



AROUND THE PALACE

Prep Families Enjoy Early Morning Santa Dash



Dear all,

This Bulletin reflects how much the Christmas spirit has arrived at Old Palace. It has been really uplifting to see the various events and activities across the school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, students and parents for their positivity and hard work this term, making Old Palace such a special place to both learn and work.

Unfortunately, as I write this, the news regarding Covid is not as positive as we had hoped. As a school, we will obviously be monitoring this closely over the break, but I very much hope that the Christmas plans of Old Palace families are not too disrupted.

As we close for Christmas, I hope you all enjoy a happy and safe Christmas and a well-earned break over the festive period.

J Burton

Jane Burton, Head



**Old Palace Community Lunch
Postponed. See Page 4**

A letter from Mrs Nike



Dear all,

On Monday evening, we had the pleasure of watching Pre School- KS1 perform *Lights, Camel, Action* and what a breathtaking performance it was from all the children! It was a real feast for the eyes with fabulous dancing, acting and musical performances. Those funky camels really knew how to put the fun into funk!

Later on in the week, we had the joy of watching the incredible performance of *Super Star* performed by KS2. It was exceptional and our girls really shone bright! At one point, I thought I was watching a West End show.

All the girls across the school from the youngest to the oldest should be unbelievably proud of their performance. These shows really make Christmas special for us all and I am so pleased they were able to showcase their talent this year.

Thank you to Miss Fitzgerald for all your hard work and dedication in supporting our girls to perform so well.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Enjoy the break!

Mrs Nike

Head of Pre School & Preparatory



Prep Families Enjoy Early Morning Santa Dash *continued*

There were plenty of smiling faces at the Santa Dash last Friday morning. After a very early start, competitors ran around the field at Prep dressed in their finest Christmas outfits.

All competitors were rewarded with some yummy hot chocolate!



Lights, Camel, Action!



We will be uploading a special Prep Christmas Supplement onto our website next week containing lots of photos from *Lights, Camel, Action*.
www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/whats-on/weekly-bulletin/

Students Perform in John Rutter's Christmas Celebration at the RAH



Huge congratulations to our wonderful Old Palace students who performed as part of The Choristers of Croydon Minster at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday. The Choristers gave a truly magical performance when they took part in John Rutter's Christmas Celebration with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

John Rutter even sent a message of praise afterwards, which said:

"Please give all your choristers my most grateful thanks for their splendid performances yesterday! They sang like true professionals, and it was a pleasure to have them as part of the Christmas Celebration. I must say I was impressed with their contribution to the Bach chorus - it gave real brightness and edge to the soprano line. Their solo numbers were great too."

Read the review here: <https://www.behindthelines.info/2021/12/12/john-rutter-s-christmas-celebration-at-the-royal-albert-hall/>



Our experience at the Royal Albert Hall was amazing. The size of the Hall was a bit daunting (considering we had to fill the whole space), but the decorations, lights and the fact that we got to sing with the Bach Choir and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra made the experience magical and gave us a real sense of pride.

With John Rutter conducting and a big audience, it made me so proud to sing with my choir and hearing it back we sounded SO GOOD. To top it off, the vanity mirrors were the cherry on the cake!

Overall, I am so grateful for this opportunity and to do it with my friends; I would do it again in a heartbeat .

Sanjana, Year 9



**BBC
RADIO**



Our students will also be involved in the BBC broadcast on the 21st and 22nd of December.

The first program, on the 21st, will be recorded and aired in April 2022.

The second program on the 22nd December will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 Live at 4pm.

Super Star



We will be uploading a special Prep Christmas Supplement onto our website next week containing lots of photos from *Super Star*.

www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/whats-on/weekly-bulletin/

Old Palace of John Whitgift School
Independent Girls' School

Croydon **Minster**

POSTPONED
After much deliberation, we have taken the difficult decision to postpone the Old Palace Community Lunch which was scheduled to take place at Old Palace on Tuesday, 21 December.

We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations; we plan to re-schedule the lunch in the spring.

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.

