responses to their surroundings and the changes happening to Croydon's urban landscape.

The competition is part of a borough-wide initiative by The Whitgift Foundation, sponsored by the Croydon Partnership. All winning imagery is available to download here: <https://bit.ly/2xvrAMO>

This week, Sarah Jones MP, Central Croydon, awarded six budding photographers top prizes for their images of Croydon, as part of The Whitgift Foundation's Capturing Croydon Competition.

The Whitgift Foundation ran one-day bespoke workshops throughout March where pupils from six local primary schools were given the opportunity to discover Croydon through a photographic lens. Through exploring historic landmarks alongside the exciting new developments happening in Croydon, local schoolchildren engaged with their surrounding in a new and inspiring way.

Estelle, aged 11, from Atwood Primary took the winning photo at the very first Capturing Croydon workshop, in the Queen's Gardens in the centre of Croydon.



Prizes were also awarded to runners up from the following categories:

COMMUNITY: Adnan from All Saints Primary

OVERALL MOOD / FEELING: Alisia from Howard Primary

COMPOSITION: Indra from Beaumont Primary

NATURAL VS. MANMADE: Lily from Fairchildes Primary

OLD AND NEW: Maira from St Peters

Following multiple rounds of competitive judging, All Saints Primary was awarded the prize for overall winning school by presenting the strongest collection of images from the workshops.

Martin Corney, Chief Executive of the Whitgift Foundation said: "We launched this competition to engage local school children with their surroundings in Croydon and I am extremely impressed by the collection of photography that has

*come out of this initiative spearheaded by The Whitgift Foundation. It is great to see how the workshops have developed the children's understanding of both Croydon's history and its future developments'*

*Some of the places the children went to they had probably walked passed a million times before but never really looked at, but if you understand where you live and take the time to look around and see it, it helps you love and understand it."*



THE  
WHITGIFT  
FOUNDATION

## Year 10 Trip To Dorset

The annual Year 10 GCSE Geography trip to Dorset took place last weekend.

We were so lucky with the weather and as usual the beautiful scenery inspired us all. Data collection on Swanage beach was rather challenging but the girls did a great job collecting their data.



## OPUS Ukulele Players

On Tuesday, 25th June, a small group of OPUS ukulele players went to Whitgift House to perform for the residents with Mr Seddon.

First, we played *You are my sunshine*, (because they enjoyed it so much last time!), then, *Stand by me*, by Ben E King;; next, *Island in the sun* by Weezer, and to wrap it up, *Here comes the sun*, by The Beatles. Guess what the theme was?

We were asked if we could play some music by George Formby, but Mr Seddon said it was too tricky! We gave the residents the words to the songs, and they really enjoyed it and sang along.

It was our last 'gig' for OPUS this year, but next year we will hopefully have a lot of new faces in:

### Mu2, Tuesday lunch time, 12.45pm

We would all like to thank Mr Seddon and our minibus driver for taking us. It was such an amazing experience.

Natalie, Year 6W

## The Whitgift Foundation Three Schools' Concert

Wednesday 16th October 2019

7pm at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon

**Tickets available from 15th July 2019**

DIRECT FROM FAIRFIELD HALLS BOX OFFICE ONLY

This will be an historic and momentous event featuring a selection of collaborative orchestral and choral music in celebration of both our founder John Whitgift, and the re-opening of the Fairfield Halls. The programme includes a range of exciting repertoire including Grieg's Piano Concerto, 1st Movement, the exquisite Rutter Gloria and two world premières written especially for the occasion.

Any profits from this concert will be donated to the Whitgift Foundation Bursary Appeal.

**This will be a very popular event and we advise you purchase tickets as soon as the box office opens.**

## Year 9 Chemistry Society Taster Session



For two Tuesday sessions, Chemistry Society, which is an extra-curricular activity usually only for Years 10 - 13, was opened to Year 9 to give us an experience of what it would be like next year. The second session took place on Tuesday 25th after school and we were testing the bath bombs which we had made ourselves in the previous session. We participated in two experiments in pairs to test their durability and how long they effervesced for in water at various temperatures.

