



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



Spirits were certainly lifted and smiles brought to faces at Thursday's Dance Show. It was a simply spectacular event showcasing not only the diversity of the school but the amazing talent amongst our students. Thank you to all the students who were part of the event, whether performing, compering or part of the back stage team and special thanks to Ms Khan and Mrs Barber for all their hard work in organising and producing the event.

On Saturday 4 December we have the PTA Christmas Fair at Prep from

11.00am - 3.00pm. Please do come along and enjoy the festivities and of course all the proceeds are used to support the school and the students. I very much hope to see you there.

Finally, I would like to wish 'Happy Hanukkah' to all those Old Palace families celebrating this weekend.

Jane Burton, Head

Senior School Dance Show: Limitless



More pictures on page 8

A letter from Mrs Nike

Dear all,

This week, we had two special assemblies. On Monday, we learnt about the Jewish Festival of Light, Hanukkah. The pupils were engrossed as they heard the story of one of the greatest miracles in Jewish history and found out about the delicious foods that are eaten by Jewish people at this special time of year. On Wednesday, we had a Christingle service and learnt all about the elements of the Christingle. Each girl made a Christingle and took it home. Light is such an important part of so many religions and faiths. How are you going to spread your

light in the world? I would like to thank Mrs Wellington for organising the Christingle service and a big thank you to those families that donated to the Children's Society by filling their Christingle collection boxes.

It has been wonderful this term to be able to reintroduce trips and visits. As you will know, every half term, each class either goes on a trip or has a visitor that is linked to their Cornerstones topic. This has been a huge success and the children have had many memorable experiences that have really enhanced learning. This week has been no exception. As part of the Year 3 topic, 'Mighty Metals' the

class went to Seniors to visit the Design Technology department to watch a metal casting demonstration. Each member of the class made a pewter pendant with the Old Palace School badge as a souvenir. What a treat!

I can't wait to see you all at the Christmas Fair tomorrow. As part of our enterprise programme, each class has created their own stall and made items to sell. Don't forget to visit each class stall and purchase a little something to support the children's hard work.

Mrs Nike
Head of Pre School & Preparatory

Pre School and Prep: Christingle

On Wednesday afternoon, the whole of Prep gathered in the assembly hall for a joyful Christingle service. Before the assembly, every child found out about what each part of the Christingle represented and then had fun making their own.

During the service the children explored the Christingle tradition further and sang songs. To finish the service, one candle was lit – a reminder of the light and hope we can all bring to the world. This year we are supporting the charity The Children's Society.

The Children's Society brings light and hope to the lives of vulnerable children and young people across this country. Please remember to bring in your coin boxes to your teacher next week. Thank you!



Connecting our Alumnae Network



I am delighted to announce that the OPA is embracing social media with several new ways to connect with our talented, global alumnae community via LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. All you need to do is search for 'OPJWS Alumnae'. There are already over 250 in our LinkedIn and Instagram communities which is very exciting.

Our aim is to make it easier and faster to connect, and as I have recently posted, it is always lovely to hear your news – whether that be celebrating

successes, sharing adventures or overcoming challenges.

Now, you can either contact us directly via email OPAlumnae@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk, or via social media.

Connecting our alumnae network is a really important part of our vision for Old Palace, as we strive to enable the new generation to become confident, capable and connected individuals, who are well positioned for a successful and meaningful future.

We also hope through these improved connections to invite alumnae to work with our students. Your experiences can be both inspiring and invaluable as

students begin their higher education and career journeys. I am delighted to announce that we are hosting our first Alumnae Careers Networking event on 22nd March 2022. We are seeking alumnae to participate in panel discussions with upper school students as part of our careers week programme. If you would like to participate do please contact us via email or through our social media pages. We look forward to hearing from you all

Helen Richards

*Assistant Head: Co-curricular,
Community and Partnerships*

Twitter

Keep up to date with all the latest news from Old Palace via:



The official Old Palace of John Whitgift Twitter account is @OPOJWS

You can get all the latest news from our PE Dept by following @OPOJWS

And follow our Senior School Library on @OPJWSLibrary

Maths Puzzle Fun

Can you solve this puzzle?



