



AROUND THE PALACE

Emily Awarded Gold DofE



We are extremely proud of Emily, in Year 13, who has received the exciting news that she is going to be awarded the GOLD DofE (at Buckingham Palace!). Read more in next week's bulletin.

Dear all,



This week's Bulletin is full of examples of Old Palace students being positively involved in school life and the wider community as well as providing us with news of some very impressive successes. Particular mention must go to Emily (Year 13) for achieving the coveted Gold DofE award, to Sophia (Year 12) for her success in the Francophonie UK competition and to the Year 10 netball team for winning the U15 Croydon Schools Netball tournament, conceding only 3 goals in 5 matches – impressive defending!

I would also like to thank the Pre School staff and children for letting me watch their Jack and the Beanstalk performance this week – it was a delight to watch.

Have a good weekend everyone and enjoy the spring sunshine.

Jane Burton, Head

French Debating Competition

On the 16th March, Sophia (Old Palace School) and Elishe (Whitgift School) performed extremely well in the Joutes Oratoires Lycéennes which is a French debating competition open to all Sixth Form students in England and Wales. After months of intense regional qualifications gathering over a hundred students in six regions, the best teams in the country met for a final round of debates for the prestigious national event of La Francophonie.

Prix "Coup de Coeur" for Old Palace!

This year again, the Francophonie UK group (which includes the representations of France, Canada, Switzerland, Monaco, Belgium, and Quebec in the UK) placed the 10 best schools in the spotlight by organising a grand debating competition for British pupils in Years 12 and 13 learning French in secondary schools in the country. These debates are very impressive in terms of eloquence and the high quality of exchanges and select the best debating teams in the country.

The jury panel, featured the Swiss and Tunisian Ambassador, the Canadian First Consul and the French Cultural Attaché (all members of diplomatic missions of French-speaking countries).

We would like to congratulate Sophia (Old Palace School) and Elishe (Whitgift School) for working extremely well together and complementing each other's debating style – strong yet courteous, statistical yet passionate and who performed so well in the Joutes Oratoires Lycéennes. "Sincères Félicitations"!

The ML Department

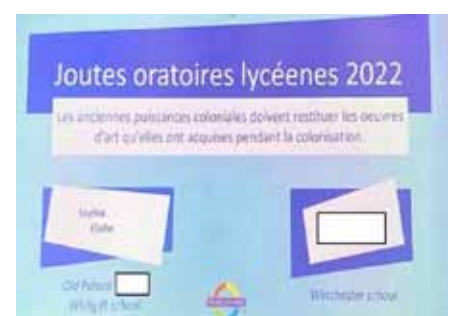


On Wednesday 16th March, we attended the National stage of the 'Joutes Oratoires Lycéennes' (French debating competition), which brought together schools from six regions across the country to compete at the French Institute in London.

During the afternoon, we debated the topics 'ancient colonial powers should restitute artwork acquired during the colonial era' and 'the government should provide a minimum salary to artists'. It was challenging but rewarding to debate these complex issues against prestigious schools including Winchester College and The Leys School, especially as some debates grew heated. I was delighted to be awarded the 'Coup de Coeur du Jury' (Jury's Favourite), the prize for an individual debater who stood out in the competition.

Overall, it was an incredible evening and we enjoyed hearing from the panel of judges who represented the embassies of France, Switzerland and Tunisia, and the Québec Government Office. It was also inspiring to witness the level of fluency and confidence of the finalists, and to meet other French speaking students who made successful university applications for languages, such as last year's winners. The experience has definitely increased my confidence and motivated me to further improve my oral French, and I am grateful to the French Department for supporting me throughout the competition.

Sophia, Year 12



Year 5 and 6: Fundraising Walk for Ukraine



Across the next ten days, Years 5 and 6 will walk 600 miles together for our fundraiser 'Walk for Ukraine'. We are doing this to raise money for those affected by the Ukrainian crisis.

We have set up a GoFundMe page where anyone can donate money for DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) Charity no. 1062638. Every penny counts.

