



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,

As the spring term draws to a close, the Senior school has been enjoying Science Week. Students have participated in a student-led assembly, have won prizes for science quizzes, searched the school in a scavenger hunt and caused explosions in the medieval garden (apologies to our local residents!). In addition, our Sixth Form CanSat 2023 team successfully launched their rockets this week as part of the Europe-

wide competition. In the next edition of the Bulletin, you will be able to see all the photos and articles from our Science Week and see just how much has been going on.

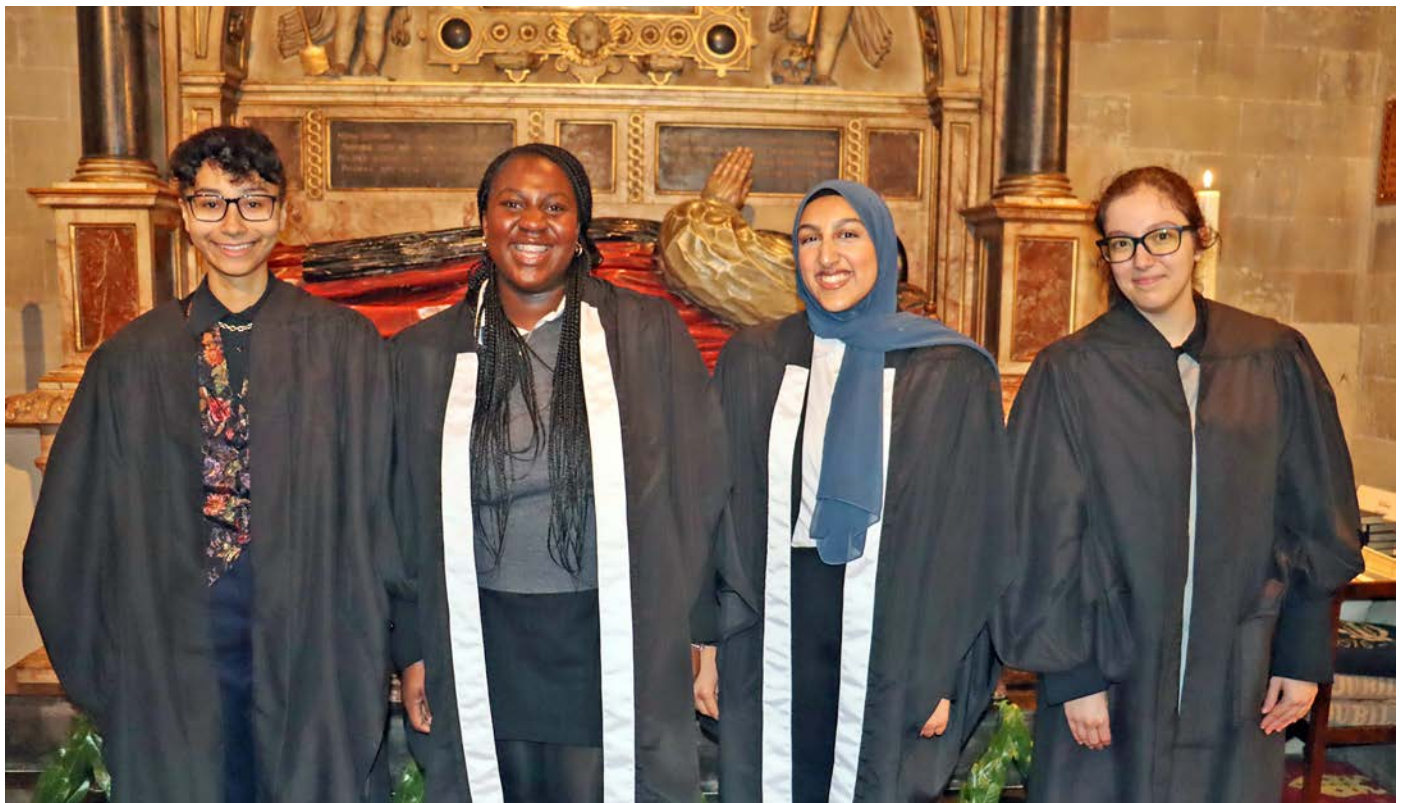
Last week was also an opportunity to be part of the wider John Whitgift Foundation where all three schools and the care homes came together to mark Founder's Day. Our Student Leadership Team gave us an opportunity to feel very proud, not just in the way they

performed their duties at Croydon Minster but also how they positively interacted with the residents at Whitgift House and bridged the generation gap with kindness, humour and respect.