In the first experiment we tested durability because it is an important property so that the bath bomb is able to be kept intact while being transported, rather than disintegrating into a powder. To test this we dropped weights through a cardboard tube which was attached to a clamp and dropped weights from above at a specific height. Each time we added another 100 grams to the mass hanger until the bath bomb had crumbled significantly. Overall we were able to drop 1.1 kg onto a bath bomb before it was severely affected, which was a surprisingly large amount.

Afterwards, we carried out the second experiment to find out how long and how vigorously the bath bombs fizzed for when dropped into a beaker of water at 35°C, 45°C and 55°C, which are the typical temperatures of an adult's bath water. To investigate this we dropped a bath bomb into 600cm<sup>3</sup> of water at the various temperatures and started the timer immediately and stopped it only when we could no longer observe any bubbles. We found that the hotter the water, the longer and more vigorously the bath bomb would effervesce, with the longest time until the effervescence had stopped being 78 seconds at 55°C.

Overall the session was educational and incredibly enjoyable as we were each able to take home a bath bomb in a box lined with tissue paper which we had decorated. I am now eagerly anticipating joining Chemistry Society regularly next year.

Sophia, Year 9S



## House Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Stafford and 6W for being the inaugural House Reading Challenge 2019 winners for Year 6 and Years 7-13 respectively.

The House Reading Challenge began last September to encourage reading for pleasure through peer book reviews. Every reading review submitted counts as one 'Reading Point' to your House/Class, with termly counts to view progress. Individuals handing in six or more reading reviews every term receive bookish prizes, including their names going into a hat for the chance to win author signed books, which this year included books by Angie Thomas *The Hate U Give*, John Boyne *The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas* and Tom Pollock *White Rabbit, Red Wolf*.

## The House Reading Challenge 2020 has now started!

Reading review sheets along with reading lists are available in the 'Reading List' area on Library Seniors VLE. For more reading ideas, newly released books and books that are trending at Old Palace Seniors, view our 'Bookflix' animation on the Library Seniors VLE homepage.

Reading improves literacy, life skills and helps you relax. If you write book reviews and submit them to The Friends' Library by **Thursday 12th September**, it will also give you the chance to win bookish prizes as well as get your House off to a great start in the House Reading Challenge 2020.

Keep up to date with current affairs over the holidays by reading the online current affairs site, The Day. This can be accessed through the Library Seniors Online Resources section in our VLE area or by logging onto the website

<https://theday.co.uk/>

Username: OPOJWS password: theday

Wishing you a great summer full of reading!

Mrs Chevalier and Mrs Moar



## House Reading Challenge 2019/2020

- Write book reviews to gain 'Reading Points' for your House  
Best book reviews receive merits
- Reviews collected & counted 3 times over the year:
  - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019
  - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020
  - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020
- Final day to hand in reviews: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020  
Final count: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020
- Winners announced at Prize Giving July 2020
- Students submitting six or more book reviews before each termly count will receive bookish prizes & the chance to win author signed books/book vouchers  
Book review sheets can be downloaded from the Library Seniors VLE page

## POD - Point Of Departure Talks

### Pros and Cons of Plastics

As part of STEM week, Shannon and Megan from Year 12 led a POD for the Year 6-8 students exploring the pros and cons of plastics.

They chose to focus on the detrimental impact on Microplastics in our oceans. Microplastics are small fragments of plastic material, smaller than what can be seen by the naked eye. They are found in facial scrubs and cosmetics, and can be formed by the breaking down of larger materials like bottles and plastic bags.

The audience were shocked with facts about plastic consumption across the UK, and the session ended with a discussion about the various actions we can (and should) take to combat this problem to help ensure a sustainable future. Hopefully attending this POD will encourage the younger students to think about their personal use of single use plastic and make a real effort to reduce their plastic footprint.

A big thank you to Shannon and Megan for organising and running the POD!

### The Stonewall Riots: 50 Years On

On Monday, 24th June, Miss Ford ran an interesting POD entitled 'Stonewall Riots: 50 Years on'. This POD looked back at some of the key moments in the history of the gay rights movement and how perceptions towards people within this section of our community have changed. Miss Ford discussed what attitudes were like during the 1960s towards the gay community, often being very negative from both governments and individuals within the population.

The Stonewall events in New York city were a changing point, giving people within the gay community a sense of empowerment and the ability to stand up for their rights. In the 50 years that have passed since then things have changed, both in the USA and the rest of the world. Some changes over time were negative and actively worked against the discussion of gay rights.

