



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



You will notice that we have separated the Bulletin into Prep and Seniors for this edition and will continue this going forward to allow you to focus on the areas of the school you are interested in.

The past two weeks have seen so many events at Seniors that have brought the school together; House Suppers, Danceathon, Flash Mob, athletics success to name but a few. After such a long time having to stay apart it has been so positive for students and staff to be part of these events.

This week we said good luck to our Yr 11 students who have now started their GCSEs and Yr 13 will be saying farewell next week as their A Levels begin. We wish all our students taking public exams the very best of luck and also say thank you to their parents who we know will be providing huge support for them in the weeks ahead.

Jane Burton, Head

Seniors Celebrates International Dance Day *article on page 3*



Year 13: Wishing them all the best as they go on Study Leave



Seniors Celebrates International Dance Day

Last Friday, the Dance Department held the School's first ever Danceathon, celebrating International Dance Day.

The Senior School event was organised by staff and students and performed in the Chestnut courtyard outside. With the sun beaming down and music blasting, this huge dance event had everyone joining in, whether that was by learning the choreography or by simply tapping a foot and clapping along around the edges of the dance floor!

Lead by our Year 10 Dance Leaders and Sixth Form Student

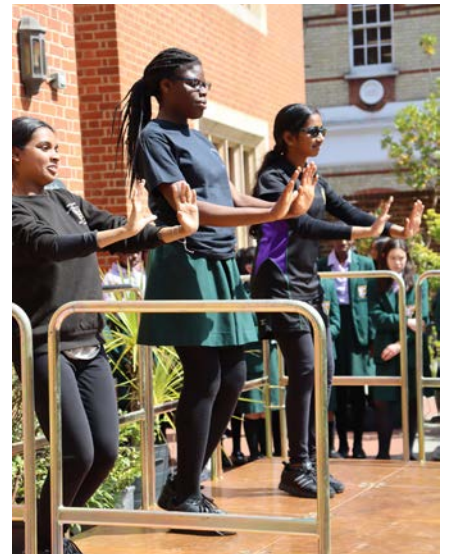
teachers, the dances consisted of a range of fun and catchy movement, incorporating many different styles and genres of Dance and music.

The Danceathon was a true reflection of the love of Dance we celebrate here at Old Palace and we look forward to organising the next one!

Ms Khan
Head of Dance



Seniors Celebrates International Dance Day *continued*



Polyphonic & Chamber Choirs Perform 'The Armed Man' with London Mozart Players



Over the past few months, our Polyphonic and Chamber Choirs have dedicated a lot of their time to learning Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man*.

Last Friday, their months of hard work and dedication came to fruition when they were able to perform it with the London Mozart Players alongside choirs from Trinity and Whitgift Schools at the Fairfield Halls. Together, the three schools formed the Choir and a couple of students from each school were chosen to play in the orchestra. Each student string player was paired with a member of The London Mozart players, who they sat next to in rehearsals and the concert.

Jenkins' work itself was particularly significant in the current climate as it is a 'Mass for Peace' dedicated to the victims of Kosovo. It is a thought-provoking piece of work including prayers, depictions of war and peace. This was a very insightful experience for the students to see how professional rehearsals ran and a fantastic performing experience.

Well done to all the music teachers, staff members, singers and instrumentalists who took part and made it such a fantastic performance. Special thanks also to Ms Cepulienė and the administrative staff for helping to organise rehearsals and concert logistics.



Year 7: DT - Mechanical Toys

This term, Year 7 have been exploring both designing and cooking. In DT we constructed our own toy packages; this included having to create the foundation, our toy and our design of packaging.

We started by chopping small pieces of wood and then placing them together to form a rectangle. We learnt how to safely cut wood and some tips for future attempts. We then put some plastic over the wood, in a way to protect our toy but still make it visible.

Using 2D design, (which is a special designing app), we were able to create an object of any type, this included birds, popcorn, hedgehogs, dolphins and many more. Once our teacher had cut our objects out via a laser cutter, we started to assemble the final product.

Our toy allowed us to move our object up and down in a reciprocating pattern.

Finally, we designed our packaging using 2D design, and then placed both

the toy and the packaging together. It was a great experience and I have picked up so many skills!

Kara, Year 7





On Thursday 5 May, ahead of Mental Health Awareness Week and as part of PSHE, we welcomed an entertaining live performance from band *Here at Last*, which was followed by hearing members of the band share their own issues, and give sound advice about mental health, online safety and cyber security. Anna A in Year 8 was lucky enough to have the band sing 'Happy Birthday' to her on stage!

