



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,

As you know one of the 3Cs at Old Palace is 'Connected'. This week, we have certainly been connected in many ways. Firstly it has been a pleasure to welcome Year 8 and 9 families into the school for their Parent Information Evenings. As with the Year 7 event last week, it is wonderful to see the Old Palace community back inside the school gates. At Prep we also ran the first 'Stay and Play' event for local families with very young children which was a great success.

Alongside this it has been really positive to read the articles from Sarah and Sumaiya about their involvement in GB Water Polo and London Youth Assembly respectively - very impressive to see these two Old Palace students making such an impact in this way.

I hope you enjoy the pictures of the Sixth Form filming that took place this week. Our staff and students have produced some excellent videos that will be launched to Year 11 families shortly, as part of their package of information and events to help them make the right decisions for their Sixth Form studies.

Finally, we are so proud of all the students who took part in the SATRO Problem Solving Challenge. Our GCSE team beat 39 other schools to win the trophy: a quite outstanding achievement. Well done everyone.

Wishing you a great weekend.

Jane Burton, Head

## Sixth Form Filming



Years 7 & 8 thoroughly enjoyed their first creative workshop last night! More to follow next week!

## SATRO Champions

Towards the end of the last academic year three teams of six students took part in the SATRO Problem Solving Challenge, an engineering competition against other schools. This year was the first ever virtual competition, held in individual schools, with the organisers explaining the task to the competitors via video. The students worked under time constraints to construct a device to fulfil various criteria and while each team competed against students in the same Key Stage across the country, they all worked on the same problem.

A team of our GCSE students excelled themselves by winning the Key Stage 4 category, a feat made even more impressive by the fact that their score was the highest of all the Key Stage winners. This means that they beat all the other 39 teams that took part countrywide and fully deserved the trophy they were awarded.

Very well done to the team, whose members were Anaika, Grace, Cecily, Daisy, Dilusha and Vedika.

The school's A level team showed equally great teamwork, performing commendably to earn a runners-up

place in the Key Stage 5 competition.

All three teams tackled the tasks with enthusiasm and deserve every accolade.



## A Level Subjects - Filming

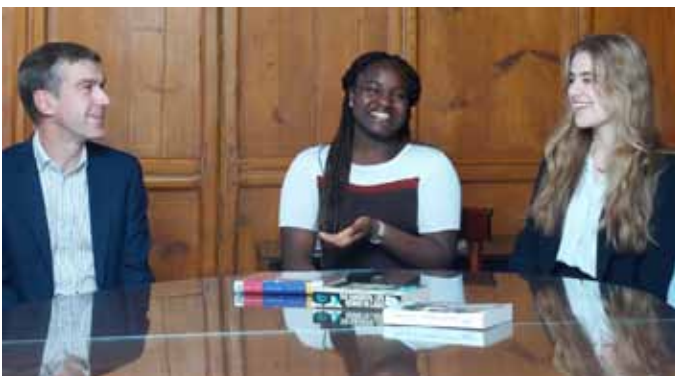
Our thanks go to all the Subject Heads and their enthusiastic students who took time out yesterday to film videos for Year 11, extolling the virtues of their individual A Level subjects.

We think everyone who took part will agree it wasn't easy. Fiona Bruce; we take our hats off to you!





A Level Subjects - Filming *continued*





## Sarah Represents Great Britain in Water Polo Championships



From 19th-29th August, I represented Great Britain in the Women's European Junior Water Polo Championships in Sibenik, Croatia. Securing a place in the squad, as the 1st goalkeeper, was the crowning moment of four years of intense training and challenging competition.

Due to constant lockdowns, the last

18 months have been particularly difficult for maintaining fitness, as all the pools were shut down for most of the time. This meant that two years of training were crammed into two months of highly intense training in Manchester, Sheffield, Matlock and a summer camp in Millfield, but the team was determined to make it work and we managed to create a squad of promising junior athletes.

We went to Croatia knowing that we would face one of the best teams in the world (Europe has the largest number of world-class teams). Teams like Spain that had a Silver Olympic medallist playing. Unfortunately, we had the hardest group in the competition, and each game proved to be a battle for survival! Our lack of international experience was evident in our group plays, and we were unsuccessful in scoring any points. Having said this, we grew more confident in our abilities as a team with each game, and gave some of our opponents tough matches. In particular, our last two matches were wins against Turkey and Romania, which meant we left the championship on a high note, placing 17th within water-polo's most elite teams.

