



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



Another busy week at Old Palace and a highlight of the week was the judging for the House Bake Off – please do look at the pictures on page 6, they certainly show the wonderful creativity and enthusiasm of our students! Thanks to all those students who took part and to the staff for their hard work in setting up the competition.

We have a real treat to look forward to on Monday 22 November in the form of the Autumn Music Concert. This will be the first time we have held a concert since the pandemic began in

spring 2020 and so it will be wonderful to see students come together from Prep and Seniors to perform.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Jane Burton, Head

Senior Old Palace Bake Off *continued on page 6*



## Black British Voices in Theatre and Film: Presentation and Discussion

Before half term, A-Level Drama students researched and delivered a presentation to Sixth Form students about black British voices in theatre and film.

The presentation celebrated the contributions of key theatre and film practitioners. Students discussed the training and career of actors Idris Elba, Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Daniel Kaluuya. They also discussed playwright and producer Tobi Kyeremateng's work and the prolific contributions Dawn Walton has made to the theatre industry as the founder of Eclipse Theatre.

The presentation was followed by a discussion of the importance of telling black stories. Students also considered what stories they would like to see on



stage and how theatres could market work to wider audiences.

Thank you to the A-Level Drama students for delivering this informative and thought-provoking session.

## Senior School Autumn Concert

Monday, 22 November

7pm Croydon Minster

We are looking forward to welcoming families to our Autumn Concert on Monday, 22nd November.

This will be the first live concert we have held at Old Palace since 2019, so we are very excited to have a chance to share the rich and diverse musical achievements of our young musicians with the wider school community.

Booking is not required; however, we do recommend wearing a face covering.

## A-Level Drama Trip - *White Noise* at The Bridge Theatre

Before the half term break, our Year 12 and 13 A-Level Drama students went on a trip to The Bridge Theatre in Central London to watch *White Noise*. Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning Suzan-Lori Parks, *White Noise* is a commentary on current issues of race told to us by a group of friends living in America today.

It is a striking, impactful and thought-provoking play. Students saw this production in preparation for the A-Level written examination, where they are asked to evaluate a live theatre production. The students thought the production was very moving and insightful, with some returning to see it again with their friends and family.



## Black History Month – Drama and English Workshop: *Small Island*



Drama and English students collaborated to plan and deliver an after school workshop for Years 10 -13 on the play adaptation of Andrea Levy's novel, *Small Island*. This was an exciting opportunity for students to work together to explore this powerful text.

Over the half term, participants watched the National Theatre's production using the school's Drama Online account, which helped them prepare for the workshop. The workshop began with an introduction from the English students to the context of the Windrush migration and contributions of Caribbean people during wartime.

They then led students in a discussion, analysing a key scene from the play. The workshop moved from a classroom into the Drama Studio, where drama students led participants in a practical exploration of the scene they had analysed.

The workshop allowed students to explore the themes of pride and identity present in the play both through discussion and acting technique. Thank you to the students who organised and attended this workshop.



## Student Led Halloween Puppeteering Workshop in Year 7 Drama Club

In Year 7 Drama Club, students were lucky enough to be welcomed back to school with a Halloween themed puppeteering workshop led by the Palace Players. Palace Players is our Drama Club for students in Years 10 and above, who are also our Drama Student Leadership Team.

Having previously participated in a workshop with professional puppeteering theatre company 'Half a String', the Palace Players were able to teach the students the main principles of puppeteering of the ancient Japanese puppetry style of 'Bunraku'. They showed Year 7 students some fantastic examples using techniques and principles learnt with 'Half a String' using only ordinary objects such as cloths and cups.

The three principles of puppeteering the Year 7s learnt were breathing, weight and focus. In groups the Year 7s then had the chance to try this themselves and puppeteer some objects. In keeping with the Halloween theme, they focused on an extract from Roald Dahl's *The Witches*. The groups then

performed their scary extracts from *The Witches* in front of everyone in eerie, dim orange lighting.



