



AROUND THE PALACE Year 7 Special Bulletin



Letters from the Head Girls



Dear all,

This Old Palace Bulletin has been specially created for prospective students (and their families) who have been offered a place at Old Palace for Year 7.

It contains many articles written by current Year 7 & Year 8 students and their form tutors and will hopefully excite you even more about joining us in the autumn. Over the past few months, we have had the pleasure of interviewing you all and we know what a wide range of abilities and interests you already have. You've also told me about what things you are excited about learning and discovering when you come to Old Palace. This Bulletin should help you learn more about what awaits you in September and the years ahead.

I very much hope that you enjoy reading this.

Jane Burton, Head

Keep up to date with all the latest Old Palace news in our fortnightly bulletin and/or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

<https://www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/whats-on/weekly-bulletin/>



Suraiya - Joint Head Girl

Hello! My name is Suraiya, and I am one of the joint Head Girls at Old Palace.

I remember how nervous I felt at the start of Year 7, but my nerves very quickly eased as the teachers and older students would always look out for us, directing us to the right classrooms and providing a helping hand. There is such a strong sense of community within our school, which is perhaps the most special part of Old Palace.

My best piece of advice to you all would be to enjoy this new chapter in your life. Immerse yourself in the Old Palace community by joining a variety of clubs and trying new things. It's completely okay to feel shy or nervous about being in Senior school, but don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. It's one of the best ways to find your passions outside of the classroom and to make friends throughout the school.

My fondest memories were from participating in lots of school plays from Years 7 to 11. These opportunities boosted my confidence as a person, formed some of my closest friendships and shaped me into the person I am today. Throughout your time at Old Palace, you will come across countless opportunities to collaborate with your peers and develop important life skills, and I would encourage you all to seize any opportunity that comes your way.

Having been offered a place at Old Palace, it is clear to me that every single one of you has such a bright future ahead of you, and that you are all capable of achieving your aspirations. It has been such an honour to give back to Old Palace by being a Head Girl, and I wish you all the best of luck as you develop into strong, intelligent, and confident individuals.



Suraiya in Year 7



Suraiya in Year 13

Alison - Joint Head Girl

Hello! My name is Alison and I am one of the joint Head Girls at Old Palace. I joined Old Palace in Year 4 and have been enjoying my time here ever since.

Although I had the comfort of already knowing people and being familiar with my environment; as always, starting Year 7 was a daunting time. However, everyone is in the same boat and there are many people around to help you.

No matter how scared you may be, make sure you get involved with the Old Palace experience as much as possible. There are many clubs, societies and activities that are fun, exciting and rewarding. Year 7 is an important time as you get accustomed to being in Senior School. I made some of my favourite memories in Year 7 through netball matches, drama lessons and lunch time with my friends. But do not put pressure on yourself to do too much; everybody is different. Old Palace has great pastoral support with many people to talk to if you ever need it - your form tutor, Head of Year, pastoral staff and the Student Leadership Team.

The opportunities at Old Palace are endless - from trips, dance or drama productions to concerts - and the School provides an amazing sense of community, surrounded by like-minded students who you will build great bonds with over the years.



Alison in Year 7



Alison in Year 13

Welcome New Year 7 Students (Sept 2022)

Our Year 7 pupils are invited to Old Palace in the June before they start so that they can spend a day getting to know the School, their teachers and fellow class mates. This means that when they start Year 7 in September, they are already familiar with where to go, who is in their class and who their form teacher is.



When girls start at Old Palace, they receive their own lanyard in the colour of their house, which gives them access to the different buildings and acts as a swipe card so they can buy lunch and snacks.

Christmas is fun at Old Palace

The last few weeks of the autumn term are great fun, as there are always so many exciting events leading up to Christmas.



This year (December 2022) events for Year 7 students ranged from making Christmas decorations and a festive House Quiz, to Christmas lunch with all the trimmings and the famous Old Palace Carol Service at Croydon Minster.

Student Librarians raise money for Poppy Appeal



There are so many opportunities for Year 7 & Year 8 students to get involved in raising money. The annual Poppy Appeal is just one of them.

OPA Associate Alumnae Year 7 Afternoon



On Founder's Day, we held the annual OPA Associate Alumnae Afternoon for Year 7 pupils.

This is a long-established tradition at Old Palace which involves members of our alumnae kindly giving up their time to come and talk to the students about memories of their time at the School.

The girls heard some fascinating stories about the old brown uniform: having to walk into town to the swimming pool and how cold the School was in the winter. But perhaps the most important story they

heard from all our alumnae was about the friendships they made at Old Palace; how they were so important in later life and that they were definitely something to cherish.

The students really enjoyed themselves, helped along by muffins and the gift of a beautiful Michaelmas daisy badge.



Community News

House News

Every pupil starting at Old Palace joins one of four houses: Anselm, Hatton, Laud or Stafford. The girls in your House become like your extended family and it's also a great way to get know students in other year groups.

There are so many fun House events for Year 7 & 8 including Benchball, The Bake Off, House Netball, Sports Day and Big House gameshow, the House Swimming Gala and even Waterpolo.

In summer 2022, the hotly contested House trophy was awarded to...Stafford!



Lunch time and after-school Clubs

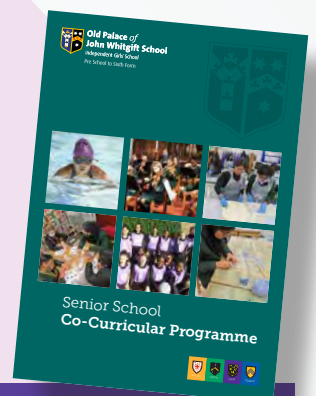
Clubs are an important part of the Old Palace experience. They are a fantastic way to try out new things and make new friends. There are over 70 lunchtime and after-school clubs, so there really is something for everyone!

