



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



The Women in Sport week has been very popular at Old Palace and has shown just how much the students here enjoy sport both in school and outside as do the staff, who also rose to the challenges of the week.

Drama is also very popular at Old Palace and so please do read the Drama Supplement which showcases the wonderful Drama festival that took place a few weeks ago. I was privileged to see the students perform and was very impressed.

At the start of this coming week we have the pleasure of welcoming the new Year 7s for their induction day as they start their Old Palace journey and then at the weekend we have the OPA Summer reunion where alumni of the school come together to meet and share memories of the school spanning many years. As the past two were cancelled due to Covid, this year will be particularly special.

Jane Burton, Head

Seniors Drama Festival 2022



Read the Drama Festival supplement here:

https://www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/FINAL_ATP-Drama-Supplement-2022.pdf

Women in Sport Week 2022

In some ways every week at Old Palace is Women in Sport Week! But this week we have done a number of different activities to allow students a wider experience of physical activity.

Every breaktime the Year 12 Sports Leaders have run activities for students from all year groups to have a go at.

These were:

- The BIG SKIP
- Speed Bounce Challenge
- Corridor Sprint
- Speed Stacking coordination test

Well done to all those who took part! There will be prizes and house points!

Some lessons were a little different –

Year 8 had a session on Self defence; Year 9 had a cardio tennis session and we are hoping that Year 10 will have a yoga/pilates session. Year 12s had a session of trampolining.



On Thursday the Sixth Form challenged the staff to a Swimming relay challenge. This was won by the Sixth Form, but much fun was had by all. In addition we have had a quiz based on pictures around the school.

Alongside this programme lunchtime and after school clubs ran as normal with fixtures happening as well!

Participation in Sport is so important to prevent a sedentary lifestyle! Well done to everyone who joined in!



Join us at the OPA Summer Reunion



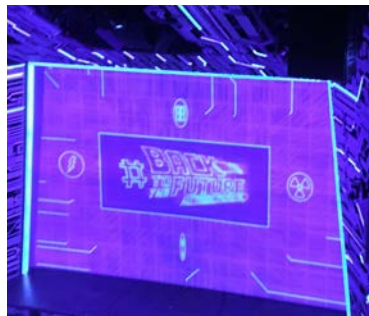
Saturday, 25 June 2022
at 12noon | £25.00 per head

- Drinks Reception
- Buffet Lunch
- Tour of Old Palace

Tickets/further information, email: nberry@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk



GCSE & A Level Drama: *Back to the Future the Musical*



On Monday, 13th June students in Years 10 and 12 went to see '*Back to the Future the Musical*' at the Adelphi Theatre in London.

This was an exciting opportunity for GCSE and A-Level Drama students to see a West End musical that was both creative and entertaining. The musical is based on the classic film of the same name.

The time is 1985, the location – picturesque Hill Valley, CA, USA. Marty Mcfly is a loser. His dad is a loser. His mom, sister and brother are losers. When his friend, madcap inventor Doc Brown, accidentally transports

Marty back to 1955, Marty must save his parents and his family from themselves and get back to the future.

Year 10 and 12 students had seen the film, but enjoyed the re-telling of this tale and the musical numbers. Students were also blown away by the technical elements, which were truly a wonder.

The Drama department runs several enrichment trips to see musicals and straight plays throughout the academic year for various year groups. We look forward to welcoming you on the next one.



Some of the students who attended the trip: Adjoa A and Grace B (Year 10); Emily B, Chloe-Marie R, Tilly L, Anna G and Mya A (Year 12)

Well Done Bethany



"On the 11th of June, I competed in the Surrey Schools Athletics Championship, finishing second overall. I set a personal best of 25.18m on the day. Given that I don't frequently practise javelin, this was a really good performance for me".

Bethany, Year 10

The next stage would be for Bethany to represent Surrey at the English Schools Athletics Meet but unfortunately Bethany is unable to go due to other sporting commitments.

Huge congratulations Bethany!

Futures Café Open for Business...



In September, following a switch around of rooms and refurbishment of the area outside Shah Z, a designated area was allocated for Careers planning meetings, known as the Futures Café.

