



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



I hope that you all enjoyed the Easter break. Term has started very positively at Old Palace and the students seem very pleased to be back.

Going forward this Bulletin will be published every two weeks rather than weekly and we will use our social media feeds in the interim week. So if you don't already follow us on social media then please use the links below to make sure you have all the news of what is going on at Old Palace.

We now look forward to the May Bank Holiday and I hope everyone enjoys the

weekend. With Eid falling across Monday and Tuesday I would also like to take this opportunity to say Eid Mubarak to all our Muslim families for next week and I hope you all enjoy the festivities.

**Jane Burton, Head**



Reception: Why Do Zebras Have Stripes? *continued on page 5*





## Student Leadership Team Bids Farewell and New Head Girls



On the last day of the spring term, our wonderful Student Leadership Team performed one of their last official duties at the Senior School's end-of-term assembly at Croydon Minster.

Thank you everyone; you've done an amazing job and have been such inspiring role models for the younger students.

We will bid the SLT a fond farewell at our House Suppers next week, where we will also announce the results of our Head of House elections...

Many congratulations to our new Head Girls, Suraiya and Alison, and Senior Prefects, lone and Gina, who take up their roles at the start of the summer term.



Suraiya, Head girl



Alison, Head girl



Gina, Senior Prefect

Dear Old Palace,

We would sincerely like to thank both the staff and the student body, for the immense support they have shown us since being elected to be a part of the Student Leadership Team (SLT).

During the forthcoming year, we hope to be able to give back to the School, by representing it to the best of our abilities and striving to build on the strong sense of community already present. Above all, thank you all for trusting us with this responsibility, and we promise to stay dedicated to fulfilling it.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the previous Student Leadership Team: Amanda, Abisha, Sanaa, and Emily. We really appreciate all the time and effort they have committed to serving the School, and hope that we will be able to continue the work that they have started. We recognise that we have a lot to live up to and promise to do our best to follow in their footsteps. We are so proud

and honoured to have this opportunity to represent Old Palace.

Throughout our time at Old Palace, the Student Leadership Team have always been such excellent role models and have done their best to serve us.

We are all privileged to be part of the SLT today and guarantee we will perform our duties to the best of our abilities. We are extremely excited to get fully invested in our roles and to put our ideas into place.

We know that we will encounter some challenges, but we are ready to deal with them as they come. Being part of the SLT requires responsibility, dedication, enthusiasm, appreciation and care for the School community. We promise to live up to these expectations as best as we can in the coming year.

**Student Leadership Team 2022/23**  
Suraiya, Alison, Gina, and lone



## STEM: Gatwick Engineering Competition

We had two special visitors in assembly at Prep this week. Dave and Louisa from Gatwick engineering came to give our two fabulous winners in Year 5 their amazing Lego prizes.

Before presenting the prizes, Dave spoke about all the work the team of about 200 engineers at Gatwick do to keep the aeroplanes and airport running and how impressed they were with the entries for the competition from our students.



## Sports Round Up

### Athletics

With the summer term here, it's time for the Athletics season!

This week, there have been three athletics meets for students in Years 7 – 10 to experiment and have a go at a variety of track and field events.

Well done to all those who pushed themselves and produced their best! We do need to remember to take off our sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms when competing to give ourselves a greater chance of producing our best result.

These events were good for students to see where their expertise lies and for the staff to see students performing in preparation for Borough Athletics later in the term.



### Clubs

Clubs are back with a vengeance in the PE and Swimming Department.

There are clubs every lunchtime and after school for Cricket, Tennis, Rounders, Swimming and Water Polo as well as the Running Club after school on a Friday.

Most clubs are Open Access at the moment as we work towards squad selections and it has been good to see so many involved and wanting to be a part of the Squads for Cricket.

There are lots of opportunities to be active – please make the most of them!



## This Week in History...

### Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster

On 26 April 1986, the worst nuclear disaster in history took place when a reactor exploded at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine (then part of the Soviet Union). Thousands of people were evacuated from a 1000 sq mile exclusion zone.





# Open Mornings

## Pre School & Reception (4+)

Thursday, 5 May 9.00am - 10.30am

Thursday, 9 June 9.00am - 10.30am

Meet the Head + tour of the school

To book, go to: [www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions/open-days](http://www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions/open-days)

### Swimming: St David's Gala Success

Prep swimmers enjoyed taking part in a friendly swimming gala against St David's School on Tuesday afternoon. The students swam a variety of events, winning many. The last event was a non-scoring exciting raft relay. Both teams thoroughly enjoyed finishing the gala off with a fun relay! Old Palace were triumphant in both gala and the raft relay! Well done to all involved.