Lola-Marie and Aashita,
Year 6 Charity Prefects



Year 5 and 6'S
WALK FOR UKRAINE

Walk 600 miles to support the crisis in Ukraine



Monday 21st March - Friday 1st April



TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONG.

Show your support by donating through:
gofundme.com/f/old-palace-walk-for-ukraine

ALL PROCEEDS WILL FUND TO THE DEC CHARITY.

Year 13: The Social Media Dilemma

Our Year 13 students welcomed Olivia Patten, Youth Consultant and Mentor, to talk about phone usage and social media. Olivia's presentation included thinking about how advertising, algorithms and personal brands populate our social media pages, and how social media has developed over time.

An exploration of the addictive nature of social media took place, as well as the phenomena of 'viral' content and the science behind likes. Olivia helped us to explore how social media is positive for social movements and how social media keeps us connected and aware. The session finished with a look at how trolling and cyberbullying is changing the landscape, and she shared tips to help Year 13 avoid falling in to this trap, or becoming victims.



Year 8: Safety First Workshop

In PSHE on Thursday 17 March, Year 8 students participated in a Safety First workshop. Safety First is a blue light collaboration project delivered by the London Fire Brigade (LFB), Metropolitan Police and the London Ambulance Service (LAS). The Safety First Team deliver vital prevention education messages to Year 8 secondary school pupils across all London Boroughs.

I enjoyed watching the short clips that were included in the presentations. Inferno 999 was a clip feature in the arson workshop and showed how fire services respond to a fire at a house. I learnt what to do if someone is wounded by a knife. We have to assess the danger around us, call for emergency services and if it's safe stop the bleeding. I learnt to follow Pressure, Elevation and Position – pressure is pressing down on the wound with a piece of cloth or your hands, elevation is holding the area up to delay blood from going to the wound, position is lying the person down if possible. We saw a video of a person who survived a knife attack – he had lasting effects for over 18 months and only survived because a lady knew what to do in the situation she was put in.

We were shown the effects of not wearing a seat belt in a car – there was a video of crash dummies crashing at 40mph and it showed the difference between wearing a seatbelt and not. I feel like this was a valuable lesson. - Olive R

I learnt how I should look before I cross and how important it is to be on a safe speed limit when our parents drive. I learnt that electric scooters were illegal unless they are driven on private property. I think the video helped because it showed even though the kids were late they shouldn't have been speeding. I learnt the reasons why someone would burn something down – it showed how many people can be affected by this. It could make people in the neighbourhood worried if the fire was intentional. It must be terrifying for the people put in that situation. It also showed me how brave the fire brigade are to jump into a fire to save others. The LAS taught me that if I see a victim of knife crime I should check my surroundings before I go to try and help them. I should call 999, and cover the wound to stop the bleeding.

After the Police talk I learnt how to keep safe against exploitation and understood the importance of why many parents are cautious around their children having access to social media. - Zara T

I learnt about the 3 things you should do if somebody has a knife wound: 1) check for danger, 2) call 999, 3) stop the bleeding by applying pressure to the wound with a cloth or your hand. I also learnt that there is no 'safe' place to be stabbed. In the Police talk I learnt that anyone under 18 can be groomed and a sign of exploitation is being offered gifts. I learnt that arson is intentional and reckless. The minimum sentence of committing arson is 8-10 years and the maximum is a life sentence. In road safety, I learnt a lot about how to keep yourself safe and if you are concerned about your own safety then you should tell a trusted adult or call 999. - Ayesha A

I learnt about road safety, arson, knife crime and how the police deal with people who are acting suspiciously. I learnt why people decide to commit arson, and how firefighters come across arsonists and buildings set on fire. A reason why people decide to commit arson is because they might be bored, or they might enjoy it!