In many places being gay was illegal. However, in more recent years things have become more positive in many parts of the world. Civil partnerships and gay marriage have been legalised in many countries. Pride celebrations are now much more mainstream.

## Fencing Competition

The students who participate in fencing every Thursday after school experienced a first this week; a mini fencing competition with the boys at Whitgift and Trinity Schools – hosted by Whitgift.

The girls showed a real desire to win – and they worked hard to be on the same level as some of the boys. It was their first experience and encouraged them to continue to work hard on their fencing. We certainly hope to do this again in the future. All the students really enjoyed the competition and look forward to a repeat fixture – with some victories!

**Oana** (Fencing Coach)

For any students interested in fencing, please look out for the letters early next term about this opportunity – which is a club run by Oana with a cost involved.



# Old Palace Welcomes Guest Speaker Dr Liz Walder to Prize Giving

We were delighted to welcome back OP Liz Walder to Prize Giving on Monday evening. Being the main speaker at such an event is always a challenge; it requires a speech that is both inspiring and entertaining and Liz delivered both with aplomb. Below is a copy of Liz's speech in full. Enjoy! It makes fascinating reading.

## Opportunity Knocks

Thank you for inviting me to be the guest speaker at this evening's prize evening, and so far it has been a fabulous evening.

I want to spend the next 15 minutes talking about the journey of my career path. I want to share how opportunity can come into your life too, and how you can welcome it with open arms. In fact, if opportunity comes your way, you should at the very least, invite it in for a cup of tea. Opportunity can come when you least expect it. It can also be waiting around the corner, camouflaged as something else, waiting for you to discover it.

I also want to share with those of you who maybe won't be getting a prize this evening, that there is something out there for you. Because we all develop our skills at different stages in our lives. And just because you don't receive a school prize this evening, doesn't mean that you're not an achiever. Your opportunities will come later in your life. Your opportunity will come when you go off to college or university, when you're out in the big wide world of work, or when you start having children. Opportunities for everyone are out there to be discovered.

So I left Old Palace with 5 GCSEs and 3 A-levels, and I read Classical Studies at university because that was the subject that I got my best mark in at A-level. But at university, I was expected to study and pass Latin in one year: a subject I had never done before and boy was that hard! So I changed my degree subject to Ancient History & Archaeology, dropped the Latin, and happily sailed forth into my studies and fieldwork.

I quickly discovered that prehistory eg flint tools and cremated bodies were all the rage in archaeology: which was of no interest to me at all. So there were lots of people studying for degrees in prehistory and talking at length about societies before written documents. Yawn yawn. But my first opportunity fell into my lap because I discovered that my tutor was interested in medieval

buildings. Hooray. So I was able to take a course in medieval building structure and a second course in the development of the medieval landscape. I found both of these courses really interesting because, believe it or not, the way that our towns and cities in the UK are laid out today, are either medieval or Roman. I chose the buildings at Old Palace School, or Croydon Palace, as the subject of my undergraduate dissertation, which gave me the perfect opportunity to delve into the history and archaeology of the site.

As part of our course at university, we were introduced to lots of people working in a range of related fields in Ancient History & Archaeology: lecturers, teachers, museum curators, field archaeologists, educators and interpreters. I think the idea was to see if we were sufficiently interested to aim for any of these careers after we left.

After speaking to one of the curators, I thought about a career in museum work. That sounded interesting but neither of my parents worked in museums, and I didn't really know anyone myself to do, I clearly had to make it happen on my own.

Then I discovered that the Vice Chancellor of the university was also an officer at the Museums & Galleries Commission in London (that was the body that looked after museums across the UK). Now, usually it was naughty students who got sent to see the Vice Chancellor, but here was another opportunity for me. So I booked a meeting with his secretary and went to see him.

"How do I get a job in a museum?" I asked.

"Will you get a first class degree?" he asked. I thought not and shook my head.

"How about a 2:1. Will you get that?" That's the next grade down. I admitted that I didn't think I'd done enough work to get that grade either.

He took a deep breath. "As you're honest with me, I'll be honest with you. What you need to do is obtain another

qualification, an MA in Museum Studies that will make you a curator. If you can't get the top grade of degree that will open the door to funding this MA, you will need to work for as long as it takes to get the money to pay for it. And meanwhile get some voluntary experience in a museum."

