



AROUND THE PALACE

Autumn Concert at Croydon Minster



Article and photos on pages 3,4 and 5

Dear all,

At Old Palace we aim for all our students to be capable, confident and connected individuals. This week it has been hard to choose what to talk about as the Bulletin contains so much, but I want to highlight the following:

The music concert, which I was so sad to miss as I was at the annual Girls School Association conference, showed how capable and confident the girls at our Prep and Senior School truly are. I have had so much feedback about what a superb event it was. Capability and confidence has also been shown across the School with the fantastic achievements in music from our Year 12 students and Alice and Victoria in Prep, to Zaynah winning a London Leaders Award for her engineering project.

Finally, Old Palace has certainly connected with others this week with the inaugural African Caribbean Society (ACS) Mixer event, hosted by our Sixth Form students for all three schools in the John Whitgift Foundation. In addition, we have been recognised by The Cricketer magazine as one of the top 20 Girls Schools in the country for cricket.

Well done Old Palace!

Jane Burton, Head

Old Palace Named in The Cricketer's Top 20 Girls Schools



We are very proud to have been included in The Cricketer Magazine's Top 20 Girls Schools/Schools Guide 2022.

It's a real testament to our PE staff and pupils as, to quote The Cricketer: "The number and standard of entries we received was extremely high this year and you should be very proud of your inclusion."

They went on to say:

"The Cricketer has published its Schools Guide 2022, featuring the top 100 senior, the top 50 prep/junior and the top 20 all-girls schools in a bumper 156-page supplement.

It follows an exhaustive process which saw a huge number of schools submit entries to be included in the guide. All entries were judged against an extensive set of criteria, which included a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.

Also taken into account was how schools kept the game alive during the pandemic, and how they look to ensure cricket remains a central part of school life.

The Cricketer gathered entries and compiled the leading lists, working alongside former England star Lydia Greenway and her coaching initiative Cricket For Girls to select the top 20 all-girls schools."

Mrs Smith writes:

"We are delighted to be recognised in this publication! Women's Cricket has so much to offer and we are thrilled to be



able to introduce cricket to students at Old Palace School. We look forward to developing this area in the coming years."

Old Palace Hosts Inaugural African Caribbean Society Mixer

On Wednesday evening, Old Palace proudly hosted the inaugural African Caribbean Society Mixer for Sixth Form students across the three John Whitgift Foundation schools.



This fun event included a series of games and discussions, with the main theme being 'The Black British experience'. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and hopefully the first of many! A big thank you to our Head Girl, Amanda, and all the Sixth Former students who came together to make this event possible. Finally, many thanks to Trinity and Whitgift for joining us on such a momentous occasion!

Sanaa, Senior Prefect



Zaynah Wins London Leaders Award 2018

Many congratulations to Zaynah, who has won the London Leaders Award 2018; an engineering competition supported by the University of Kingston. This competition encourages students from secondary schools in London to identify a real world problem and design an engineering solution to it. Out of thousands of entries across London schools, Zaynah's design was one of two only chosen to be made in a prototype!

This has taken some time due to the pandemic but finally on 24 November, Zaynah's prototype was unveiled at a ceremony organised by Kingston university.

"I designed a motor turbine which would be placed in the motorway which would catch the wind from the speed of the cars and generate renewable energy." Zaynah



Autumn Concert at Croydon Minster *continued*

On Monday, we held our Autumn Concert at Croydon Minster. For many students, it has been almost two years since the last live concert was put on at Old Palace, and for the current Year 7s and 8s it was the first concert they've been involved in at this school since arriving.

Naturally, this was a very highly anticipated event this term, and our choirs, ensembles and soloists had been working extremely hard in the lead up to the concert. The concert had something for everyone, from lively numbers from Steel Pans and Training Orchestra, a rousing rendition of the Overture from Mozart's *Magic Flute* from Senior Orchestra, sensitive ensemble work from the clarinet trio, as well as moving choral pieces from Chamber Choir, Year 7 and 8 Choir and Prep Polyphonic. Year 7 and Prep Polyphonic combined to perform a number of pieces from the vocal collection 'Friday Afternoons' by Britten and it was clear to all that they had been working with real enthusiasm and diligence in learning these songs in lessons and rehearsals. The concert

ended with a spirited and joyous performance of a medley of songs from Sister Act from Senior Choir.

