



AROUND THE PALACE

Seniors: World Book Day



Who better to help us celebrate World Book Day at Seniors than two Old Palace Alumnae! Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome Uzma and Ambreen Hameed, authors of the series *The Undying*, who talked to students about the process of writing a book together and spoke about the two inspirational English teachers who ignited their passion for writing.

Dear all,

You will recall me mentioning a few weeks ago the success of our Sixth Form students in the French Debating Competition. I am delighted to report that the team (which consisted of Sophie and Emily), won their latest round and have now reached the national final - beating a number of prestigious local schools in the process! We wish them all the best!

Yesterday was World Book Day and at Seniors, Mrs Chevalier marked the occasion with some exciting activities including a guess 'The Masked Reader' competition. We were delighted to welcome authors and Old Palace alumnae, Uzma and Ambreen Hameed, who talked about their book series *The Undying*. Our thanks to them both for their excellent talk.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Jane Burton, Head

Success in the French Debating Competition



On Wednesday 23rd February, Emily (Year 13) and I competed in the regionals of the 'Joutes Oratoires Lycéennes' French debating competition at Whitgift School. In the heats, we faced teams including Alleyn's School, Whitgift, Trinity and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School, debating the topical issues 'vaccination against coronavirus should be compulsory for all citizens', 'we must introduce at least one vegetarian day a week in school canteens' and 'we must cancel Cancel Culture'.

We were delighted that we won all of our debates in the heats and progressed to the regional finals, facing off against another of Tunbridge Wells' teams. Although the set-up was intimidating, we spoke passionately and dominated the 'lutte acharnée', leading to victory.

Overall, the evening was inspiring, and it was incredible to meet so many French speakers, including the judges who were impressed with our level of fluency and accuracy of language.

We will now be progressing to the national finals of the competition, where we will face the winning teams from six regions across the country to compete for the National Cup of La Francophonie.

Sophia, Year 12

Year 5: Synchronised Swimming

Over the last two weeks Year 5 students have been working in small groups to choreograph a Synchronised Swimming routine. Synchronised Swimming is a combination of swimming, gymnastics and dance in the water.

The groups worked together to create flowing sequences which had to include a strong starting position, flowing transitions, balances and lifts, and a 'tah dah' finishing position so that the audience would know their routine had finished.

Year 5 are familiar with words such as canon, unison, extension, tension, control and balance. We explored how simple movements are often more visually effective, as seen in the photographs. These were incorporated into their routines with impressive results. Each group in turn showed the rest of the class.

Well done Year 5!



Reception: Shrove Tuesday and World Book Day

Reception have had a fantastic week celebrating Shrove Tuesday and World Book Day!

They enjoyed making their own pancakes and discussing which key ingredients are needed, as well as some of their favourite toppings! The girls also enjoyed dressing up as book characters for World Book Day.

They even wrote book reviews about some of their favourite books!





On Monday, Pre School pupils headed for the Surrey Hills and beautiful Godstone Farm.

Following an introduction to the animals by the Farm Leader, the children met a Guinea Pig called Crunchy, a Rabbit called Sven, a 100 year-old tortoise and a very pretty chicken called Violet.

Spring lambing has come early to Godstone Farm and there are already lots of lambs! We noticed that they all had numbers on their backs that matched their mummy; we tried to match the baby with the right mummy.

continued on next page



Pre School Visit Godstone Farm *continued*

The pigs were our next visit and with a shake of the bucket of pig nuts they heard us coming! They were very big indeed and snorted a lot. We fed them all; there were even some piglets!

After lunch, we set off to feed the goats and check out some signs of spring. It wasn't long before we saw daffodils and crocus. We fed the goats and enjoyed watching the pig wading through deep mud and the donkey having a roll in the dirt.

We were very lucky to be out on such a beautiful spring day and we wanted to stay forever!



Polyphonic: Evensong at Croydon Minster



On Monday, Polyphonic sang a poignant service of Choral Evensong at Croydon Minster. In preparation for Lent, the anthem was Pergolesi's beautiful *Stabat Mater*, which portrays Mary's suffering at the cross.

We took time during the prayers to remember all those experiencing similar suffering in Ukraine. The service also featured lovely solos from Pavithra (Year 13) in the *Darke Responses* and Flora (Year 10) in Philip Moore's haunting *Second Service*.

Year 12: Physics Olympiad

Just before half term the Year 12 Physics students took part in the Senior Physics Challenge. This was a British Physics Olympiad event in which they were challenged to complete two papers under timed conditions as part of a national competition, and was largely based on physics ideas but also tested wider reading and interest in the subject.

Congratulations to Suraiya who achieved the Gold award, and to Rohaan, Rebecca and Ione, all of whom secured Silver. The remaining eight students achieved the Bronze award, for which they should be commended. Well done to all of them.



Year 8 PSHE: The Safety Box



We welcomed Nathaniel Peat from 'The Safety Box' to talk to Year 8 about cyber bullying.

Nathaniel had lots of energy and interacted with the audience about what can happen online if the right safeguards are not put in place, the dangers of social media and how to shield your identity online.