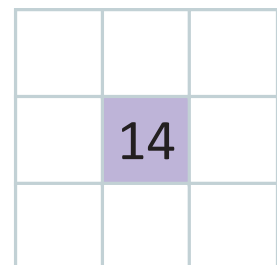
2022 WHITGIFT INTERNATIONAL  
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JOIN US AS A  
STUDENT  
HOST

EMAIL [STUDENTHOST@WHITGIFT.CO.UK](mailto:STUDENTHOST@WHITGIFT.CO.UK)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Maths Puzzle Fun

Can you put the numbers 1 to 8 in each of the squares so that each side adds up to the middle number?



Answer on page 16



## Reception: Why Do Zebras Have Stripes? *continued*

Our Reception class has begun its new topic 'Why Do Zebras Have Stripes?' by exploring the brand new role play area which has been turned into a jungle!

The girls have loved dressing up as wonderful jungle animals and acting out the story of *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Browne.



## Pre School Welcomes New Pupils

Last week, we were delighted to welcome eight new pupils to our Blossoms class in Pre School.

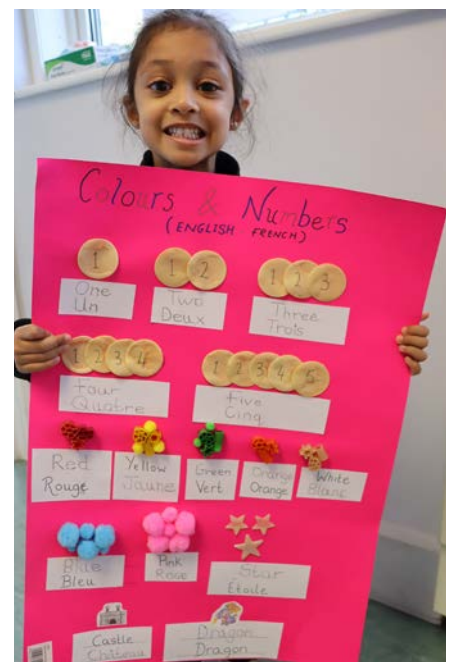
Blossoms is home to our very youngest pupils in the school. They all seem to have settled in nicely!



## Zariya - Pre School French

Zariya has been practising her French numbers and colours and has created the most wonderful poster.

She received five merits for this amazing work.





## Walk for Ukraine Update

Our 'Walk for Ukraine' raised £1,311 for DEC. What an amazing achievement. Well done everyone!



## Prep Celebrates Eid

A huge THANK YOU to all the Old Palace families who have donated generously towards the 'SWAN (Southern Women's Aid Network)' Eid Gift Boxes and foodbank drive.

We received an impressive amount of donations.

The Eid gift boxes in particular looked amazing. Girls at Prep did a fantastic job sorting and packing the gift items and all the donations received.

Your generous donations will bring a smile to a lot of children and families in need and in particular, help SWAN with the foodbank and soup kitchen that they run.

We are very grateful for all your donations and for helping us to promote the ethos of generosity and kindness amongst the Old Palace community. Thank you once again!





## Prep: End of Term Easter Egg Hunt

We celebrated the end of term at Prep with a fun Easter Egg hunt around the grounds. Despite the unseasonal weather (was that really snow?), our intrepid pupils and their parents were undeterred – racing around the school

in search of clues and the two elusive golden eggs.

Much fun was had by all and once the girls had each collected a real chocolate egg (thank you, PTA), it was back to the Pavilion for some much

needed hot drinks and a cake sale run by the Year 5 Enterprise Club. What a brilliant way to end the term!

A big thank you to the PTA for their generous donation towards the gift of an Easter egg for every pupil.





## Music Award Holders Workshop

Recently we had a workshop for Music Award-holders on Orchestral Conducting with the wonderful Colin Dowdeswell MBE, who has had a varied and impressive career, including as founder and conductor of The Camerata, a string chamber orchestra.

Anna in Year 12 writes of her experience:

*"The music workshop on conducting was highly beneficial and enlightening on a conductor's role in the orchestra. As a violinist, I am dependent on the conductor for cues and tempo, however I was completely unaware of how complex their job was. Indicating accents, conveying the dynamics and the character of the piece, while simultaneously keeping a consistent beat pattern in the correct tempo was very difficult. I found it tricky simply keeping a four-beat pattern correctly.*

*My favourite part of the workshop was conducting a small orchestra and cuing in second violins and cellos in a round. It was challenging and ultimately gave me a lot of respect and sympathy for conductors."*



## Year 4: Blue Abyss

During the Easter holiday, in preparation for our new topic 'Blue Abyss', Year 4 produced work on either the world's oceans or the layers of the oceans and animals that live there. Hiru's work was presented as a game. Each girl was given an animal card and had to decide which layer of the ocean they live in. Year 4 also produced some beautifully presented information posters.