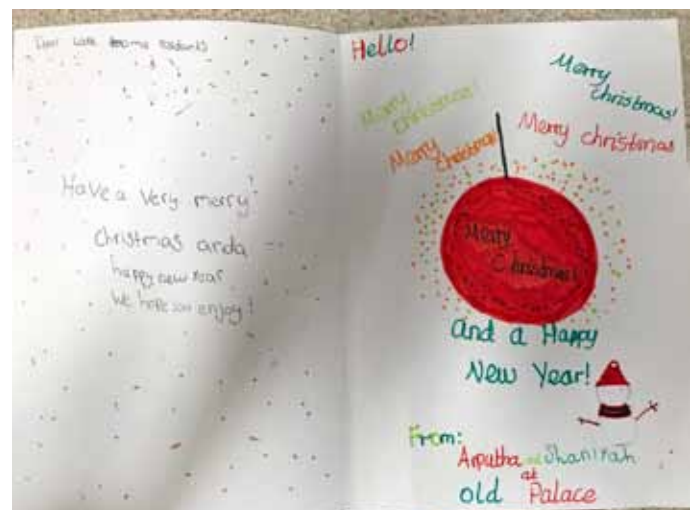
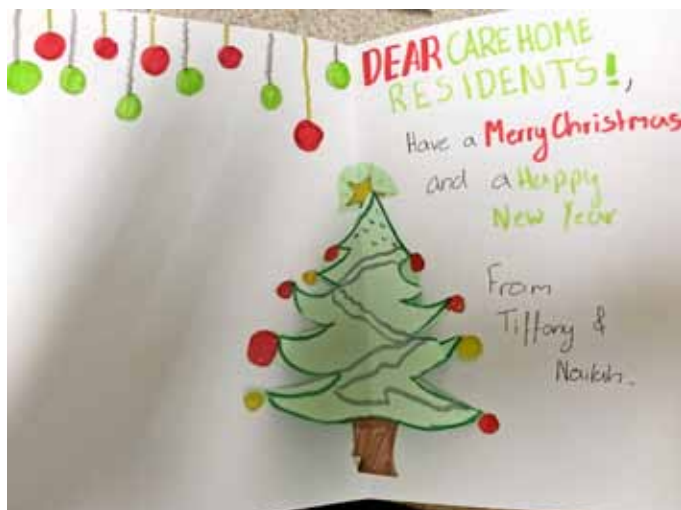
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/oldpalacecommunitychristmaslunch?utm_term=2vMxZ5vmw

john whitgift foundation

Year 7: Making Cards for Whitgift Care Homes

Year 7 have been busy making some Christmas cards during form time for the residents of the care homes within the John Whitgift Foundation.

They hope the residents will enjoy seeing their creations and enjoy the surprise delivery of cards to look through.



Community News

Christmas Jumper Day and the Big Give

We would like to extend an enormous thank you to everyone in the Old Palace community who has once again donated to our Big Give campaign with such generosity.

This Christmas, we have raised £1,575 as well as a HUGE pile of food and clothing for our chosen Croydon

charities: Crisis Croydon Skylight, Croydon Refugee Day Centre, Croydon Nightwatch, Croydon Salvation Army and the Minster Christmas Community Lunch (sadly postponed until the spring).

Generous donations of food and clothing came from across Seniors and

Prep, and there was also Senior School Christmas Jumper Day last Friday. The student-run House stalls run at the Christmas Fair as well as generous donations by our Alumnae at the OPA & Friends Carol Service also contributed to this success.





Winners of the most boxes collected... Year 10 Laud

Once again, Old Palace has decided to make a difference to people's lives this winter.

As a form, 10 L successfully filled over 10 boxes! Well done 10 L. Well done everyone!

Rinii, 10 L



Physics In Action: Suzie Imber



On our Physics trip earlier this term, we were very fortunate to receive an insight into a career in Space Science - the investigation of our planet and our solar system - from Suzie Imber, who is based at NASA.

She started off by completing a four-year Physics degree at Imperial College and went on to complete a PhD at the University of Leicester.

Afterwards, she undertook two internships at NASA where her passion for Space Science grew and flourished. She stayed on to work there which continued to fuel her ambition.

She was then selected to be a participant for a BBC show (called *Astronauts, do you have what it takes?*) where she was faced with challenging and demanding tasks that examined her astronomical skills. However, she demonstrated perseverance and resilience, which enabled her to finish in first place.