- A) 18 B) 16
C) 20 D) 14

Answer on page 17



Old Palace
Alumnae

OPA & Friends Carol Service

Monday 6 December 2021
Old Palace Senior School

6pm: The Banqueting Hall

7pm: Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

RSVP: OPAlumnae@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk



Mask up if
you are aged 11+

We are looking forward to welcoming our alumnae, their families and friends to the OPA & Friends Carol Service next Monday at 6.00pm.

To keep everyone safe, we've decided to move the Service to the Banqueting Hall.



We are asking guests to take a lateral flow test if possible and everyone over the age of 11 will be required to wear a mask, but our wonderful choir will still be singing and there will be mince pies and mulled wine afterwards.

Do join us (no ticket/booking required).

Sixth Form: Mock Interviews for our Aspiring Medics

On Tuesday, in their Careers lesson, Old Palace's aspiring medics and nurse were able to take part in a carousel of mock interviews.

Interviews for medicine and other healthcare professions can sometimes take the form of mini interview stations. Earlier this week, eight staff ran a mock interview carousel for our aspiring medical and nursing students.

Each station was five minutes long and bell was rung when it was time to move to the next interview. Every station had a different aim to enable the candidates to demonstrate the values and attributes needed to study for their chosen career.

Students prepared in different ways:

'I read over my personal statement.'

'I did a bit of personal attribute brainstorming.'

'I had examples for different attributes ready and prepared and went through questions with my parents.'

'I went over current affairs, medical ethics and wrote some answers to basic questions.'

After each interview station it is important to reset and not reflect on the previous station. This can be challenging.

The interviewers found that, despite being quite nervous, the students demonstrated good communication and teamworking skills and were able to speak confidently about work experience and the skills that they have developed through their roles around the school.

The interviewers provided lots of helpful feedback to guide the students in their preparation.



Year 6: TfL STAR Safety and Citizenship Workshop

In Learning for Life this week, Year 6 took part in an engaging TfL STAR Safety and Citizenship workshop. It was a thought-provoking afternoon where they learnt about the dangers of travelling on public transport if you are not careful.

The girls now know that they should always stand at least their height plus one step back when waiting for buses, trains and other public transport.

Rishi remembers that we, "Should not lean back on the doors." Iman said that "we should always read the safety signs carefully" and Rachelle understands the importance of showing respect "by saying hello to your bus driver as you board".

Following the workshop, Year 6 designed their own safety posters which could be used by TfL.



Year 9: Art Print Workshop

On Wednesday, 24 November we participated in an Art Print Workshop inspired by Henri Matisse. The workshop was so much fun and really allowed us to be creative with our cut out collages that we created inspired by Matisse's work. As well as creating cut outs, we also did some screen printing onto fabric which turned out amazing as the colours were very bright and fun. I really enjoyed this workshop and would do something like it again.

Mariya, 9A

I really enjoyed the workshop. I loved doing the screen printing because it was really satisfying. I also enjoyed cut out collaging because it was quite free and tranquil. The colours also made it very bright, vibrant, and fun.

Maryam, 9H



Community News

Old Palace Community Christmas Lunch - Tuesday 21st December

We are delighted to announce that Old Palace of John Whitgift School will be hosting a Christmas lunch for people in our local community who may be lonely over the Christmas period. The event is being organised with Croydon Minster.

We will be hosting lunch for 150 people from the Croydon almshouses and care homes, because of the difficulties that elderly and isolated people have experienced over the last 18 months

Old Palace staff and students have volunteered their time to host the event, serving lunch, acting as companions and providing Christmas entertainment.

Your donations will help us to bring some much needed Christmas cheer to our local community.

A three course lunch for one person costs just £7.50.

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/oldpalacecommunitychristmaslunch?utm_term=2vMxZ5vmw



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



Croydon
Minster

Old Palace Community Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 21st December: 11:00am-3:00pm

Old Palace (together with Croydon Minster) is hosting a lunch for people who may be lonely at Christmas.

