



# AROUND THE PALACE

## Seniors: Disney's *Beauty And The Beast*



This week saw the Senior School's long-awaited performance of Disney's *Beauty And The Beast*. It was such a joy to see the students from Years 7-13 taking part, not to mention our orchestra, who provided the music each night. It's been a wonderful experience for everyone involved.

**Special photo supplement to follow next week.**

## Dear all,

After two years without any school productions at Seniors (thankfully in December we were able to enjoy the excellent Christmas productions at Prep) it has been wonderful to see *Beauty and the Beast* bring such enjoyment this week.

The performance was absolutely brilliant with fantastic performances by the whole cast and the orchestra, all very well supported by the directors, stage crews and front of house team.

The costumes, set and first class performances certainly made the audience feel they have been transported away from Croydon for the evening. A huge thank you to all the students, staff and volunteers who helped make it such a success and to all those across the school community who came along.

To quote a former Chair of Governors "it was one of the best performances I have seen at Old Palace". Well done everyone.

**Jane Burton, Head**



Seniors: Disney's *Beauty And The Beast*





## U15 Netball v Wallington



What excellent netball the U15 team played last week (Thursday, 27 January). There was some impressive teamwork, great skill levels (including some excellent advanced skills) and great score lines! This was a really well-matched fixture against some fine opponents. Thank you to Wallington for coming over to play.

The A team won 5-2. This was quite a low score for an A team game but reflects the end-to-end nature of the

match, with interceptions in defence by both teams. We tried a number of different combinations to help us add depth to our team. Wallington had a particularly strong circle defence and so our attack had to work hard and be patient feeding the ball into the circle. The reset option had to be used on multiple occasions just to ensure we kept the ball safe. Our circle defence also made it very difficult for Wallington to feed the ball in.

## Great winning score line.

Well done to Bethany (GD) who was chosen as Player of the Match by the opposition and to the following students who played some or all of the match:

Zara O, Lily, Krystal, Skye, Grace, Tahalia, Bethany and Rebecca O.

The B Team won with an impressive 11-7 score line. Again, they had to work hard to get the ball into the circle and then, as the match progressed, our shooting stats went up with very few shots missed. Good play in mid-court too linking defence and attack. A few little mistakes can change the flow of the game but we persevered and fought back to regain possession of the ball. Thanks to the four Year 9 students who helped boost the team.

Zara T was named Player of the Match. These students all played all or part of the match in this team: Zara O, Zara T, Iqra, Krystal, Skye, Mia, Aliya, Chisom, Stephanie, Olivia P and Arabella.

## Disney's Beauty And The Beast – A view from the Orchestra



Since September, I have been part of the band for *Beauty and the Beast*. Since I play the piano and drum kit, I was chosen to be part of the percussion team. I am playing lots of instruments – the timpani, triangle, woodblock, tambourine, ratchet and suspended cymbal! I have to count carefully and be very focused. I was a bit overwhelmed with this at the start, but with practice it became easier.

We've been rehearsing each Friday and this week the professional musicians arrived, which was very exciting as we could hear the finished product. I was nervous at the start of the dress rehearsal when I saw all the audience, but got more relaxed once we had done a few songs. Now I'm looking forward to playing in the final performances.

**Nailah-Belle, Year 7**

## Prep PE Challenge

Each week, Mrs Coster will be setting our Prep School pupils a PE Challenge.

**This week's challenge is...**  
can you ride a bike without stabilisers? If not, now's the chance to learn.

When you have, let Mrs Coster know and she will give you a certificate.

Good luck!



## Prep: Healthy Eating



Scan, swipe, swap!

Just scan the barcodes of your family's favourite foods, swipe to see the healthier options available, and make a swap next time you shop!

Prep school pupils this week are focusing on Diet and Nutrition. They are working on making healthy choices at lunch time and having a balanced meal.

Girls also took part in a special assembly and learnt about the NHS Food scanner App that helps you make healthy food choices. Why not download the APP today and see what healthy swaps you can make.

Download the free NHS Food Scanner app

With a speedy scan of your family's favourite foods, you can find healthier swaps for next time you shop.

## A Level English Trip to see *A Number* at the Old Vic

On Tuesday 25th January, A-Level English Literature students had the opportunity to visit the Old Vic theatre to watch a performance of Caryl Churchill's *A Number*, which we study for coursework.