Over the autumn term Year 13 took advantage of this quiet area to discuss upcoming university applications with Mrs Williams. In the spring term Year 11 and then Year 12 were invited to individual targeted career planning meetings to discuss their Post 16 and Post 18 options, with Year 9 also 'dropping in' for support with their GCSE options.

In the summer term, the refurbishment of the area continued and the walls were decorated with careers relevant material using recycled A2 poster frames and noticeboards. Five displays are now filled with posters detailing jobs related Drama, Science, Music, Engineering, English, Geography, History etc. The noticeboard will be used to advertise upcoming careers events, currently emailed to students, such as the latest university subject tasters, webinars and virtual work experience opportunities.

Behind the decorated screens there are three comfortable chairs and a small table, just like a café, only with a water dispenser rather than expensive coffee. We have added the last three years of university destinations, as well as a career planner and how to choose A-Levels and GCSEs to the screens to make this an area of interest for all students.

In addition, the career noticeboards outside Shah Z were updated, one with Higher Education and Post 18

information related to Sixth Form.

The second board has a display of the careers Year 12 are considering, which was put together using the slides from the Career presentations Year 12 did in their career's lessons in the autumn term.

The younger students, whilst waiting for their art class in Shah X, have already started to take an interest in the information in this area. Inspired by the displays, we can hear their conversations about university, apprenticeships and careers, whilst we work in Shah Z.

To signpost other students to come and have a look at this new area, posters will be put up around the school, with a bright green one already up on the wall at the bottom of the Shah stairs. The Futures Café has already been a real success with Year 11-13, and we hope all students will use this space to discover more about their future career path.



Careers Library in the Guard Room

With a redistribution of the books in the Guard Room and Friends library, there is now room for a dedicated careers area for careers related literature. Older books have been removed and more additions made to the current stock, with some of these requested by Year 9.

As well as careers information, we have a number of books on CVs, interviews, work experience etc., helping to prepare for future work, and on choosing A-levels, GCSEs, university degrees and taking a GAP Year.

To provide a comfortable area to look at the reference books, Ms Chevalier and Mrs Williams decided to put the books in

the Guard room next to the seated area. We plan to add a list of suggested websites for further research, reading lists for specific careers, degrees and brochures and magazines.

Once all new books have been registered these will be available to either refer to whilst in the library or borrow for a short period. Although, the most up to date information will always be available via the internet, we hope the books we have will both inspire and encourage students to look at a variety of careers.

Year 12: BioSoc - Electrophoresis

During BioSoc, our Year 12 students practised the technique known as Electrophoresis.

Chloe-Marie explains the method: "After a DNA segment has been digested using a restriction enzyme, the resulting fragments can be examined using a laboratory method called gel electrophoresis, which is used to separate pieces of DNA according to their size."



Inayah continues: "The technique that we practiced involved using a micropipette to load DNA samples into wells inside of agarose gel. The agarose gel was placed in a tank and submerged in an electrolyte solution. An electrical current was applied to the tank which enabled the negatively charged DNA fragments to move towards the positive electrode. As smaller DNA fragments can travel through the gel faster than larger fragments, the fragments could be separated to form bands. These bands could then be used to compare similarities and differences in DNA."



Clubs: Spotlight on... Chess



This year, Chess Club has been revived on Thursday afternoons. The students have learned the basics of chess, including the names and moves of the pieces, and developed their skills. In the sessions there are various forms of chess we play, including blitz games against the clock and longer games where players get more of a chance to think through their moves.

More advanced players have learned complex openings such as the Ruy Lopez, the Sicilian and the Scandinavian. They have also seen the benefits of proper chess notation and replaying games.

In the sessions we also play chess games like reverse chess, swap chess and long chess

The sessions are free, at 4pm on Thursdays in Durham.

Old Palace Summer Concert

Monday, 20th June 7pm at Croydon Minster

Come and enjoy a programme of entertaining musical performances from the talented musicians at Old Palace Senior School.

The concert will include some superb solo performances, chamber music, orchestral music and beautiful choral singing. Our varied programme will take you on a musical journey, which will include pieces by Mozart and Holst, some Hebrew Love Songs, and added Caribbean flavour from our Steel Pans ensemble.