Can you help? A donation of just £7.50 will provide a 3 course lunch for 1 person.



www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/oldpalacecommunitychristmaslunch?utm_term=2vMxZ5vmw



Part of the
**john
whitgift
foundation**

Christmas Jumper Day

Senior School

Friday 10th December



Wear your festive jumper and **donate £1** to join in the fun and raise money for Croydon Charities at the same time

What to wear?

Christmas jumpers (if you don't have one, why not decorate a jumper with tinsel)

Jeans or other plain trousers (not leggings)

Please respect the rules: no novelty headbands, hats or earrings



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

Senior School Dance Show: Limitless *More to follow next week*



Year 3: Mighty Metals

As part of Year 3's Mighty Metals topic, the girls visited the Design and Technology department at the Senior school to watch a metal casting demonstration.

Mr Jupp first showed the girls a rock containing metal ore to remind them that metal is found in the ground. He then showed them how to cast metal using the sand casting method, where he placed a 'pattern' in the bottom and covered it in a special sand then removed it to make a hole in the shape of the 'pattern'. Then Mr Jupp melted pieces of pewter which he poured into the hole made by the 'runner' until the molten metal appeared in the hole left by the 'riser'. After it had cooled, Mr Jupp revealed the solid pewter which was now in the shape of the 'pattern'.

The girls learnt a lot from the demonstration and Mr Downer had made all of the girls a special pewter pendant with the Old Palace School badge as a souvenir.

"It was amazing, I really enjoyed it."

Nuriya

"My favourite part was when I saw you melting metal in the cup." **Aadya**

"It was scary but cool when the cup of metal turned red." **Aideen**



Catherine, *The Cunning Little Vixen* and a Trip to Paris

A few months ago, I was offered the incredible opportunity of singing in the opera '*The Cunning Little Vixen*' by Leos Janacek, a Czech composer. It was sung in Czech. The composer loved animals and the opera includes animals that can talk and humans, such as the forester, school teacher and priest. Janacek wrote it in 1921-1923. Its original name in Czech was '*Prihody lisky bystrousky*' translating to '*The Adventure of Vixen Sharp-Ears*'. The young animal parts such as the frog cricket and grasshopper would usually be played by children.

I would play the role of the Young Vixen, who is Vixen Sharp Ear's past self. The Trinity Boys Choir also played parts such as the Cricket and the Grasshopper, as well as members of the fox cub chorus. Most of us had mini solo parts and then we all sang together in the chorus.

After I had practiced the solo at home, it was time for us all to go to Birmingham to rehearse and perform with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the Symphony hall. This was really exciting as the hall was enormous and I had never performed in a such a large hall before! The

orchestra and conductor were amazing and it was great fun to rehearse with them for the first time. On the second day of rehearsal, we had our costume fittings, one of my favourite parts of the experience. The costumes were so creative and although I had a full costume, the boys had black under layers and would change tops between scenes.

After the performance in Birmingham, we had a few days before we went to Dortmund. The flight to Dortmund was quite short, but we still had to catch the bus to the hotel. We went for a wander and saw the Christmas market all lit up, which was beautiful. The performance was over in a few days, and so we got the train to Hamburg. Hamburg was incredible, and the Elbphilharmonie was one of my favourite places to perform the opera in. The seating went all the way around the stage, so the audience were watching from all angles.

After we got the plane to Paris, there wasn't long until we had to perform, as it was on the same day as when we arrived. In all the other places, we had performed in concert halls, but in Paris, it was a theatre. While we had a bit of spare time, we went for a walk, and we

saw the Eiffel Tower! I had never seen it before and we were walking and constantly taking pictures. Paris was a stunning place and I loved spending time there.

Overall, it was a great experience and I am incredibly grateful to have been given the opportunity, as I will never forget what it was like to travel and sing in so many new and exciting places.

Catherine, Year 7



Year 10: Maths is Everywhere

On Friday 26th November, Year 10 attended the Maths is Everywhere conference. This was a very informative and interesting event intended to give us a better idea of how maths isn't just in the classroom. Maths can be applied anywhere in our lives, especially when considering jobs, and it showed us how beneficial having maths skills can be.

One of the topics discussed was based on economics where the company tries to scam you. You can avoid this by using your well-earned maths skills!