Despite me not being interested in a

career involving astronomy, I consider Suzie Imber to be an inspirational and motivational figure. This is due to her amazing dedication and fascination in her career but what captivated me most about her life was that in every part of her journey she maintained her interest in activities and hobbies she did outside of work. She balanced her studies with a range of sports including canoeing, lacrosse martial arts and one of her greatest passions mountaineering which she still continues with today. Now whilst her team await results of missions to Mars, she is able to use the technology and skills she has learnt to research data about unexplored mountains that she aspires to discover and climb.

Maryam, Year 12

La Nouvelle Vague at the BFI

On the 8th of December, we had an opportunity to attend a lecture by the British French Institute on 'La Nouvelle Vague' which heightened our understanding of the iconic french movement which dramatically impacted the cinematic world.

We compared and contrasted different french films such as 'La Haine', 'Amélie Poulain' and 'Jules et Jim' which allowed us to critically analyse the cinematic effects of sound, music, lighting etc.

Divinia and Emily

Le cinéma de papa/ la nouvelle vague

Compare les deux extraits
Le Rouge et le Noir,
de Claude Autant-Lara 1954
Extract 1 Le Rouge et le Noir

Les 400 coups,
de François Truffaut 1959
Les 400 coups



Year 7: French Poem

Les idées du Samedi

Dans la nuit de l'hiver
Galope un grand homme blanc.
C'est un bonhomme de neige
Avec une pipe en bois,
Un grand bonhomme de neige
Poursuivi par le froid.
Il arrive au village.
Voyant de la lumière
Le voilà rassuré.
Dans une petite maison
Il entre sans frapper,
Et pour se réchauffer,
S'assoit sur le poêle rouge,
Et d'un coup disparaît
Ne laissant que sa pipe
Au milieu d'une flaque d'eau,
Ne laissant que sa pipe
Et puis son vieux chapeau.

Jacques Prévert



This Winter, we all had great fun learning a poem by Jacques Prévert. It was a good opportunity to discover the story of a snowman and his wooden pipe.

We also enjoyed mastering new vocabulary in French as well as acting.

Joyeux Noël everybody!

7H



Year 5: Tudor Day

On Monday 29th November, Year 5 took part in an immersive Tudor day. We dressed up in Tudor costumes for the day; someone was even Anne Boleyn and others came as her executioners!

The day started with a Tudor fact treasure hunt and an introduction to how the Tudors came to power. We played some Tudor games and examined real Tudor artefacts, such as a chamber pot, a pomander and a puzzle cup.

Later in the day, we learnt about barbers and wise women – significant figures in Tudor times. Did you know that the red and white pole on modern barber shops has its origins in Tudor times? The red was originally blood-soaked bandages! This was followed by trying our hands at jousting and hurling Tudor insults at one another.

Finally, we got to ask our workshop facilitator questions and found out that she is related to William Shakespeare!



Historical things to do in London this Christmas

Hampton Court



Join the team at Hampton Court and learn a selective few recipes from history working in Henry VIII's Great Kitchen, they'll help you to discover the meaty beginnings of mince pies, show you Victorian Christmas cakes and Georgian plum porridges, as well as the unexpected ingredient in one Victorian Christmas pudding recipe!

Christmas at the Tower of London

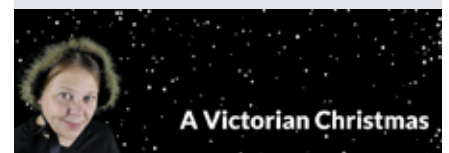


Explore spectacular displays of festive decorations and illuminated animal-themed areas across the fortress. From majestic elephants to a twinkling winter wonderland scene where polar bears roam and playful ravens nest; there is lots for all ages to see and enjoy in royal style.

Victorian Christmas Walk

Go on a walk that starts at St Paul's cathedral, through old streets of London, exploring lives the Victorians at Christmas, dipping into Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

At the beginning of the 19th century Christmas was hardly celebrated. Many businesses did not even consider it a holiday. But by the end of the century it had become the biggest annual celebration and took on the form we recognise today.



Explore Christmas Past at Museum of the Home

Rooms Through Time will be dressed to show how people have celebrated Christmas and other Winter events in their home over the past 400 years. From the Midwinter festival to the Millennium party, you will explore how and why homes were decorated and winter events celebrated.

Find out where Boxing Day got its name from and why the Christmas tree first appeared in our homes.