## Year 13 Healthy Active Lifestyle



Last week, Year 13 students enjoyed an engaging session with an external Martial Arts coach as part of their Healthy Active Lifestyle lesson.

The session focused on Self-Defence. The instructor talked to the students about the importance of adopting a strategy of awareness and avoidance whilst enjoying life as young adults. They got the chance to experience and demonstrate different movements and actions that could help get them out of a difficult situation.

The instructor was really good at explaining what to do in different situations, but also provided some basic but important key points e.g: not wearing your lanyard outside school/ university as it highlights you are a student and, if labelled, tells someone



where you are studying and in some cases your name.

The students really enjoyed the session and whilst we hope they never have to use the skills learnt, they will know what to do if necessary.

*The techniques that we were taught will never be forgotten; I didn't imagine that such simple movements could be so effective and potentially save lives.*

*Our charismatic teacher was clearly passionate about his profession, which added to the fun!* **Idara**

*It was interesting to learn that these techniques should only be used as a last resort and that the key aim of self defence is to avoid any potentially harmful situation by being constantly aware of our surroundings.*



*The lesson, taught by a skilled and zealous teacher, was very engaging and I enjoyed learning the surprisingly easy but extremely effective techniques of self defence.* **Bethany**

*The approach of teaching self-defence was memorable and useful in the sense that we were made aware of the flexibility of simple movements that are applicable in a multitude of dangerous situations, yet our main concern is to stay aware and avoid such precautions from being used. I thoroughly enjoyed the lesson and the practicality of it, yet there were elements of humour which made the overall experience enjoyable and memorable.* **Maria**



## World Space Week 2021- A Learning Experience about Women in 'Space'

Congratulations to the winners and runner ups for the World Space Week Poster Competition. The Physics Department was very pleased with the number and quality of entries from students. The effort put in by students was commendable.

World Space Week 2021 was celebrated at Old Palace and worldwide from the 4th to the 10th of October 2021 and coincided with the beginning of the Black History Month. The theme for this year's World Space Week was 'Women in Space'. Students had the opportunity to research and recognise the work of amazing black women in space ranging from astronauts such as Mae Jemison (first African American woman to be admitted into NASA's astronaut training programme) and Joan Higginbotham (third African American woman to go into space) to Katherine Johnson, a NASA mathematician whose handwritten calculations of orbital mechanics were pivotal to the success of the first and

subsequent US crewed space flights.

This was a good learning opportunity for students to see how the Physics they are learning in school can be

applied to real life applications and how women like themselves have been and continue to contribute to various STEM careers in this field.



## Evensong

This week, Polyphonic sung their second Evensong of the academic year. They sung Dyson's *Evening Service* which sounded beautiful and grand in the Croydon Minster acoustic. The anthem was *Laudate Pueri* by Mendelssohn, which is an expressive piece with lots of interweaving layers – perfect for our Polyphonic choir! (Polyphonic is a musical term for a texture where lots of different melodies play at the same time).

Miss Orr accompanied the choir on the organ and played a beautiful organ voluntary at the end of the service. The choir have been working very hard learning lots of repertoire this half term and are excited to get started on Christmas music for our Alumni Carol Service on the 6th December.

**Our next Evensong is on the 28th of February, and all are welcome.**



## New Choristers

On Sunday the 14th of November six Old Palace girls became choristers.



From left to right: Olivia B, Ines, Riya, Michaela, Jessica and Tamalia.



## Year 9: Aqua Aerobics

Year 9 have been taking part in Aqua Aerobics as part of a unit of work to allow students to appreciate the variety of different physical activities available that they might want to pursue beyond their schooling.

This session was based on cardio and strength work. Year 9 worked really hard, smiled a lot and had fun! Our pool is a fantastic facility and it is good to be able to use it across the whole school.