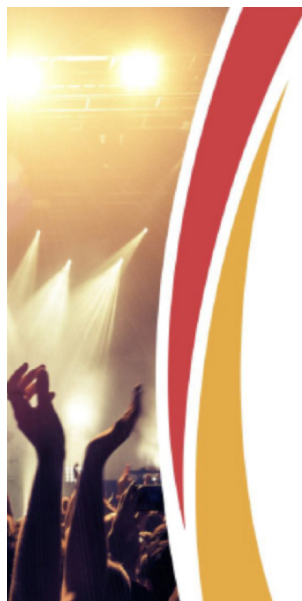
An example used was the company giving three options when you want to buy something. The first option was the cheapest and what you would use the most. The second and third options cost the same but the third was both the first and second option put together into one. This made it appear to be the best offer even though in reality you wouldn't use half of it. This third option is a decoy and is a waste of money for the customer but much

better for the company.

Overall, it gave us further knowledge of how you can find maths beyond lessons in a classroom and it helped

guide us with courses once we finish our GCSEs.

Aliya, Hannah, Lily and Aswini, Year 10



Business and Economics



Data: www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk



Ticket price in 1979: £5

Ticket price in 2019: £248

Average rate of inflation: 4.2%

Ticket prices for Glastonbury – students compared what the price would have gone up to if they were in line with inflation.

Clubs: Spotlight on...Current Affairs Club



In the Current Affairs club, the girls have had the opportunity to talk about a wide range of hot topics, starting in September with Emma Raducanu winning the US Open, SpaceX launch to the moon, Black History month and what it means to be "proud to be ourselves" all the way to COP26 which has just finished.

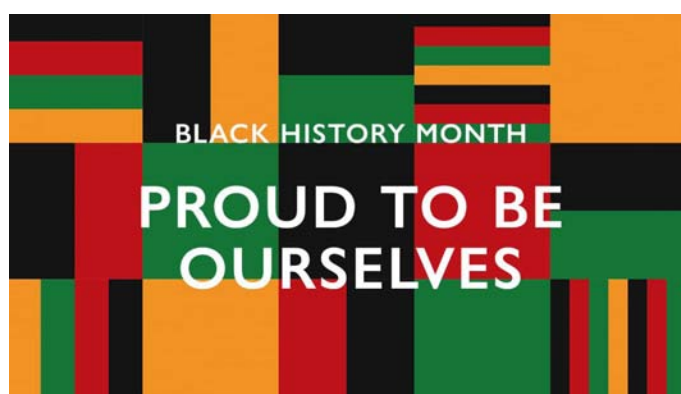
We have also talked about "fake news" which the girls have



had a lot of fun with. There is a serious side to the topic however, given how in this age of social media, the ability to distinguish between fake and real news will be a crucial skill.

Lola-Marie, "What I like best is that everyone has a chance to talk and discuss events"

Hiru, "The club is really interesting because we learn new facts about what's happening right now!"



Year 10: Life in Nazi Germany by Keno

Year 10 students are studying life in Nazi Germany. Keno wrote a letter imagining how a woman who opposed the Nazis would feel, living in Germany during the 1930s.

Dear Helena,

This is just all too much! It was bad before but with each day that passes it gets worse and worse. I can't do it anymore! I can't keep quiet anymore! The Nazis need to be stopped before they cause any more damage.

We're losing our jobs! The jobs that we waited so long to get. Women were starting to mean something in Germany. We were finally beginning to be seen as doctors, lawyers, judges and teachers, instead of just bodies that harbour children.

Now I want you to understand, my dear Helena, I would love to be a mother and have my own children, sometime, but I want the reason that I became a mother to be because I want to be, not because that scoundrel Hitler wants me to provide him with new additions to his beloved 'Aryan Race.'

You know my husband Gunter, he is starting to fall into this ridiculous Nazi trap. He says that we should have children and keep a quarter of the loan the government gave us as newlyweds. Can you believe it? My Gunter! Saying absolute nonsense like that! I told him that he and his beloved Nazis can keep their money as I'd rather die than take anything from them.

