



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,

One book that has influenced me over the past few years has been 'How Girls Thrive' by JoAnn Deak Ph.D. In her book, she states that girls thrive when they feel capable, confident and connected in the sense that they feel part of something meaningful. She describes this as the 3Cs.

As this busy term draws to a close, I cannot help but feel proud that these 3Cs have been in evidence across Old Palace this week. Our students from Pre School through

to Year 13 have shown they are both capable and confident through a variety of different events and activities: the Christmas performances at Prep with superb performances from all the whole school Carol Service with wonderful musical pieces and very confident readings by students; the Old Palace Bake Off at Seniors which produced cakes that would have impressed Channel 4; the Christmas Jumper days at both sites which raised money for charity; the PTA Christmas Fair, where many of our students ran or helped on stalls;

the Old Palace performance of *Twelfth Night*, which was worthy of a professional theatre company; the Old Palace girls who brought the house down at the Whitgift production of *Hairspray*; the amazing performances in the *Spirit of Dance* show at Seniors and the warm and heartfelt Praise assembly led by the girls at Prep to say goodbye to Mr Horton. Of course, I should say thanks too for the Staff Panto which was performed to the students at Seniors and which probably added another 'C' into the mix - courage!

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A Celebration of Christmas (Year 3 -5)



More pictures on page 16

All these events and activities also allow us all to feel connected as a school community which is an integral part of all the makes Old Palace so special. I would like to close by saying thank you to all our staff for their hard work this year, to the parents for their support of their daughters and the School and finally a thank you to the students themselves for being wonderful people to be around.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to Mr Horton, Head of Prep. He leaves us to go off to Stratford Upon Avon and we will miss his kindness and sense of humour.

I wish all Old Palace families a very Merry Christmas and look forward to those 3Cs continuing to be in evidence in 2020.



Jane Burton, Head



Whitgift House Carol Service

On Monday, 9th December, twenty-five talented Year 4 and 5 students in Prep Polyphonic went to sing in the annual Carol Service at Whitgift House for residents, staff, family and friends. Polyphonic sang two special anthems: *Someone so Poor* and *Little Child*, as well as the congregational carols. Catherine and Andrea began the service by singing the first verse of *Once in Royal* unaccompanied and it was lovely to see a familiar face in Father Andrew leading the service. We were warmly welcomed as always.

The Mayor of Croydon Opens the PTA Christmas Fair



Father Christmas, the Mayor of Croydon and Miss Fitzgerald

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New Old Palace Website Coming Soon

Over the last year, we have been working on a new Old Palace website. We are delighted to say that this will be going live on **Monday, 6th January 2020**.

A major change is the introduction of a new school calendar. However, access to Wisepay/Parental Portal/Staff and Student login remain the same i.e. via the top right hand corner of the home page.

We are sure the switch over from our current site will go smoothly, but if there are a few gremlins along the way, do bear with us.



Old Palace Bids Farewell to Mr Horton

This morning, staff and pupils at the Prep School bid a fond farewell to Mr Horton. Pupils presented him with their very own 'praise' certificates, whilst staff performed a specially commissioned version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

There was much laughter and maybe even one or two tears. We wish Mr Horton and his family the very best of luck as they head off to their new life in Warwickshire. They will be much missed.



ChemSoc Christmas Quiz



Our last meeting this term carried on the festive spirit with the lighting of the ChemisTree and our annual quiz. We were also delighted to announce that Julieta, 12 Laud, has been appointed Chemistry Prefect. She submitted a very strong application and we look forward to her implementing her ideas. As her first task, she compiled the questions for the quiz.

Two of our Year 12 members wrote:

"In Chemistry Society we took part in our annual Christmas quiz, which was great fun. It consisted of some application of chemical concepts that we have learnt already, and it was delightful to be able to interact with the younger years. There was a lovely, vibrant atmosphere and I enjoyed it a lot." **Khushi**

"I enjoyed working with students from other year groups and being part of the competitive atmosphere. The questions ranged from chemical knowledge to anagrams of Christmas words using symbols of chemical elements, which meant there was a huge variety of questions, making the quiz accessible to all year groups taking part. Thank you to Julieta, who wrote an extremely fun and engaging Christmas chemistry quiz." **Nadia**



New Appointments

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Emma Morris has been promoted to Head of Maths at Old Palace effective from January 2020.