Firefighters deal with buildings that have been set on fire by making sure some firefighters are fighting the fire and some are helping people get out of the windows safely. For the road safety session, I learnt that firefighters mainly deal with issues to do with cars rather than putting out fires. There are the fatal four to be safe whilst driving: 1) no drink-driving, 2) wear a seat belt, 3) speeding, and 4) no distractions! The LAS shared that 42 people die from knife crimes every day, and if you ever see a person being wounded then you should make sure you are safe before you make sure that the patient is safe – apply lots of pressure and call 999. - Nafeesah K



Clubs: Spotlight on...Debating/Public Speaking

Debating at Old Palace continues to be popular with many students attending each club on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

Students in Years 7-9 have been spending time developing a range of debating skills and particularly enjoy Rebuttal Tennis a fast-paced game that aims to hone their ability to highlight the flaws in the opposition's arguments. Most recently, we enjoyed debating the contentious motion, 'Summer holidays should be reduced to four weeks.'

The Sixth Form debaters have continued to debate and are grateful that Zoom has allowed them to have half-termly debates with Godolphin and Latymer School.

KS3 Debating Club

Attendees of the KS3 club recently reflected on the impact debating has had on their studies and self-confidence. They said:

- Helps me prepare for everyday life – research skills and the confidence to speak in public.
- Helps me articulate my views and argue in a respectful manner.
- Provides time to think
- Helps me to understand and acknowledge different viewpoints
- Helps me with essay subjects – researching and explaining points and constructing my arguments.

Schools' Mace Competition

Alison, in Year 13, reflects on participating in the ESU's Schools' Mace Debating Competition.

For another year, coronavirus ensured that our debating endeavours were confined to a Zoom meeting. We had taken on board previous feedback and particularly worked hard on coming up with better rebuttal arguments. Varshini and I (Year 13) and Sumaiya (Year 10) prepared our debate on the subject of paternity leave and despite some nerves, we were ready to 'join the meeting'. If I do say so myself, we gave a phenomenal performance in the second heat. We delivered our speeches with passion, fluency and confidence. Unfortunately, only two schools out of six could go through to the regional finals, and according to the judge, we just missed out by a couple of points. Whilst this was disappointing, we thoroughly enjoyed the experience, gaining valuable skills and developing our awareness of a range of topical issues.

Get Involved!

Speak to Mrs Parker or Ms McCabe if you are interested in joining.

Years 7-9	Debating Club	Friday Week 2	1pm in York
Year 10-13	Public Speaking	Thursday Week 1	3.45pm in York
Years 12-13	Debating Club	Friday Week 2	1pm in Loftus

Defend the indefensible!

Dealing with disagreement is a fundamental part of debating and public speaking. Try this English Speaking Union game - how might you defend the following statements to family and friends?

- We should ban the colour blue
- No-one should be allowed to play football
- Chocolate is terrible

Competitions!

This year, Old Palace has enjoyed much success in the English Speaking Union's competitions.

ESU Public Speaking

The Year 10 public speaking team of Manasi, Sumaiya and Sanvi achieved a coveted place in the Regional Finals, with Sumaiya awarded the accolade of 'Best Speaker'.



Thanks to the range of students who successfully competed in a number of heats this year – the judges were always impressed by your speeches and teamwork.

Year 10 public speaking team



Some members of successful public speaking teams 2021-22

Community News

Comic Relief

For Red Nose Day this year, the Charity Committee, along with members of the Sixth Form and staff, took part in and organised a range of events for the whole school to participate in.

All of the donations made will be in support of Comic Relief's initiatives to improve mental health, tackle homelessness and promote safety and equality for women; which we also incorporated into the International

Women's Day (8th March) motto of 'breaking the bias.'

Whilst keeping in mind the importance of the reason behind our fundraising, we were able to enjoy a day full of fun activities and interactions throughout the school; with Year 7's taking part in a treasure hunt, Year 9's holding a bake sale, a tuck shop for Year 10 and above.

There was also a whole school mufti day, where everyone had to wear something red!

Continuing this into next week, we are looking forward to having a Staff vs Sixth Form bench ball game, which will also be contributing to the Comic Relief causes.

All in all, we had a great time celebrating Red Nose Day and we hope that our donations will make an impact on the community and work towards supporting Comic Relief's focus this year.

Zaynah, Year 11





U15s Crowned Croydon Schools Netball Tournament Champions

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to the U15 Netball Team who won the Croydon Schools Netball Tournament on Tuesday!

Despite having a couple of regular players unable to play, the team worked well together, made adjustments and played really well. Their defending was phenomenal and opportunities in the attacking circle were seized upon!