From a development perspective, the championship offered a valuable high-level experience that will continue into further international opportunities. I am currently training with the Under 19s GB squad, with the hopes of representing Britain again next year.

From a personal perspective, I felt very proud to sing along to the national anthem before every game, and to wear GB colours. Being able to save goals from some of the best shooters in Europe was the ultimate highlight of my experience, and it is something I want to improve with.

This amazing journey did, in fact, start at Old Palace, when Mrs Tamplin introduced me to water-polo (I didn't even know that such a discipline existed before), and I will be forever grateful to the school for placing me on that path and the support I have received from all my teachers. I wouldn't have been able to combine all those hours of training and studies without their patience and words of encouragement.

Thank you to all in Old Palace.

**Sarah M, Year 13**



## Sumaiya Hosts London Youth Assembly

# LONDON YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Yes, that really is Sumaiya (Year 10) with Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan! In summer 2020, Sumaiya was chosen to represent Croydon on the London Youth Assembly (LYA) – an organisation hosted by the offices of the Mayor of London and London Assembly that provides representation for young people aged 11-18 from across all of London's boroughs. Her fellow youth assembly members quickly chose her as their Chair and she has led the organisation over the past year in focusing on the consequences that Covid has had on education and services for young people in London. This work included constructing and circulating an online survey that received over a thousand responses and formed the basis of a report entitled 'The impact of COVID-19 on education & opportunities for young people in London.'

You can read the report on [www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/london-youth-assembly](http://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/london-youth-assembly)

To promote the key recommendations and to round off her year as chair, Sumaiya organised a Young Londoner's Question Time event that took place at City Hall on 31 August, 2021. The event was introduced by Mayor Sadiq Khan and included a stellar panel of: Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Kate Green; Green Party leader and London assembly member, Sian Berry; Conservative Chair of the London Assembly, Andrew Boff; peer outreach worker, Javaun Bance; and author and headteacher, Dr Kulvarn Atwal. The panel discussion covered important questions about how to make education as inclusive, equitable and expert as possible, covering a wide range of topics such as bullying, discrimination, PSHE, curriculum design and the general need for greater funding and training in the



education sector. Sumaiya showed phenomenal confidence and poise as she expertly chaired the two-hour event, keeping panellists to time in their responses while moderating and selecting questions from the youth assembly members, the live audience and those watching the live-stream from home. She even managed to persuade the panel to publicise the LYA's report and to commit to greater funding for the LYA going forward. Sumaiya

deserves huge congratulations on the critical work she has spearheaded over the last year and, in particular, on her performance at the Young Londoner's Question Time – it can only be a matter of time until we are all watching her on BBC Question Time!



## DofE Expedition

Students in the Sixth Form have the opportunity to complete the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award alongside their studies. The DofE Award is a fantastic experience and employers and Universities really recognise it as a favourable attribute in Personal Statements and CVs.

Have a read through Emily's article to see what a great experience she and Kate had over the summer!

**Mrs Smith**

During the summer holidays, Kate and I took part in both our practise and qualifying expeditions for Gold DofE.

Our practise expedition was in the Lake District from 13th-17th July. The weather was very hot and although this was nice in the evenings, during the day it made all the walking a lot harder, especially when we were climbing up hills! For someone who hasn't done Bronze or Silver DofE before, I found the practise quite challenging but I also had a fun experience and made new friends from all over the country. The views in the Lake District were amazing too which made the experience even better!

Our qualifying expedition was in the Peak District from 3rd-7th August. I found this expedition a lot easier because I had learnt what to expect from the practise. The weather varied during this expedition - sometimes we had sun, and other times we had a lot of rain! Although putting up tents when it was soaking wet was not very nice, I found walking in the rain a lot easier than the really hot temperatures we had in the Lakes.

What I enjoyed the most about the qualifying expedition was the project we had to do. As it was during the time of the Tokyo Olympics, my group decided to do 'DofE Olympics'. This included gymnastics across a random bridge, weightlifting with our heavy rucksacks and javelin with sticks we found.

Once we made it back on the last day, we presented our project in the form of a video edit I had made and spoke



about what we had done. I made some amazing friends on this expedition and enjoyed the views too.

Overall I had a great time on DofE. I love a challenge, and pushing myself to do activities that I haven't done before. I was very grateful to do it with Kate, who already had a lot of DofE experience and helped me with anything I needed.

