



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



It has been great to welcome students back to school after the half term and I hope that all our families enjoyed the break. A few exciting new things have happened at the Senior site; firstly, we now have portable floodlights on the netball courts which will allow our students to play throughout the winter. Secondly, this week we had 36 of our Year 9 students join the Whitgift School Combined Cadet Force (CCF). We are very happy to have this collaboration in place and are looking forward to hearing how they get on as the year progresses.

Finally, I would like to send our best wishes to all those Old Palace families who are celebrating Diwali this week. May the divine light of Diwali spread into your life and bring peace, prosperity, happiness, good health and success.

Jane Burton, Head

Year 6: World War II



Year 6 took part in a captivating workshop on Wednesday which brought World War II to life.

Continued on page 5

A letter from Mrs Nike

Dear all,

Happy Diwali! The whole school has been busy this week learning about Diwali. Pre School made beautiful Diya lights from clay and the older year groups made fabulous decorations for their classrooms. Some girls in Year 4 have been sharing with their class how they celebrate Diwali and Mrs Bhatt treated all the teachers in the staffroom to some delicious sweets and deserts. Thank you! For those who celebrate Diwali at home, I hope you have a really wonderful time together during this special period.

I am pleased to say that we are having our first Open Morning for 18 months on the 11th November at 9.30am. I am really looking forward to showing families around our fantastic school and showcasing all the enriching learning opportunities on offer. Please feel free to invite your friends, if they are interested in seeing our amazing pupils at work and observing first-hand the exceptional education that we have on offer.

The first edition of the Palace Post was sent to parents today. The Palace Post is a bi-weekly information leaflet that provides dates for the diary and key information. We are keen to keep you as updated as possible and have devised this form of communication to allow all forthcoming information to be found in one place and to reduce the amount of InTouch messages being sent out. The Palace Post will not replace the bulletin as it seeks to serve a different purpose in that it will provide information about forthcoming events rather than showcasing the girls' work and achievements. I hope this will be a helpful addition to our school communication.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Nike

Head of Pre School & Preparatory

Pre School: Making Diya Lamps for Diwali

Pre School pupils celebrated Diwali by making Diya Lamps as part of their new Sparkle & Shine topic.



Year 5: Diya Lamps



Head Choristers



Many congratulations to Year 9 students, Grace and Sanjana, who have been appointed Head Choristers for the Girls Choir at Croydon Minster.

Music Award Holders Workshop

Recently, young musicians from Old Palace Senior School took part in the first Award Holder's workshop of the year. Led by musician and Old Palace alumnae Henrietta Rowsell, the girls discovered what their role as award holders would entail, and finally had an opportunity to meet other award holders from other year groups in the school.

Catherine in Year 7 attended the workshop and said afterwards:

'I really enjoyed the music award holders workshop. It was such a great opportunity to meet the other award holders and to see how many older students had done these workshops before. I loved learning how everyone started playing their musical instruments and what instruments they play. We did many activities such as what we think our roles are as music award holders and why we started playing our instruments. It was exciting to think about how we can all collaborate with each other across the school and think about what we can do as musical ambassadors for the school. It was a really fun experience and I can't wait to participate in more of them as the year goes on when we know more about our roles as music scholars and award holders.'

One of our long standing award holders, Jessica in Year 13, said:

'Having seen the progression of my peers who are award holders, it was great to meet a new wave of students in the younger years. It was interesting to hear different student opinions on why we play music, and what we gain from it. I'm excited to work with musicians in other years now that we have burst the Covid bubbles.'

News from Pre School

This week, Pre School children have been helping in the garden. There was lots of weeding to do to prepare for the planting of our spring bulbs.

They also trimmed the dead heads from the mint bushes around the mud kitchen so they would grow back stronger next year. The trimmings still had a strong smell so we took them indoors for our sensory tray.