The scores here reflect their dominance over their opponents

v Harris Purley 7-1
v Woodcote 6-1
v Coloma B 3-1
v Shirley 6-0
v Tenison 8-0

It is always good to see students at the older end of the school finding the time to train and play. These students have shown a real commitment to regular weekly training and it has paid off.



The new strategies and more complex tactics were utilised and they produced an excellent level of netball. Ideally they now all need to join a Netball Club outside school!

Thanks also to those students who weren't selected or unable to play as you are key to building strength and depth in a team. Well done to everyone

Aeronautics Workshops

Year 10 students had the opportunity to meet – virtually – engineers from Gatwick airport and benefitted from their expertise. They asked questions ranging from the mechanics of aeronautical engineering to the different routes into related fields.



'During the Aeronautics Workshops I had last week, I learnt many new techniques of creating paper aeroplanes. The aspect I found most interesting was when I experimented with different paper aeroplanes to adjust to the multiple criteria. I developed the technique of using the classic paper aeroplane and adjusting its wings and adding weight (with wooden sticks) to fulfil the task of increasing time in the air, worrying less about the distance. Overall, the workshops were an enjoyable experience' **Zainab K**

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Kyla G



Growing Bubbles

Year 7 students took part in some activities involving bubbles. These included a task in which they competed to grow the largest bubble using a paper funnel that they designed and themselves.

Some of them also stood inside a giant bubble, and some Sixth Form helpers showed them how to use the wind to grow the largest bubble of the afternoon. The students took to it with great enthusiasm.



Biology Quiz Time

The Biology prefects wrote Kahoot quizzes for Science Week. You too can test your knowledge by following the links.

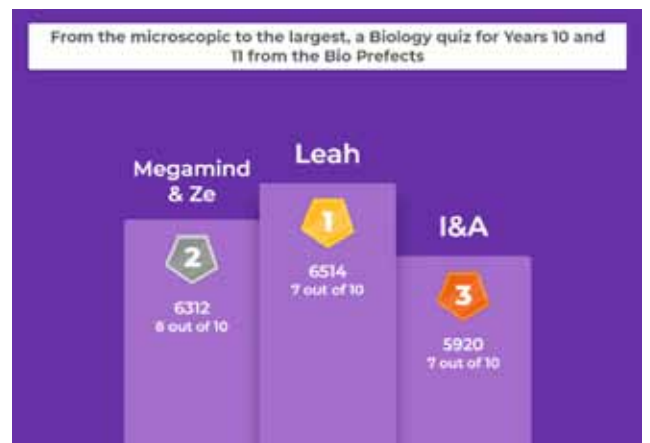
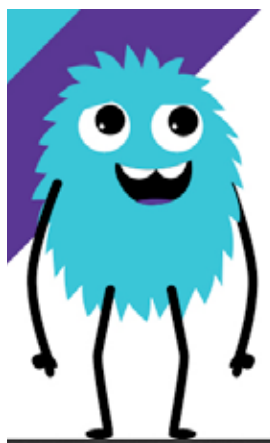
<https://create.kahoot.it/share/from-the-microscopic-to-the-largest-a-biology-quiz-for-years-7-9-from-the-bio-prefects/b81355ef-7566-4cae-b48c-19bc5bea0b4a>

or

<https://create.kahoot.it/share/from-the-microscopic-to-the-largest-a-biology-quiz-for-years-10-and-11-from-the-bio-prefects/a562cea1-8406-4f91-95e1-ab968923158a>

Congratulations to the winners and runners up.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1st	Caitlyn	Ria	Sanjana	Clodagh and Adjoa	WSarah
2nd	Sarah	Mahima and Christina	Zara and Arabella	Rebecca and Omlara	Magi and Patricia
3rd	Zadie	Hannah	Tusara and Dana	Rhian	Janice, Safia and Kayla



Year 12 Poster Display and Competition

Year 12 were invited to make a poster on anything regarding the idea of growth which was the theme of Science Week this year. It was an opportunity to develop our research skills in something we had an interest in. As a student of A-level Biology and Chemistry, I found this week exciting and engaging.

