



AROUND THE PALACE

Year 13 Graduation Supper



On Friday 3 May, Year 13 students celebrated their Graduation Supper.

Staff, students and parents enjoyed drinks and dinner followed by a wonderful Concert organised by Mr Griffiths and Miss Orr.

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Welcome

We celebrated a wonderful Graduation Supper with our Year 13 leavers followed by a most uplifting concert in Chapel organised by Mr Griffith and Miss Orr. Students performed magnificently. Thank you to all families for joining us for this very special event and warm thanks to Mr Talleux for organising such an enjoyable occasion.

Old Palace is also exceptionally proud of our sporting successes. Many congratulations to Kara, Lara, Marley and Daisy in Year 4 for their success in tennis at the Croydon Sports Partnership Tennis finals. The girls have won through to the finals! We also congratulate Mrs Coster for all the hard work in preparing our aspiring tennis champions.

Hats off also to our Senior Relay race champions, Lilia, Amy, Mia and India – the fastest Relay team of all the Croydon schools at the Croydon Schools Athletics Championships. Enjoy full details in our bulletin.

Carol Jewell, Head

Year 13 Graduation Supper *continued*

In their after dinner speeches, Mr Talleux thanked the parents for their support over the years. Mrs Jewell spoke of the pride she felt as she remembered many of the girls when they were in Reception.

Vanessa, the out-going Head Girl, wished her year group every success in their examinations and reminded them that "once an Old Palace girl, for ever an Old Palace girl".

We wish Year 13 students every success in their examinations and look forward to celebrating with them in August.



Photography by Stéphane Talleux

Graduation Supper Concert

Following on from the Graduation Supper, a number of the Year 13 students participated in the Leavers' Concert, which gave our departing musicians the opportunity to perform to friends and family one final time before embarking on study leave. There were numerous touching, dramatic and scintillating performances from the girls, and it was a lovely way to end the evening.

The concert began with the exciting Senior Steel Pans ensemble, who played two sets with the sort of tightness and togetherness that can only come from years of playing as a group. There were several vocal items, including the beautiful and emotive *Shenandoah*, *Bridge over Troubled Water* and *For Good*, sung by Berey, Eleanor and Carol.

Maryam and Sareena played some virtuosic piano music, with incredible energy and finesse, and Carol played the mesmerising *Hypnosis* on Flute with typical levels of maturity.



Once again, it was a pleasure to see the supportive and cooperative nature of the girls and I would like to thank them for their wonderful performances on the evening, as well as the ongoing contributions they have made to the school and music department throughout their time at Old Palace. Thanks to Miss Orr for her usual understated musical accompaniment and to Mr Griffith for his excellent accompanying and organisation of the concert.

Year 9 And 10 Croydon Schools Athletics Championships

Wow! What a fantastic day we had at Croydon Athletics on Tuesday with Year 9 and 10 athletes!

It wasn't particularly warm – but in many ways, ideal for athletics. All the athletes competed well – some with more experience than others. They looked smart and proud to represent Old Palace School against all the other Secondary Schools in Croydon.

While everyone did well, we really must first of all mention the Year 9 Relay Team (4 x 100m). Having competed in the heats, Lilia, Amy, Mia and India progressed to the Finals.

Eight schools qualified for the finals – and the Relays are always the event to watch for excitement value. This race was no exception. All the runners from Old Palace ran well. Some had already competed in other events so they did really well to maintain their energy levels.

The team came from behind to win the race after a particularly impressive final leg by India, who was determined that Old Palace would not come second! A fantastic achievement for the whole team – Well Done!



Year 9 Winning Relay Team - India, Lilia, Mia and Amy



Year 9 And 10 Croydon Schools Athletics Championships *continued*

A number of other athletes qualified for the finals in their event – putting them in the top 8 in Croydon. Whilst they were not placed in the top 3, qualification for the final is impressive.