He taught us about keeping our IP addresses safe, how to disable location settings, and the technology and methods used by cyberbullies. We heard from Khelsi, who has been a victim of cyber bullying, and were grateful that she had the courage to share her experiences with us.

At the end of the session, we learnt how to recognise the signs if we are being bullied, strategies to safeguard against cyber bullies, and what to do if someone we know is being bullied online.

What did Year 8 students think about the session?

"Thank you for teaching us about Cyber Bullying."

"Great job and keep working at what you do because it is making a difference."

"The lesson was really interesting and I learnt a lot."

"It was really fun and informative."

Join us at the OPA Reunion Dinner

Saturday, 19 March 2022
at 7.00pm
Cocktails & Dinner
£49.50 per head

Tickets/further information email: oldpalacereunion@gmail.com



ChemSoc – The Slime Ball Challenge

This week's ChemSoc session was attended by 23 students from Years 10 and 12. Following a recipe to make slime, they investigated the weird and wonderful properties of this strange polymer base material, formed when PVA glue reacts with borax.

The challenge was then to make a slime ball which gave the highest bounce when dropped from a height of one metre. As always, our students got very competitive, but the clear winner was Lilia from Year 12, with an amazing bounce height of 57 cm! Great fun was had by all.



This Week in History... Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech

On March 5, 1946, Winston Churchill warned about an 'iron curtain' falling across Europe that would divide the free countries of the West from those nations in the East falling under the control of the Soviet Union.



Running Club

Running Club for any students in Years 7 – 13 has restarted on Friday afternoons after school.

Staff and students are welcome to attend.



It was good to have close to 30 students running last Friday alongside the staff helping.

Running Club involves a walk to Wandle Park, running set at each student's ability and a walk back to school. What better way to spend a Friday afternoon?

All abilities welcome!

Year 2: Swimming

During their Swimming lesson this week, Year 2 enjoyed activities aimed at developing their ball handling skills, ready for an introduction to Water Polo.

They participated in a lively group warm-up led by a very energetic Mrs Smith, as seen in the photograph. That was followed by practising throwing a range of different sized balls into, and at, varying positioned and sized targets. Hopefully we have some budding Water Polo stars in the making!



Prep: Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

This week at Prep, students have learnt all about Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. The girls talked about Lent and what it means to give up something you love.

The best bit of course was making and eating yummy pancakes!



Clubs: Spotlight on...Book Club

Book Club

This runs every Tuesday lunch time from 13:00 – 13:30 at Seniors.



Seasonal Reading



Since September, Book Club has run seasonal and themed book activities including National Poetry Day, 'Muggle Mastermind' for Harry Potter Book Night, Making 3D Tiger bookmarks for Chinese New Year, Speed Dating a book for Valentine's Day and a World Book Day Quiz.



EXTRA BOOK CLUB BONUS

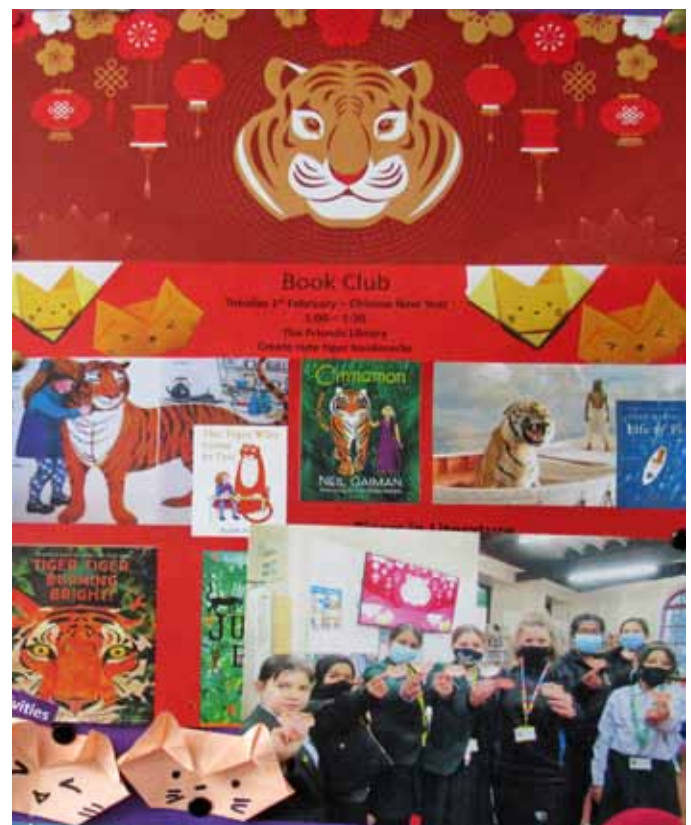
Chatterbooks

From Monday March 14th until the first week after the spring break, Year 10-13 students have the chance to read and discuss 'Love Radio' by Ebony LaDelle.

This is recommended for older students who enjoy modern Young

Adult romance genres. Ten students have the chance to read the book before it goes on general release to the public in May. (More details coming soon)

There is always something happening in Book Club – come along to our next meeting and discover a great new read!