Year 7 clubs include:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Book Club | Eco Club |
| Chess | Steel Pans |
| Fashion Club | Psychology |
| Lego | Charity Committee |
| Dungeons & Dragons | Book |
| Textiles | Football |
| Year 7 & 8 Choir | Cricket |
| Year 7 & 8 Dance | Netball |
| Year 7 & 8 Drama | Swimming |
| Computer Science | Waterpolo |



“One thing I love about Old Palace are the clubs on offer. There is always a club for every hobby, such as swimming or knitting. I have joined the Year 7-8 choir as I enjoy singing.”



Our Programme of Clubs Booklet

If you're reading this on-line then just click [here](#) to read our latest Clubs booklet.

If you're reading a physical copy of the magazine and would like to see our Clubs booklet, go to the Co-Curricular page of the Senior School section of our website:

www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk

Dance

Year 7 & 8: Celebration of Dance



The Year 7 and Year 8 dance students have worked extremely hard this year, developing their physical and expressive skills and making good progress. Some of the students had the opportunity to perform in the Prizegiving Ceremony at the end of term.

Year 7 students performed a rendition of

the powerful professional work *Shadows* that they have been studying.

The students demonstrated great dedication, strength and spatial awareness and really worked as a team to bring the performance together.

The Year 8 students performed a Musical Theatre inspired Jazz routine from the

dance curriculum and showed great expressive skills with precise musicality and joyful facial expressions.

Well done to all of these dancers. It was a pleasure to see you share and celebrate your achievements in dance.

Seniors celebrate International Dance Day

Last summer, the Dance Department held the School's first ever Danceathon, celebrating International Dance Day. The 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 (even Mrs Burton), 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 movements, 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!



Eco-Schools Green Flag Award



The newly formed student Eco Committee is led by a dedicated team of Year 7 students. This year they are starting to work towards achieving an Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, which will help to make Old Palace more eco-friendly. So far the students have completed a review of our current situation, and they have measured their own carbon footprint.

They will be working on three projects in the coming months to try make our school community more engaged with this important issue.

You can also measure your carbon footprint here: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>

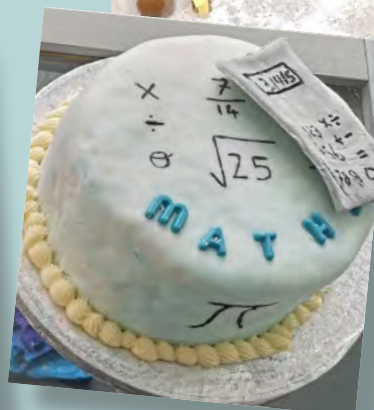
The Committee would also like to recommend these books which you may also like to read to help you become more eco-friendly:



Food Technology

January saw the return of this much anticipated annual House Bake Off competition in which teams representing the four Old Palace Houses from Years 8, 9, and 10 donned their aprons, rolled up their sleeves, and put their baking skills to the test. Up for grabs were the three Best in Year honours and the much-coveted Overall Winner award.

This year's theme was school subjects and the three teams of bakers and decorators did not disappoint. There were mathematical equations, splashes of paint on palettes, swimmers in a cake-sized fondant pool, and even a volcano eruption rendered in icing and sponge.



BP Ultimate STEM Challenge 2022



This year the BP Educational Service's Ultimate STEM Challenge invited young people to look at the things they can do locally and to use science and technology to come up with a net zero plan for their own community.

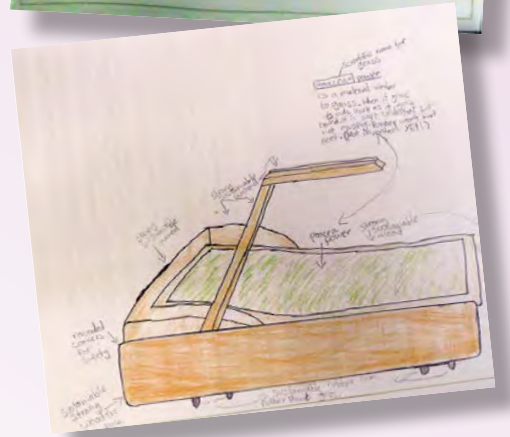
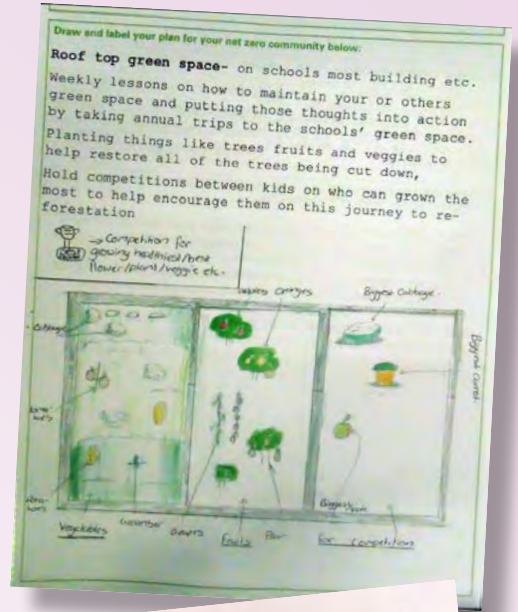
The launch of the competition coincided with the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), a critical time when scientists are telling us that climate change is one of the greatest threats the world faces, and encourages young people to get involved, take action and help to make a difference.