A total of 70 staff and students visited the display and voted for their favourite poster. My poster was titled "Why are babies' heads so big?" and it came runners up to Amélie's which was titled "Can humans be immortal?" Students said of the winning poster

'I liked how detailed it is and it explains the topic really well'

'I found it the most interesting and it was different from the rest'

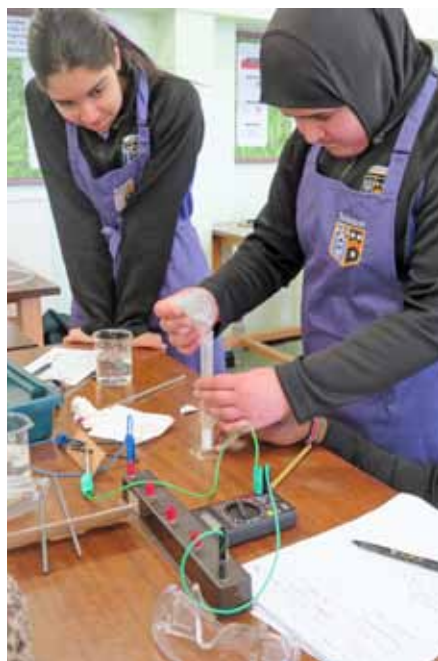
'I liked that she was able to relate the findings from the experiments conducted on animals to growth in humans'

Ghayathri, Year 12



CREST Award

Year 8 spent the day in Science carrying out experiments to complete their BSA Bronze CREST Award.



Project: Dehydration salts



Project: Growing bread dough



Project: Saving energy



Project: Revealing fingerprints

Elements of Life Scavenger Hunt

Year 7 used their numeracy skills and knowledge of elements of the Periodic table to complete this tough challenge. Well done to the winners, Parvati, Mahnoor and runners up, Hanna and Enyinnaya.



Pre School: Making Cards for Mother's Day

Pre School children have been getting creative this week making cards for Mother's Day. There will be some lovely surprises this Sunday!



The Design Museum, The Waste Age Virtual Workshop

On Wednesday the 9th March, students studying Design and Technology in KS4 and KS5 had a wonderful opportunity to engage in a fun, interactive workshop run by the Design Museum, in London.

The virtual workshop titled "The Waste Age" challenged students understanding of the use of materials and technology in everyday objects. The workshop built on and enhanced students learning of the current sustainability topic of the Design and Technology GCSE course and other STEM subjects.



Pre School Stages Jack and the Beanstalk

Our Pre School children have been busy learning about the natural world. This week's focus was on growing plants with a variety of activities to choose from including: making cress heads, measuring the maths table beanstalk and counting its leaves, playing a bean race game with a dice, planting geraniums and drawing their flowers.

The highlight of the week was the Jack and the Beanstalk topic book. All the children took part in creating the large props for the story; painting the cow, sticking tissue layers to the five magic beans, creating a hen house, and using a balloon to make a golden egg! Not forgetting the beanstalk, of course!

Then the children were ready to act out the story on the outdoor stage. With willing volunteers for the character parts, the rest of the class sat down to watch as the story unfolded, Jack exchanged the prize cow for the five magic beans and ended up with a hen that laid golden eggs! The giant's footprints were clear to see on the playground and we heard him say 'Fee Fi Fo Fum!'

There was a good round of applause at the end of the show and a big well done from our celebrity guest, Mrs Burton! Then each child took home a bean to plant and grow their own beanstalk.



Year 6: The Museum of Brands

On Monday, Year 6 spent the day at the Museum of Brands where they learnt about how chocolate products are devised and branded. The girls had the opportunity to brand and market their own products too!

After the workshop, Year 6 had the chance to go down Memory Lane and look at products from every decade since the Victorian era, giving them an insight into how consumerism has change. It was so much fun! Miss Jenkins pointed out products from her childhood such as, Bratz dolls, Mr Blobby, Tamagotchc and the record player she had right up until university.

Another highlight was having lunch altogether in the museum garden which was brimming with plants, before taking the tube and train home. "Getting the train to our school trip was so much fun!" said Advika.