I would definitely recommend taking part in Bronze, Silver and Gold DofE for anyone who is thinking about it.

**Emily, Year 13**



## Gold DofE *continued*

Over the summer holiday, Vishali, Vy and I completed our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Practice and Qualifying expeditions which comprised of walking for four days in the hills and valleys of the Brecon Beacons and Lake



District. We all signed up to the award to experience a challenge and it was definitely what we received.

It was vital for us to utilise teamwork skills in order to stay unified as a group and also support one another in times of fatigue and stress. Motivation and perseverance were integral for our completion of the journey, especially after walking for 10 hours and needing to set up a tent before sitting down! These skills were crucial when we found ourselves going off route and needing to figure out a way to get back on track.



My favourite aspect of the journey was the incredible views of the Lake District. We spent the majority of time at the top of very large hills, a fantastic opportunity to capture the beautiful scenes.

I am definitely glad that I chose to participate in the award as, despite the obvious challenge, it was one of my most memorable and enjoyable experiences. It was a fantastic way to solidify navigation skills, develop friendships and push ourselves to new limits.

Naomi, Year 13



## Neeha Music Exam results

Congratulations to Neeha in Year 9 who achieved a distinction in her Grade 4 singing exam, and a merit in her Grade 4 piano exam over the summer!

Well done Neeha!

## SAVE THE DATE....SAVE THE DATE....SAVE THE DATE

Old Palace PTA

# Christmas Fair

Saturday, 4th December

11am to 3pm

Venue: Preparatory, Melville Avenue, South Croydon CR2 7NY  
All Welcome



## Puzzle Fun

9 ÷ × 9

Arrange 4 nines and 1 one along with one mathematical symbol to make a calculation equal to 100.

9 = 9 + 1

Answers on page 10

Old Palace of John Whitgift School  
Independent Girls' School  
The School in South East London

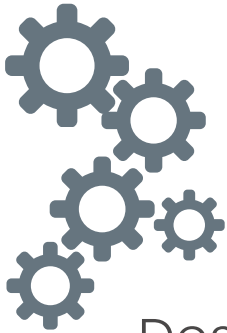
Classics Department Word of the Week 13/09/21

# DRAGON

A large serpentine, legendary creature that appears in the folklore of many cultures worldwide.  
From Latin 'draco' - 'huge serpent, dragon', from Greek δράκων (drakon) 'serpent, giant seafish', probably from Greek ἔδρακον (edrakon), 'I saw clearly'



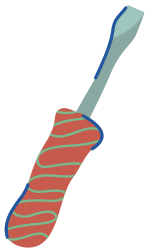
# *DESIGN A DT DEPARTMENT LOGO COMPETITION*



Design a logo that is bold, graphic and represents the DT Department.

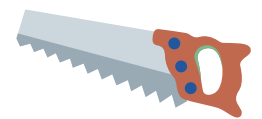


*OPEN TO YEAR 7 - 13  
DEADLINE : SEPTEMBER 20TH*



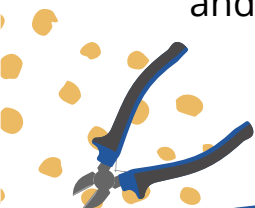
We are looking for a design that showcases the DT department and meets the following criteria:

- MUST have the OP logo and the word 'DT' within the design
- Hand drawn entry, which will be digitalised if chosen
- Good colour contrast
- Max 5 different colours
- Have DT related imagery
- Clear and not too over-complicated (should be able to be seen from a distance)



Winner will receive a £10 Amazon gift voucher, the opportunity for their design to be the official DT logo and be featured on the DT mouse mats, and other items such as mugs, hats etc. to help promote the DT department at open days.

*SEND IN ENTRIES VIA EMAIL TO MR JUPP,  
HAND INTO THE DT DEPARTMENT OR MR  
JUPP'S PIGEONHOLE*





## A letter from Mrs Nike

Dear all,

This week we hosted our very first Stay and Play for families with children aged 0-4. It was wonderful to welcome children from our local community to our school. If you have a younger child at home or maybe friends who would enjoy socialising with other children and parents, please feel free to join us on a Tuesday 9.30-11.00. All are welcome and refreshments will be served.

During form time this week, the girls took part in The Little Big Hair Assembly. The assembly was designed to change any negative attitudes towards Afro hair into positive inclusion. The girls found out about the history of Afro hairstyles and discussed issues of identity with their class.