The Music department would like to congratulate all our choirs, orchestras, ensembles and all of our Year 7 students for this memorable concert. Well done also to our fantastic soloists who performed in the evening – Annie in Year 7, Celeste in Year 10 and Jessica in Year 13 – who all gave excellent performances. The commitment from the students in the rehearsal process was outstanding with some students attending up to five rehearsals a week. This was all made clear to the audience as the standard of performances was extremely impressive.

Thank you to all the members of staff that made this possible. Thank you to all of the music teachers: Mr Griffith, Miss Orr, Miss Kolpaktchi, Miss Fitzgerald and Mr Dowie, and particular thanks to Ms Cepulienė and other support staff, without whom this event would not have been possible.

James Griffith
Director of Music



Autumn Concert at Croydon Minster *continued*





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



Sixth Form: Using the Gym at Whitgift

Our Sixth Form students, have been using the Gym at Whitgift. They have been working on Cardiovascular endurance and have been developing different muscle groups. They have also enjoyed using the different varieties of equipment to develop certain areas of their fitness.



Year 10 Sports Leaders: Bee Netball Festival



Last Friday, three sports leaders from Year 10 set up and umpired the Year 3 & 4 Bee Netball Festival at Coombe Wood School. The day was great fun and gave the sports leaders an opportunity to lead and umpire netball, when usually we would be on the receiving end of the refereeing!

The day started at around midday, and we set up different netball drills like passing, shooting and defending to help the young children improve their netball skills before playing matches. Once the (very excited) children arrived, we did a warm up, then we led the drill stations and finally umpired several netball matches.

Lily, Year 10

We also received a lovely email from Croydon Schools Sport Partnership:

Just dropping you a quick email to say that your that your sports leaders were amazing! We also had a lot of positive feedback from school staff and the Croydon Netball coaches about them; they were meticulous in their delivery, confident, encouraging and great role models.

A special mention (must go) to Lily, who volunteered to take the mass warm up; there were 90 children and 21 staff! We were all extremely impressed - well done Lily!

Pearl Sethna

Development Manager, Croydon Schools Sport Partnership



Six Prep students: Sophia S, Sophia K, Elissa, Mya, Aanya and Hiru attended a Bee Netball Croydon Sports Partnership event last Friday.

The afternoon consisted of various Netball drill stations set up across the courts, which were run by older students taking part in Sports Leaders. All the stations worked on different aspects of the game including foot work, pivoting, throwing and catching jumps. It was lovely to have Old Palace Sports Leaders Lily, Cecelia and Grace leading stations. Lily also led an excellent warmup in a very clear and well presented manner.

The Prep students enjoyed the afternoon, which culminated with three matches against other Croydon schools. They won one match, tied one and came second in the other!

Year 2: Tour of Local Statues and Monuments



In Year 2, our current topic is *Movers and Shakers*. We are learning about the lives of significant people from the past and present.

On Thursday, we visited some of the statues and monuments in our local area. Our first stop was the statue of Samuel Coleridge Taylor which is not far from the Senior School. We have been learning about his life and his music.

Next, we took a short walk to the statue of Queen Victoria. We also spotted the statue of John Whitgift! Our final stop was Croydon Airport. Did you know that Croydon Airport played a major role in the development of global air travel after World War One?



Students to Perform with John Rutter at Royal Albert Hall



Some of our students will be singing at the Royal Albert Hall with John Rutter on the 9th of December.

They will be singing in the 3pm and 7.30pm concerts.



www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2021/john-rutters-christmas-celebration/

RAH are pleased to offer friends and family 20% off tickets if you quote the promotional code RPOAH20 or 63527.