The play considers the consequences of a father creating a clone of his son. Yet while the father believes only one son was the product of cloning his first born, it is later revealed that there are 'a number' of clones. Churchill invites the audience to consider complex issues including the ethics of cloning, deception and, most importantly, identity – what if it turned out there were a number of copies of you?

Actors Paapa Essiedu and Lennie James were exceptional in this impressive production which made particularly

effective use of staging and lighting effects. Overall, *A Number* is a fantastic play because it not only engages our analytical skills, but also our ability to consider deeper philosophical questions.

**Madinah, Year 12**



## Netball: Year 9 v Royal Russell

On the 2nd of February, Year 9 played a match away against Royal Russell. Despite not having our usual defenders due to a variety of other school commitments happening, the people who stepped in did excellently. In the A team game, there were many great interceptions as well as good communication between the players. The B team fought hard and it was a very close game. The ball travelled down the court well and managed to get to the shooters circle efficiently. With a significant height disadvantage, both teams played very well, and it was a good game.

Although it was not the outcome we were hoping for, it was good to play netball and gain experience. Well done to everyone who played but especially to our players of the match, Arabella and Tori and a big thank you to the Year 8's, Zara T, Tori, Anna and Emma for playing for us.

**Zara and Arabella, Year 9 Sports Captains**





## Year 10 Sports Leaders: QuickSticks Hockey Tournament

On Friday 28th January, the Year 10 sports leaders helped host and run the QuickSticks Hockey Tournament.

We all had different jobs to help the afternoon run smoothly. We had the roles of being umpires, timekeepers, or score keepers. It was a challenging but enjoyable afternoon and it helped us all realise the amount of work it takes to run a tournament.

Thank you to Mrs Smith and all the other adults and coaches from the CSSP who were always there to help and support the sports leaders.

Lily, Year 10



A quote from Douglas Swann who was a member of staff from CSSP

*'The Young Leaders did a fantastic job of taking ownership of their responsibilities and engaging with the pupils. Congratulations to the Young Leaders of Old Palace for a job well done.'*





## Economics: *The Bottom Billion*

This term we have been studying Economic development and the many factors that can influence it.

As this topic is a particular area of interest, I was inspired to further my understanding by reading *The Bottom Billion* by Paul Collier.

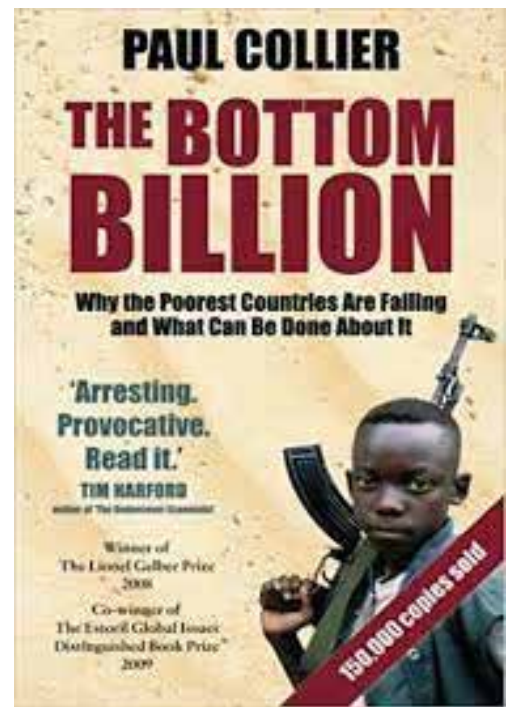
The premise of the book is that developing countries are affected by four traps that hinder economic progress. These are conflict, lack of natural resources, bad governance and geographical isolation with other poor economies.

Theoretically, giving preference to exports from these poorer economies should help to stimulate their growth; however, through my study of globalisation, I realised that the existence of trading blocs and

bilateral trade agreements between the richest economies means that the growth of developing nations are stunted.

Studying economic constraints on developing nations such as primary product dependency and the savings gap have expanded my knowledge and it has become evident to me that increased investment (privately or publicly) of the secondary sector is an essential strategy to improve a country's economic growth and development.

**Abisha, Year 13**



## Reception: May C. Jemeson

As part of our Cornerstones topic, 'What happens when I fall asleep?', Reception have been learning about the doctor and astronaut, Mae C. Jemeson.