Next week, Year 6 will be carrying our market research on cookies before developing and pitching their own cookie product.



JWF Founder's Day Service



Staff and pupils from Trinity, Old Palace and Whitgift, together with care home residents, gathered together on Tuesday to take part in the John Whitgift Foundation's annual Founder's Day Service at Croydon Minster. Our Head Girls, Amanda and Abisha, represented Old Palace.

U13s Compete in the English Schools Water Polo Tournament



On Monday, 21st March, a keen U13's Water Polo team travelled to Alleyn's School to compete in the English Schools Water Polo tournament. The competition consisted of four teams, all fighting it out to advance to the final round where they would compete against the six top teams in the country.

Old Palace played consistent water polo, holding their own in all three matches and walking away with one win (4-1) and 3rd position. The inexperienced side, which consisted of: Nia, Isobel, Bella, Annie, Elina, Sinty, Ishika and Kara, played extremely well and did themselves proud in their first ever Water Polo tournament.

A big congratulations to everyone involved.

King's Maths Circle



Mrs Morris invited my class to apply for the King's Maths Circle this year and I was lucky enough to be accepted.

The online sessions are every week on Tuesday from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. I find these sessions really important and fun because what I learn there is mathematics and problem solving, which are my two favourite things to study and explore. I learn how to solve different puzzles and new mathematical words such as 'parity' which means a number or set of numbers that are even or odd.

I have also learnt about congruent shapes which are shapes that are the same however they are rotated.

Being part of King's Maths Circle involves following the three "A"s which are "adventurous", "articulate" and "accepting". We engage with others and try to use some of everyone's theory to solve the question. We look at different areas of mathematics each week which helps me stretch my knowledge of mathematics which is helpful.

This is a great opportunity for me and I hope to continue it in the following years.

Yaa, Year 7



Year 8: Cricket



Our Year 8 students were lucky enough to have Amy Gordon in their lesson this week. They learnt how to do a game of Pairs cricket. It was a beautiful day and every student had the opportunity to be involved in a competitive fun game of cricket.

Prep Squad Swimming

Prep swimmers enjoyed participating in an extremely exciting friendly swimming gala against St David's School on Tuesday afternoon. The atmosphere was rapturous with both schools enthusiastically cheering on their teams.

It was the first opportunity for many of our Old Palace swimmers to take part in a gala. Some were a little worried about competing, however, their nervous tummy butterflies were soon forgotten.

All girls swam tremendously well and Old Palace finished the event winning by 99 points to 77.

Thank you to Nia, Year 8, for helping team manage on poolside. Well done Prep Squad swimmers!



Maths Puzzle Fun

Place the digits 9, 4, 7, 6, 5, 1 in the boxes in order to get the largest result.

$$\left(\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right) + \left(\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right)$$

= ?

Answer on page 15



Year 13: Sasha and Beth perform in Whitgift's 'Not About Nightingales'



This week, Sasha and Beth (Year 13), performed in Whitgift's harrowing production of 'Not About Nightingales' by Tennessee Williams. Well done!

Coulsdon & Purley Music Festival News

Many congratulations to Safah, Year 3, who obtained distinction in piano at the Coulsdon and Purley Music Festival.



Kara The Caterpillar!



A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend a performance that my dance school had invited me to. Over the past couple of months, I have been rehearsing every week for up to 4 hours!

The theme of my particular performance was Alice in Wonderland, there were characters such as the Mad hatter, The Queen of hearts and the Caterpillar, which I had been chosen to play. Being this character meant that I would have to wear blue makeup, representing the Caterpillar. I wore some blue glittery lipstick and a face piece.

This was a great experience for me, as I learnt more about teamwork and improved my dancing skills!

This Week in History... Abolition of the Slave Trade

On March 25, 1807, the slave trade was banned throughout the British Empire. This was the result of a long campaign led by abolitionists like Olaudah Equiano and William Wilberforce to end a trade that had seen Britain ship over 3 million Africans to the Americas.



Maths Puzzle Fun page 14 Answer

$$(95 \times 76) + (4 \times 1) = 7224$$

Last week's winner was Zoya in Year 7.