All are welcome!



This Week in History... Signing of the Magna Carta, June 15, 1215

This famous document limited the power of King John and established the principle that even monarchs had to act within the law and respect some fundamental rights and privileges of the people.



Old Palace PTA Summer Fair

*Saturday, 2nd July @
prep (CR2 7YN)*

11 am - 3 pm

Summer Fair

Hot food, Entertainment, Games,
Toy & Bottle Tombolas, Books,
Gift Stalls, Afternoon Tea, Ice
Lollies, Henna & Many more...

Senior
Students/Staff
& Parents -
Host your own
stall @
the fair

Entry £1 (Students/Children & Adults)

**We urgently need VOLUNTEERS
to help run our stalls. Pls text
07576150903 to express an
interest in volunteering with us**

**DONATIONS WANTED
New & Preloved toys,
Story books, Gift items
for the Raffle, etc..**

**Please do consider joining the PTA Committee @ the AGM in
October 2022**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Year 12: A Level Biology Students Visit Box Hill

On Thursday 12th May, the Year 12 Biology students had the opportunity to visit Juniper Hall at Box Hill to complete our A Level practical work.

Once we arrived at Box Hill, we first had a short introduction to inform us of what we would be doing for the day. Then, we walked up to the woodlands where we began our sampling.

To do our sampling, we had to work in groups and randomly place quadrats on the woodland floor. Then we had to measure certain factors, such as soil depth, soil temperature, plant height and percentage leaf coverage.

This was a very enjoyable experience, and it was very interesting to put all the sampling techniques we learned in class into practice. After we did the sampling, we walked to the top of Box Hill to eat our lunch where we enjoyed a beautiful view and nice sunshine.

Overall, this was a really great trip which allowed us to develop our understanding of the topic in a fun and practical way.

Quotes from students

"Being at Juniper Hall was an amazing experience as we were able to have a great guide who explained the biodiversity topic beautifully. Completing the Practical on such a beautiful day whilst seeing the scenery was amazing" **Akshita**

"I really enjoyed the practical, as it allowed me to put into practice my sampling skills, and I enjoyed looking at the pretty scenery" **Apaarna**



Community News

Student Leadership Team Training Day

This week, our new student leadership team participated in a leadership training day. The students received advice from Mrs Burton, before embarking on a Shackleton themed journey to explore the qualities that can make a successful leader. Through a series of practical activities, they learnt about perseverance, endurance, communication and the importance of planning and reflecting on projects.

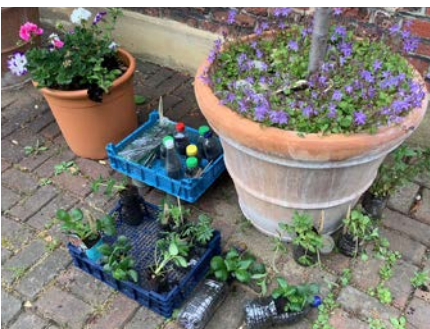
A thorough enjoyable day was had by all, and the school awaits their plans for the year ahead with great anticipation!



Geography Club

Geography Club have been continuing to work on their plastics project this term. They have been experimenting with reusing plastic bottles as flower pots to make a 'plastic garden'.

The early results look promising and we hope to be harvesting our strawberries soon.....



Year 7 & 8: Croydon Schools Cricket Tournament

On Tuesday, some students from Year 7 and Year 8 competed in a Croydon Schools Cricket Tournament.

Old Palace came third and there was some excellent playing such as many fours and sixes. In addition, there was some first-class bowling. Our first match was a success, and our others were very close, securing us for third.

The tournament was a good learning experience for us all, and hopefully next year, we will get a higher place.



Year 10: Silver DofE

Well done to the Year 10 students for completing their practice and qualifying expeditions as part of their Silver DofE! Their expeditions saw them walking the pathways of the South Downs and the New Forest.

Lots of new skills were learned and I gather the Qualifying Expedition went much better than the practice one – less number of times getting lost!

All students managed to feed themselves and their team over a three day period and they also had to create a small presentation to their assessor. Here is just one verse from a song that one group wrote about their experiences...