I hope that all our families have time for some rest and relaxation over the Easter break.

**Jane Burton, Head**

## John Whitgift Foundation's Founder's Day Service



We were so proud of all the students who took part in John Whitgift Foundation's Founder's Day Service at Croydon Minster on Wednesday 22 March.

*The photo shows our Head Girls and Senior Prefects in front of the tomb of Archbishop John Whitgift.*

## Dance Show Showreel

If you enjoyed the Dance Show, you can see the highlights here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4ZhQLniyKk>



## LAMDA Results

Once again our students have excelled themselves in the Public Speaking exams.

This February, whilst some students were already experienced in taking these exams, others had only recently started exploring the discipline and the demands of the exam and the conversation component with the exam.

So, it is with great pride that I can tell you there were 6 Merits and 21 Distinctions.

Of these, 13 girls were awarded their Bronze medals (Grade 6) whilst Maheli was awarded her Gold medal (Grade 8). Congratulations everyone!

Do consider Public Speaking lessons. We will be inviting girls to apply soon for the Autumn Term exam.

Mrs Redgrove

## Year 12: Biology Students Take Part in Whitgift Biomedical Diploma

The Year 12 students have been working alongside students from Whitgift and other schools as part of the 'Whitgift Diploma for Biomedical Science'. They have completed an exciting two terms of lectures and practical work on anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, neuroscience and developmental biology. In their final practical session they completed a guided dissection of a veal brain.

It was carried out across three labs by internal video link, giving a real undergraduate feel to the event. Invited speaker, Dr Clemens Kiecker, Reader in Neuroscience Education from King's College London, KCL led the students through the external appearance of the brain. Then the different internal structures were identified from their position and colour and carefully dissected. He explained how brains in other mammals differ, the regions of the brain that coordinate different functions and medical problems.

The activity was completed during the British Science Week which this year has the theme of 'connections'. Students learned that there are approximately 87 neurones in a human brain and nearly half of them are in the cerebellum.

Science Week will be celebrated at Old Palace in the last week of the Spring term.



I have enjoyed learning about the different parts that make up the brain as well as different conditions that can develop due to certain fluids in the brain which includes macrocephaly (increased head size).

Joylin, Year 12





## Year 12: Geography Trip

Year 12 Geographers braved the weather on their fieldwork trip to the beautiful Lake District last weekend.

The purpose of the trip was to prepare them for the coursework investigations, and the students worked hard, learning lots of ways to measure the carbon and water cycles, and to investigate rebranding of Keswick. The landscape was truly inspiring.



## GCSE French

### La Maison Hantée - une production fabuleuse de Onatti !

Last week, I was lucky enough to attend my very first French play - but not just any type of play. En effet, the play was custom-made for students taking French GCSE and designed with the grammar and vocabulary we would know in mind.

The play follows the escapades of two teenage girls, both classic horror movie character archetypes. There's the bold (slightly reckless) leader Zoë and the scaredy cat sidekick, Clara. After getting trapped in an old house they wanted to explore, they come to the chilling realisation that the building is haunted by the ghosts of the murdered tenants.

Tout d'abord, ce qui j'adoré the most about the play was how naturally the GCSE vocabulary was woven into the story. At no point did I feel like I was being bashed over the head with the learning points, but instead got the impression that a lot of effort had been put into implementing the dialogue sophisticatedly. For example, when a policeman finds the girls, he tells



them about the murderer that is on the loose. He then provides them with a description of the criminal - a man wearing an orange suit and hiking boots, with a head of curly brown hair. Have you guessed what topic that relates to? It's items of clothing and appearance! See what I mean?