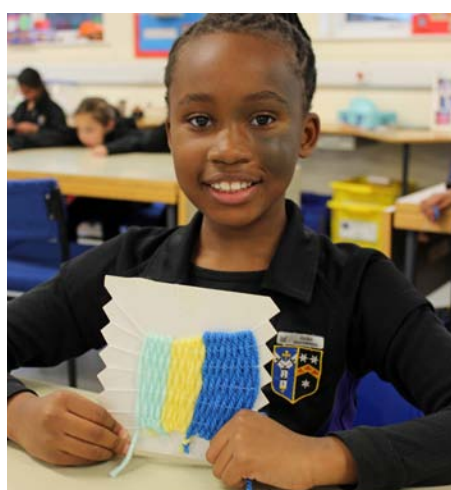
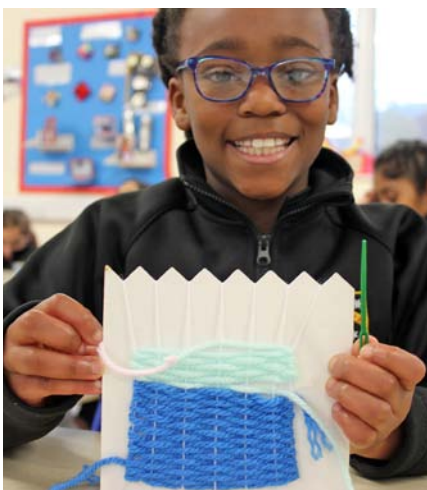
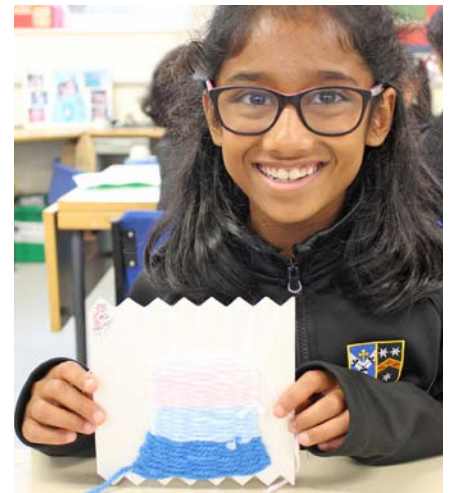
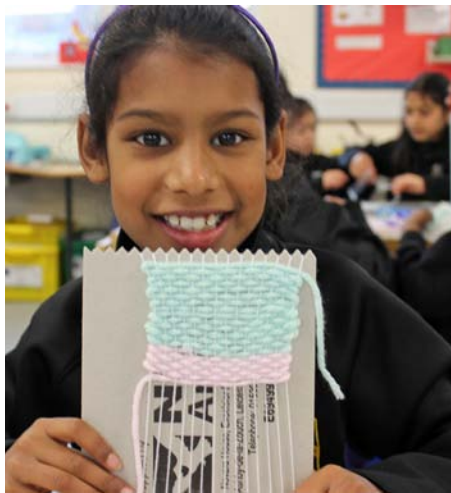
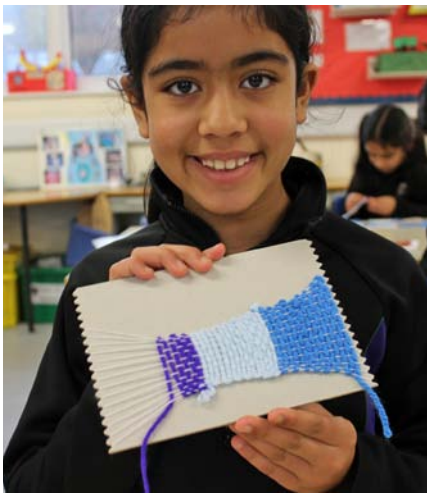


## Year 4: Warp and Weft

In this companion project, Year 4 have learnt about the art form of weaving and how it has developed over time, including the materials and techniques required to create woven patterns and products.