So basically ... that is what I did.

I came back home to Croydon with my degree in Ancient History & Archaeology. I first worked in Dennis Publishing in Tottenham Court Road, and then moved to a job with the accountancy training firm of Foulks Lynch, in Camberwell. It was a pain of a journey – two buses just to get there – and it was a means to an end. But I came to love that job. Within the first month, I was promoted to help run their financial workbook division, which involved writing up case studies about the international trade markets for publication. I used to joke that this was buying Spanish tomatoes in French in the Moroccan souk.

Another opportunity came my way in the form of volunteer work for the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society museum in Coulsdon where I could get some museum experience. Being in that voluntary environment for most of my free evenings and weekends taught me an awful lot about working with other people, none of whom were getting paid for being there. I saw how different jobs were assigned to different people, dependent on their skills and abilities. I helped out with the educational corner at the monthly open days for the public. I got shown how to handle all kinds of ancient objects. Lots of opportunities to learn from others.

I was given responsibility for cataloguing the museum collections in an early computer automated documentation program. This included handling a range of mostly archaeological objects, measuring and photographing them for inclusion in the catalogue, and I expect that my pictures are now online somewhere in the abyss of the internet!

I reckon that there were about 300,000 objects in that collection ranging from

prehistoric tools to Victorian brooches. And I must tell you about the clay pipe collection. Clay pipes were the original single use throwaway artefact, long before the invention of plastic straws and wet wipes. In the 18th century when tobacco was introduced in this country, men, women and sometimes children, used to smoke it in a small clay pipe which was chucked away after use. If you ever come across a clay pipe – and there are hundreds of thousands of these in existence, they have no monetary value. But every archaeological museum will have a box, or two, or ten, each containing about a hundred clay pipes. They are so worthless that when you trip over the museum step carrying a box of these items, drop it and they smash to smithereens, the curators don't bat an eyelid. As happened to me.

So just after just 2.5 years after graduating from my first degree, I had saved enough money and I got a place at UCL to study for an MA in Museum Studies. It was a very intensive course, but it was worth every penny. Part of the course involved visiting museums and collections across the UK. Think of those opportunities which lay in front of me. I was enthralled with the perfect symmetry of the architecture at the Queen's House in Greenwich, I breathed in the formaldehyde amongst the species at the Natural History Museum, and I learnt how to conserve timber with polyethylene glycol at the Mary Rose Museum.

I also had to complete a 30 week placement in a real, live, working museum, and did this under the watchful eye of Miranda Poliakoff, the curator at the Museum of Fulham Palace (1), the country house of the Bishops of London, on the banks of the Thames, run by Hammersmith Council. As an unpaid intern, I was given all sorts of jobs: from folding up raffle tickets, to taking samples from an 18th century ceiling for paint analysis, to accompanying the Bishop of Fulham on a new guided walk in the gardens.

During the MA, I learnt how to properly exhibit and label objects for the public. And we had fun, testing different labels styles on an unsuspecting public at the British Museum for a week. Our student exhibition highlighted the Field Archaeology Unit's 21 year history and opened at Chichester District Museum (in a real museum) before travelling around other venues in Sussex. My fellow students unanimously elected me as their leader to make this happen

– and by the way, this is what I seem to be known for these days: making things happen.

Whilst it was hard work, we had a grand launch, with the Director of Archaeology from English Heritage to open the exhibition. I must have been doing something right because the head of the Field Archaeology Unit employed me to move the exhibition around Sussex for the next year. What an opportunity that was: my first paid job in the museum field.

We also had to write a dissertation as part of the course, and my love of the built environment, led me to write 10,000 words on the difficulties and solutions of interpreting historic buildings to the public. Determined to make this as fun as possible, I spent time at the National Jousting Centre and with the Sealed Knot Re-enactment Society, but my main case study was the five different types of interpretation that took place at Hampton Court Palace. Such in-depth dedicated study required attention to detail and when the palace offered me the opportunity to base myself there for a couple of weeks, I jumped at the chance. So, yes, I lived at Hampton Court Palace in a grace and favour apartment, on site for a fortnight.

Is it haunted? Probably. But the security guards played tricks after dark on each other and used to jump out of doorways. Scared me the first time they did it to me, but I got wise after that.