De plus, I liked the use of gestures and props as an aid for some of the trickier vocab. Not many French GCSE students are likely to know what a rouleau à pâtisserie is, but it was made apparent when the actress pointed to the prop and made a pie with it.

Finalement, it was fun seeing the

audience get involved in the mystery. Occasionally, the actresses would call a student to the stage and have them progress the plot in numerous ways, from rearranging words to reveal a hidden message or helping the teens find a weapon to use against the criminal. C'était très amusant!

On behalf of the Old Palace students, thank you to the actresses for performing for us, the French Language Department and Madame Poirier for organising the activity. Nous nous sommes beaucoup amusés!

Lila, Year 10



## Old Palace Teams Launches its First Two Satellites!



## Science Week

This week, Seniors has been celebrating 'Science Week' with a student-led assembly, science quizzes, a scavenger hunt and staged explosions in the medieval garden.

Meanwhile, our Sixth Form CanSat 2023 team successfully launched their rockets this week as part of the Europe-wide competition.

In the next edition of the Bulletin, you will be able to see all the photos and articles from our Science Week and see just how much has been going on.



## Senior Digital Leaders Run e-safety Competition at Prep

When we went over to Prep recently, we announced the Digital Design competition with the theme of Internet Safety.

Students could submit a creative item they wanted on the theme of being safe online; this could range from a song, a poem, a design, a poster, a painting, a play to pretty much any interesting thing!

Now that we have received the entries, we have taken the time to judge them

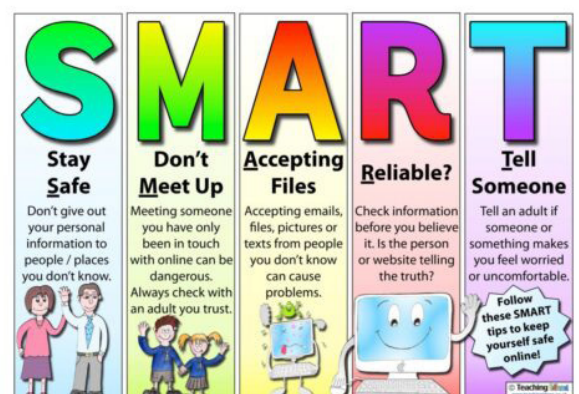
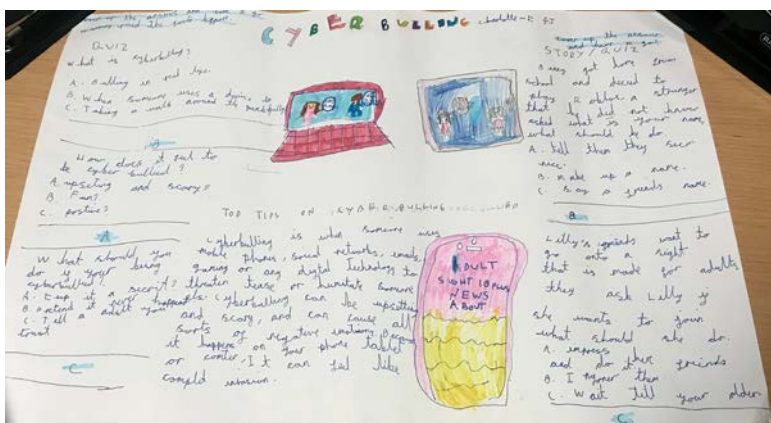
in depth. It was an extremely difficult decision between the many entries. They were very creative and clearly a lot of effort had been put into making them. In the end, we decided to give first prize to the song created by Lottie, Anaya and Mya. This song was in a rap-style with one of the students doing the backing track. It won because it was the most unique of all the entries.