Congratulations to the Year 10 Relay Team – Vy Yen, Alice, Gabrielle and Kayla



Amanda - Year 10
300m Final

The following students were placed in the top 3 in their final or filed event. Many congratulations to:

Alice	3rd Place	Year 10	1500m Final
Amy	3rd Place	Year 9	1500m Final
Mia	3rd Place	Year 9	Long Jump
India	2nd Place	Year 9	100m Final
Gabrielle	2nd Place	Year 10	100m Final



3rd Place Alice - Year 10
1500m Final



Mia - Year 9
Long Jump

Amy - Year 9
1500m Final

Alice - Year 10
1500m Final



2nd Place Gabrielle - Year 10
100m Final

Unplaced finalists (who did extremely well to get to the finals and therefore in the top 6 or 7 in Croydon) were:

Amanda	Year 10	300m
Lilia	Year 9	800m
VyYen, Alice, Kayla and Gabrielle	Year 10 Relay Team	Relay

We look forward to some more excitement as Year 7 and 8 compete this week – and looking further ahead – to our **Senior Sports Day on 19th June**

OP Team Reaches Tennis Finals



Many congratulations to Kara, Lara, Marley and Daisy in Year 4. We are absolutely thrilled that they have reached the finals of the Croydon Sports Partnership tennis finals.

The team played their qualifying matches on Tuesday afternoon, and finished 1st and 2nd in the tournament. Mrs Coster could not have been more proud.

Learning 4 Life - Transport For London



During our Learning 4 Life lesson, our year was visited by a volunteer who worked for the London Underground. Evidently, our lesson was about staying safe, considerate and smart on public transport.

First, our volunteer talked to us about the different types of Transport for London (TFL) operations, such as trains, trams and buses. We then watched a video about the precautions taken by friends meeting in Central London and discussed what they did to keep themselves safe, like planning their route beforehand, agreeing where to meet ahead of time and asking members of staff where they were. We also talked about who would be a 'safe' stranger to approach if asking for directions, such as a TFL employee, parents with children or shopkeepers.

Next, we watched another video about

which type of travel would be more appropriate in a specific circumstance i.e travelling home from school. The video was in a game style format with the same girl coming home from school twice but in different ways, getting on a bus with a friend and walking with a friend.

There were benefits to both circumstances: when the girl went on the bus she got a 'Brain Bonus' because she read a book; however, when she was walking she got an 'Exercise Bonus' and a 'Friend Bonus' because she and her friend saw a group of their friends from school. Our volunteer then explained that different ways of travelling are relevant for different situations.

Our last subject was something much more serious; accidents that happen on public transport. We then watched a video about a group of teenagers that were on public transport without their parents. They each did very irresponsible things like throwing a lifebuoy into the water,

throwing things at the windscreens of boats, leaving their rucksack on a bus, being rude to passengers and going through train barriers without showing their passes. However, their last irresponsible action cost one their life. They were all travelling on the tube and they decided to jump over the gap between the carriages. Four of the five did this but one seemed a little anxious about doing it, as it was an extremely dangerous risk. Eventually, peer pressure from one of the members of the group persuaded her to jump but as the train went around a corner the gap got bigger and she fell through it.

Although it was a story, it did shock us a bit. It seems this problem is a real issue that we face and by learning about it we can prevent similar situations happening in the future.

I would like to thank the teachers who organised this informative lesson and our volunteer for taking his time to teach our lesson.

Lila, Year 6

Year 12 Learning 4 Life



During Year 12's Learning 4 Life session, we were given a talk by an admissions tutor from the University of Law about the importance of personal statements.

At the beginning of the talk, we felt unsure about what to include, and what universities will be looking for. It was interesting to learn about the importance of wider-reading and interpersonal skills when applying to become a university student, even if we have excellent grades across the board. We found it encouraging when we reflected on

the opportunities Old Palace has given us, such as access to competitions and societies, which have provided us with an abundance of skills and talents to convey to admissions tutors when we write our statements.

The second half of the session consisted of ways in which to boost our personal statements by showing a sincere interest in your chosen degree, as well as ensuring that any interviews we might be invited to are successful.

Social media sites related to the degree and podcasts are useful in showing a faculty how passionate you are about their subject, as well as the regular reading of news articles that may be relevant to the area of study you are interested in. Although wider reading was acknowledged as showing an interest and love for the subject, we learnt about the importance of critical analysis; it may be more productive to read fewer texts outside the curriculum but question them in greater depth.

Overall, the talk was most successful and encouraging, as well as insightful. It gave us plenty of information to think about, leaving us much more prepared and confident about starting our personal statements after half-term.

12 Anselm

House Dance Assembly Week

Last week, we had a fabulous display of dances performed to each house during assembly. A variety of pieces were selected from our March Dance Show, *Encapsulating Energy*.