At Old Palace, Year 7 students submitted some extremely creative and innovative ideas including vehicles that could utilise renewable energy sources to machines that could remove and reuse plastic waste from our waters.

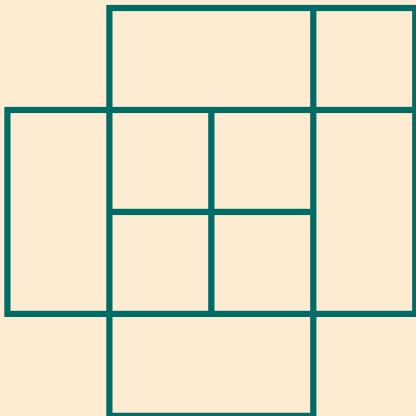
Although we did not win the overall competition, BP were really impressed with all of the entries and provided prizes and certificates for two students whose plans focussed on turning Old Palace into a net zero community.

Well done to Nailah and Maya!



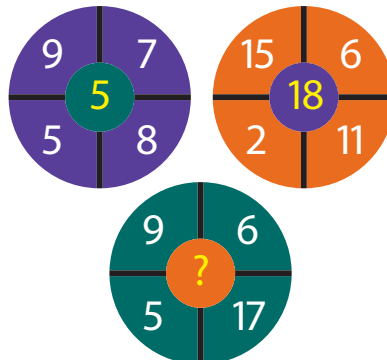
Maths Puzzle Fun *answers on page 24*

1 How many squares can you see?



2 Which of the options is the correct number to replace the ? in the centre of the last circle?

Can you explain why?



- a) 12 b) 15 c) 17 d) 19

3 What is the four-digit number in which the first digit is one-third the second, the third is the sum of the first and second, and the last is three times the second?

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4 Jayleen is older than Ali.
Ali is older than Rachel.
Rachel is younger than Jayleen.
Maria is older than Jayleen.

Write down the people in order of age from youngest to oldest.

Art

Art & DT Workshop for Whitgift House

Art and DT ran a workshop for Year 7 to create their own Christmas cards.

In the Art Studio, students created foam prints with a bauble design on, while in DT they painted laser cut baubles and decorated them with patterns.

Mrs Evangeli took the cards to the residents of Whitgift House in time for Christmas.



Matisse Workshop

The Art Department ran a Year 7 workshop inspired by Henri Matisse's paper cut outs. We looked at his abstract and playful style of working and asked students to make their own work in response.

The students created bright and abstract collages, then they developed these into stencils which will be made in to screen prints.



Sustained Tonal Drawing

Year 7 have been working hard to create detailed, sustained tonal drawings in their art classes. This year the theme is creatures, so they have all been working on a variety of insect drawings. They are mastering their observational skills and learning about proportion, mark-making and texture.



Preparing for the Future

Careers are explored from Year 7, as part of the PSHE Futures programme in the autumn and spring terms.

Starting with the meaning of aspiration, in terms of their individual future career, Year 7 students discuss the benefits of setting ambitious goals and being open to opportunities in all aspects of life. Looking at different employment sectors, they learn about the skills and qualities employers value and then reflect on their own alongside their interests and strengths.



By completing a Careers quiz girls learn about their personality type and understand how others may see them. Using this information, they explore careers and jobs that may suit their personality, examining the skills each person has and what they enjoy about the job role through a selection of videos, guides and advice.

In Year 8, students work on developing their transferable employability skills which include teamwork, organisation, research and presentation. These skills are utilised in an enterprise task; this year it was designing a new chocolate bar!

Through participating in the 'REAL Game', they are given an opportunity to consider their dream future, such

as what accommodation they would like to live in, how they would travel to work and what car they would own. After being allocated a job role with the associated monthly salary, working hours and qualifications needed, they have to calculate how they can achieve their dream.



Why we love Old Palace in the Spring

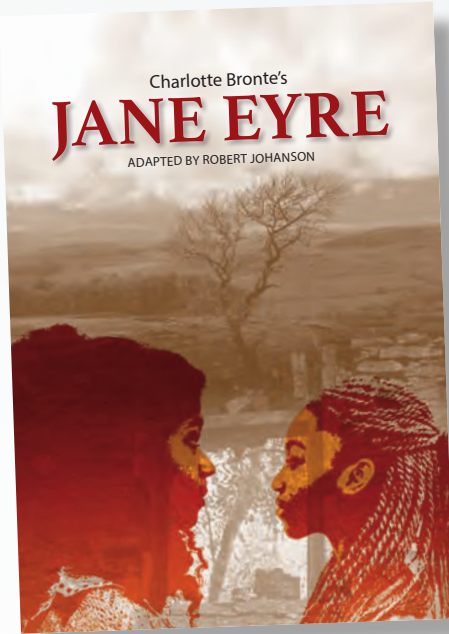


- O** is for the opportunities that every girl is given
- L** is for the laughter we hear as we are living
- D** is for the dedication that every teacher shows
- P** is for the pleasure that only these girls know
- A** is for the achievement from Reception to the end
- L** is for the love shared between all friends
- A** is for the array of activities on show
- C** is for the care we receive as we grow
- E** is for the excitement that every new day brings, no other place is like it: Old Palace in the Spring.

By Emma and Nicola, two recent Year 13 leavers, who are "very, very proud of Old Palace; always have been and always will".