We had a strong field of candidates but felt that Mrs Morris had the strong leadership skills and a clear vision for the department that fitted with the ethos of Old Palace. Ms Ford continues in her role as Assistant Head, Academic.

Mrs Helen Stevens has also been promoted to the role of Whole School Numeracy Co-ordinator, also effective from January.

Well done all!

Jane Burton, Head

Year 12 Geographers Consider the Future Development of Croydon



This week, our Year 12 Geographers were invited to take part in Croydon Council's consultation for the future development of the Borough. The focus was on how best to provide over 46 000 new homes across Croydon to meet the needs of residents, and what infrastructure developments would be needed to support this growth.

As the team soon discovered, trying to achieve this, whilst also focussing on protecting the environment and preserving the local heritage, is very tricky. All Croydon residents



are also invited to contribute their views online: www.croydon.gov.uk/localplanconsultation.

Some of the students will also be participating in the Croydon Youth Parliament's first Youth Cabinet meeting on 6th January, where they will become a Councillor for the day and debate pressing issues for the future of Croydon. On this occasion, they will be putting their knowledge on urban planning to good use, discussing the merits of the Croydon Local Plan review.



Christmas at Old Palace

Christmas is now in full swing at Old Palace, with decorated Christmas trees around the school, plans for a Christmas-themed Bake Off competition, Christmas lunch and the Carol Service. It is clear to see that Christmas is a time that we thoroughly enjoy here at Old Palace.

On 27th November, we held our school Christmas Concert. We enjoyed a variety of acts ranging from jazz instrumentals to lovely choral pieces. This concert got us into the Christmas spirit and we were able to spread joy to the parents. As music is very dear to our hearts, we participated in several acts

including senior orchestra, recorder consort and jazz band. It was a joy for Kirsten to accompany the Year 6-7s on the bass guitar for their Christmas jazz cantata.

On the day of the Christmas lunch, the two of us joined with a fellow student to play Christmas carols outside the lunch hall as a wind trio. We have done this every year since Year 8 and have cherished this opportunity. It is one of our favourite traditions and we hope some younger students will carry it on next year after we have left.

Megan and Kirsten, Year 13



Bake Off Competition *Christmas at the Palace*

Junior Bake Off Results

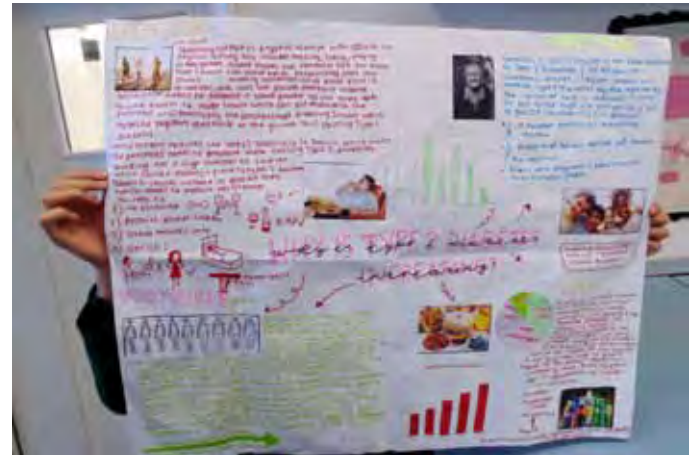
1st	Year 9 Laud	2nd	Year 9 Stafford
3rd	Year 7 Stafford		

Senior Bake Off Results

1st	Year 10 Laud	2nd	Year 12 Laud
3rd	12 Anselm & 12 Stafford & 13 Hatton & 13 Stafford		



Year 10 Diabetes



As the Christmas holidays approach and we enjoy festive treats, sweets and cakes, spare a thought for your pancreas. Year 10 researched and presented on the rising rates of type 2 diabetes in the UK.

They invited the School Health Officer into their biology lesson and explained the risks to individuals and society. We were split up into four groups to focus on different topics related to type 2 diabetes, "What is the proportion of adults with type 2 diabetes?", "Why type 2 diabetes is increasing?", "The social impact of type 2 diabetes" and "What should be

done to reduce type 2 diabetes in the future?"