All weaving uses the same process where weft threads are woven in and out of tight warp threads.

Have a look at some of our wonderful creations.





## Community News

### House Competition News - Senior Bake Off *continued from page 1*

Students in Years 8-10 competed in House Bake Off last week. The atmosphere in the kitchen was tense, but inspired by the theme 'Be Proud' and fuelled by food colouring, much marbling of sponges and some very creative flavours, our bakers and decorators did a tremendous job! Judging was very difficult, but eventually it was agreed that the best cakes in each year were: 8 Hatton, 9 Anselm and 10 Hatton. The best cake overall was 9 Anselm. Congratulations to all the teams!



Year 8 Hatton



Year 9 Anselm

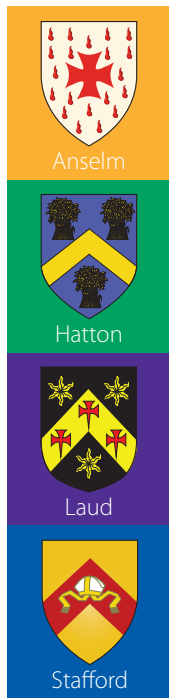


Year 10 Hatton



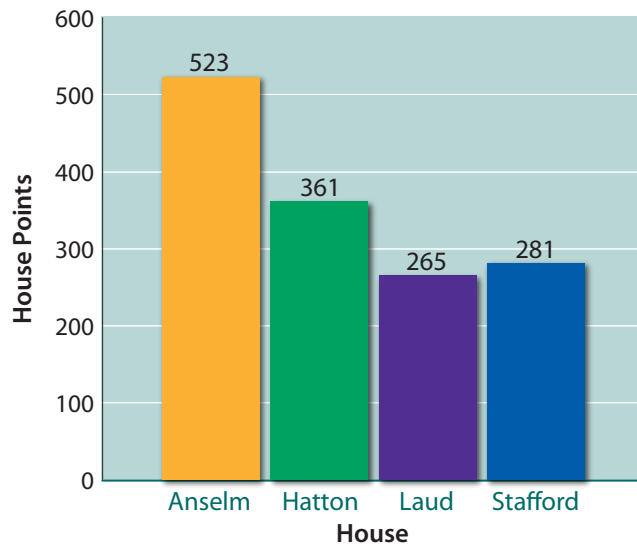


## Community News



House points update. Students have been very busy so far this term collecting house points and merits.

### House Points Totaliser



## Maths Puzzle Fun

What is the value of D?

$$A + B = 15$$

$$B \times C = 84$$

$$C \div 4 = 3$$

$$B + D = 18$$

Solution on page 17

## Uniform Sale

The Old Palace Uniform Sale will be open during the Christmas Fair on 4th Dec 2021 at Prep. Please do come along and purchase any uniform items for the spring term.

As ever, we are very grateful for donations of used uniform items and desperately need more stock.

## Volunteers & Donations Needed

The Old Palace PTA would like to appeal to Parents, Staff and Students to join them at the Christmas Fair on 4th Dec 2021 and help manage a stall.

Please email:

[rep2599@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rep2599@yahoo.co.uk)

if you are able to help on the day.

They also need donations towards the following stalls at the fair.

- Christmas Raffle
- Bottle Tombola
- New and Pre-loved Soft Toy Tombola

Please drop off any donations at the Prep or Senior School Offices and the PTA will pick them up.

Thank you



# SANTA'S GROTTTO



Book your visit to Santa's Grotto at the Christmas Fair

11 am - 12 pm

12 - 1 pm

1 - 2 pm

2 - 3 pm

TICKETS £7



Come visit the Grotto, Write a letter to Santa,  
Embellish a Wooden Christmas Tree Decoration  
Meet Santa and receive a gift from him.

Pls refer letter sent to  
parents for booking info.