Drama

In the spring term, our annual Drama production was Jane Eyre, which was performed in front of friends and family over three nights. Students were invited to audition for the roles and quite a few girls in Year 7 & 8 took part. It was a really memorable event for everyone involved.



Design Technology

In Year 7 students rotate between three areas of Design and Technology; Food, Textiles and Product Design.

Some groups began the year making a wooden planner cover whilst others started with Food Technology learning about Food and Nutrition and Healthy eating.

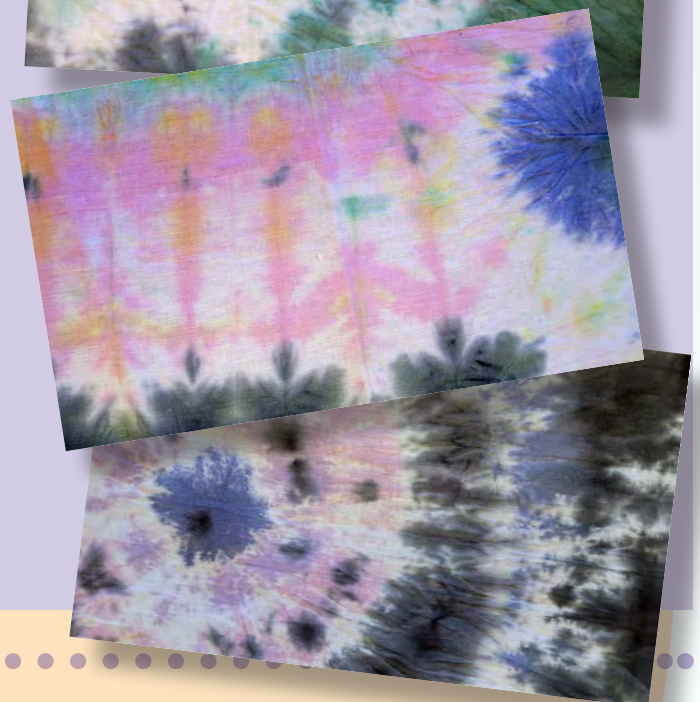
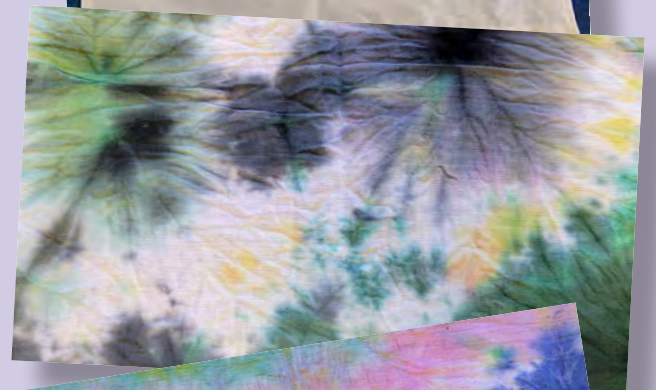
Year 7 produced some lovely dishes and bakes, starting off with a very healthy fruit salad and progressing to a flavoursome ragu sauce with pasta.

The planner cover is a lovely way in which students can personalise their school diary as they can be attached very easily. Their designs were based on the Chinese zodiac calendar.



Wooden planner covers

In Textiles, students are making an apron which can be worn in school in Food lessons and at home when cooking and baking. This project entails learning about different dyeing processes (tie dyeing and stencilling) and learning how to confidently use a sewing machine in sewing together simple seams.



The D&T department's 'Days Gone By' display highlights the value of the iterative process and of learning from the past to design for a better future.

Design Technology

In Textiles club this year, Year 7 & 8 students made a Textiles framed picture using an assortment of different fabrics.

The outcomes were really fun and made some lovely Christmas gifts for their friends and family.



In Product Design, students made and assembled a simple pocket mechanical toy whilst learning about simple mechanisms. They designed a piece of packaging to display the toy which included a vacuum formed window, thinking about how it typically could be sold in a toy shop.

Mechanical Toys

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 8W



Mrs Solari's classes continue to experiment with dyeing processes in Textiles in preparation for making their Food Tech aprons.

They were really proud to show off their tie dyed bandanas!



Year 7 - 9 Chapel Recital

In November, we held our first two Chapel Recitals of the year.

There were some superb performances from our older students, including Lloyd-Webber's haunting *Pie Jesu* duet, a gorgeous piano arrangement of

Over the Rainbow by Dave Stapleton, and the beautiful second movement from Beethoven's *Pathetique Sonata*. In the lower school recital we enjoyed a wide variety of performances from Cimarosa and Haydn to Pamela Wedgwood and Adele.

Congratulations to Anja, Catherine and Tia (Year 8), and Chloe, Kemafo, Sabrina, Sierra, Sophia & Zara (Year 7). It was also lovely to have a large supportive audience.



Year 7: Drum Concert

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), says that he was 'really proud of all his students', especially considering that many 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

Music Award Holders Workshop

Students who hold a Music Scholarship or Award, are invited to participate in regular workshops. In the autumn term, our first Music Award Holders Workshop was led by the charismatic Miss Rowsell, who took students through the soft skills that can be learnt by participating in musical activities, and how they can use musical skills for awards such as Duke of Edinburgh.

Below, Frema in Year 7 writes about her experience:



“ I went to a Music Award Holder’s Workshop about how people can use music in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. It was a really interesting experience and taught me a lot about what I can do, not only for the DofE award, but something I can do to raise money and help promote the Grade 1 Challenge. Firstly, we went over what the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme is and what it consists of. I was very surprised when I found out that it was introduced in 1956.