After learning about all of her incredible scientific achievements, the girls enjoyed dressing up and role playing as Mae in our 'mission control' home corner.

They have also created mini books and written short facts about her important work at NASA and her amazing mission into space aboard the rocket, *Endeavour*.



## CCF Leader Firefighting Training at HMS Excellent Portsmouth



6am! An early start! Miss Rodwell and I met CCF Officer Blacker, his colleagues and CCF students at the Whitgift School gates. A two hour journey led us to the Naval base - HMS Excellent

HMS Excellent is a Royal Navy "stone frigate" (shore establishment) sited on Whale Island near Portsmouth in Hampshire. HMS Excellent is itself part of the Maritime Warfare School.

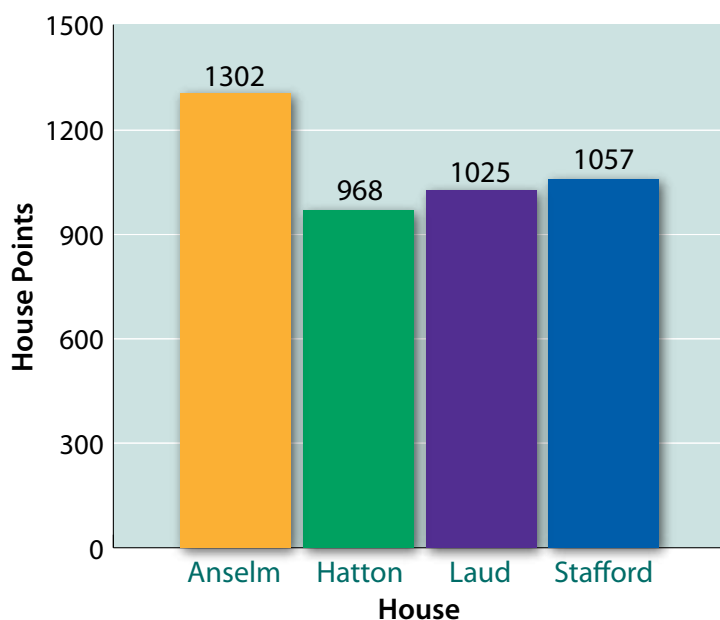
Once introductions and welcomes were made by some very dedicated service personnel, it was off to get appropriate clothing for the training ahead. This consisted of overalls, a balaclava style head covering, wellies and socks.

Following an excellent interactive training presentation, the students were given the opportunity to see if they could dress in outer protective fire clothing at speed. We were informed that 8 mins was the expected time for officers onboard a warship, to be dressed and at the scene of the fire, ready to extinguish it. Next was the opportunity to dowse several oil and electrical fires, which were well handled by the Cadets.

Later, a larger simulated fire in a door way within the ship was subdued by a large hose full of water, a very wet experience. Finally, we got to see the confined spaces and conditions on board an actual ship and were informed that ladders are used to access the lower decks. The Cadets also got to use a Thermal Imaging camera which identifies the exact location of the fire, even through walls.

Overall it was an excellent training day and we look forward to more adventures with the CCF and Cadets.

Mrs Scott and Miss Rodwell CCF Officers



## House Points Update

All the Houses have continued to pile on the house points over the last month and I know that the points collected at Prep have led to it becoming a very close race.

There is of course still all to play for and we have several competitions planned for the spring and summer terms, including House netball and our favourite day of the year - Sports Day!



## Pre School: Be Wild Club

The Pre School's Be Wild Club enjoyed a sunny, January afternoon making hot chocolate around the campfire and Journey Sticks ready for an expedition along Pilgrims Way.

A Journey Stick is used to retell the story of a journey; along the way, bits and pieces are tied to the stick to represent events, feelings and milestones. When the journey is over, the bits and pieces tied to the stick are used to recall what happened. After the walk, the girls will be sharing their journey stories as well as their idea of the concept of mapping.

Finally, the Be Wild Club will make their own maps and/or create a collage of their adventures.





## Clubs: Spotlight on...Maths

### University Mathematics Preparation Course

Over half of our Year 12 Maths students attend the University Mathematics Preparation sessions after school. This course, taught by Mrs Morris, involves looking at three of the entrance tests and qualifications that are required or desired by many of the top universities for STEM subjects. While their content does not go beyond A Level, questions are very demanding and require extended problem solving skills, mathematical fluency and perseverance.