We gave second prize to the poster by Charlotte. This poster was also amazing

as it included a quiz, a story to go along with the quiz, top tips on cyberbullying and some beautiful drawings.

Each winner received an Amazon voucher. Even if you submitted an entry but didn't win, we would still like to applaud and celebrate your efforts. Overall, the standard was very high indeed!

**Charlotte and Jana**, on behalf of the Year 9 Digital Leaders





## Year 7: Netball v Wallington



Year 7 played their final game of the season against Wallington Girls. In contrast to last week where they got SOAKED, this week the sun was shining directly into their eyes..... it seems we

never quite get the perfect conditions. Both matches were very close and contested quite fiercely at times. It was encouraging to see good movements

from attacking players and far better passes into the circle.

The A team worked well and were unlucky to lose 5 – 6. Ellie was named Player of the Match.

Squad: Harmony, Ria, Tianna, Ellie, Isabella, Nega, Zara and Kemafo

The B Team continued their trail of victories with a confident 8 – 3 win. Footwork was really good and again the ball into the circle was much more consistent! Gracie-Mae was named Player of the Match.

Squad: Chloe, Gracie-Mae, Akshita, Anaya, Fanila, Erin and Savannah

## Year 10: Sports Leaders

The Level 1 Year 10 Sports Leaders went to Prep on Friday afternoon and delivered really engaging and fun sessions focussing on multi skills with Year 3 and 4.

This included relays, tennis skills, gymnastic skills, accuracy, throwing and lots of other fundamental skills used throughout PE.

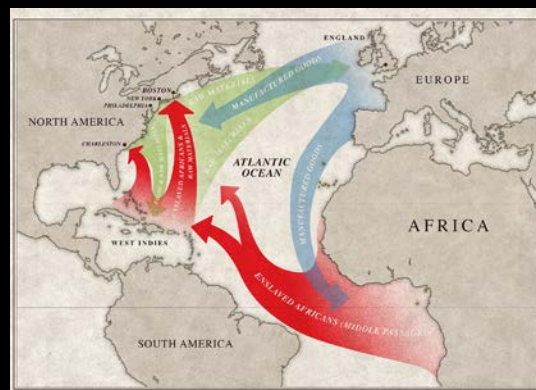
The Year 10 leaders did really well and realised how much energy is needed to lead sessions with younger students to keep them motivated and engaged.

Year 3 and 4 were fantastic and coped well with the blustery weather!



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY... Abolition of the Slave Trade

On March 25, 1807, Britain abolished the Atlantic slave trade. In the previous 200 years, Britain had shipped over 3 million enslaved Africans to the Americas. In 1833, slavery was completely abolished within the British Empire.



## Maths Puzzle Fun

Can you solve this puzzle?

$$\square + \bigcirc = 10 \quad \bigcirc =$$

$$\triangle + \triangle = 6 \quad \triangle =$$

$$\triangle + \bigcirc = 5 \quad \square =$$

Answer on page XX

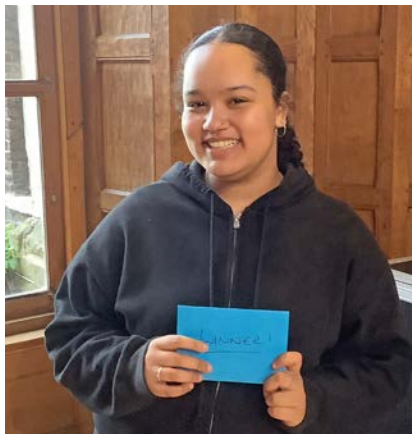


## Community News

### Old Palace Talent Show

Friday, 17 March saw the long-awaited return of the OP Talent Show as part of our Red Nose Day fundraising.

An eclectic mix of talent was on display - from the harmonium, staff line dancing, karate, dance, rock music and the ukelele.



Congratulations to our winning singer Ruby, and thank you to all who were brave enough to take part. We also raised lots of money which is even better!