Here at Last are a band from all over the UK. Formed in 2020, they sold out their first headline UK tour and will be headlining another tour later this year. They are also the biggest UK boyband on TikTok with over 2.5 million followers.

Having experienced their own issues with cyber bullying and mental health, the boys are in the perfect position to deliver such a positive message to students and are excited to be given the opportunity to educate and inspire.

Please find a couple of links to their music videos below:

Here At Last - Ocean Eyes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cbWroP_HqU

Here At Last - Someone To You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRO5tw79DW0>

Follow the Band on:

Tiktok: @Hereatlastofficial

Instagram: @Hereatlastofficial

Spotify: Here At Last

Old Palace has given us a massive opportunity to meet these up and coming artists. We were all thrilled by the experience we had in meeting them and listening to their inspirational words about their experience in cyberbullying and how to maintain our mental health.

They were amazing singers and sang all of our favourite songs. We were over the moon when we met them, as they were just like us not too long ago. Their experience has taught us how to deal with cyberbullying, and that even those who have been made fun of or have been bullied can still succeed.

Suruthi and Hannah, Year 8

"I really enjoyed when 'Here at Last' came to see us today for PSHE. They were really nice, and they had some good points on cyber bullying.

I was really happy when they signed my sign."

Sapphire, Year 9



Year 13 Leavers - Dress Up Week

This week we bid a fond 'au revoir' to our wonderful Year 13 students as they go on Study Leave, prior to taking their A Level exams.

To mark the end of their time at Old Palace, students take part in the traditional 'Dress Up' Week celebrations, which this year involve the following themes:

Monday: Guess Who?

Tuesday: Film Characters

Wednesday: Dress up as the first letter of your name

Thursday: Decades

Friday: School uniform

Here are few photos from Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Good luck everyone!



Sixth Form Design Challenge

For the past few months, we have been working towards entering the 'Design Future London' competition run by the Mayor of London, in partnership with MOBIE (Ministry of Building Innovation and Education).

MOBIE was founded by Architect and TV Presenter George Clarke in 2017 to inspire young people to revolutionise the way we think about homes and to drive the ambition for better standards of living. We were tasked with designing and planning a new residential area in the Royal Docks, East London which aimed to be more sustainable and environmentally conscious.

As part of a group of six keen Year 12 students, it was a journey of teamwork and problem solving to come up with a creative and innovative solution. We split into pairs based on our interests and strengths to allow us to focus on particular areas. The sub-categories included housing design, transport, materials, green energy to mention but a few. We met weekly and worked hard to ensure we met the deadline of submission to showcase the design.

The challenge helped us develop and enhance many transferable skills such as communication, organisation, and problem-solving skills, which are vital to working as a team. As well as designing transport and energy solutions and sustainable housing and community areas, there were other specifications to consider which include a Grade 2 listed

Silo D (a former grain silo), which could not be demolished due its heritage.

We tried our best to come up with ideas to work around these specifications. For instance, we considered the use of the Silo as a gallery for local community art and projects. Eventually, we brought our individual research and proposals together to complete and finalise the project. This was submitted on Friday 6th May.

As we reflect on the time spent on the project, we feel that we have all been able to learn not only from our own individual research but from each other as well. On the whole the final product was quite innovative with some really creative, out-of-the-box ideas, such as a biofuel sewage system, which would be used to produce sustainable energy. It was an experience that we all enjoyed immensely!

Indrani and Amy, Year 12



Year 11: Physics Olympiad Success

Year 11 students produced a commendable level of success in this year's Physics Olympiad Intermediate Challenge.

The Challenge is a national competition designed to engage and challenge Year 11 students of all abilities by offering them a range of problems to solve. Although most of the questions were based around the current GCSE curriculum, students were able to gain more marks with a general knowledge in physics as well as a keen interest in practical work from their lessons. Some general knowledge and everyday interest in physics was also an advantage in tackling the two papers making up the task.

Catherine excelled, achieving the Gold award. Twenty one students secured the Silver award and a further 49 girls attained the Bronze.

All these students deserve to be lauded for their sterling effort and for their impressive individual and collective achievements.



Maths Puzzle Fun

Replace the squares below with the correct signs

+ - × ÷

and add a set of brackets to make the sum work.

$$2 \square 1 \square 6 \square 6 = 48$$

() + - × ÷

Answer on page XX

U12 Kwick Cricket Match v CHS



On Monday 9th of May, 15 Year 7 students travelled to Croydon High School to take part in a friendly cricket match. For some of the students this was their first time playing a game of cricket.