Old Palace Christmas Fair on Saturday, 4th Dec 2021

11 am - 3 pm

@ Preparatory, Melville Avenue, CR2 7YN



Old Palace  
PTA



## Biology Practical Work

In Biology this term students have been doing a lot of practicals with vegetables. Year 12 have used beetroot and potato to understand about cell membranes and Year 9 made preparations of onion skin to improve their microscope skills.

**Can you guess what Year 10 were studying?**

How about we play a little guessing game? You consume 7-10 miles of it during every single meal. It can stretch from the Earth to the sun and back - 600 times. It's 99.9% the same as any other human.

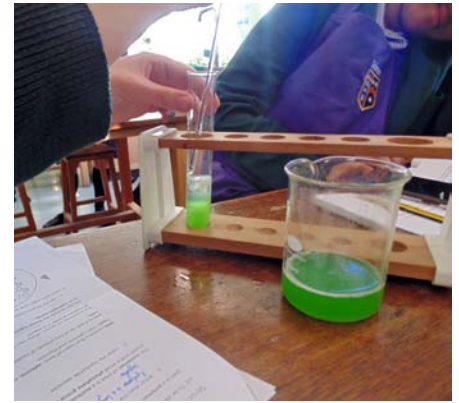
Have you guessed it yet? It's... DNA.

DNA is the material that carries all the information about how a living thing will look and function. In our Biology lesson, my classmates and I extracted DNA from peas. We mashed up the peas and mixed them with washing up liquid. This breaks open the cells, releasing the DNA from within the cells. Eventually, a white layer formed between the pea juice and ethanol, which was the DNA.

It was a fascinating experiment that allowed us to witness in plain sight the exact thing that makes us, US. If you would like to delve deeper into the wondrous world of DNA, I would advise reading the Science Museum blog article on DNA.

<https://blog.sciencemuseum.org.uk/>

Faith, Year 10



**Old Palace of  
John Whitgift School**  
Independent Girls School



part of the  
**john  
whitgift  
foundation**

The deadline for  
applications to  
**Old Palace School**  
for Year 7 (11+) is  
**Friday**  
**26 November 2021**

Entrance Exam:  
**Wednesday 5 January 2022**

[www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions](http://www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions)



## Clubs: Spotlight on...Geography

Our theme in Geography Club this term is 'Are we drowning in plastic?' Our aim is to promote the global challenge of what to do with our plastic waste.

Inspired by the TV programme 'War on Plastic' we started by surveying the school, collecting plastic bottles in form rooms – we collected 157 in 5 days! We then calculated that across a school year this could equate to 5,800 bottles, that's 40,000 bottles during an average student's seven years at Senior School. That is a LOT of single use plastic!

Our club includes students from Year 7 to 12, and we are currently creating an awareness campaign which we hope will encourage everyone to think before buying items of single use plastic. We are creating a mosaic using bottle tops to highlight the damage plastic can do to wildlife, and planning to create a wall installation using bottles too. We also hope to work with the canteen to reduce our use of plastics even further.

### 6 facts about single use plastic:

- 73% of beach litter is plastic
- Plastic is made from oil which is a fossil fuel. (Recycling plastic uses 80% less energy than making new plastics)
- More than 5 trillion pieces of plastic are already floating in our oceans
- Each 1 litre plastic bottle uses 4 million joules of energy to make
- World plastic production has increased from 2.1 million tonnes in 1950 to 406 million in 2015
- 1 million plastic drinks bottles are sold every minute globally – nearly half are produced by one company

If you are interested in finding out more about this issue, you could watch this on BBC iplayer: 'Coca Cola's 100 Billion Bottle Problem'

You could also come and join our club and be part of the change!





## Year 10 PSHE - The Safety Box

Last week, in our PSHE lesson, visitors from The Safety Box taught us how to protect ourselves. We learnt what to do when faced with a potential attacker, whether it be a stalker online or in real life. They showed us basic defence techniques in these types of situations and how to get out of them safely.