Community News

Prep: Christingle Celebration

On Wednesday, 1st December, we are looking forward to a whole school Christingle celebration at Prep. Before the assembly, each child will learn about the history and the meaning of this Christian festival and will enjoy making their own Christingle in class. The girls will not be eating sweets in school and the Christingles will be sent home after the celebrations.



This year, we will be supporting the charity, The Children's Society (www.childrensociety.org.uk). The Children's Society provides specialist support that empowers young people to make positive changes in their lives.

This week, each child will be given a small Christingle coin collection box if you would like to donate to this cause.

Please kindly return the collection boxes to your daughter's class teacher no later than Monday 6th December

Combined Cadet Force

We are delighted to confirm that Old Palace has teamed up with Whitgift School to offer CCF – the Combined Cadet Force to Year 9 students. Old Palace have joined the RAF branch, and are at the early stages of their training this term.

More news from Year 9 and their new adventures will follow!

Miss Rodwell & Mrs Scott

CCF joining in partnership together

WHITGIFT

Old Palace of John Whitgift School
Independent Girls' School





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 10th 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 10th 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

Clubs: Spotlight on...Dance

Extra-Curricular Dance at Old Palace



The Dance department has a vast and vibrant extra-curricular programme, reflecting true diversity and student engagement. Each club works towards developing a range of physical and expressive skills, allowing each dancer to improve on their technique and overall sense of performance. It provides a platform for students to work with and alongside other students from different year groups, whilst learning to develop team building skills and sensitivity towards other dancers when performing.

Dance has been a great tool to help celebrate different cultures within the school. Through learning dances from around the world, the students have been exposed to different types of music, movement and cultural traditions. Currently we have some of our older and more experienced students lead clubs in Indian Dance, Afrobeat and Street Dance. They have worked extremely hard to plan challenging, yet engaging and energetic sessions, truly highlighting their confidence and well-rounded leadership skills.

In order to really push and challenge our most talented dancers at the school, this year we are really excited to introduce our two new dance companies, Old Palace Dance Company and Dance Ensemble! These are both highly selected groups including students from Years 8-13 which were put together through an audition process. We look forward to continue to work alongside these students, whilst providing opportunities to participate in performances in school as well as outside in the wider community.

This term we have been working towards two performances, our annual whole school dance performance – *Limitless* and the school musical, *Beauty and the Beast*. This year we are excited to have our very own dance troupe in the musical which will allow the students to really push and challenge themselves, focusing on developing characteristics from the musical theatre style, working on Ballet, Spanish dance and the Cancan.

Next week, on the 2nd December, we are very excited to welcome family and friends back into the Banqueting Hall where we will be showcasing the students' hard work and talent. With a tight turn around, all movement material has been created and put together this term, ready to be performed as a whole cast with lights, camera and costume! It has been over two years since we have had a large audience come into the school, so we eagerly anticipate your attendance and look forward to seeing you on the night! Please note, tickets must be pre-booked on wisepay. We look forward to seeing you and hope you enjoy an evening of dance!

Afrobeat

We really enjoy running Afrobeat Dance Club as it allows us to share a part of our culture with other students who might be able to identify with it or not. The beauty of dance is that it connects people from different backgrounds and we have seen that first hand in our club as we have girls from different ethnicities and backgrounds attending. It's also been an amazing way to meet students from the younger years and that bond continues outside of the club. It has been a good experience for us to try and create a fun and light-hearted environment for everyone,



in order to explore a dance form that we both thoroughly enjoy. Despite Year 13 being a very busy year, Afrobeat Dance Club is something we look forward to every week!

Amanda and Rachael, Year 13

I have really enjoyed Afrobeat dance club so far this year, and it is amazing because when I first came to this school afro dance was the only style I knew and now I can see Year 7s enjoying dance with A level students. When we come together, hear the songs and even just walk into the studio, the sixth formers create a really fun environment and the laughs we have and the way we stretch our abilities together and try our best is going to be really visible during the dance show.

Stephanie, Year 10

I enjoy Afrobeat because we get to expand our knowledge of dancing. If we don't understand one of the movements, the sixth formers always help us, which makes us feel confident to express ourselves through dance. It has been a fun experience working with other year groups.