The students played pairs cricket and there was some excellent deliveries and some spectacular shots being played on both fields. Minal Q and Selina H were awarded Player of the Match on their respective fields. The students learnt a great deal throughout the match and should be commended on their sportsmanship and support of one another. Congratulations to everyone who took part.



FORTHCOMING Second-hand Uniform Sales

Friday, 20th May

Friday, 10th June

at the Prep School between
2.30 - 4pm

and at the Summer Fair on
Saturday, 2nd July
11am - 3pm

★ Donations Wanted ★

Take the opportunity to clear out your wardrobe by donating any items of unwanted uniform to the PTA's next Second-hand uniform sale.

Just drop your (bagged) items at Reception at either Prep or Seniors.

HOLD THE DATE
Summer Fair

Saturday, 2nd July 2022
@ Prep 11am - 3pm

Year 10: Croydon Athletics



Well done to our Year 10 Athletics Team who competed in the Croydon Schools Annual Athletics Championships in great style and with great success! The team competed in the main track events as well as representing the school in the field disciplines as well and they all competed really well.

Special mention to Amy in Year 12 who escorted the team to be the school's official as part of her Level 3 Sports Leaders Course; she gained experience as a discus official and was extremely helpful to the staff throughout the morning.

We were so excited when Bethany received a Gold medal for her outstanding throw in the Javelin. Meanwhile, the Relay team came first in their heat and we await the final placing result.

Other results are still awaiting confirmation and we will update you all with any further developments. Well done to all who took part – we are extremely proud of you.

Sixth Form: Biology Practicals

Sixth Form Biologists have been learning microbiology and micropropagation techniques in lessons and BioSoc.

Chloe-Marie writes 'I found BioSoc very interesting. We learnt about culturing and aseptic techniques including inoculating agar plates and broths with a bacterium. One method we used was the Streak Plate Technique and we also

learnt a plate count method to count how many bacteria there are on an agar jelly plate using a clicker.'

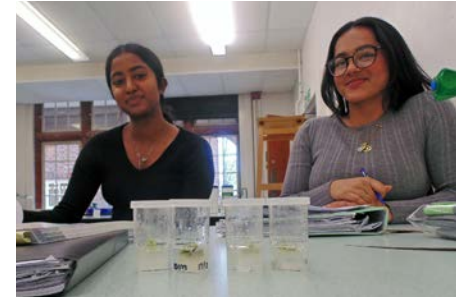
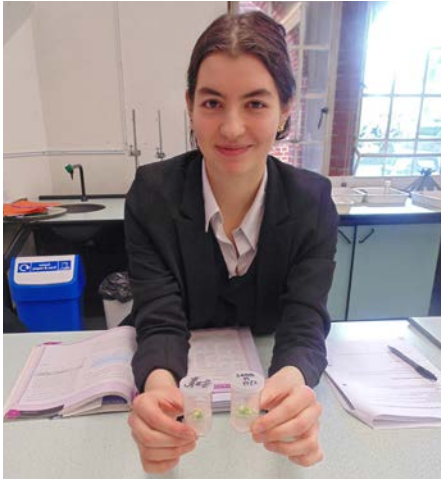
Aseptic technique is also used in micropropagation. Year 13 cloned their own cauliflower plants from a very small fragment of a floret. The method is simple but it is really important to follow the steps to make sure you do not get any contamination.

Students said

'It was really exciting to be able to clone something.'

'It grew perfectly! It had the potential to be the best cauliflower.'

'I really enjoyed carrying out the techniques.'



Years 7 & 8: Croydon Schools Relay Competition

On Wednesday, Relay teams from Year 7 and Year 8 competed in the Croydon Schools Relay Competition.

Each year group ran in a 4 x 100m relay and a medley relay. This is a new event and very challenging. It is 1 x 200m, 1 x 300m, 1 x 800m and another 200m run to finish! Really tough!

All competitors did really well and were a credit to the school. Particular mention to the Year 8 medley relay team (Keona, Zara, Olivia and Isobel) who came **SECOND!**



Year 7 squad



Year 8 medal winners



4 x 100m Year 8

Years 7, 8 & 9: Food Technology

To date, Year 7 have made a delicious and nutritious Fruit Salad, Year 8 have produced some lovely Fruity muffins and Year 9 have been designing and making their own dishes. So far their themes have been "Vegetarian" and "Gluten Free". They are really enjoying their lessons; it's been a while since they have been able to enjoy cooking and baking at school due to Covid but I think you'll agree their dishes all look very appetising!

Well done to all and we look forward to seeing many more delicious dishes this term.