In our groups, we created some fabulous, detailed posters which we presented to the Health Officer. We had the opportunity to ask any questions on the topic we had, which helped increase our understanding of type 2 diabetes immensely. The research was quite long, (even though we only had one lesson to prepare) but presenting the posters was really exciting and fun!

Alyssa and Sarra, Year 10

Mathematics Christmas Lectures

Enhance your knowledge of real world Mathematics by watching the fascinating series of Royal Institution (RI) Christmas Lectures this year. Dr Hannah Fry is giving three lectures entitled "Secrets and Lies: The Hidden Power of Mathematics." She promises to reveal the secret numbers, rules and patterns that underpin and control our daily lives.

Dr Fry is an Associate Professor in the Mathematics of Cities at the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis at University College London. Her works include several critically acclaimed television documentaries, as well as popular podcasts and successful books on Mathematics. She has a talent for bringing the beauty and interest of Mathematics to life and explaining it in an accessible way.

The RI Christmas Lectures are a televised series of lectures aimed at young people and highlighting a different area of science each year. This year's series of three lectures will be shown on BBC4 on 26th, 27th and 28th December at 8pm.

For more information, please visit the RI website: www.rigb.org/christmas-lectures/2019-secrets-and-lies



Hannah Fry, 2019 Christmas Lecturer

Photo credit: Paul Wilkinson

Jack Petchey Award for Jessica

Many congratulations to Jessica in Year 9 who was recently awarded the Jack Petchey Award for her achievements and progress in athletics at Croydon Harriers.

It is always good to hear of student achievements in sport beyond school.

Well done Jessica!



Year 7 Netball

The A team unfortunately could not manage to hold onto a draw against Bromley High School on Monday and lost 4-3, but the B team drew, 3-3. I feel like we played much better than usual so the score does not reflect the match.

Mayowa was Player of the Match and to be honest I agree with Bromley's decision. She was really good at interceptions and always got into space. Everyone played exceptionally well and did a great job. In the B team, Sapphire was the Player of the Match.

Arabella and Harper, Year 7



Years 3-6 Gymnastics



Girls from Years 3-6 competed in a friendly gymnastics competition against Royal Russell and Seaton House on Tuesday afternoon.

The girls worked exceptionally hard on their routines and Year 3 were lucky enough to walk away with the gold medal.

Well done to all competitors.

Paul and Star Guide Dog Experience



Year 7 currently sponsor a Guide Dog so on Friday we were very excited to be visited by Paul and his Guide Dog, Star.

It was so interesting and intriguing to hear all about how Star helps Paul with his day to day life. We were given the opportunity to learn more about the origin of Guide Dogs and the drastic change they can make to people's lives. We got to witness how dogs like Star can give

people their lives back again just by simply helping and acting like a human friend.

Star has learnt the route to the shops and knows where the bus stop is, which allows Paul to go out and be independent. We found out that the raised dots on the road are essential for knowing where the crossing starts and under the box on a road crossing there is rotating stick that signals when it is safe to cross the road.

Paul was so grateful for our contributions and we were so pleased that we got to see a Guide Dog in action.

Bethany, Year 7

Primary Maths Challenge Success

Earlier this term, all of Year 5 and 6 took part in the Primary Maths Challenge, a national competition designed to develop students' reasoning and problem solving skills, as well as being lots of fun.

This year, we are pleased to report that several students have been awarded certificates for their excellent work:

Bronze	Tia-Amelie	Year 5
	Lina	Year 5
	Anaaya	Year 5
	Rhianna	Year 6
	Chloe	Year 6
	Charlotte	Year 6
Silver	Avani	Year 5
	Amber	Year 6
	Nikhita	Year 6
	Aarna	Year 6
Gold	Theresa-Mae	Year 6

Special congratulations must also go to Theresa-Mae, who will represent the school in the worldwide final in February.

Good luck Theresa-Mae!

Spirit – Empowerment Through Dance

Spirit was warmly received by a full audience on Tuesday evening in the Banqueting Hall. It was aptly compered and hosted by the Year 12 Gold Arts Award pupils Charlotte, Lydia, Anushka and Sahi.