One important thing that we learnt is how to stay vigilant and be aware of your surroundings and potential attackers. We role-played a situation where Nathaniel (one of the visitors) had a prop knife – he told us what to do and how to get out of this predicament.

Chisom, Year 10



## Year 7 PSHE - Stand Against Violence



Last week, as part of PSHE, Year 7 were lucky enough to welcome Mia Wilson, from Stand Against Violence – one of our first face-to-face speakers since lockdown.

In preparation for Anti-Bullying week, she delivered a powerful session using the true story of Amber. In the session, students explored in greater depth: what is bullying, the different types of bullying, primary and secondary victims, the bystander effect, and how to safely deal with bullying.

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

## Pre School Swimming

Since September, Pre School pupils have been making a weekly visit to Seniors for their swimming lessons. During this time their confidence levels in the water have increased dramatically.

This week, they enjoyed swimming about independently, collecting sinking rings and squirting the teachers!



## Year 7: Netball v Coloma

Year 7 played netball at Old Palace on Monday. It was a good training match with both A and B teams getting to play against the Coloma A team.

Coloma won overall but there were some close quarters. We need to work on our spacing and shooting! Footwork was much better – we have lots to work on but also it was so nice to see the Year 7s playing Netball!

The opposition awarded Player of the Match to Ava.

Follow us on Twitter for all the latest news from the Old Palace Sports Department

@OPJWSSport







# Old Palace Big Christmas Give

## What is the Old Palace Big Christmas Give?

- We have selected 4 local Croydon charities to support this Christmas.
- Each charity is working hard to support the homeless, refugees, vulnerable women and those who are struggling financially – especially during Covid times.
- Every item you donate will help to make local people's lives just a little easier.

### Food items:

- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned tuna
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned meat
- Tinned carrots
- Instant pasta or noodle packets
- Tinned fruit
- Canned meat soups (with ring pull)
- Bags of rice
- Bags of dried lentils

### Toiletries:

- Shower gel
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Sanitary towels
- Moisturiser
- Nappies

### Other items:

- Babies cloths
- New packs of underpants for children and adults
- Winter hats and gloves
- Chocolate treats for children
- Small Christmas Cakes
- Biscuits
- Sleeping bags

*Alternatively, you could make a small cash donation*

## What to do with your collected items?

- Store all items in your form room until **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December**
- Put all items into boxes, labelled with the name of your house/form
- Ask your form tutor to take a picture of your form with all of your donations
- On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December, bring your boxes to Shah Foyer during registration.

**There will be a prize and house points awarded to the winning form**



Charity No. 1064465



Charity No. 1082947



Charity No. 214779



Charity No. 274925



## Year 6 Anderson Shelter Experiment

Year 6 had great fun designing, building, and testing models of Anderson shelters that were used during World War II.

The girls did a lot of research prior to building their models and learnt that they were first designed in 1938 to protect people from the persistent bombing during an air raid. On average, they would fit up to six people and over three million Anderson shelters were put up all over Britain.

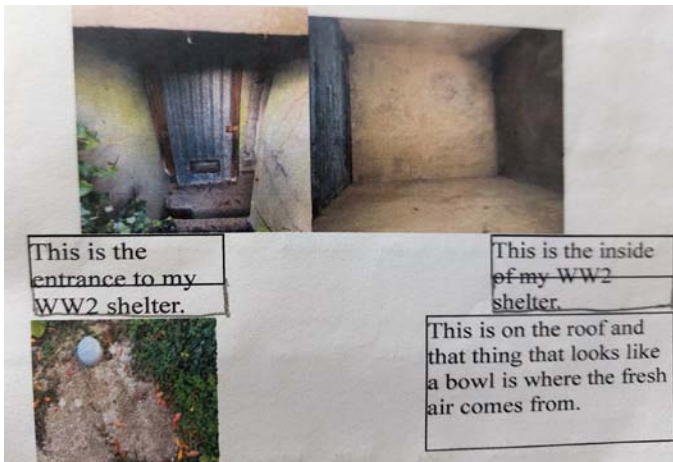
In fact, two of the Year 6 girls have a genuine Anderson shelter in their garden! Did you also know that they

were free to families who earned less than £250 a year?