Each week, students look at a different area of Mathematics. After a guided introduction into the necessary skills, they attempt questions. Over the weeks, students gain in confidence and are more easily able to tackle the problems.

Here is one of Mrs Morris' favourite questions from STEP (Sixth Term Extension Paper). It is a question that seems simple enough, but turns out to be quite tricky! Answer on page 13.

47231 is a five-digit number whose digits sum to  $4 + 7 + 2 + 3 + 1 = 17$ .

- (i) Show that there are 15 five-digit numbers whose digits sum to 43. You should explain your reasoning clearly.
- (ii) How many five-digit numbers are there whose digits sum to 39?



Cambridge Assessment  
Admissions Testing



### Senior Maths Team Challenge Club

Over the Autumn term, a group of five A-Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics students have been meeting once a week to prepare for the UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge, which sadly was cancelled this year. The Senior Teams Maths Challenge is comprised of three rounds:

**Group Round** – We work together as a team to solve ten questions of varying type and difficulty. This round, although primarily a test of knowledge and application of knowledge, is also extremely strategic. Over the past couple weeks, we have been developing the best system for us to efficiently complete and check all the questions in the time allowed.

**Crossnumber** – This is a numerical version of crossword, where we work in pairs; one with the across clues and the other with the down clues. Each pair works independently to complete the grid using logic and deduction.

**Shuttle** – This is an extremely time-pressured round where we again work in pairs; one pair has questions 1 and 3, whilst the other has questions 2 and 4. Although question 1 can be solved independently of the others, the answer to each subsequent question is dependent on the answer to the previous one.

This is a really valuable and enjoyable experience to be a part of, as we are given the opportunity to apply the knowledge we are taught in class in completely different styles of question. The type of questions develops our problem-solving skills especially, which are essential for the university admission assessments that some of us will be required to sit at the start of year 13, dependent on our university choices, whilst also supporting and deepening our understanding of the A-Level curriculum. I particularly enjoy being able to work in a team, as it provides a contrast to our lessons where maths is mostly an independent subject.

This year we will be competing against the teachers as part of the Maths department's celebration of Pi Day. We really hope that the Senior Teams Maths Challenge takes place next year, as it is a very exciting, and, of course, competitive, event.

Suraiya, Year 12

### Beyond Sudoku Club

In *Beyond Sudoku* we love learning new puzzles- area puzzles, Kenken, Futoshiki but we regularly return to the old favourite – Sudoku!

One of the group, Hanna says "*Beyond Sudoku is one of the best clubs I have ever done. I joined it mid-way last term and ever since I have loved it. We do fun puzzles and get given different ones to do every fortnight. I have learnt so many different games and they have helped with my focus and concentration. If I had not joined this club, I would have missed out on so many different activities.*"

Yaa goes because "*I love puzzles, maths and a bit of detective work in a way.*"





## Clubs: Spotlight on...Maths

### Rummikub



Rummikub is a fun game that is easy to learn. It was first created in the 1930s and is now one of the most popular board games in the world!

Similar to the Rummy that you play with cards – the aim of the game is to try to get rid of all your tiles by forming numbers into runs of 3 tiles or more, or 3 to 4 of a kind. The colours of the numbers on the tiles are like card suits, and just like in cards there are 2 jokers – which can be any colour or value you choose.

This game may appear slow and calm to start, but as the number of tiles on the table increases, the options for what to do next can become more complex, challenging, and ultimately exciting! Rummikub is a fun way to spend a Tuesday lunchtime, and you will always hear lots of shouts of laughter coming from Wells when our club is on.

### Origami Club

Origami is the art of paper folding. The goal is to transform a single square piece of paper into a finished sculpture through folding techniques. We meet once a fortnight and have made paper cranes, flowers and before Christmas we focussed on gift boxes and gift bows as they are home-made and environmentally friendly!



### Challenging Maths Club

Top-achieving students from the Junior Maths Challenge in Year 8 are invited to join Challenging Maths Club to prepare for the prestigious UKMT Team Challenge.

They practise problem-solving questions with a twist – lots of fun for all involved!



### Knitting Club

This term Knitting Club's project is stuffed animals. Some knitters prefer to bring their own projects to work on, and that's great too.