Can you imagine? Just the other day, I was out smoking on my lunch break, wearing those lovely new trousers that you made for me, when these two ugly old nags came up to me, looked at me disapprovingly, and had the audacity to tell me that smoking is 'neither lady-like nor pure' and that I should be ashamed of the fact that I was wearing trousers. I was disgusted! How dare they? Working women shaming other working women because of what some idiotic little Austrian man said. Us women should be working together as one, uplifting each other not putting each other down. Look at what our country has come to under the rule of Hitler. And I fear it is only going to get worse.

Anyways, Helena, I do hope you and your family are doing well and that the Nazi regime is not treating you all too harshly. Kiss the kids hello for me, I can't wait to see their adorable little faces again.

Till the next letter, Helena.

Yours,

Alina

Senior/U16 Netball v Croydon High

On Wednesday, the Senior/U16 teams travelled to Croydon High to play a friendly/social match.

It is always good to see students higher up the school playing Netball and enjoying being involved.

The match was split into 5 sections with different players playing in different combinations for each section. Well done to all who played and managed on a slippery surface.

Croydon won overall but Old Palace won at least two of the separate sections!



Year 7 Netball v Royal Russell



Year 7A + B teams played a home match under our floodlights against Royal Russell on Tuesday. We are still working out combinations and team formations so no set teams and positions as yet. The players worked hard and their footwork was so much better – well done!

Royal Russell did win the match but there were some pleasing elements of play from both teams. We need to practice shooting so that when we work hard and get the ball into our attacking end, it is converted into a goal – please practice in the courtyard Year 7!

Kara and Sinty were named as Player of the Match by the opposition.

The Classics Quiz

In November, students from Old Palace, Wilson's School and Streatham and Clapham High School took part in the annual Classics Quiz in the Guard Room.

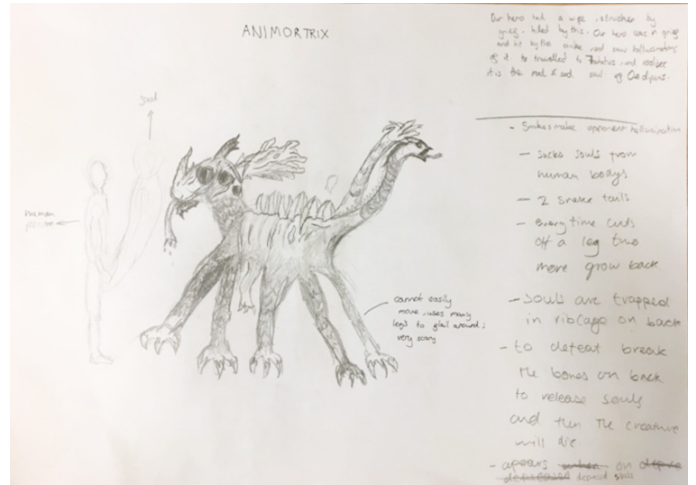
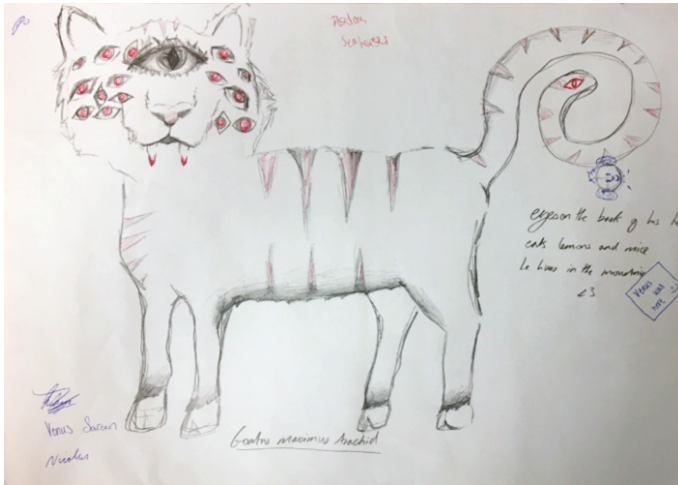
The students from Years 9-10 took part as mixed teams, answering a series of questions about the ancient world and Greek and Roman mythology. The teams also had to design a new mythological creature for a bonus point.