Daniela, Ruqaiyah, Tiffany, Year 7

Clubs: Spotlight on...Dance

'Beauty and the Beast' Dance Club



This term we have been rehearsing for the school musical production that is due to take place in February. This year we are very excited to have our very own dance troupe that are featured within the show.

It has been fun to add characterisation to the choreography, which helped build upon my acting skills whilst singing and dancing – all at the same time!

Amira, Year 8

I have really enjoyed working with different year groups as it has helped me to perfect my performance with the older students and developed my confidence when leading aspects of the choreography.

Grace, Year 10

Indian Dance Club

In Bharathanatyam Dance Club, we teach a range of students from Year 8 to 12. Bharathanatyam is a classical Indian dance style that is not commonly known. At the moment, we are teaching a routine for the December dance show. The club has allowed us to not only impart our dance knowledge, but also enabled participants to develop their pre-existing skills and learn more complicated motifs.

Our involvement in Dance Club has enhanced our communication skills as delivering clear instructions is essential. It has also improved our time management as we must balance choreography and rehearsals for the upcoming dance show with our school work.



We have certainly grown in confidence and our leadership skills have been enhanced because a group of people depend on us to know what we are doing. We love leading this club!

Aparnaa T and Indrani P

I enjoy the fusion of a variety of Indian dance styles in our routines, but most of all I love the sheer fun of this club - there is always laughter!

Akshitha, Year 12

I particularly appreciate the opportunity to be creative, especially when choreographing dances.

Suruthi, Year 8



Dance Ensemble

Stretch, challenge, intensity – Dance Ensemble is one of our dance companies showcasing true talent in Years 8 and 9!

I enjoy dancing because it is a way of expressing yourself. Dance Ensemble has let me explore different styles of dancing, emotions and expressions while enhancing my dance skills

Ainesis, Year 8



Dance Ensemble has given me the chance to meet new people and explore a whole other dance style out my comfort zone. It has been very enjoyable and overall something I'd love to continue to Year 9.

Amira, Year 8

Clubs: Spotlight on...Dance

Street Dance

I like going to Street Dance because I enjoy learning Jaéda's choreography, which is different from other styles of dance I've done before. It's also fun to take a break from A Levels to do more dance!

Emily, Year 13

What inspired me to do Street Dance was, a Street Dance crew called Urban Strides. They inspire me to try new things, and this is something new. I feel like I always come in with a smile on my face because, I love dancing and Street Dancing has made me become better at dancing.

Serwa, Year 7

During Street Dance Club, we are learning a choreography which is going to be performed for the dance show. This club lets us express our dance styles in the movements we get taught, which makes it much more fun.

Aswini, Year 10



Old Palace Dance Company

Our school Dance Company consists of students in Year 8-13. This company demonstrates raw talent, enthusiasm and passion towards Dance!

I've enjoyed meeting new people and challenging myself with the dances. The wide range of students across all years at Old Palace helps develop relationships with younger and older students.

Ella, Year 8

In Dance Company, the students are able to enjoy and challenge themselves in dance. We explore a more extensive range of dance compared to lessons and are able to showcase our skills in annual dance shows.

Irvana, Year 13





**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



Singing Success for Parvati

On Saturday the 20th November, Parvati in Year 7 took part in the Sutton Music Festival.

She participated in three events, and got first prize and a distinction for singing *The Cloths of Heaven* by Thomas Dunhill and second prize for the traditional Irish folk song *She Moved Through the Fair*.

The adjudicator praised each performance, describing her singing as 'evocative' and 'thoughtful', and said she 'captured the mood' of each song effectively.

Well Done Alice!

Huge congratulations to Alice in 2J, who has passed the ABRSM Harp Grade 1 with distinction.

Alice said she was a little nervous on the day but tried her very best! It obviously worked!



Congratulations Victoria



Victoria in 2J was awarded first prize for an outstanding performance for Violin at the Sutton Music Festival.

Victoria was also commended for her piano playing.