This week, we have been learning about the layers of the ocean in more detail, particularly the extreme conditions. In the lowest Hadopelagic zone (or trenches) it is 0°C and pitch black so most of the animals are adapted to be blind or semi-blind. The pressure is 600-1000 atmospheres or equivalent to a 600-1000kg weight on your finger nail!

We have also learnt about James Cameron's voyage to Challenger Deep, the lowest point on Earth in the Mariana Trench, at a depth of nearly 11,000m!





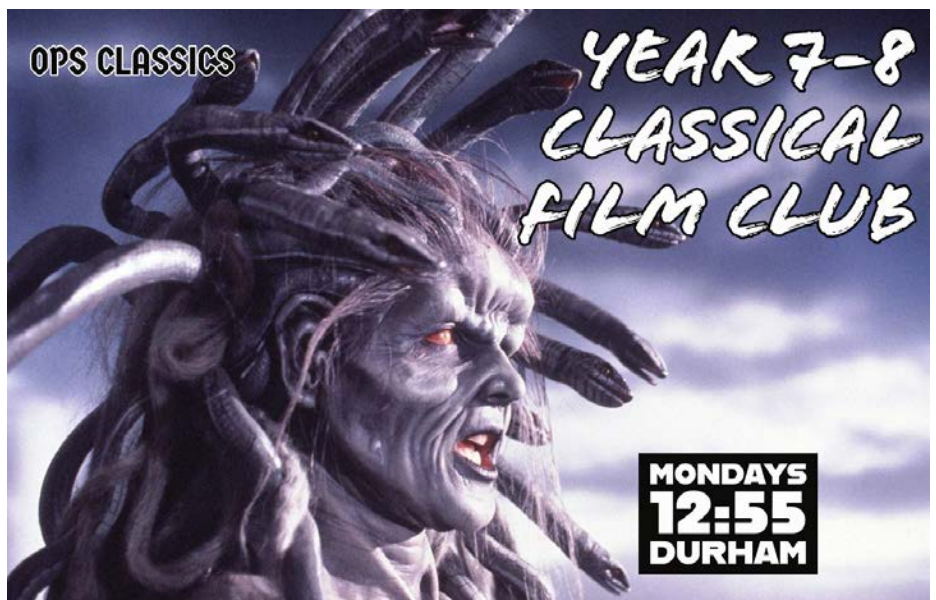
## Clubs: Spotlight on...Classical

There are three Classical clubs on offer at Old Palace. Year 7 and 8 students attend **Classical Film Club** where we watch and discuss films about mythology and the ancient world. We look at the presentations of Pompeii in the Roman Mysteries series and have enjoyed recreating some of the more exciting moments in the Storyteller Greek Myths series through the medium of drama.

Year 9-10 students attend **Mythology Club**. This club incorporates reading myths from Ovid and other authors in translation, discussion and appreciation of artistic representations of these myths, and the opportunity to respond creatively to these stories and characters. The club increases the student understanding of the ancient world and allows a great deal of creative expression.

There is also the **Symposium Society**, open to students in years 11-13. This society meets on a half term basis to discuss an area of the ancient world not covered in the examination specifications. Recent discussions have been focused on Sophocles' *Antigone* and Roman victory arches.

The wide range of clubs on offer allow students to explore more unusual areas of the ancient world, express themselves and develop key skills and confidence.



## Clubs: Spotlight on...Knitting

### A bit of Purposeful Peace

Fancy a quiet half-hour, doing a bit of mindful crafting and chatting with friends? All over the country, there are groups who meet just to craft in company with people who understand. The OP version is Knitting Club.

Can't knit? Don't worry – Mrs Adamson will teach you and save you if it all goes wrong! We do a couple of standard beginner projects that take about a year, and by the time you've finished you'll be ready to take on more demanding things.

When you're ready for something harder, you can be supported in choosing something suitable for your

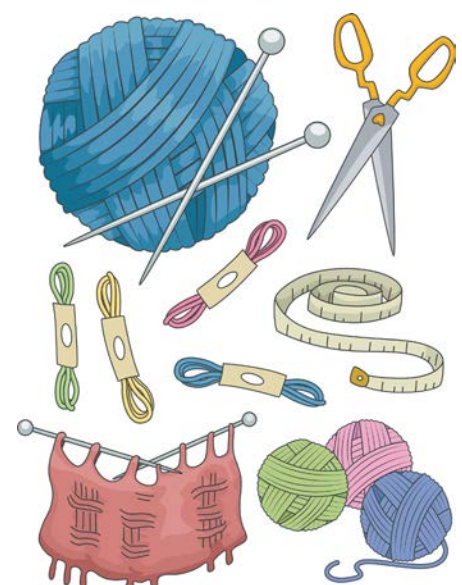
skill level. All equipment and materials can be provided.