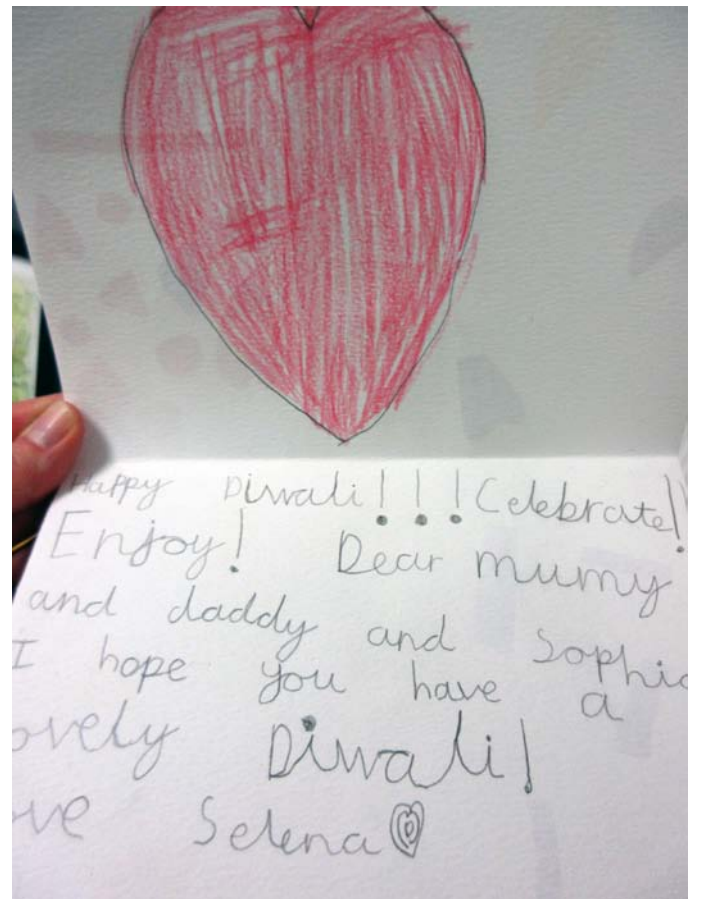
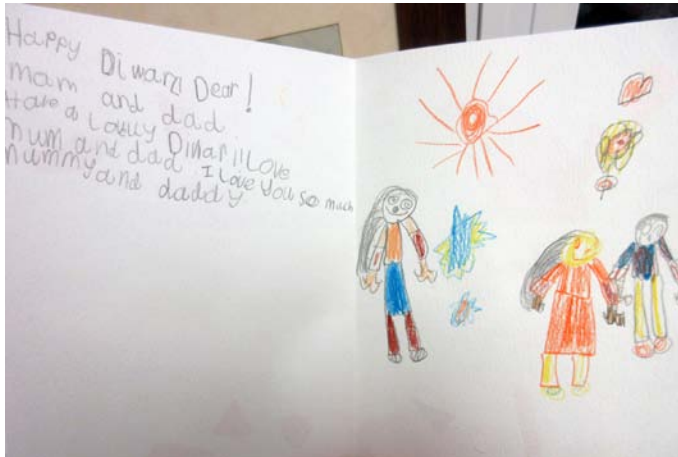
Open Morning