Year 6 had the task of building a model that would house a Lego figure, withstand a weight of 1kg and keep the Lego figure dry when 500ml of water is poured over it.

In the end, every model fulfilled at least two of the requirements and are still standing, which is a great success.

*"I was terrified and worried that my shelter would crush under the 1kg weight!" said Elise, "But it did not because the cardboard I had used was strong."*



Rishita and Akshita's original Anderson Shelter in their garden.







The Scholastic Book Fair will be on for two weeks starting from 25th November.

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/>

The Library is very much at the heart of the Prep School.

Students use the Library for their Library lessons as part of one of their English lessons once a week. It is also open three days a week at lunchtime from 12.25pm to 12.45pm for Years 3 to 6 to visit the Library for quiet reading, borrowing books or catching up with their AR quizzes.

Accelerated Reading (AR) is the reading program we use to monitor students' comprehension, which they can also access from home to complete their quizzes.

The Library is updated frequently with new fiction and non-fiction books. eBooks are available for Years 3 to 6 on an e-platform, and in addition, online Britannica is also available for extra research for their topic work. All these can be accessed through the school VLE. Both the Prep and Senior Libraries liaise closely with each other and share resources between them.

During Tuesday lunchtimes, the Year 6 students are very much engaged in reading a combination of scientific fiction and non-fiction books as part of their judging roles for the Royal Society of Young People Book Prize.

<https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/book-prizes/young-peoples-book-prize/>

For the *Read for Good* October half-term reading challenge we raised over £600 for the charity:

<https://portal.readforgood.org/>

Thank you to all the parents for encouraging your daughters to read and raise money for this good cause.





## ChemSoc: Magical Chemistry



Last week, ChemSoc took on a Harry Potter theme as our chemists investigated Practical Potions. The session began with some demonstrations from Professor Katerina and Professor Clara (aka Mrs Ball and Mrs Marren, complete with witches' hats), involving amazing colour changes ("Chroma mutatio!") and even a genie being released from a bottle!

The students then investigated a selection of "magical potions" to see which pairs reacted together and, using their knowledge and understanding of Chemistry, competed to determine which chemicals the potions contained.

Here are some of the comments from our students:

*I really enjoyed the Halloween Potions practical session. All the experiments were so mesmerising, and I loved how the teachers got into character as witches. - Alishba*

*I really enjoyed ChemSoc this week - the Halloween theme was fantastic, and it was so interesting to observe the various colour-changing chemical reactions! I especially enjoyed the main activity which was to deduce the reactants in various reactions. Not only was this challenging, but the competitive element was very exciting! - Suraiya*

*I enjoyed ChemSoc very much this week. The dancing and colour changing potions were my absolute favourite. It was amazing. - Aparnaa*

*I liked how the substances all had Halloween-based names as it gave a more exciting aspect to the experiment. It was quite challenging to name all the substances as it required a lot of thinking about the different chemical reactions but eventually, my group managed to name them all - Rebecca*

*I found the "Practical potions" fun, especially guessing what the unknown "potions" were based on and whether there were any certain reactions when two "potions" were mixed together. There were a lot of interesting reactions with colour changes and one extremely smelly reaction! - Abhirra*

*I really enjoyed ChemSoc and screaming CHROMA MUTATIO when the colours changed in the beaker. It was a definitely a highlight! - Dimanthi*

*I enjoyed the atmosphere and loved it when the teachers started dancing to 'Friend Like Me' from Aladdin as the 'genie' was released! - Aashni*

*I thoroughly enjoyed ChemSoc, particularly when the 'genie' appeared. The dancing was spectacular! - Lilia*