Shadowing National Book Awards

Week 2 Book Club provides discussion and activities linked to shadowing national book awards.

Shadowing shortlisted books on National Book Awards allows students the opportunity to read and review new and exciting authors, writing in new and creative ways. Students have the opportunity to read a range of genres and styles which allows them to become objective and empathetic readers/reviewers.

From September to March, students have the opportunity to enter creative response and book review competitions such as the Trinity Schools Book Award.

Thanks to Mrs Broad and Ms Dawson, Book Club made creative responses to *The Foreshadowing* by Marcus Sedgwick. This year's TSBA ceremony takes place in April where students will be able to watch proceedings during lunch time.

From March to June, Book Club shadows the Yoto CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards, which is the oldest children's book award. Book Club is currently running a 'Love your Longlists' where students get the chance to 'judge' the 18 books on the longlist to see which ones would make their eight shortlisted books. We will discover on 16th March, when the shortlist is announced, if we

choose any on the shortlist. Reading and reviewing for this shortlist will continue until the Awards ceremony on 16th June.



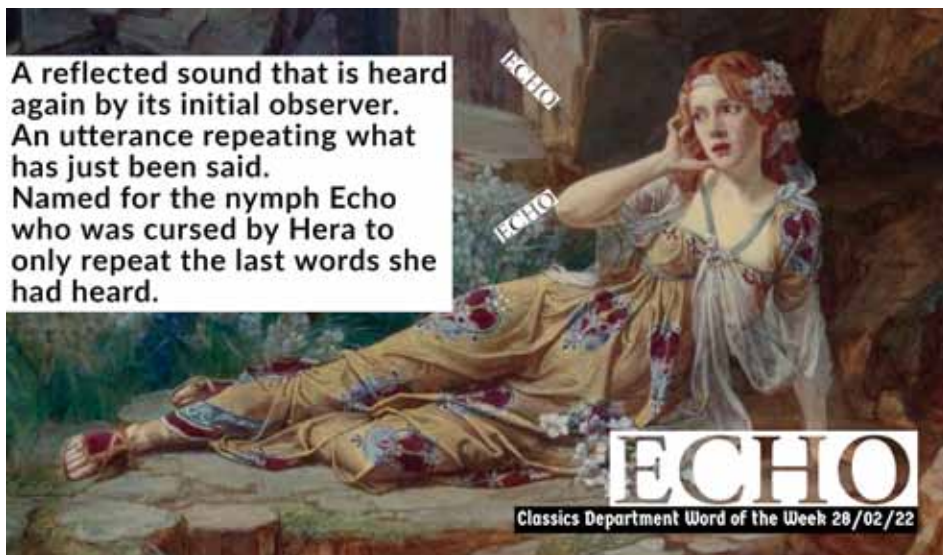
Maths Puzzle Fun

Which number becomes double when it is divided by itself but half when multiplied by itself?

Is the number:

- a) $1/2$ b) 2 c) 10 d) $1/4$

Answer on page 11



Cricket



Amy Gordon has been visiting OPS again as part of the Surrey Cricket Community Cricket Coaching initiative.

She has been working with the Monday afternoon Year 8 PE group on straight drives, fielding and ball handling and introducing some fun games.

We look forward to Amy's visits throughout this half term.

Senior Swimming and Development Squad

Senior Swimming and Development Squad members always work very hard. They continually work towards developing and refining their stroke techniques and water skills such as tumble turns and diving, as well as increasing their stamina and fitness.

Our photograph shows members still smiling after a hard session!

If you are interested in Swim Squad please speak to Mrs Tamplin.



Trinity Triathlon

26 June 2022



TRINITY

www.trinity-school.org/trinity-triathlon



Prep: Cookery Club

This week, in Cookery Club, pupils were practicing their chopping and slicing and dicing skills as they made colourful, tasty rainbow wraps.



Year 6: Netball v St Christopher's

Many congratulations to ALL Year 6 pupils. They enjoyed a lovely games afternoon playing netball for their team against St Christopher's.



Year 8: Life Saving and Personal Survival

Year 8s have been working on Life Saving and Personal Survival in their Swimming lessons this term. It has been fun but with a real serious side to the topic. Water skills are such important life skills. This week students tried different tows; they learned about the vice grip and how to tow a trawl which is particularly useful when attempting to rescue a casualty with a suspected spinal injury.

Here are some pictures showing Year 8 trying these turns and tows.



Maths Puzzle Fun on page 9 Answer

Answer:

$$A - \frac{1}{2}$$

Let the required number be X.

“Double when divided by itself” means that:

$$\frac{X}{X} = 2X$$

$$\text{So: } \frac{1}{X} = 2 \text{ and so } X = \frac{1}{2}$$

Alternatively, “Half when multiplied by itself” means that:

$$X^2 = \frac{X}{2}$$

$$\text{So: } X = \frac{1}{2}$$

Last week's winner was Arputha in Year 7.

Growth Mindset

YEAR 3,4,5

**BMX
WORKSHOP**

WOW!

WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY

AT OLD PALACE PREP

See Mrs Coester for more info

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