Pre School & Preparatory

Thursday, 11 November
9.30am-11.00am

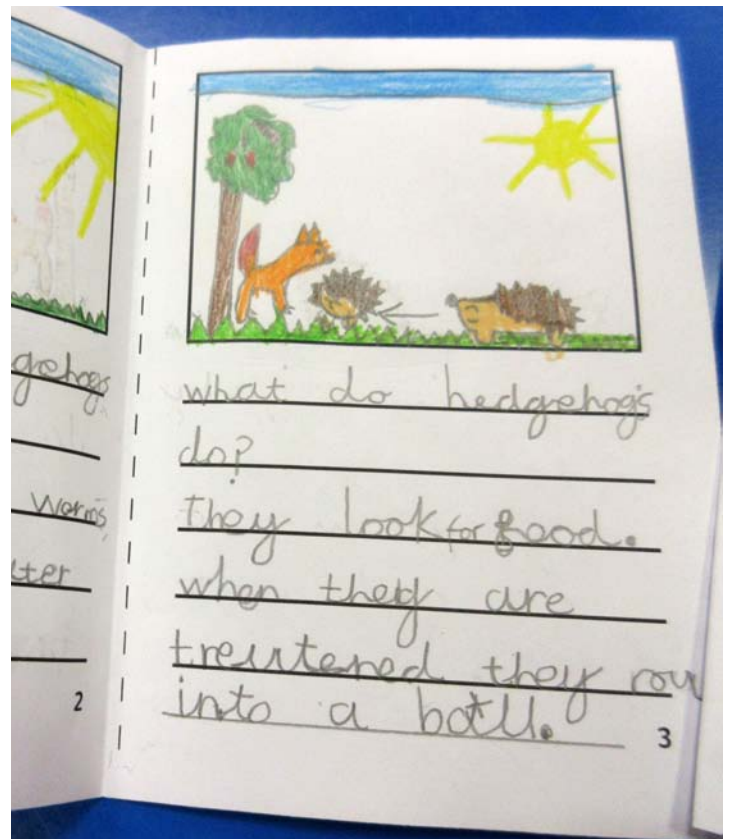
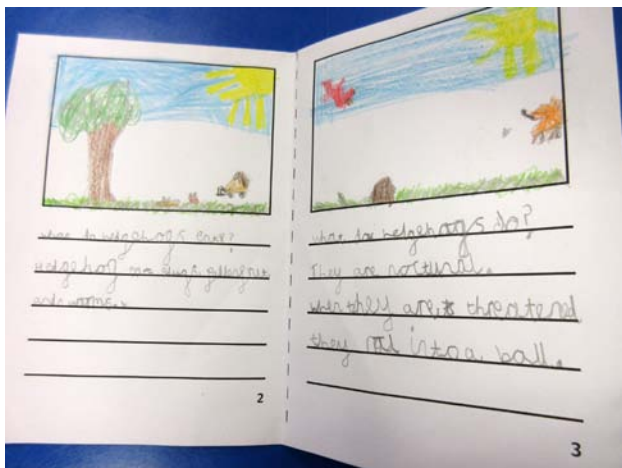
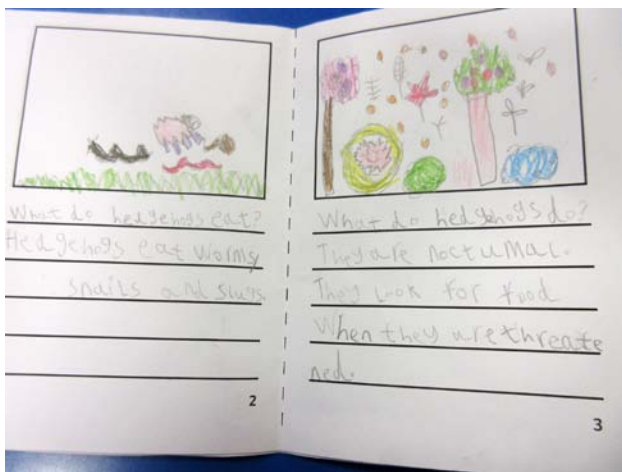
Year 1: Diwali Cards

To celebrate Diwali we created colourful cards to guide Rama and Sita home. After making our cards we placed them at the classroom window so that others could use them as a guide to find their way.



Year 1: Enchanted Woodland - Cornerstones Topic

In Year 1, we have been learning about the wonderful life of hedgehogs! We have discovered what they eat, where they live and what they do.



Year 6: World War II *continued from page 1*

The girls had the chance to explore genuine WWII artifacts, including a range of gas masks and period utility clothing. They learnt what was in an evacuee's suitcase, all about rationing and how fun could still be had during the war, with a dance and a sing-along to *The Lambeth Walk*.

This week, the girls have also learnt about Anne Frank and why she was forced to hide in the secret annexe for several years. We read about what it was like for her and imagined how life might have been for other Jewish children living in Amsterdam at the time, writing our own diary entries.



Black History Month in Computer Science : *Hidden Figures*

During Black History Month, students in the new Computer Science Film Club watched the acclaimed film 'Hidden Figures' which celebrated three extraordinary African-American women who made great contributions to NASA. Katherine Johnson was an amazing mathematician whose great skills allowed Apollo 13 to safely launch and land. She was also a pioneer of computer programming. Dorothy Vaughan was a computer programmer who contributed to the U.S. Space programme and allowed much important information to be found. Mary Jackson was a mathematician and aerospace engineer who was the first black female engineer at NASA. Christine Darden (an American mathematician, data analyst, and aeronautical engineer) was featured in the film but wasn't mentioned much in the film because it focused on the years 1961 and 1962 when she was still at college. The film allows you to learn about these black women by building up their personalities and lifestyle.

I highly recommend this film because it shows you the black women who helped the evolution of space travel. Unlike many films about space travel that just focus on the people that are well-known, this film showed you that there were even more great people who helped behind the scenes. Hidden Figures was based on the book by Margot Lee Shetterly and is a film I enjoyed every second of.