Over 70 performers took part in all year groups. Particular highlights included the Year 12 Gold Arts Award pupils performing a fusion of diverse dance styles in their piece entitled *Four Colours* incorporating Bharatanatyam, contemporary, cha cha and tap dance and the hip hop finale *Believe* choreographed by Year 9 pupil, Jaeda, which involved pupils from Year 8 through to Year 11.

A special mention should go to the Year 9 pupils for the sharing of this term's choreographic work based on *Emancipation of Expressionism* by Boy Blue Entertainment as well as AS dance pupils Safiyah and Charlotte for sharing their solo and trio compositions in preparation for their exams.

The Year 11 dancers deserve special recognition for their performance of the set phrases and their dance leaders' choreographic pieces exploring the idea of contrast in addition to a busy term of academic exam preparation.

As well as exploring a celebratory theme, *Spirit* was an opportunity to connect with historical points of darkness.

The Year 10 GCSE pupils performed a moving and reflective piece, based on the professional work *Shadows* by Christopher Bruce, which highlights a family's plight in the wake of the Holocaust.

The whole evening was energetic, enjoyable and thought provoking and we look forward to celebrating dance again with you in March next year!

Mrs Barber and Mrs Porter
Dance Department





PTA Christmas Fair *continued*

The Old Palace PTA Committee would like to thank all those who attended the Christmas Fair last Saturday and helped make it a success. Your presence and support was very much appreciated. As in all such endeavours, we would not be able to organise and run these events if not for our trusted band of Parent and Student Volunteers. The senior student volunteers were to be congratulated on their hard work last Saturday as the PTA would not have been able to host half of its stalls if not for their invaluable help. We send our thanks to the Staff, Caretakers and Catering staff who helped make our task so much easier on the day.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish the whole Old Palace community a very happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

We look forward to engaging with you in the coming year via the many events we have planned for the Spring and Summer terms and we hope you have a restful break.

Old Palace PTA



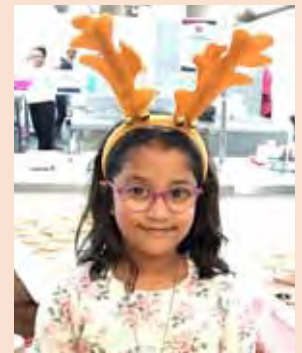
Winners of the Cake Competition



Aadya, Year 1



Katy, Year 5



Hiru, Year 2

The winner of the Sweetie Jar Competition was Misha Year 1

PTA Christmas Fair *continued*



The Mayor of Croydon and Mrs Burton

Badminton Competition at Riddlesdown Collegiate

On Friday, four students (Hannah, Megan, Aliyah and Sanvi) were given the opportunity to go to Riddlesdown Collegiate School for a KS3 Badminton Competition run by the Croydon Sports Partnership.

We played three matches and then a fourth one to decide what position we were in. We won 2 out of 4 first round matches which was a selection of doubles and singles. Overall, we came sixth - which, considering we have no badminton courts at Old Palace, is pretty good.

Our first match was against Coloma. Megan played in the first singles match. Hannah and I played the doubles and Aliya played the second singles match. Old Palace won that match. The final score was 2-1.

We played our second match against Thomas More. The same arrangements were made. At first, we had a bit of a difficulty getting a few points but then we got on a winning streak and won. The final score was again 2-1.

For our third match we played Woodcote and unfortunately lost 1-2.

To determine our final position we played another Coloma team and again lost 1-2, putting us in 6th place over all.

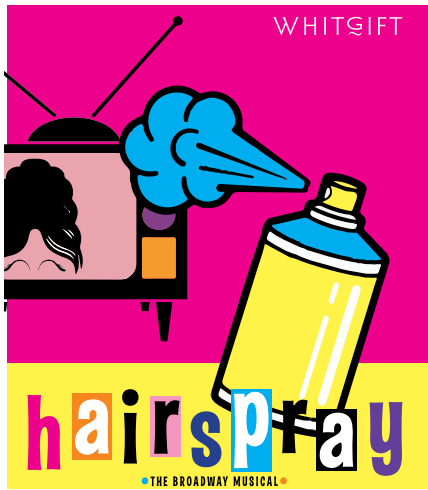
We all really enjoyed taking part and it didn't matter that we didn't win - we had fun! Thank you to Mrs Tamplin for taking us.