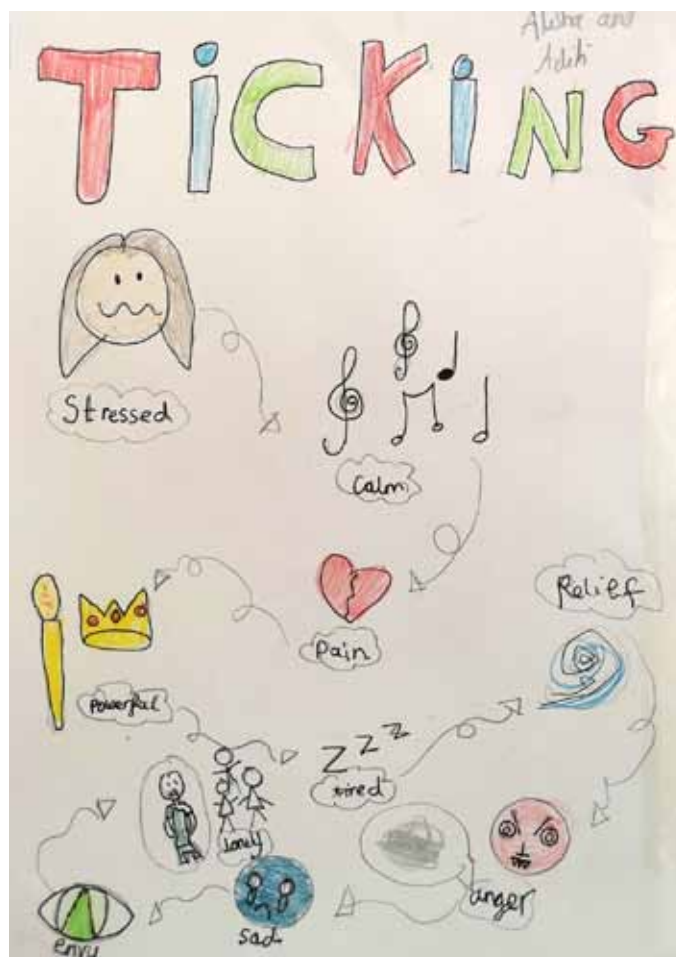
Have a lovely weekend

**Mrs Nike**  
Head of Preparatory

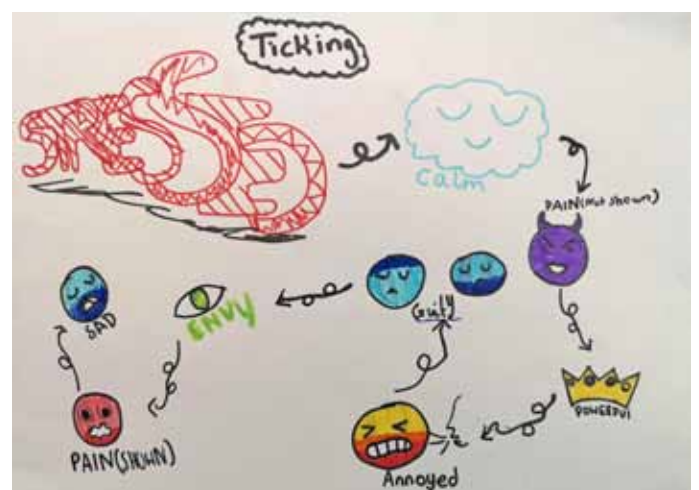
## Stay and Play



## Year 6 Topic: Blood Heart



As part of their topic *Blood Heart*, Year 6 have been reading *Pig Heart Boy* by Malorie Blackman and are already hooked! This week, we have been reflecting on our initial impressions of the main character, Cameron, and techniques used to build tension. We have also explored how Blackman uses 'show not tell' to show us how he is feeling.



## Year 12 Photography

Our Year 12 Photography student spent a morning capturing different view points of the Senior School and developing her DSLR camera skills. We look forward to seeing Year 7s take on this project as part of an upcoming photography competition.



### Puzzle Fun page 7 Answer

$$199 - 99 = 100$$

or

$$9 \times 9 + 9 + 9 + 1 = 100$$



## PTA Secondhand Uniform Sale

Friday, 24th Sept at Prep School 1-3pm



Old Palace Road  
Croydon CR0 1AX  
Telephone: 020 8688 2027  
Email: [schooloffice@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)  
[www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk](http://www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)

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