Olive, Year 8



Black History Month: Year 3 Printing



Just before half term, to celebrate Black History Month, Year 3 found out about Althea McNish, a textile designer from Trinidad. She was born in Trinidad in 1924 and came to the UK in the 1950s and went on to become a world-renowned textile designer.

and featured bold and bright colours and patterns.

The girls in Year 3 were inspired by Althea's story and have created their own designs, printing them on fabric.

Althea's designs were featured in magazines including Vogue. They were often inspired by her Caribbean roots



Puzzle Fun

Which option should replace the ?

Can you explain why?

9	→	72
8	→	56
7	→	42
6	→	30
5	→	20
3	→	?

A) 12 B) 6 C) 3 D) 1

Answer on page 14



Old Palace
Alumnae

**OPA & Friends
Carol Service**

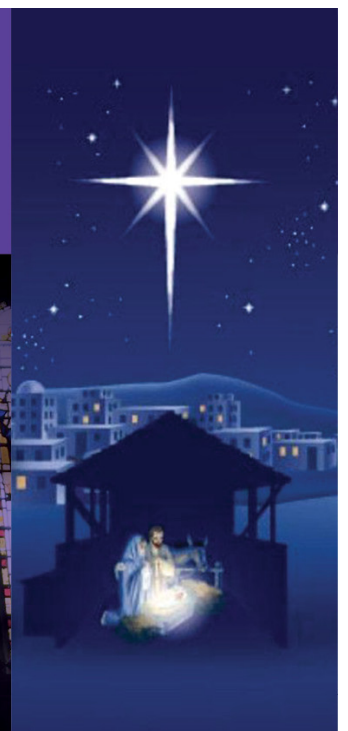
Monday 6 December 2021

6pm: The Chapel

Old Palace Senior School

7pm: Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
in the Guard Room

RSVP: OPAlumnae@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk

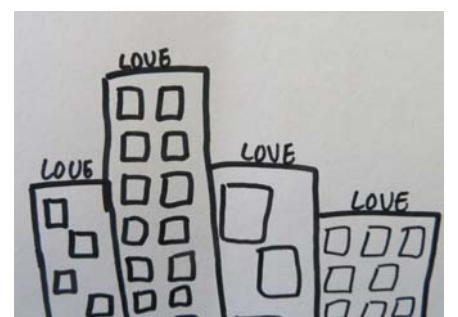


Year 8: Shantell Martin Workshop

In the Art Creative Workshops, Year 8 have been exploring the narrative work of Shantell Martin.

She creates expressive, simple drawings that convey her life, thoughts and feelings. We had an interesting discussion about what constitutes art, and how we feel about her more conceptual practice. We then used her work to inspire our own outcomes, thinking about our interests and identity.

Year 8 created a variety of different work, including collaborative drawings, origami and concertina books. We were really impressed with their open-minded approach to this workshop and their exciting and personal outcomes!



U15 Netball v Royal Russell

The U15 students participated in a competitive fixture against Royal Russell. The students played really well creating good connecting passes going down the court.

Both teams performed effective interceptions, which allowed them to get the ball back to their circle. Royal Russell took the lead and maintained their lead. The students really enjoyed their first U15 Netball fixture and they are excited for the up and coming fixtures in the future.