Already a pro, with projects of your own? Bring them along! Everyone is welcome, and we'd love to see what you're working on.

If you don't fancy knitting, but you'd like to bring your embroidery, crochet, or anything else fabric-related and mess-free that you can carry in your bag, feel free.

This is a quiet space for you to get on with your fibre arts among friends.

Great for exam stress, and you might just walk away with a new skill!







# INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY

*Friday 06th May 2022*



## DANCEATHON

*Can you keep on grooving?*

*All welcome, staff and students!!!  
Dance experience not required.*

*\*In the Court Yard from 1-1.30pm\**



## Year 2: Scented Garden

The Cornerstones topic in Year 2 this term is 'The Scented Garden'. We are learning about how plants grow, how they can heal and how some plants can be harmful. We created an indoor garden of edible plants and are looking forward to a crop of good things to eat!

Elena planted carrot seeds and was very pleased to see the tiny leaves sprouting.

*'I planted pak choi – it's a vegetable we enjoy eating at home.'*  
Isabella.

*'I'm not entirely sure what's in my pot - we'll have to wait and see!'* Libby.





## Year 8: Outdoor Maths Lesson

Year 8 enjoyed having an outdoor Mathematics lesson to introduce the "Loci" topic this week. In their groups, they had to follow the rules for the loci and see what shapes they formed.



## Year 4: Measuring in Maths

Last week, Year 4 were learning to estimate and measure length, mass and capacity. For homework and in class, we identified examples of each as guidelines. We then estimated and measured the length, mass or capacity of a few objects, using scales, metre rules, tape measures, trundle wheels and measuring cups and cylinders.

Some of the measurements surprised us, including the perimeter of the playground – we had underestimated! However, some of our estimates were very close and we became more accurate.







Just before Easter, we welcomed guest speaker Mr Lee Lawrence to a Year 9 PSHE session on 'Diversity'. Mr Lawrence shared his personal experiences and talked to students about mending relationships between community groups, reconciliations when things go wrong and creating positive communities. The session ended with an opportunity for students to ask questions.

The Cherry Groce Foundation was set up in 2016 in memory of Cherry Groce, Mr Lawrence's mother. The Foundation is "committed to carry out its work in the momentum of the positive energy that radiated from Cherry Groce and her belief that truth and justice will ultimately triumph".

For further information:  
[www.cherrygroce.org/](http://www.cherrygroce.org/)

## Year 2: Multi Sports Event

A selection of pupils from Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful afternoon on Monday at the Multi Sports event organised by CSSP





## Pupils Take Part in Restless Development's Schools Triathlon

Old Palace Prep pupils were out working hard on Sunday at the Schools Triathlon. Over 40 pupils from Years 3-6 took part and all the competitors swam, cycled and ran their way to the finish, where they received a stunning, environmentally friendly medal.

Participants needed to raise a minimum of £50 and with many exceeding this, the money raised will go a long way to supporting the Restless Development's fundraising target of 80K. Every penny counts this year as Restless Development

has been awarded Aid Match for their #PowerUp Appeal. This means that all donations until 6 June will be doubled by the UK government.

A particular 'well done' to Year 3 (Golden Dolphins) who, with one girl short, had to compete in an event twice to make up the totals.

Congratulations to all the competitors and their parents for supporting the event so well.





# Pupils Take Part in Restless Development's Schools Triathlon *continued*





## Year 9 and 10: Athletics at Croydon High

A selection of athletes from Year 9 and a couple of Year 10 students took part in a meet at Croydon High.

This was an opportunity for students to have a go at a variety of field events and the track disciplines ahead of the Croydon Sports later in the term. It was a chilly afternoon!

Well done to all who took part – particularly those who tried new events or tried multiple events in a short period of time. We look forward to seeing how our athletes improve throughout the term.



## Maths Puzzle Fun page 4 Answer

The answer

|   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| 8 | 2  | 4 |
| 5 | 14 | 3 |
| 1 | 6  | 7 |

The last winner at the end of term was **Leen** in Year 7

## Join us at the OPA Summer Reunion




**Saturday, 25 June 2022**  
**at 12noon | £25.00 per head**

- Drinks Reception
- Buffet Lunch
- Tour of Old Palace



Tickets/further information, email: [oldpalacereunion@gmail.com](mailto:oldpalacereunion@gmail.com)

Classics Department Word of the Week 25/04/2022



# feline

Of or pertaining to a cat.  
From Latin:  
feles, felis f. = cat

The Gayer-Anderson Cat, Egypt 664-332 BC