After I graduated with my MA, I had to find a job, and this was not easy. I set up a mini business in order to move the travelling exhibition around Sussex, getting my name known, which led to some other part time work in exhibition design and education projects but it wasn't enough to pay the bills. However, another opportunity quickly presented itself. If I already had 2 days work, why couldn't I work for a day a week for three other organisations?

So my mini business became a museum business and I went out and secured work at five different museums to bring me an income over a working week. Over the next six years, I honed the business and finally worked for just two organisations: the V&A with its hideous layers of bureaucracy, and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Drawings Collection.

Why don't I still work in the museum field? Well to cut a long story short, my priorities changed. Living in London

with rising rents meant that I had to continually increase my fees, which simply didn't work in the profession.

So I was working in the RIBA Drawings Collection, and when the opportunity came along to work for the RIBA in a second role, I took it. But eventually along came opportunity again – to work full time in the London office, supporting architect members. And despite leaving the museums behind, the museums that I had worked hard to get into, I took on a job that celebrated buildings. How could I not love that?!

Plus I became on first name terms with people that I would never have known in a million years in museums. I'm not a big name dropper but when the National Portrait Gallery had a narrow triple height extension insert by Dixon Jones, I went along to see it for the RIBA design awards and met Charles Saumarez Smith, the Director. Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, became a friend, after we gave the Great Court a design award, and a speaker for an RIBA winter event, Kevin McCloud from Channel 4's Grand Designs stayed in my spare room one night when all the hotels were full one Christmas.

So you see, working in architecture was fun and interesting. Yet I would never have found that career path straight from Old Palace.

Working in the RIBA design awards led to me co-ordinating the annual Royal Gold Medal presentation. To my horror, I discovered that there was no information on the medal, no history, no data, nothing. And medallists kept asking about the historical context. So that opportunity became the subject of my PhD. 109,000 words later, and with detailed information about the history, design and legacy of this architectural prize, it has just been published and is now available from Amazon.

In 2008, I was promoted by the RIBA to be the Director of the sister organisation, the Royal Society of Architects in Wales. What a fantastic opportunity! It was also a 27% salary increase, and a chance to get on the housing ladder. How could I resist that?! This time I probably invited opportunity in for a cup of tea.

I stayed five years at the RSAW before the need came to stretch my wings. I finished my PhD and took on a part-time teaching role at Trinity St David in Swansea. This course just got validated by the Architects Registration Board, so we are on a footing with Cambridge and

Oxford Brooks now which means high hopes for future design students.

Looking into the future, I saw opportunity sitting lazily in the corner: there was a market for online communications. So I set up a social media agency which has posted a profit for the last five years. In two weeks time, that business, Communication Crossroads Limited, celebrates its sixth birthday.

Working at Gillard Associates, an architectural practice in Cardiff Bay has led me to see that there are female clients who want a house remodel or extensions but are nervous about calling in the (male) builders. So another opportunity has presented itself.

I've created Ladybird Construction to answer this need. So I have seen another opportunity, found a solution and jumped straight in.

As well as working with predominately female clients, I'm on a mission to simplify the building process for users. I currently have five clients and some investment, but haven't properly launched yet!

"So if someone offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes. Then learn how to do

it later." Richard Branson said that, but its kinda the mantra for my life.

What has being at Old Palace given me?

I think probably the ability to not be afraid to work hard and get the job done. Whatever that job might be.

Private education does give you a good start in life. Teachers open the door for you but you must enter by yourself (2).

But I would urge you to also look for opportunity. When it comes your way, grasp it with both hands. Keep it safe.

See if you can find a way to take that opportunity and turn it into something worthwhile. If you can see your big dream and your ambition in the future, then reach out and take it.

And make it yours. And make yourself a success.

And if you seek inspiration, I'll end with the words of Captain Jack Sparrow from the Pirates of the Caribbean, "Bring me that horizon.... seek me a new opportunity, YO HO."

Thank you.

**Dr Liz Walder** MA FRSA MCIPR  
*Architectural Historian and entrepreneur*

(1) *Many of the Bishops of London went on to become Archbishops of Canterbury so some of the names my old "friends" from here, like Laud and Juxon.*

(2) *Chinese proverb*