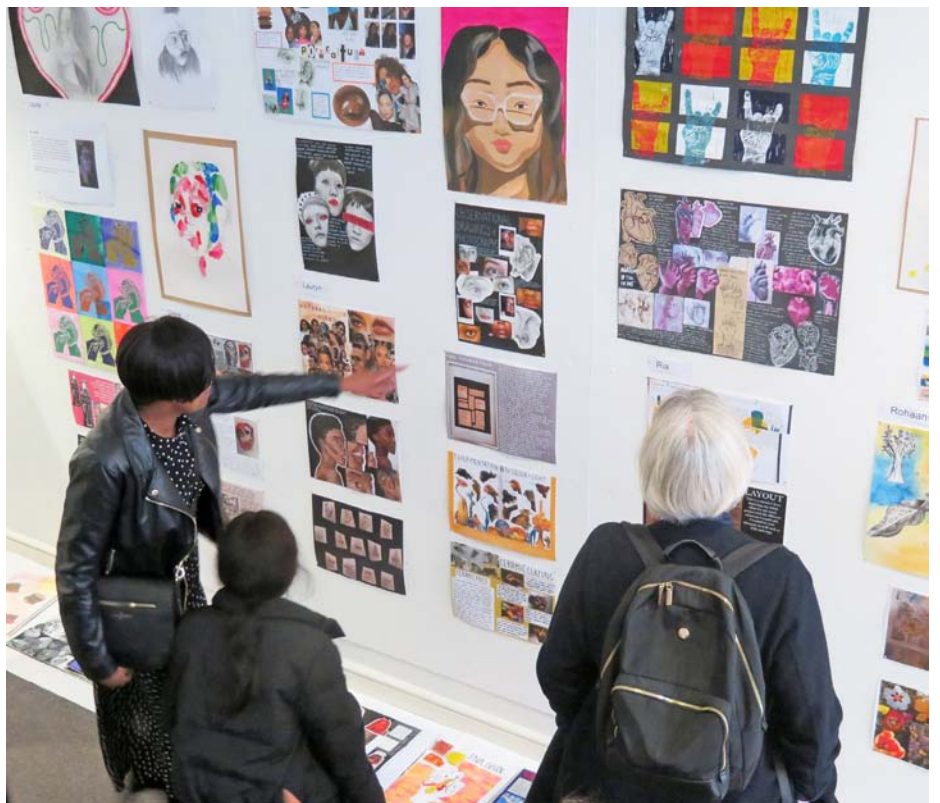
Art and Photography Exhibition 2021

Last half term we celebrated the achievements of our 2021 GCSE and A Level students by displaying their work in an exhibition in the Shah Foyer. It was lovely to welcome staff, parents and students to the school to view the Exhibition. Thank you to everyone who visited.

We would like to congratulate the students on all their hard work and perseverance; well done for creating such a variety of brilliant artwork.

They achieved impressive grades with 100% A-A* for A Level Art, Craft and Design and Photography A levels. GCSE was also impressive with 75% gaining 8-9 and 100% 6-9.

What they accomplished across two particularly unusual school years was so impressive - we are very proud of them!



Gold DofE

During half-term, I completed the residential section as part of the Gold DofE. The residential section is five days where you are with a group of people that you do not know, in an unfamiliar place, doing various activities. The residential that I did took place in Bentley Copse Activity centre. There, we worked towards the Level 3 award in Emergency First Aid and the Level 2 award in Food Hygiene in Catering, on top of doing several outdoor activities.

After arriving around midday on the first day, I got to know the other 11 members of my group. We did abseiling (when you descend a wall, using a rope) and rock climbing, which I found quite daunting at first but eventually, I got used to it. We then had an introduction to the first aid course so that we knew what to expect from it. In the evening, we had a walk around the grounds, where we spotted a few badgers.

On the second day, we covered the majority of the first aid course, learning about primary survey, secondary assessment, resuscitation, the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and choking. We then got to practice treating conscious and unconscious people to consolidate our knowledge.

In the afternoon, we did zip lining and archery and in the evening, we had a bonfire.

We finished the first aid course on the third day, learning about shock, fainting, wounds, bleeding, bruising and seizures. To complete the course, we had a practical assessment, where we were in groups of three and took turns being the casualty. We had six scenarios and in each scenario we had to correctly treat the casualty and after, we got asked questions about the casualty. Fortunately, the whole group passed, meaning that we are now qualified in first aid for three years. The outdoor activities in the afternoon were rifle shooting and crate-stacking, where we managed to stack 18 crates. Next, we had an introduction to the food hygiene course.

On the fourth day, we covered the whole food hygiene course, learning about the importance of having good personal hygiene, good hygiene in a food related workplace and the effects of bad food hygiene. After lunch, we had a multiple choice test, which required 15 out of 20 answers correct, in order to pass it. Again, everyone passed and we gained the qualification, which is valid for our whole life.

On the last day, we were taken to a local town called Shere. We walked around the town and then orienteered our way back, which was great practice for the expedition to come.

The residential was a great experience as I got to make many new friends and develop many skills, including leadership skills, communication skills and thinking on the spot. I also obtained two qualifications and got to try a lot of activities that I have never done before. I would highly recommend the residential for anyone who is interested in the qualifications or the outdoor activities.