This year, the team 'Scylla' won the overall prize. Congratulations to Hannah and Sanvi who were on the winning team!

Thanks must go to the Sixth Form Classics students, plus Miss McCabe and Miss Funnell for all their help on the night and in the run-up.

The quiz will run again next year so keep an eye out for information next October!

Mr Nolan





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*



Mask up: if you're over 11+ you will need to wear a mask

Sixth Form: Chemistry in Action Conference 2021

Jessica in Year 13 writes:

On the 29th of November, myself and 19 other A level Chemistry students had the opportunity to travel to London and experience 'Chemistry in Action'. We had five lectures in which five industry professionals displayed their passion for their branch of the subject. What I found most interesting was how diverse Chemistry as a subject can be- from linking the supply of vaccines to economic and storage factors, to stem cells and creating whole organs for patients who may be in need for an organ transplant. Overall, this trip linked Chemistry to the real world and exposed us to the many possible career paths that Chemistry opens up.



Gina in Year 12 gives some of her personal reflections on the day:

First, there was a talk by Alex Baker on lateral flow tests. His work is used to design medical diagnostics with a particular focus on the developing world and fighting health inequalities. He explained the process of viral replication to us and pointed out that the glycolipids and glycoproteins, with the carbohydrate chains attached, forming a region called the glycocalyx, are extremely important in how a cell works. I found this surprising and very interesting as I had never thought that sugars were so vital in the operation of cells.

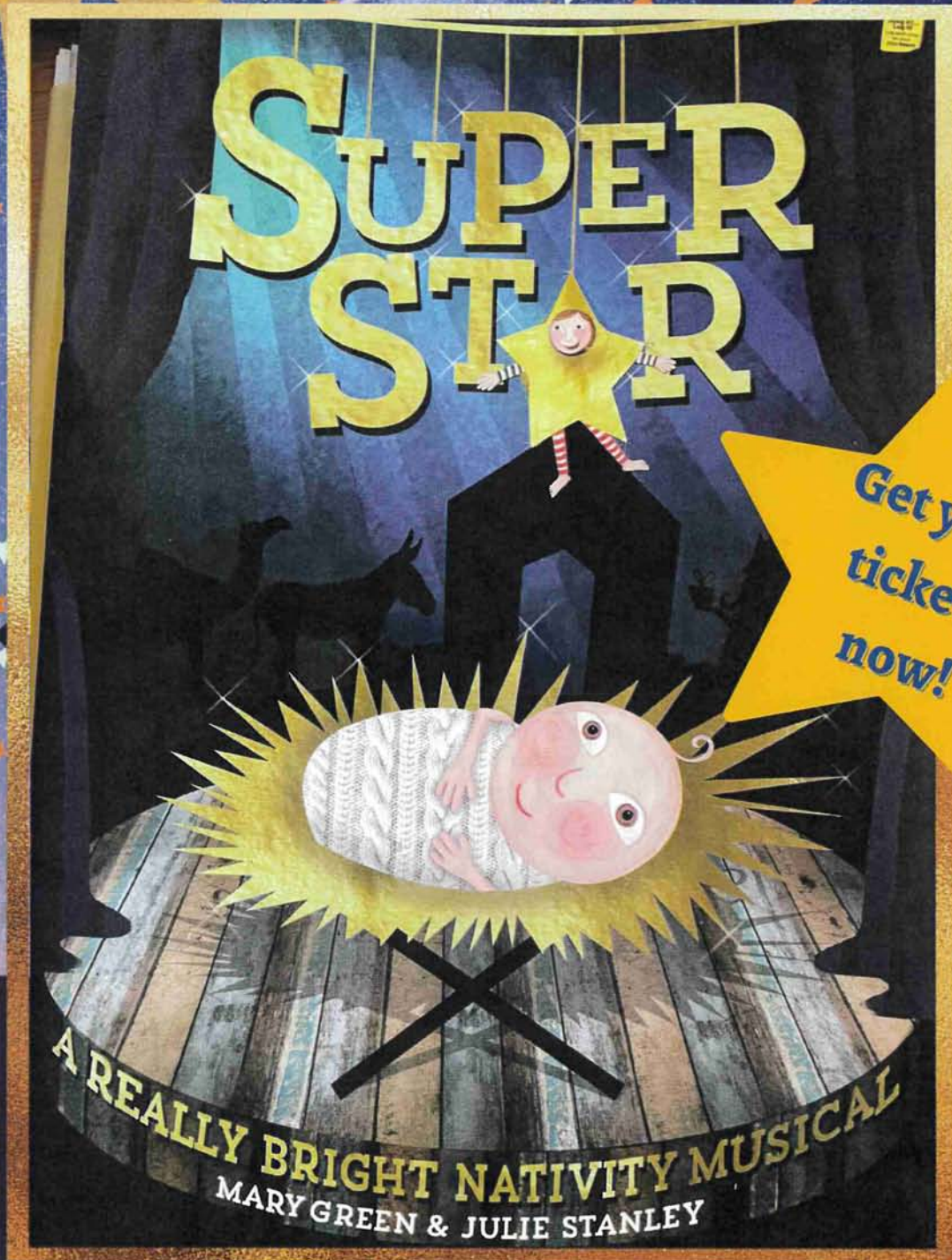
Then, we had a talk by Asel Sartbaeva about vaccines and refrigeration. She informed us that most vaccines have to be stored between 2°C and 8°C. Then she told us about her work as an inorganic chemist, developing a way in which a vaccine could be taken orally using silica and which can be stored and transported at normal temperatures.