	Elixir of Life	Phoenix tears	Snake venom	Vampire blood	Poison (TOXIC)
Dragon whiskers					
Unicorn horn					
Spider eggs					
Monster serum					





**Old Palace of  
John Whitgift School**  
Independent Girls' School

# Limitless

**Senior School**

**A Celebration of Dance 2021**

**Thursday**

**2nd December**

**Banqueting Hall at**

**7pm**

#### COVID-19 Safety Precautions:

- It is advised that members of the audience wear face masks and coverings.
- It is advised that guests complete a lateral flow test no more than 72 hours before the event.
- Guests do not attend if they show any symptoms of Covid.
- Names of guests are submitted via wisePAY.
- Sanitise hands on entry into the building.

Thank you for your co-operation.  
We look forward to seeing you.

Tickets available on WisePay

£5 adult

£3 children/concession



## Level 1 Sports Leaders



Year 10 Level 1 Sports Leaders were very excited to travel to Prep last week to lead a session with the Year 3 pupils. I was so impressed with how the students set the stations up, worked together as a team when delivering the session and ensured lots of individual feedback and guidance was given to every student.

The Year 3's were delighted to be taught by Senior School students and would like them to come back to deliver some Netball sessions. Overall, a very successful afternoon!

## U13 Netball v Croydon High

Two U13 Netball teams travelled to Croydon High on Tuesday to play netball. It was a good opportunity to try out different combinations in different teams to see what works and what doesn't. There was some positive netball played with some good sharp movements down the court – particularly in the B Team. Tall defenders made it difficult in attack in the A Team and CHS had a very strong circle attack giving out defenders lots to do! Cutting in front of defenders to keep possession of the ball is an aspect we really need to work on. As a squad there is lots to be proud of – and lots to still learn.

Emilia was awarded Player of the Match as GD – and really deserved that award! Equally, Isobel worked really hard in attack and was awarded Player of the Match in her game. Well done!



## November is World Vegan Month

The Catering team at Seniors has showcased some exciting dishes from plant-based strawberry whip, carrot cake made with coconut-based cream cheese and totally vegan cupcakes.

The menu has featured a daily vegan option such as soup and risotto with vegan parmesan and pulse laden jacket potato fillings (shifting the trend from jacket potato with beans and cheese).

On Tuesday, the team showcased a vegan tasting table where the girls could experience some plant-based alternatives. Treats like 'Tempeh' and 'Silky Tofy' made from soya, 'Saiten' made from gluten and flavoured to look and taste like meat and Fake Bacon drew the crowds. Plant-based cheese divided opinion: some 'loved it' and some thought it was 'like eating butter'.

Tasting tables will make a regular return to Seniors and Prep in the future.







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](mailto:OPAlumnae@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)



## Math Puzzle Fun Page 7 Answer

$$A + B = 15... (1)$$

$$B \times C = 84... (2)$$

$$C \div 4 = 3... (3)$$

$$B + D = 18...(4)$$

From (3), we get **C = 12**

From (2), we get **B = 84/12 = 7**

From (1), we get **A = 15 - 7 = 8**

From (4), we get **D = 18 - 7 = 11**

**Hence, D = 11**

Last week's winner was **Zadie** in  
Year 7

## International Kindness Day

Last Saturday was 'International Kindness Day' - so on Friday our catering staff helped spread a little kindness.

A kindness card was given at random during breakfast and break and the student received either a free drink, a free meal or a piece of fruit, dessert or bottle of water when they purchased a main meal.



## This Week in History... Elizabeth I becomes Queen, November 17, 1558

Queen Elizabeth I ascended to the throne aged 25, following the death of her half-sister, Mary I. Daughter of Henry VIII, she became the last Tudor monarch and reigned until 1603.



Classics Department

Word of the Week

15/11/21



# CACOPHONY

A terrible sound

from Greek *κακος* (*kakos*)

'bad' + *φωνη* (*phōnē*) 'sound'.