The assemblies reinforced the girls hard work and true dedication that had been put into their performances, as well demonstrating their confidence and courage to perform in front of their peers and teachers! A huge well done to the 45 girls who performed!

We look forward to our next project – Dance Workshop Week, being held next week!



Year 4 and 5 Summer Drama Production

Log it!

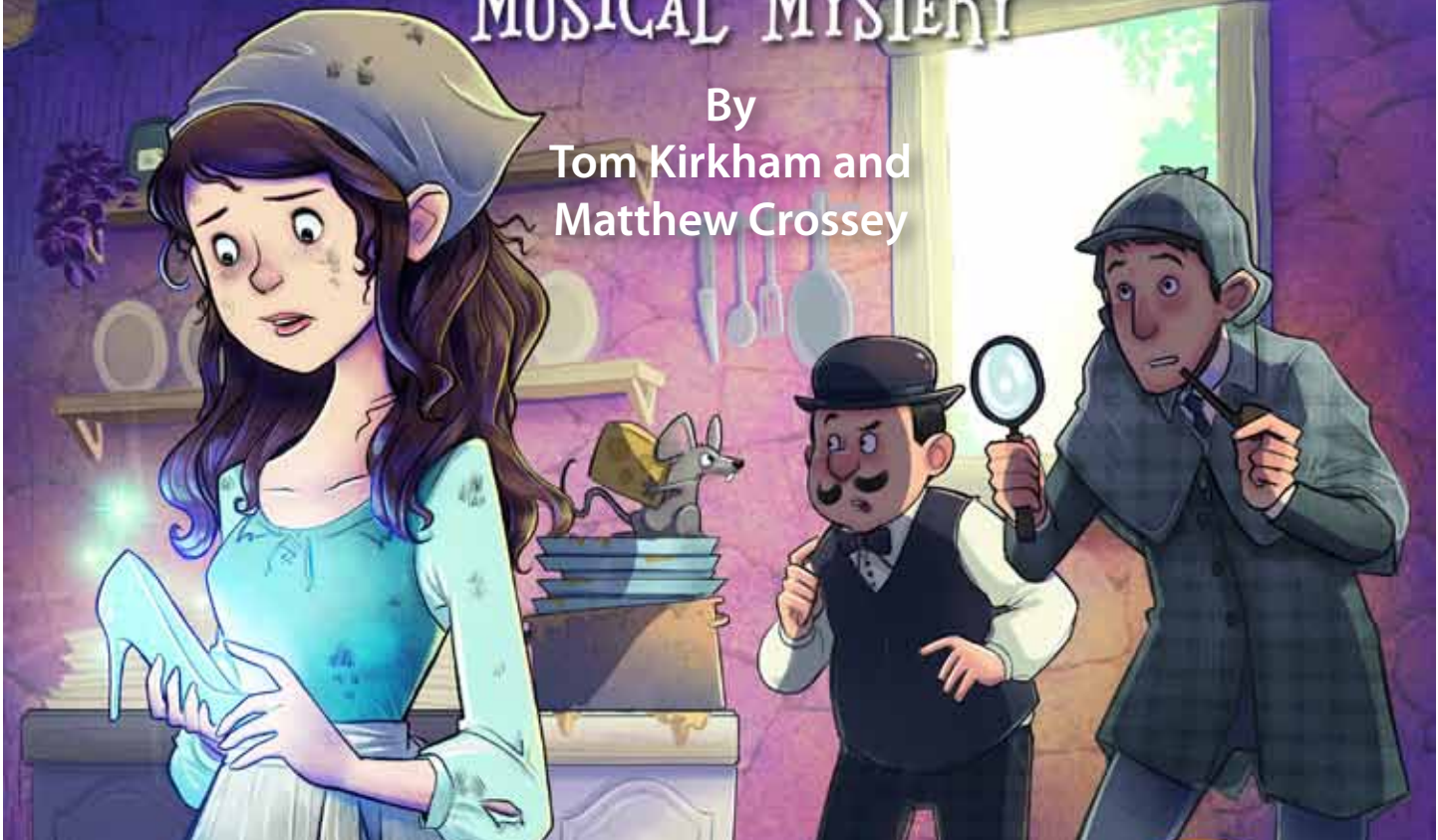
Log each song
you sing on your
CCLI Return

SHERLOCK & CINDERS

AN ENCHANTING
MUSICAL MYSTERY

By

Tom Kirkham and
Matthew Crossey



2nd and 3rd July at 4pm

Tickets: Children/Concessions: **£3** Adults: **£5**

Available via WisePay

Learning 4 Life

Last Thursday, Years 8, 9 and 10 were lucky enough to see a performance from the rock band *The HARA* as part of Learning 4 Life. They were fantastic! Their music was really good!