My personal favourite talk was by David K Smith on the Chemistry of Drugs. Since I want to be a pharmacologist in the future, I already have a particular interest in medicinal drugs and so was fascinated by this talk. He explained to us that when faced with the coronavirus, we could not simply use a drug that would be similar in structure to the bases in the virus and so 'fool' the virus as the coronavirus was 'clever' and could check for errors and make the drug ineffective. He explained his current research into molecules that can confuse the virus and stop it replicating.

After that, we had a useful talk on A level Chemistry exam technique. The day concluded with two further lectures - Nanoinvasion by Jamie Gallagher, which really enlightened me about what nanotechnology is all about and a talk about ice by Andrea Sella, which looked at the fact that ice is strange since it is denser than water even though it is solid. He also spoke passionately about the need for action against climate change.

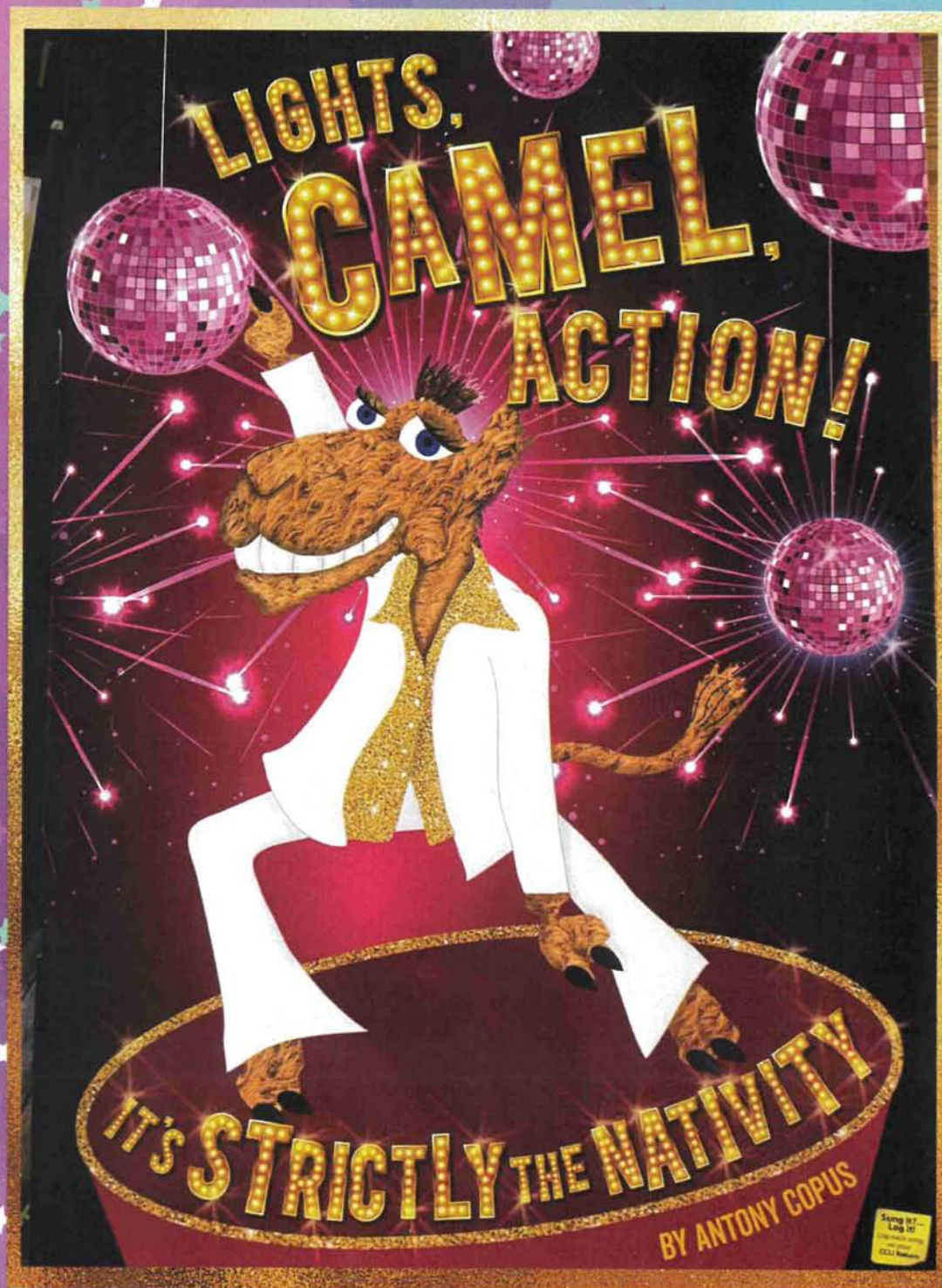
Overall, I had a wonderful day and thoroughly enjoyed the talks. I would recommend this event to anyone who is passionate about Chemistry.

Old Palace Prep
Presents



Year 4 - 6 15th December 2021 6:30pm

Old Palace Prep Presents



13th December 2021 2pm & 5:45pm

Water Polo



In November, I competed in a London Regionals Under 14s Development Tournament. I was nervous at first but after the first match, I gained some confidence a bit.