Then we discussed how we can use our musical skills in different parts of the Award. There are two categories music would fit into: skills and volunteering.

Then, we concluded by talking about the Grade 1 Challenge which is doing Grade 1 on an instrument that you do not learn whilst being sponsored. It was very interesting and I learned a lot for the future. ”

Year 7 Mega Choir sings in autumn concert at Croydon Minster

The autumn concert was a wonderful showcase of the many talented musicians here at Old Palace. From the Year 7 mega choir who wowed the audience with their highly professional performance of *‘Everything’*, to the Jazz band who impressed the entire Minster with their artful improvisation skills, there was an eclectic mix of music and something for everyone.

Audience members could even be heard singing along to Senior Choir’s ABBA medley, which was an iconic way to end a joyous night.

Each and every student has worked tirelessly this past term, and were very eager to finally perform the pieces they have been working on. There was a very obvious spirit of collaboration and

supportiveness amongst the body of students that the music department fosters, and students from Year 7 all the way to Year 13 could be seen performing together in orchestras and choirs.



Sport at Old Palace

U12 Netball v Coombe Wood



A big shout out to our U12A and U12B netball teams who despite the cold conditions delivered an excellent performance against Coombe Wood. Old Palace defended well in both the A and the B teams and there were some good connected passes going down the court. The U12A team won 14-0 and the U12B won 5-0. Well done OPS!



Year 7 & 8: Hockey v Croydon High



The Year 7 and Year 8 students played hockey against Croydon High. They played two great matches and there was some fantastic passing. The students tackled well, putting in some good block stick and jab tackles.

It was a great game to watch and Old Palace worked extremely hard.

Years 7 & 8: Croydon Schools Relay Competition



Year 7 squad

Last summer, the 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 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 & 8: Croydon Schools Cricket Tournament



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.

Sport at Old Palace

Croydon Athletics

Some of the Year 7 Students were invited to Croydon Athletics. The students competed in a variety of different races and did extremely well.

Natalya came 2nd in the 200m. Annie and Bella both came 2nd in the 800m race bringing back two silver medals. Kara came 2nd in the high jump and Bella came 2nd in the Discus - also winning a silver medal.

The students should be extremely proud of themselves. Fantastic results overall!



Sports Leaders Level 2

Just before half term, Sports Leaders Level 2 organised a Year 7 House benchball competition at lunchtime. Year 7 were very enthusiastic and energetic and really enjoyed it. As Sports Leaders, we used our communication, organisation and leadership skills.



Sports available at Old Palace

- Hockey • Cricket • Football
- Swimming • Water Polo
- Synchronised Swimming
- Athletics • Gymnastics
- Tennis • Table Tennis
- Badminton • Cross Country
- Fitness • Indoor Athletics

Clubs

Open Access

- Running • Netball • Cricket
- Table Tennis • Tennis
- Hockey • Gymnastics
- Football • Athletics
- Water Polo
- Swimming Skills and Drills

Selected:

- Netball Squad
- Cricket Squad
- Hockey Squad
- Swim Squad
- Water Polo Squad

Sport at Old Palace

Year 7 & 8: Swimming Gala

Our Year 7 and 8 swimmers competed in an exciting friendly swimming gala against Croydon High School.

The gala comprised of several events of all strokes, in both age groups. There was also an individual medley for each year group where one swimmer swam all four strokes in a particular order, butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and front crawl.

Competitive club swimmers Harmony and Bella swam that event for Year 7 and Year 8 respectively. Included in the gala were two relays for each age group; a medley relay and a freestyle relay, all concluding in a squadron event, comprising of eight swimmers, four from both age groups.

All students swam extremely well and had great fun competing and shouting on their fellow team mates. Also on show were our lovely new purple, green and white Old Palace logo backstroke flags - making the swimming pool look very smart!



Computing

On Tuesday 29th November, myself and other students from Year 7 and 8 attended a Curiosity Club delivered by the Computer Science Department based on CGI. We learned that the first-ever film to use CGI was *Vertigo*.

You can watch the title sequence at www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkLn8mamU78.

Visual Effects (VFX) mainly focuses on adding effects to existing imagery or film. Special Effects (SFX) is the use of illusions

It was believed that CGI was used during the late 1950s by the director Alfred Hitchcock. SFX and VFX are all used in the process to make CGI.

Interestingly, Wikipedia claims incorrectly that *Westworld* (1973) was the first movie to use CGI, when in fact it dates back to the 1950s. Computer-generated imagery has evolved in many ways since the *Vertigo* film (when it used to be an astounding accomplishment). However, now it has become normal to see computer made dinosaurs or non-humanoid creatures. In our Curiosity



Vertigo (1958) - ground breaking CGI titles!

Club, we watched many old and new clips such as the original *King Kong vs Godzilla* (1962), hence, we found out it wasn't very realistic because you could tell it was human actors messing around in 'not scary' and 'unbelievable' costumes. You can see how much special effects and therefore CGI has evolved with the pictures of *Godzilla* and *King Kong's* first movie compared to its latest.

We also discussed bad CGI and good CGI. Bad CGI is when the Computer-Generated Imagery is easy to spot or is generally bad quality such as the first version of the recent *Sonic* film trailer (in the first movie) with his intimidating and human-like features.