Sanvi, Year 8

Years 3 - 5 Informal Concert

18 prep girls delighted parents and teachers with their performances at the Informal Concert after school on 3 December. They played a range of instruments including piano, oboe, violin, clarinet, flute, drum kit and for the first time we had five vocal performances as well. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.





Old Palace girls took many of the leading roles at the excellent production of Hairspray at Whitgift School in early December. The whole cast brought the house down with their superb acting, musical prowess and great choreography. Well done to all those involved.



Hairspray photography © Danny Fitzpatrick

Year 6 Cake Decorate Off



On Thursday, 5th December, Year 6 had a 'Cake Decorate Off'. Mrs Evangeli and Mrs Feeney very kindly baked the cakes which would soon be covered with fondant, icing and marzipan. I know... a lot of sugar, right!

The whole of Year 6 enjoyed it very much, and would love to do it again! The teachers played a great part in this enterprise by helping us prop up Father Christmas's legs and giving us all constructive advice which proved very useful.

The whole thing ran like clockwork, with no arguments at all! (But you wouldn't have guessed that, with the amount of noise we made!)

A very big "thank you" to all the teachers who looked in to support and encourage us and to the staff who supervised the activity: Mrs Feeney, Mrs Evangeli, Mrs Smith, Mrs Sinclair and Mrs Talleux.

Nia, Year 6



The Year 6 'Cake Decorate Off' was an inspirational experience that brought out the best in everybody involved. We were assigned one hour to decorate a cake and shape it into a Christmas design. We were given two round cakes and one rectangular-shaped cake to create into a Christmas extravaganza.

My team (Beautiful Snowflakes) had a plan to make a standing Christmas tree sandwiched with buttercream and piped to perfection on the outside with the Old Palace crest fashioned from fondant. As you can gather from the description, this was very complicated and catastrophe struck! We had to completely change our plan and turn to plan B, a "Christmasoraus" the only one of its species. We rolled up pieces of our broken cake into a ball and mixed them with green fondant to make Brussel sprouts. Next, we laid our cake flat and covered it in green fondant. We used candy canes for eyes and decorated the borders of our cake with icing and sprinkles.

We were extremely happy that we were able to salvage our cake in time. We learnt that not everything goes to plan and that you have to make the most of what you have. Things will always work out in the end, if you don't give up. It was great fun.

Thank you to Mrs Evangeli and Mrs Feeney for baking all of the cakes for us. Thank you to Mrs Smith for helping and to everyone who encouraged us.

Theresa-Mae, Year 6







A Celebration of Christmas (Year 3 -5)

On Monday, after school Years 3-5 delighted parents, teachers and friends with their *Celebration of Christmas*.

Elements of the traditional Christmas story were re-told by Year 3 through readings, poetry and music. Year 4's two nativity scenes (and song) had a modern twist with Herod claiming he had the 'X Factor' and singing Angels auditioning with arpeggios to God. Year 5 brought the true meaning of Christmas to us through retellings of the traditional Russian folk tale *Baboushka* and two Christmas scenes from the famous book *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. Prep Polyphonic sang three moving carols, including a lullaby, *Little Child* in four parts. The finale song for everyone was a rousing *I wish it would be Christmas Every Day* with actions and it was expertly accompanied by Nailah-Belle on drum kit and Mrs Newlands on the piano.

The programme was selected and arranged by Miss Fitzgerald with help from Mrs McMullen who created the fabulous sets and props. Thank you to Mrs Bardens, Mrs Coster, the class teachers and the parents for creating the costumes and Miss Bovey for doing the hard job of the lighting and sound. A very festive time was had by all!







Mini Strings Assembly



On Thursday morning the Mini Strings girls entertained everyone in Junior school assembly with their end of term performance.

The girls, who rehearse each Thursday morning with Mrs Parry-Dickinson, played some of their warm up games

including *Monster Treats* (where you try and make a horrid sound) and then *Chocolate Treats* (where you try to make a much nicer sound!).

Mini Strings also showed the audience how they start learning a piece and everyone had a go at trying the initial

rhythms. *Tinga Layo* was the highlight of the occasion, and Mr Horton even asked the girls to play a second time! Mini Strings really enjoyed sharing their music with everyone. Thank you for listening!

New Year 10 Prefects

Congratulations to our new House Prefects in Year 10. The girls will take up their new posts in January.