DofE Song Presentation

Verse 1:

*DofE you've taught us so,
we walk and see the flowers grow
We hear the moos and oinks
from farms,
and appreciate mother nature's charm*

Chorus:

*The Queen's late husband Prince Phil,
why do you make us walk up hills?
It only shines our CV,
but all this torture how can it be?*



Year 7: Sutton Life PSHE

On Thursday for PSHE my class and the rest of Year 7 went to Sutton Life Centre.

It was a very exciting experience and we all thoroughly enjoyed it! We were taught about the choices we will come across in life and how to ensure we make sensible choices. We went through many different rooms with scenarios of choices that people had made.

There was a house with a kitchen, bedroom, living room and dining room. In the kitchen we were taught about eating healthy food, then we were led to the living room where we were reminded about fire safety. Suddenly, fake smoke came out of a machine and surprised us all!

We were then led to the dining room and bedroom where we were taught about internet safety and how to call Childline if anyone ever needed help.

In the second part of the afternoon, we went downstairs and we were taught about how to make good choices on public transport and what to do if... This was really practical and helpful.

We sat on a fake train platform and watched a dramatic video. Then we were led into the street section, and we watched another video on street safety and being street-wise.

Finally, we all went into a room to learn about the environment where a film was being displayed on all four walls. It was all really interactive.

It was a fantastic school trip and we all enjoyed it. Thank you Mrs Talleux,

Mrs. Solari, Mrs. Stevens, Miss Orr and Ms. Chevalier for taking us on such a fantastic trip, and to Mrs Stark who organised it as part of our PSHE curriculum.

Maya, Year 7



On Thursday, Year 7 went on an unforgettable trip to Sutton Life Centre. Throughout the two hours which we spent there, we learnt a variety of important life-lessons, that would come vital to know as we get older. In a nutshell, here is a sum up of everything we did. From safety rules when around trains, to eco-tips, to the importance of why issues such as theft, drugs and bullying are such appalling things and a lot more.

Did you know that anyone over 10 years old can be arrested for carrying a knife with them in public? Did you know that it takes a train a distance of approximately 20 football pitches to stop? Well we learnt that, many more mind-blowing facts and so much more.

Each class was put into a different room and students would view educational videos about real-life problems. While some videos were acted out by people - showing scenarios of what kind of issues people of our age might face, we also saw real CV footage of people causing criminal offences and we watched videos of people telling true stories about problems that they faced growing up.

All in all, this trip was a memorable, compelling trip that none of us will forget soon.

Zoya, Year 7



Year 9 & 10 Cricket

Year 9 and 10 had an intra year group match on Thursday with Year 10, winning by just one run!

We used the facilities at Addiscombe CC giving the players an opportunity to play on grass and experience cricket in a different environment.

There was some excellent bowling from Arabella, Anoushka, Iqra and Grace in particular – although we do need to work generally on bowling a little straighter. Just the one 6 from Grace and 4s scored by Tahalia and Iqra.

Well done to all who took part.



The PTA Needs Your Help...

Summer Fair: The PTA urgently requires volunteers to help run stalls at the Summer Fair.

If you are able to help, please text: 07576150903.

PTA Committee: Please do consider joining the PTA committee. Find out more by coming to our AGM in October.

Second hand uniform sale: Donations needed!

Also: new & preloved toys/story books/gift items for the raffle



Old Palace
PTA

Maths Puzzle Fun

Which number should replace the question mark?