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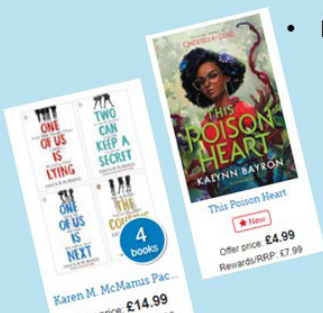
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Old Palace Comes Second in the KS4 Badminton Competition



On Wednesday, Nissi, Nishita, Hannah and I were given the opportunity to go to Oasis Academy in Coulsdon to take part in a Badminton competition. We played against Woodcote (A and B) and Coloma. There were two singles and three doubles matches played against each team. We won against Coloma.

However, we unfortunately lost to Woodcote A and B but still managed to place second in the competition. I would like to thank everyone that played. It was an incredible experience to be able to play in a competition after everything that has occurred in the past two years due to Covid-19.

Sanvi, Year 10

Water Polo

Our Old Palace Water Polo team played a terrific match against Croydon High this week. They started all guns blazing, scoring in the first minute of the first quarter. This set the momentum for the rest of the fast moving match. Old Palace defenders did a fantastic job of marking two very strong Croydon High attackers. Old Palace attacking players moved speedily up and down the pool, reacting quickly to any forward passes and converting them into splendid goals. Old Palace finished the match with a triumphant winning 8-3 score.

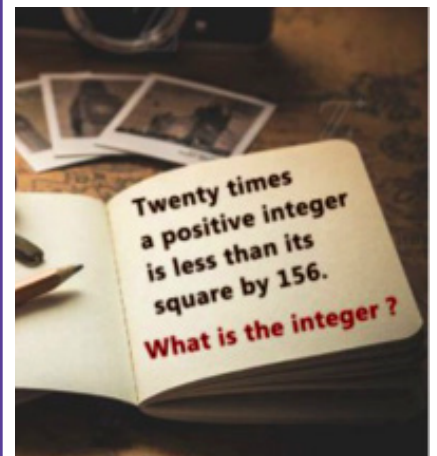
Mrs Tamplin would like to thank Sarah M, our Year 13 England goal keeper, for playing and also sharing the refereeing of alternate quarters. This gave Bella, Year 7, a great opportunity to take a

turn in goal, brilliantly saving many shots.

Well done to Catherine Year 11, Rosemary, Grace and Feran Year 10, Beatrice Year 9, Nia, Isobel and Ishika Year 8 and Bella, Elina and Annie Year 7, and finally Amy Year 12 and Maya and Arisa Year 7 for helping on poolside.



Maths Puzzle Fun



Is the answer:

- A) 23 B) 26
C) 13 D) 29

Answer on page 16



CHRISTMAS FAIR & SANTA'S GROTTTO

Saturday, 4th December 2021

11am - 3pm @ Preparatory, CR2 7YN

Santa's Grotto, Christmas Gift and Craft Stalls, Raffles, Christmas Café, Lucky Dips, Candy Floss & Pop Corn, Toys.

Tickets: £1 each

French with Reception

Linking with Reception's new topic, "Why do squirrels hide their nuts?" the girls have learnt a French song about autumn called "Les feuilles" (leaves). They all enjoyed singing and adding actions to each verse of the song.

Regarde les feuilles rouges, bruns et jaunes (look at the red, brown and yellow leaves).

Regarde les feuilles qui dansent dans l'air (look at the leaves dancing in the wind).

Regarde les feuilles qui tombent par terre (look at the leaves falling down).

After learning the song, Reception created a beautiful autumnal tree full of red, brown and yellow leaves.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY... JFK ASSASSINATED!

On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in an open-topped car in Dallas, Texas.

Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested as the lone gunman, although many Americans believe he was part of a larger conspiracy.



Maths Puzzle Fun Page 15 Answer

Answer: B) 26

Test each number in turn to see if it works

Or you can use algebra:

Let the integer be x .

Then

$$x^2 - 20x = 156$$

$$(x + 6)(x - 26) = 0$$

$$x = 26$$

Last week's winner was Rachel in Year 7