In my first match I was chosen to play for our opposing team Otters against my current team. It was a good experience as I got to see how we play from a different perspective.

I played in the next two matches, and we won all of them, which meant we were through to the final. When the final match of the day came around, the pressure was on.

If we won this, it would mean we got a gold medal and the nickname 'Best team in Surrey'. I was put into the final half, and we won! I now have a Gold Medal which I'm very proud of! I have another tournament this coming up shortly, and I'm very excited!

Nia, Year 8

Classics Department Word of the Week 29/11/21



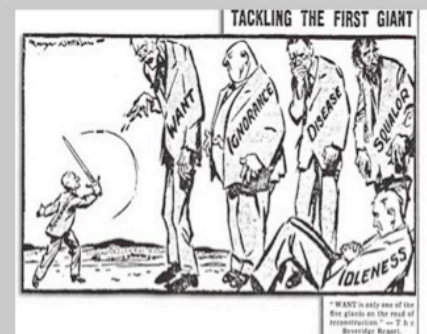
a pterosaur of the late Jurassic period, with a long slender head and neck and a very short tail.

From Greek: πτερον (pteron) - 'wing' and δακτυλος (dactylos) - 'finger'

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

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY...**BEVERIDGE REPORT PUBLISHED**

In November, 1942, William Beveridge published a bestselling report with plans to tackle the 'five giants' causing inequality: 'idleness, ignorance, disease, squalor and want'. The report's suggestion of a free national health service became reality in 1948.



Maths Puzzle Fun page 3 Answer

Answer is B) 16

Red tomatoes are 10 Green peas are 4

Blue berries are 2

Last weeks winner was **Candice** in Year 7