Answer on page 12

Year 7: Croydon Harriers



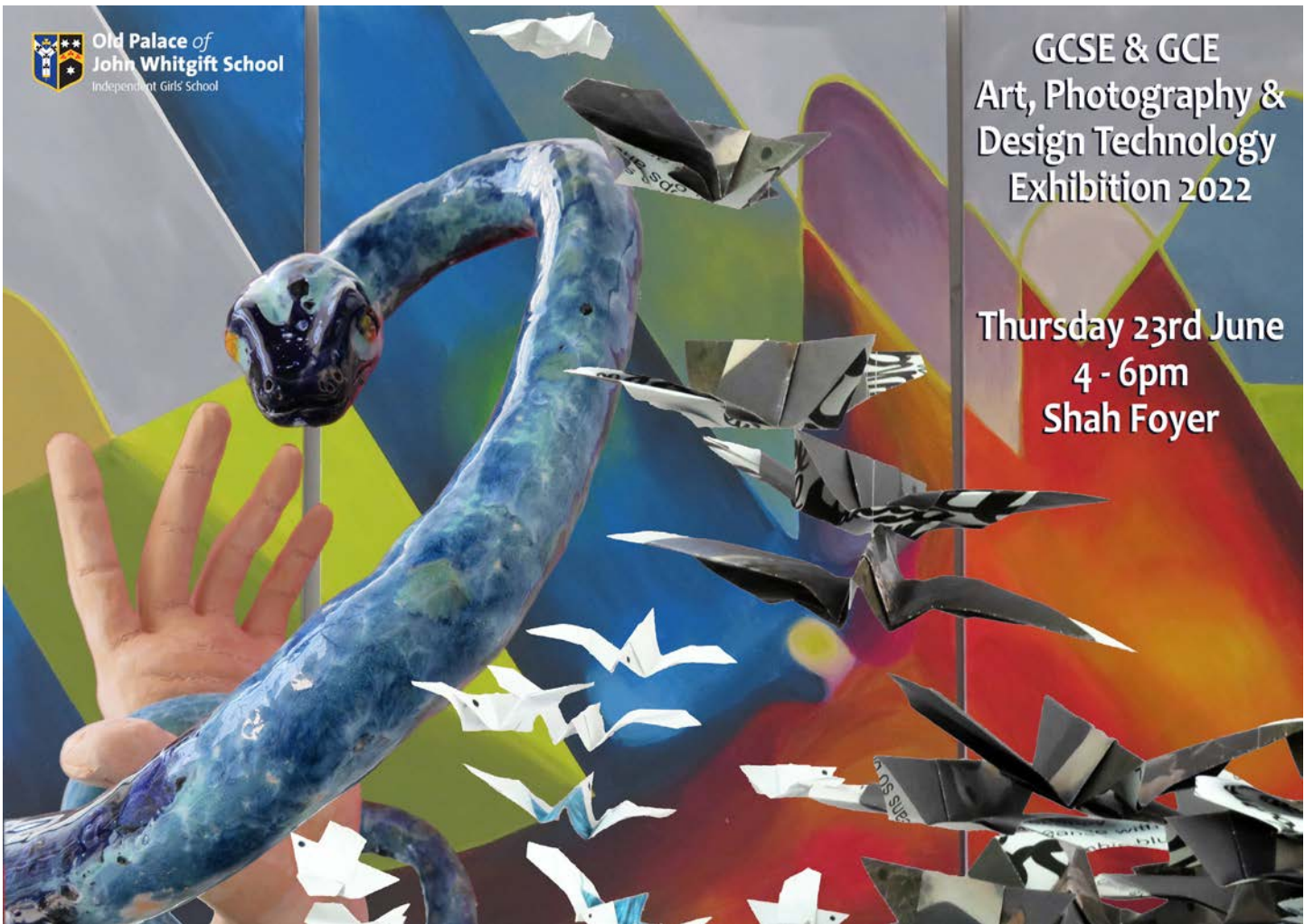
Natalya, Rachel and I recently joined Croydon Harriers. Croydon Harriers is an Athletics club based in Croydon, England. It was founded in 1920 and is located at Croydon Sports Arena. I attend the club every week on a Tuesday and a Thursday.

We chose to join this club to improve our running skills as we are athletes and enjoy running. Another reason why we joined the club is because it is great practise for upcoming athletic fixtures.

We start with warm ups and then go on to strides, which is a short acceleration practise during which you over-exaggerate your running form for a prescribed period of time. Then the girls and boys do separate sprints.

I have found the club extremely beneficial and will continue attending it throughout the year.

Yumayu, Year 7



This Week in History... Britain votes to stay in the EU

On 5 June, 1975, Britain held its first referendum on whether to stay in the EU (then the EC). Britain voted to remain by 67% to 33%.



Maths Puzzle Fun page 11 Answer

The answer is **9**

The winner last time was **Catherine** in Year 7.