A Christmas Carol Escape Room

On Monday, Palace Players created a Drama Escape Room for Years 7-9 to participate in. It took place in our Banqueting hall, and saw multiple groups of students trying to make their way out through tasks that were themed on Charles Dickens' story 'A Christmas Carol'.

The students had to do various activities such as recite lines and remember facts in order to gain a clue and progress to the next stage of the Escape Room until they finally escaped!

Thank you to the students in Palace Players who created this exciting activity, which was very successful and innovative.

Sketching Club: Christmas Cards

Sketching Club is for girls in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. These are some of the Christmas cards that Sketching Club made.



Year 9: CCF (Combined Cadet Force)

Since November, some of our Year 9 students have been taking part in CCF (Combined Cadet Force) at Whitgift – a new initiative between the two schools which takes place every Tuesday afternoon after school.

Students have really enjoyed getting their RAF uniforms (here they are in their flight suits) and have been learning about how to wear their uniform correctly together with the expectations of the RAF. The Students have enjoyed being taught by commanders and some of the Sixth Formers at Whitgift.

They have also learnt about drill and how to stand at attention and stand easy. The students have been role models for Old Palace as they have picked up all the information that has been given to them very quickly. They are looking forward to be learning new things such as survival skills, weapons handling and leading a flight in the coming year.



Year 7: Hockey

The Year 7 students were excited to play in a mini hockey tournament this week in their lessons. The students showed good ball control, through dribbling with the ball and push passing the ball to their team. The team captains showed leadership by telling their teams where they need to be on the pitch to receive the ball.

It is great to see so many Year 7 students at Hockey Club on Thursday lunchtime; their skills have come on immensely.



The Grinch Pays a Visit to Seniors



On Friday 10th of December, The Grinch (aka Sanaa, Senior Prefect), decided to pay Old Palace a visit. To lighten up the mood, as we neared the end of the term, I dressed up as The Grinch, set up my grotto and welcomed students who had come to pay me visit. The room was full of laughter from the beginning to the end of lunch, and I enjoyed putting my hidden acting skills to work!

Special thanks to the Sixth Form, especially Irvana, Kate, Abisha, and Idara for helping me in the planning process as well as on the day I couldn't have done it without you all!

Til next time,
The Grinch

Maths Puzzle Fun



Answer on page 13

Year 7: SLT Runs Henna Workshop for Year 7

Last week, our Year 7 students were joined by the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team. They usually participate in the weekly quiz and lots of fun is always had; however, following feedback from the Year Rep meeting, students wanted to learn how to do 'henna'.

The students all had the opportunity to create different designs on paper and were able to ask for advice and help from the Sixth Form students. There were some fabulous designs created!



Calling all 7-18 year olds!

Book a FREE audition workshop in January 2022

Take part in our exciting production of Matilda The Musical

This project starts January 2022 and there is a performance in Langley Park Performing Arts Centre in April 2022.

New faces are welcome to join the cast. If you would like your child (age 7-18 years) to take part please get in touch to book a **FREE** audition workshop.

There is nothing to prepare in advance. Our professional team will teach your child some choreography, songs and drama exercises during the audition workshop.

If your child does not already attend Spotlights classes please get in touch to book a free place at an audition workshop in January 2022.

Find us online @spotlightsuk

Call us on 020 8460 5711 or email info@spotlightstheatre.co.uk to book a FREE audition workshop

SPOTLIGHTS



AUDITION WORKSHOP

The audition workshop will take place as follows:

Date: 8th January

Place: Old Palace Prep School, CR2 7YN

Time: from 10.00am to 1.00pm



ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.

Spotlights at Old Palace Prep

on Saturday mornings in January 2022!

FREE TRIAL CLASS NOW BOOKING

Little Stars drama, dance and singing classes for 4-6 year olds

**SATURDAY MORNINGS
AT OLD PALACE PREP
9.00am to 10.00am**

Find us online @spotlightsuk

Call us on 020 8460 5711 or email info@spotlightstheatre.co.uk to book a FREE trial

This spring term we're off to the Jungle for an adventure where your child will meet Mowgli and all his friends.

As part of this journey your child will learn a mixture of songs, dances and storytelling.

At the end of the term you will see for yourself how much fun they have had at a costumed performance to family and friends.

THE
JUNGLE
BOOK



Old Palace Shines at the UK Space Design Competition



On Saturday, 11th December, a group of Old palace students went to Riddlesdown Collegiate to participate in the UKSDC NASA Space Competition.