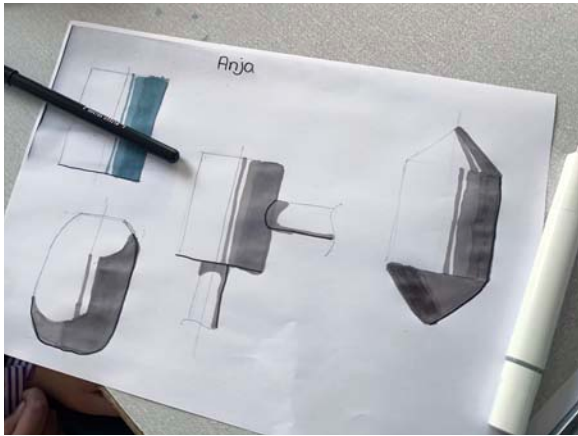
Rebecca, Year 12



Year 7: Creative Workshop

This half term, in their D&T creative workshops, Year 7 have been spending time practicing and developing their 3D drawing and rendering skills. The students have spent two workshops learning how to use a free to access web based computer generated 3D modelling program called TinkerCad.

They have also spent three sessions learning about 3D isometric sketching and how to use graphic marker pens to create shade and tone and realistic shadows on their hand drawn sketches.



Year 12 & 13: Art and Photography Trip to Horniman Museum and Dulwich Picture Gallery



Recently, we were lucky enough to visit the Horniman Museum and the Dulwich Picture Gallery for our first A-Level Art trip.



At the Horniman Museum, there were a number of rooms that showcased different cultures, music and a variety of taxidermy animals. At the Dulwich Picture Gallery we got to see prints and paintings dating back to the 17th century. It was exciting to see the special exhibition 'Radical Beauty' works by Helen Frankenthaler. Her creative process was particularly interesting.

The wide range of art we viewed, inspired us all to thrive with our A-level coursework and we will apply the knowledge and inspiration that we gained in later years. We thank all of the teachers in the Art Department for giving us such an enriching experience.

Hollie and Holly, Year 13



Year 7 House Benchball

Just before half term, house competitions returned with the highly anticipated Year 7 House benchball. The event was organised by Mrs Fowler the fantastic Year 11 sports leaders – a huge thank you.

There was an enormous amount of excitement as each team competed in three close, highly competitive matches. The first trophy of the year was won by 7 Anselm!

Match Report by Annie P



And we're off!

Round One - Stafford vs Laud:

On the bench for Stafford was Zainab and for Laud it's Inayah. Laud was off to a tremendous start! In a flash, Natalia, Rachel and many more of their teammates were on the bench; immediately, it was a bad start for Stafford. Every minute, a new person was on Laud's bench while Stafford only had a handful. Then, Zainab caught a ball, and another and another; soon, Stafford was winning and eventually, Stafford had everyone on the bench. We had won!

Round Two - Stafford vs Anselm:

After our previous win, Stafford was feeling strong and confident so with this new energy, we went into our second match. On the bench for Stafford was Annie (me) and for Anselm it was Yaa. As soon as we started, I noticed Anselm had an amazing defender, Arissa. Every time a ball came towards me, Arissa was there, hitting it out of the way so it was very difficult to get people on the bench.

Anselm was doing quite well, getting the players onto the other side. At this point, Anselm had about half of their team on the bench meanwhile, I'd only just started getting my teammates onto mine.

Throughout all of this, Arissa was still defending her team wonderfully, but

this was very annoying for me. In the end, there was only one Anselm player left, Arissa. As she threw the ball, all the other Stafford players tried their hardest to block this final shot but sadly their efforts were in vain. Multiple people on the Anselm bench caught this significant shot. The whistle blew and the screams of Anselm's victory rushed through my ears.

Round Three - Stafford vs Hatton:

Due to their recent loss, Stafford went into this match with an end goal of victory. On the bench for Stafford was Selina and for Hatton it was Zara.

After seeing Arissa's defending skills, we planned to have specific people for defence, they were Zeinab, Sinty and I. Our defense plan was working extremely well with Sinty, Zainab and I hitting Hatton's shots out of the way.

However, our own shots were going nowhere with even more excellent defenders: Kara and Candice. Not long after, Reya and a couple of other girls got onto the bench. This only fuelled us even more. Zainab and Sinty were doing an amazing job, so I decided to take a break from defense trying to get a shot at Selina, stopping every now and then to stop a ball from getting to Hatton's bench.

Continued on next page



Year 7 House Benchball *Continued*

Finally! My throw landed in Selina's hands and without stopping, I sprinted to the other side of the netball court, jumped on the bench, encouraged Selina and started trying to catch my team's shots. Within a few minutes, I caught Shaniyah's ball and called her onto the bench. Now on a roll, Stafford only had one less person on the bench than Hatton. The other forms had finished their final game, so Ms Fowler came over and started counting down. 10, 9, 8...