We also take people who crochet... any fibre craft you can bring to get on with is fine!

Students in Knitting Club say:

*"We learn new things and make fun stuff!"*

*"Knitting is great and Mrs Adamson is a good teacher."*

*"It gives people a chance to make things and be proud of them."*

*"Knitting can be quite difficult but when you do it right it's good."*

*"It's a skill that you will remember for the rest of your life."*

Come and join us! Suitable for everyone, from beginners to experts.





## Prep: Trampolining

Pupils in Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 are all taking it in turns to try out the trampoline during their PE lessons with Mrs Coster.



## Quick Sticks Hockey: Old Palace Prep & Elmhurst

Our Year 6 Quick Sticks hockey players were lucky enough to meet the Welsh (Senior) International goalkeeper, Duncan Taylor, at Elmhurst last week.

This was a fantastic experience as the girls tried to score some goals against him, of which only two got through (and one was from OPI!).



## Maths Puzzle Fun

Can You Solve This Riddle ?

$$\bigcirc + \bigcirc = 10$$

$$\bigcirc \times \square + \square = 12$$

$$\bigcirc \times \square - \triangle \times \bigcirc = \bigcirc$$

$$\triangle = ?$$

Answer on page 13

## Sixth Form PE

One Sixth Form group (Healthy lifestyle session) enjoyed an introductory session in Racketball while at the Whitgift Sports Centre on Monday.

Racketball is closely related to squash but played with rackets with a shorter handle and the ball is larger and bouncier. No photos on this occasion but it is always good to introduce new activities to our students!





## Book Club: Chinese New Year - Tigers in Books

Earlier this week we held our Book Club at Seniors.

This was themed: Tigers in Books to celebrate Chinese New Year. We looked at the traits of the tiger and how these characteristics are seen (positively and negatively) in books.

From Winnie the Pooh's Tigger, The Jungle Book's Sher Khan to Richard Parker (the 450 lb Royal Bengal tiger from *The Life of Pi*), *The Tiger who Came to Tea* and *Cinnamon*.

We then made origami tiger bookmarks



## Year 2 Dance Workshop

Year 2 enjoyed an exciting Dance workshop this week – celebrating the Chinese New Year. Those dragon shapes look pretty scary!



## PREP PTA Uniform and Costume Sale

World Book Day is coming up on **Thursday 3rd March** and this involves pupils coming to school dressed as their favourite character from a book.

Every year many parents struggle to find costumes or end up spending a significant sum of money to buy a costume that may be worn only once. Our hope is that the Old Palace PTA and community can help with this and, in the process, help reduce clothing waste. We are asking parents to donate any book day costumes that their children have outgrown so we can add these to our second hand sale.

**The next Second Hand Uniform Sale will be on Friday 25th February from 2pm to 4pm.**

If you have any unwanted uniform items or costume items then please send them into the Prep school - ideally before half term starts but definitely before this date. The costumes will then be available at the sale.



Old Palace  
PTA



**This Week in History... Sri Lanka gains Independence**

On February 4, 1948, Ceylon gained independence from British rule. It was part of the Commonwealth until 1972, when it became the republic of Sri Lanka.



**Maths Puzzle Fun page 11 Answer**

Answer: **1**

$$5 + 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 2 + 2 = 12$$

$$5 \times 2 - 1 \times 5 = 5$$

Hence  $\blacktriangle = 1$

Last week's winner was Maya in Year 7.

**Prep: Crystal Palace Ladies**



On Sunday, I went to watch Crystal Palace ladies play against Lewes at their home ground on Hayes Lane, Bromley.

It was an amazing game. CPW went 1-0, but came back to win 3-1. It was really exciting. I got to meet the players as well as get their autographs. It was great being able to get so close to watch the match.

I was blown away by the level of skill of the players and I can't wait to go again.

For anyone interested in taking their daughters to watch Palace ladies play and inspire your daughters, tickets are free for under 16s and adult tickets are between £8-£10.

Tickets available on their website or on the gate on the day.

<https://tickets.cpfc.co.uk/categories/womens>



**Spotlight on ...Maths**

Answer to (ii) is 210

Classics Department Word of the Week 31/01/22

**HYPOCRITE**

A person who puts on a false appearance or acts in contradiction to his or her stated beliefs or feelings.

From Greek ὑποκριτής (hypocrites) meaning actor