In between songs they talked to us about their personal experiences with using social media, cyber-bullying and the dangers of peer pressure. The best advice they gave us was telling us to be ourselves. I loved it!

Rachel, Year 10
Digital Leader IT Committee



Sailing



In week two of sailing, we learnt how to steer a boat using a rudder while under sail power. We also had a brief instruction on how to launch the boat onto the lake, how to tie it up, steer and recover it, followed by actual practice in the boat.

It is an awesome feeling to control the boat which is so much fun to do. We even had the chance to play a game and race each other on the water.

I enjoyed learning about the boat and it was so much fun being able to launch it into the lake. I am already looking forward to next week.

Amrina, Year 7

Table Tennis Championships



On Saturday the 6th of April, Mia and I had the privilege of taking part in the London Schools Table Tennis Championships funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation and held at the University of East London in Docklands.

The day was also being celebrated as World Table Tennis Day.

The championships were hosted by the England Table Tennis Association and the top players in London and the suburbs had been invited to take part. The day started with an hour long warm-up session from 9am, with the first pool matches starting from 10am. We had to play the best of five matches against each opponent.

We also helped out umpiring some of the matches throughout the day.

We were lucky to witness some exciting and intense matches. Mia and I were placed in separate pools in our U16 category and avoided facing each other until the quarter finals. We both faced tough opponents in our respective groups, some of them national champions!

The final matches took place late in the afternoon. Both Mia and I finished the tournament accomplishing well within the top ten in our category.

Overall, it was an invaluable experience and we picked up lots of new techniques to work on. At the same time we met lots of new friends that shared the same passion for this sport and witnessed some great sportsmanship on the day.

Aashni, Year 10

JOIN IN WITH DANCE WORKSHOP

WEEK!

Signup sheets are on the ground floor in the Shah Foyer

Week commencing the 13th May

All workshops are at 12:45-13:30

MONDAY – Year 6 & 7
Contemporary

TUESDAY – Year 8
Street Jazz

WEDNESDAY – All years
Ballet

THURSDAY – Year 9 & 10
Choreography

THURSDAY – Year 6
Musical Theatre

FRIDAY – All years
Tap



POD Psychopaths - Born or Made?

On Friday 26th April, Mrs Smith from the Psychology Department ran a POD entitled 'Psychopaths - born or made?'. This was open to students from Year 10 upwards.

In the POD, Mrs Smith explored the different theories related to Anti-Social Personality Disorder, which is thought to be linked to 'psychopathic' behaviours. Key characteristic traits were considered to dispel the myths which surround so called psychopaths. Rather than being out of the ordinary citizens, they are often thought to be very charming and intelligent, but also manipulative and lacking of any remorse or concerns about their actions. They also often fail to recognise fear in other people.

Mrs Smith also discussed if this type of behaviour was due to genes ('nature') or the environment in which the person has grown up in ('nurture'). Famous examples were used to explore if there were connections between the type of environment such individuals grew up in, and what consequences this went on to have.

Overall, this was a fascinating discussion that was enjoyed by both students and staff members alike.

Thank you Mrs Smith.



Friday 17th May

4pm to 5.45pm

For all girls from Reception to Year 5

£3 entrance fee includes candy floss, a drink and a glow bracelet. **Tickets are on sale now until 16th May and there are prizes for the girls who sparkle the most!**

DofE Bronze Route Planning

On Wednesday evening the Bronze DofE candidates took time to plan their expedition route for their Qualifying Expedition that takes place this coming weekend. They are ready to go, equipped with tents, cooking utensils, Trangia's, tent pegs, Karrimats, sleeping bags, walking boots, waterproofs, sun cream and food to keep their energy levels high enough to complete the expedition.

Bronze DofE involves two days of walking and navigating a route with a night of camping. It is a great experience, a good bonding exercise – learning to work together - and a real challenge.

Good luck to all those taking part!