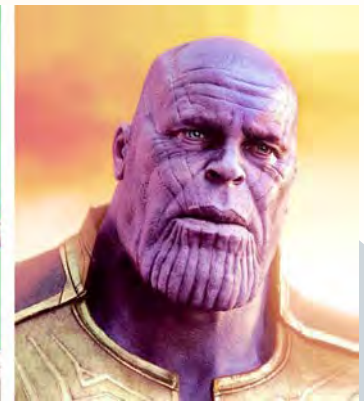


Director Alfred Hitchcock and friend

Good CGI is when it is hard to spot or it's so good you can't even tell the difference between real life and CGI. One of the best CGIs of all time was in *Avengers Endgame* with the Thanos Marvel character, which used motion capture CGI on actor Josh Brolin. Although a lot of other movies use intensive CGI to make the characters look beyond realistic!

Kemafo, Year 7

The first feature film to make use of CGI was the 1973 film *Westworld*.^[1] Other early films that incorporated CGI include *Star Wars* (1977),^[1] *Tron* (1982),^[1] *Golgo 13: The Professional* (1983),^[2] *The Last Starfighter* (1984),^[3] *Young Sherlock Holmes* (1985)^[1] and *Flight of the Navigator* (1986).^[4] The first music video to use CGI was Dire Straits' award-winning "Money for Nothing" (1985), whose success was instrumental in giving the process mainstream exposure.^[5]



The motion-capture of actor Josh Brolin as Thanos



King Kong Vs Godzilla (1962) Actors in monster suits!



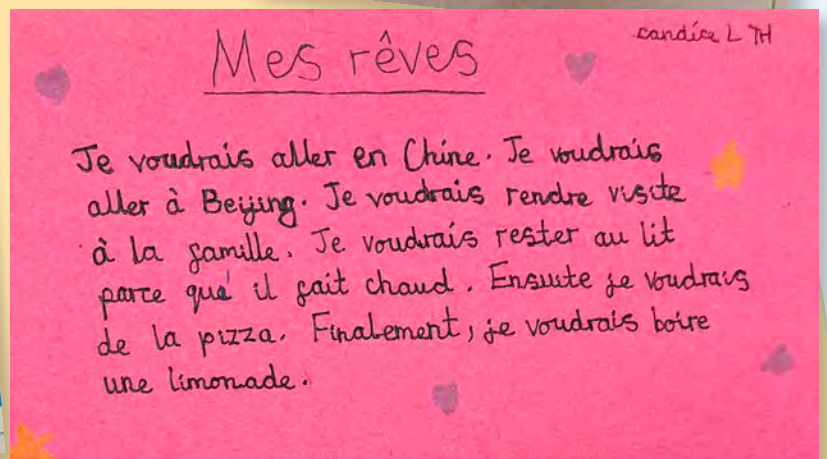
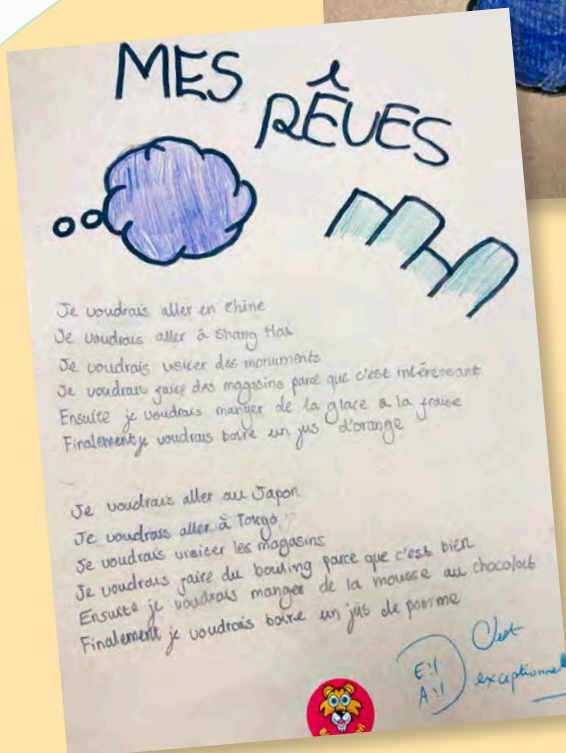
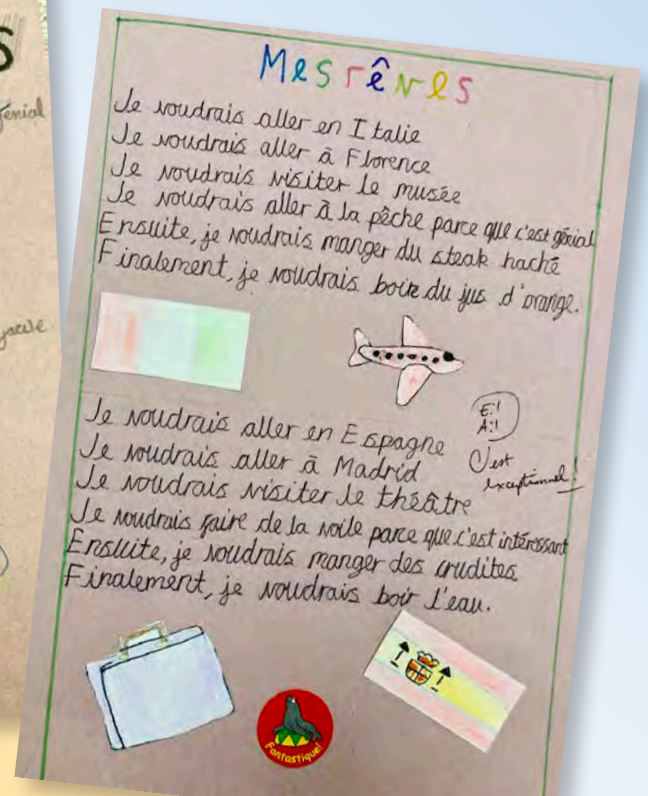
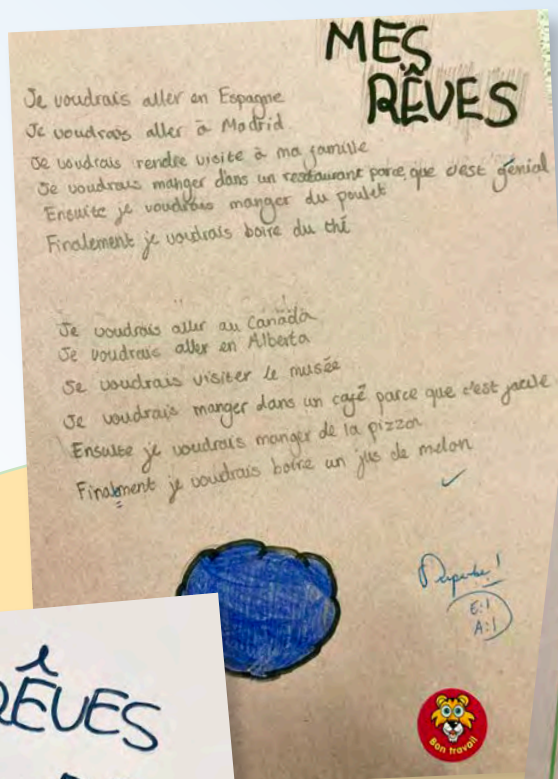
Godzilla Vs Kong (2021) Ultra-realistic CGI