Year 7: Drum Concert



On Wednesday 27 March, Year 7 students were invited to watch an unforgettable drum concert. Performed by students ranging from Year 7 to Year 12, every performance was a thrilling and unique experience. Mr. Pachnine (the drum teacher), states that he was 'really proud of all his students,' especially considering that a lot of them started less than a year ago.'

Myself, Inaaya K and Inaaya H (a trio band) played together for the first time. Inaaya said that it was a 'really exciting moment for her'. This show was a great success and we look forward to seeing many more future drummers.

Zoya Year 7

Year 13: Flash Mob



Year 13 surprised everyone with an impressive Flash Mob in the dining room

Year 12: Sports Leaders - Tennis

The Sports Leaders and some of the Year 12 students volunteered to umpire a tennis match on Friday. Our first step was to learn the rules of umpiring and it was quite difficult for some of us to grasp the concept.

However, after a few practices, all of us were capable of umpiring tennis matches between students from Years 3 & 4. Although standing for a long period of time was quite tiring, we all developed our resilience and did not give up encouraging the young tennis players during matches, keeping an eye on the score, and deciding which side of the court players had to serve from. I found the experience to be very interesting!

Abhirrha, Year 12



Table Tennis

Last month, I travelled to Wolverhampton to compete in the English Schools Table Tennis Individual National Finals.

The competition started with a round robin: this is where the competitors in each age group are split into groups of 5 or 6 and you play everyone in your group, with the top two players continuing into the knockout rounds. Each group had a seeded player in it; however, there weren't many U19 groups in total as our age group is very small. I had six players in my group meaning I got to play five matches.

The scores were as follows:

Match 1 – Loss 0-3

Match 2 – Loss 1-3

Match 3 – Loss 1-3

Match 4 – Loss 0-3 (vs seeded player who is in the England Junior squad. I scored most points against her out of everyone in my group.)

Match 5 – Win 3-0

There were 40 players in total for the U19's, and because I came 4th in my group (by match points total) I am within the top 40 U19 table tennis players in the country. It was my first time competing at national level, but I really enjoyed the experience and hope to qualify for it again next season.

lone, Year 12



Year 12: Sports Leaders - Swimming

The Sports Leaders Level 3 group helped with Pre School swimming learning about staff-to-pupil ratios with younger students and being aware of hazards and risks when working with them. They interacted really well with the children and the younger girls really enjoyed having the Year 12s in the pool helping them with their water confidence!

Sports Leaders Level 3 is a new course running this year. Students learn about aspects of leadership within sport and the community.



Year 9: Sport

Our Year 9 students are enjoying the chance to use the Old Whits ground this Summer term. They really enjoyed practising their shot putt technique, ahead of Sports Day in June.



This Week in History... **Berlin Blockade Ends**

On 12 May 1949 the Soviet Union lifted its blockade of Berlin after 462 days. The Allies had flown in 278,000 supply planes to keep West Berlin supplied.

Swim Camp

Last month, I had the opportunity to take part in an international swim camp in Turkey with my swimming club. It was a really exciting experience: the airport, the plane ride, the training etc was a great chance to enhance my swimming and to boost my friendships with both my teammates and my coaches.

We were all so excited to go to Turkey so the airport was a very thrilling part of our trip. Our plane was delayed so we arrived in Turkey a lot later than we expected, so we never got the early night our coaches intended!

The next three days were just; swim, eat, gym, repeat. The work was challenging but I enjoyed every second of it. We were doing a 1-hour gym session and two, 2-hour swim sessions every day so our coaches were not going easy on us.

The last two days were when the thunder started to kick in. We slept and woke up to a storm outside but, fortunately, we were still able to train and go by our normal schedule.

Unfortunately, the last day arrived and we had to come home. It was great being able to see my family again, but I wasn't too happy about saying goodbye to the camp. I made many memories and improvements at the camp, and it was an experience I will never forget.

Evie, Year 9



Year 9: Bronze DofE Expedition



Students in Year 9 completed their Qualifying expedition last weekend and all did really well.

Here is a comment from the AAP running the expedition:

Congratulations to all participants for completing your Bronze Qualifying Expedition! We hope participants enjoyed the expedition and the good weather.

The instructors feedback was that they were a great group who received praise from members of the public due to their good behaviour and positive approach to the expedition.

This Week in History...

VE Day

On 8 May 1945 Nazi Germany surrendered, ending World War II in Europe after 6 years of fighting.



Maths Puzzle Fun page XX Answer

$$(2 \times 1 + 6) \times 6 = 48$$

$$() + - \times \div$$

Last week's winner was Zara in Year 7.

Open Morning

Pre School & Preparatory

Thursday, 9 June
9.00-10.30am

www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions/open-days