The Old Palace Team was made up of a collective of Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students and I think it's safe to say that we did an amazing job. We were the only all girls group competing there. #WOMENINSTEM.

We started the competition at 8:00 and finished late at 18:00. For the competition, we had to design and develop a space-based infrastructure set in the Year 2051 on the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. As a team, we were provided with a RFP (request for proposal) which told us what we needed to think of and include in our final presentation in order to complete our design. Within our team, we had to work in four main smaller groups



– automation, structuring, human and operations. Each of these groups had specific points to research and brainstorm ideas for.

Our final PowerPoint was outstanding, with the judges loving our concepts for visuals designs drawn by Dimanthi in Year 12. We also cannot forget to credit our President of the group – Varshini, who did an amazing job taking control, organising and managing the whole group of roughly 30 Old Palace students, and also to both the Vice presidents for engineering and business, Catherine and Mary (Year 11).

However, we cannot forget to credit the team who generated research and ideas for our project, because without you, we wouldn't have achieved what we did in the final presentation.

Saturday has taught us all patience, resilience and more so, the power of

teamwork. I think that within Old Palace as a school especially, we thrive of the ability to work well and inclusively with one another and that most definitely helped us with the competition. Our school performed exceedingly well on Saturday and we have certainly gained some experience from that event. So a massive well done to Old Palace for their hard work and tears and even though we didn't win in the judges eyes, we won in our own.

Mary Rose, Year 11

We had to make this comet suitable for living, keeping in mind things such as the food options, well being and of course, gravity! We assigned our main leaders and split ourselves into groups according to our strong suits. Then we created a PowerPoint which required a lot of time and effort from every member of our team, this was then presented to the judges strictly within 15 minutes. Once we had presented our presentation we received questions from the judges for 5 minutes. Unfortunately we did not win, a group with a mix of different schools won. But I think that we all gained some key skills from this experience and we are grateful to have been given this opportunity! The girls in our group have said that "we are women in STEM".

Anaika, Year 10

Seniors: Hockey

We have seen the Hockey Skills and Drills Club grow from 6 to over 24 students in the last two years.

The Club is on every Thursday lunchtime at 1.00pm and is open to all students from Years 7-11.

Sumaiya in Year 10 helps run this lunch club alongside Miss Rodwell. The students have enjoyed learning different skills and positions in Hockey. The students have also had the opportunity to do lots of match play. They are excited for the up and coming fixtures in January.



Maths Puzzle Fun page 10 Answer

The answer is 110

4 Trees = 100 therefore 1 Tree = 25

1 Tree + 2 Bells = 45 so 2 Bells = 20 therefore 1 Bell = 10

1 Bell + 2 Parcel = 18 so 2 Parcels = 8 therefore 1 Parcel = 4

1 Bell + 1 Parcel x 1 Tree = 10 + (4 x 25) = 110

Last week's winner was Onaisa in Year 7

House Gymnastics

Last week, the Year 10 Sports Leaders ran a Gymnastics Competition for regular attendees at Gym Club.

The Gymnasts, all of different levels of ability, performed a short routine consisting of rolls, balances and transitions and the Sports Leaders judged it based on a set of criteria they had devised.

Ella and Sapphy in Year 8 did particularly well - as did all the Year 7 participants with particular mention of Daniella and Shaniya.

Well done to all who took part and to the Sports Leaders.



Beginners;
1 Month Free

BUDO KYOKUSHINKAI
Karate

Juniors 6:30 - 7:15pm Adults 7:30 - 9:00pm
Lessons every Tuesday at Prep, Melville Ave.
Every beginner gets a 1 month free trial.

Contact: Darren Stringer Tel: 0776 525 6417
Email: stringer1@hotmail.co.uk

Classics Department Word of the Week 13/12/21

XMAS

A traditional and accepted abbreviation of 'Christmas'. First appeared in 1100 and was used throughout the early modern period. Recent style guides wrongly claim xmas is a modern informality. It is a fusion of the Greek letter 'χ' (chi), short for χριστος (Christos) - the anointed one - Referring to Jesus - and the word 'mass' (a celebration of the Eucharist) which comes from the Latin 'missa' - dismissal prayers - and ultimately mitto (I send)