Both teams now feeling the pressure, Hatton sure they were going to win but in the last 3 seconds, I caught Neilah's shot. Both teams had six people on their bench. It was a tie. After all that hard work...

Congratulations to Anselm on their win!



House Leaders



Anselm winning team

Miss Rodwell Runs for Charity

Congratulations to Miss Rodwell - she successfully completed a half marathon last Sunday in an impressive 2 hours 45 minutes.

She also succeeded in raising nearly £400 for our Tanzania charity LTT.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/VixRodwell>



Year 13 Volunteer at Whitgift Community Summer School



Here are some comments from other students who volunteered!

"I really enjoyed my experience at the summer school, not only was I able to bond and make memories with the children and other volunteers, I was able to improve skills which I didn't think I would from this programme. Coming out of the programme I definitely feel my communication and confidence have improved immensely and I have really benefited from volunteering on the programme"

Irvana K

"I loved being able to see a positive change in the children's attitudes towards learning, as well as their developments socially and educationally from the start to end of programme. There was a real sense of achievement"

Mikaela A-B

"I found the community summer school an invaluable experience which I thoroughly enjoyed. It was great to work with the children who we formed special bonds with and an even greater feeling seeing some of them at our open days! I highly recommend giving it a go!"

Amanda Y, Head Girl

During the summer, many of us volunteered at the Whitgift Community Summer School, which took place across two weeks in August. This project supported local Year 5 pupils affected by the disruption of Covid school closures.

"It was an invaluable experience, that allowed us to gain leadership skills, and also have a taste of teaching! Taking positions of responsibility can often seem daunting but summer school was the perfect way to ease yourself into leadership. I can't emphasise how beneficial it was, and I encourage all those who can, to apply for the next summer school."

Sanaa A, Senior Prefect

Year 7: Photography Competition



Year 7 pupils were given the challenge of taking photographs of the school from new and interesting perspectives. It was great to have so many students take part – thank you for your enthusiasm!

Each student was able to submit up to three entries. The judges were really impressed with the variety of photographs that were submitted. They had a hard time choosing their favourites because the standard was so high and limited to just six winning images being on display. The images showed interesting compositions, framing and perspectives, whilst others captured the people; all were highly commendable.

The winning entries will be displayed in the newly decorated Ayckbown reception area for visitors to admire when they come to Old Palace.

Congratulations to Tia (two selected), Davinna, Minal (two selected) and Maya for your winning submissions!

Well done to all of our brilliant entrants; Shreya, Dhisha, Evangeline, Kady, Lola, Abena, Sarra, Catherine, Enyinnaya, Lily, Yaa Asiamah, Sofia, Reya and Syeda. We look forward to you all entering more photography competitions as all images could have been selected for display.

Art Department

Swimming Club



Last month I attended an Open Meet Swimming competition at Cranleigh Swimming Club. I came away with a silver and a bronze medal and two fourth place ribbons. My silver medal was for finishing second in the 100m Individual Medley. In that event you have to swim all four strokes. Butterfly first, followed by Backstroke, Breaststroke and then Frontcrawl.

My bronze medal was for finishing third in the 50m Breaststroke and my two fourth places were in 200m Breaststroke and 100m Frontcrawl.

I was really pleased to do some PB's (personal best times) and I am very much looking forward to the forthcoming Sussex Counties Championships.

Evie, Year 9

Classics Department Word of the Week 01/11/21

GENUINE



TRULY WHAT SOMETHING IS SAID TO BE; AUTHENTIC. FROM THE LATIN WORD "GENU", MEANING "KNEE". ARISES FROM A ROMAN CUSTOM IN WHICH A FATHER WOULD PLACE A NEWBORN CHILD ON HIS KNEE IN ORDER TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS PATERNITY OF THE CHILD

 Old Palace of
John Whitgift School
Independent Girls' School
Pre-School to Sixth Form

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY... THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) IS CREATED, NOV 1, 1993



On November 1st, 1993, the EU was established, with 12 original member nations, including Great Britain.

The EU has grown to include 27 countries. Great Britain, in 2020, is the only nation to have left the EU.

Puzzle Fun Page 6 Answer

Answer is: A) 6

$9 \times 8 = 72$

$8 \times 7 = 56$

$7 \times 6 = 42$

$5 \times 4 = 20$

$3 \times 2 = 6$

The last winner was Zoya in Year 7