Languages: French Poems

In French, we had great fun writing poems about what would be our dream holiday and where we would like to go using the conditional in the target language!

We wrote about the places we could visit on our dream holidays and made posters according to our dreams. Also, we wrote about the food and drinks that we would enjoy. We really enjoyed writing about our dreams and here you can see us holding our decorated poems.

Zara A, Year 7



French

L'Épiphanie is a celebration within the French culture that is celebrated on the 6th of January (12 days after Christmas). This is also when the Three Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem guided by the star, bearing gifts for the infant known as baby Jesus.

In France, to celebrate this special occasion, they will eat a dessert known as 'la Galette des Rois' and within the dessert will be a mini figure symbolising an element of the Three Wise Men. If found within the cake you will wear a crown, making you king or queen for the day. We made these crowns a day prior to the event and it was a nice experience and we all enjoyed learning about this new festive holiday.

Mya-Rose, Year 7



I really enjoyed learning about Epiphany. I loved learning about the galettes and how you could win a little miniature toy! I loved making the crowns because it taught me more about Epiphany! I would like to thank Madame Poirier; I really enjoyed learning about it. Tahlia

In French, we have been learning about a holiday called L'Épiphanie. The lesson inspired me to bake my own galette and to teach my family about French culture. It was really fun, and I think I was successful with it. Learning about this festival has been so exciting and inspiring for me. Ruby

Minibus Routes

We operate a minibus service for pupils over the age of 5. Where possible our minibus routes are designed around our families i.e. each year our routes are based around the demand from our pupils.

However, if you don't see where you live on the map here, do please talk to us – we are always happy to accommodate families wherever possible.



For further information, please contact: Mr Paul Bardens, Facilities Manager, Telephone: 020 8688 2027
Email: pbardens@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk

The Library



Old Palace students at the Carnegie Awards

The Library is the beating heart of the Senior School, where students from Years 7-13 can visit every break and lunch time to borrow books, use the computers for research, finish their homework and find a space for some 'time-out' thinking, creativity and calm.

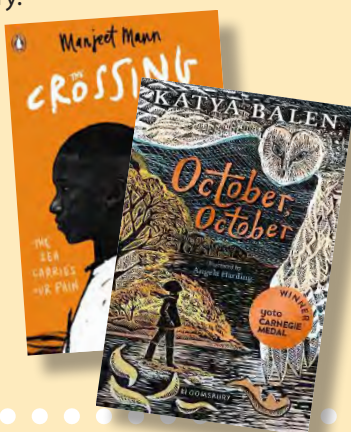
Many extra curricular clubs take place here including reading, the 'Woolly Wellbeing' group of knitters and crocheters, Dungeons & Dragons and Book Club.

Book Club allows students to read and complete book-related activities, including competitions and creative responses linked to shadowing shortlisted books from national and internationally recognised children's book awards. Shadowing takes place throughout the academic year, starting with the local Trinity Schools Book Award, followed by The Excelsior Awards and finally The Yoto Carnegie Awards, the oldest and most prestigious children's book award in the UK.

Shadowing shortlisted books allows students to read and compare books written by new and established authors from different genres, widening their reading experience and reflecting on what makes award-winning books.

Last year, Old Palace students were chosen to attend and present The Shadders' Choice Award at the Yoto Carnegie Awards 2022 at the British Library.

Reading is such an important activity that it is recommended everyone should be reading for at least 20 minutes every day. Reading fiction has been shown to bring wellbeing benefits for brain connectivity, activity and function, whilst enhancing both empathy and creativity. In short, reading benefits every part of your life!



Five Tips to get Reading:

- Find 30 minutes a day to read in, make it part of your daily routine as you would 30 minutes of fitness. 30 minutes of reading fiction has been proven to have health and mental benefits
- Make your family reading time altogether and #ReadAloud, sharing the reading experience
- Not sure what to read? Have a look at [LoveReading4Kids](#) where they suggest books from various genres with age-appropriate suggestions.
- Reading as a treat/wellbeing time: Put digital devices away, make yourself a cup of your favourite drink, create a comfy reading corner and take out your book to read for 30 minutes
- Always carry a book with you in your bag at all times: Stuck in a queue? On the tram? Take out your book and escape into a different world. Download an eBook / audio book* to your phone/device

*ebooks/audiobooks can be borrowed for free from your local library or Old Palace students can download them from our ePlatform

Books for Free

Join your local public library: for a vast range of fiction (and non-fiction) to download as eBooks, audiobooks, comics, graphic novels. Join and borrow for free!
(Under 16's will need parents to sign up on their behalf – councils vary)

Year 7: Go-Ape

On the 30th September, Year 7 enjoyed their first trip as a year group to the ever-popular Go-Ape in Crawley.

I was surprised to see that the Treetop adventure course was not as high as I thought it would be, but first I went on the walk around the lake. Then I was up next for the Treetop course. I got more and more excited and scared as it got closer and closer to the challenge. It was okay on the sturdy parts, but extremely scary on the wobbly ones. The zipwire for me was the best part. I loved it all and I will never forget my first trip in Year 7.

Frema, Year 7L



We walked along some scary platforms; although it doesn't look high, it certainly felt like it! During the trip, we were able to interact with our friends and support them if they felt frightened walking across wooded platforms on the tree top adventure course or zipping down the zipwire. If someone was slow on the obstacle courses, we were considerate of them and guided them if they needed it.

Kemafo, Year 7S

When we got there, we were surprised to find Go-Ape was in a park. We especially liked the lake as it was 'shimmering beautifully' but everyone agreed the highlight was the tree course.

The treetop was a mix of bridges, swings and even a zipline and in my opinion it was petrifying because after going down a zipline around 10ft in the air, you would fall on your back-side! But learning to

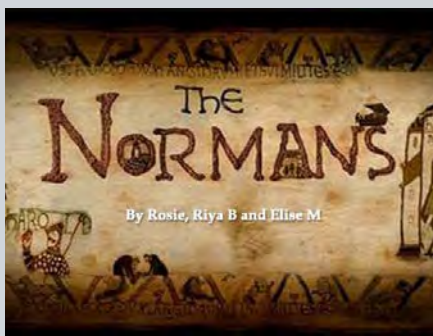
face fear is a positive thing, so I am happy I did it. There were also team games! One of them required you to walk along with four other people at a consistent speed and foot pattern. You had to be connected to your teammates or you would fail this race. At the end of the day we were all tired and worn out. But 10/10 would go again.

Nhyira, Year 7S

History

Year 7 have made a great start to the academic year in History. As part of our thematic curriculum, students looked first at the topic of Empires. This included evaluating the British empire but also took in the Mughal, Ottoman, and Malian empires.

We then moved on to migration, where students engaged with both the history of the Israeli-Palestine conflict and the experience and legacies of the Windrush migration.



During the spring term we will be looking at monarchy and students will be presenting a PowerPoints on different royal families.

Next term, Year 7 will be uncovering the fascinating history that exists within their own families! These family history projects involve students spending quality time talking to their relatives to discover what their own families have been through. Each student then produces a PowerPoint presentation that documents the fascinating lives their relatives have led. Previous years have included tales of war and migration, as well as the jaw-dropping realities of everyday life before phones and computers! To end the project, students will practice their public speaking skills as they share their presentations with each other.



A View From Year 7

“ When I started in Year 7 I felt excited but nervous at the same time! I remember the first day being a new and fun experience. I especially enjoyed meeting new people, but I also felt scared and thought I would never find my way around the school.

My advice to someone new is just to relax. Everyone at Old Palace is super supportive, friendly and kind and will always be willing to help you.

There are many clubs on offer but one of my favourite clubs is Cheerleading as I love to dance and the moves are really fun. My favourite subject is PE because of the wide range of sports including gymnastics in the winter and cricket in the summer.

Akshita

I was quite nervous as I didn't know anyone. I remember the first friend I made was Yea and from there I moved on to become a Form Leader and interact with more people. I wasn't worried about anything because I was told the older students would help me and they did.

Mya-Rose

“ When I first started at Old Palace I was extremely worried, but as soon as I joined, I automatically felt a wave of relief! Everyone was so welcoming, and it made me feel warm inside. Another worry of mine was getting around the school; it's so big! But a word of advice; ask the older students. They're always willing to help out in any way they can.

In the first week, there will be various clubs for you to join and try out. Try as many as you can!

Some of my favourite lessons are Spanish and PE. Don't forget to hold your head high and smile! There is no need to worry about anything!

Gracie-Mae

I remember my first day being great fun. I'd already met other girls in my form on Induction Day, but it felt nice seeing people from the other forms.

My favourite lessons at school are Maths and Art as I love drawing and creating artworks.

One piece of advice I would give to a Year 7 is to just be yourself.

Hawwa



This is how the Year 7 students describe Old Palace

Answers to Maths Puzzle Fun on page 8

1. There are 11 squares - 5 small, 5 middle sized and 1 large
2. The answer is b) 15
3. The four digit number is 1349
4. Youngest to oldest... Rachel, Ali, Jayleen, Maria