## Year 13: Sports Leaders

Year 13 Level 3 Sports Leaders had their final visit to Prep to lead mini games sessions with Year 6 focussing on Netball, Football and Cricket.

It was a blustery day, but everyone worked hard and the leaders delivered good sessions. Maybe some Year 6 pupils will be Sports Leaders one day?



## Year 11: Netball v Wallington

Year 10 and 11 travelled to Wallington for an eventful fixture on Wednesday – eventful due to a fire alarm in the school at 5pm. This meant we had to stop playing while the fire brigade arrived to check things over – before being able to resume.

Before that, Year 10 played their match with a confident 5 – 1 lead after quarter time. Wallington then upped their

game and at the end of the match the final score was 10 – 10. A great result – well done Year 10!

Year 11 were playing potentially their final netball fixture as a year group at Old Palace! After a 0 – 0 first quarter the match was then interrupted due to a fire alarm – which saw all of us standing and waiting for the fire brigade. On return to the shortened

match we didn't really capitalise on scoring opportunities and finished 0 – 2. Well done to Bethany who was named Player of the Match – but also to everyone in the team for their efforts throughout a very busy final year for them.

Squad: Zara, Krystal, Skye, Grace, Tahalia, Bethany and Rebecca





## Year 7: Netball v Riddlesdown



The Year 7 A & B teams played Riddlesdown in the pouring rain after school last Thursday. We got VERY WET!

The players did well and after the first quarter of adjusting to the weather, both A and B teams were 0 – 0.

In the A Team Riddlesdown made some changes which put them ahead of the game and they also had some strong experienced players. We kept going but the final score was a very wet 2 – 8. Kemafo was named Player of the Match.

Squad: Gracie-Mae, Harmony, Tianna, Ellie, Isabella, Nega, Kemafo

The B team also played well. Mistakes were made by both teams but the Old Palace attack managed to stay ahead, losing their opponents and going on to win the match 3 – 0. Fanila was named Player of the Match.

Squad: Chloe, Akshita, Fanila, Anaaya, Zara, Erin, Savannah and Rishita.

## Water Polo

The Under 13 English Schools Water Polo Championships took place last week. Old Palace fielded a very young team, with only two players having played a competitive match before.

The competition is exhausting, lasting over three hours and having four games to play. Each game is made up of two six-minute halves. During this time the players have to tread water; on its own a challenge for most!

First-time competition player Kemafo, Year 7, did extremely well in goal, saving many powerful shots being fired from all angles by the opposition. Year 8 students Imogen, Maya, Reya, Kara, Elina and Inaaya H played tremendously, with Elina and Inaaya both scoring goals.

It was a fantastic opportunity and experience for Year 7 pupils Tianna, Gracie-Mae, Sabrina and the above - mentioned goalkeeper Kemafo. They all played amazingly well.

Of the four games Old Palace played, we narrowly lost three, one of those being against current National Champions Alleyns. Emanuel, Battersea, and James Alleyn's Girls School also proved tough opposition for our young team. We did, however, win a fantastic game against Colfe's. Well done to all!



## Year 10: Netball v Riddlesdown



On Tuesday, 21st March, Year 10 played a netball league game against Riddlesdown. Everyone played very well and we transferred the ball through the court nicely with some great interceptions from defence.

It was a slow start but overall it was a very good game and we won 15-8. Zara played particularly well and won Player of the Match, with some brilliant goals.

Well done to: Arabella, Zara, Grace, Iqra, Leilani, Mayowa, Olivia, Maryam and Mariya

**Zara and Arabella, Year 10**

## Congratulations to Ellie

Many congratulations to Ellie in Year 7, who was part of the Sutton United U12 Girls team that won the Surrey League Cup on the 12th March.

Ellie says:

*We played against Kew Park Rangers and won 3-0. We had previously played them in the league division, and they won that match 3-0. I am very happy to be part of the team, and I look forward to the matches that we have left to play this season.*



## Maths Puzzle Fun page 4 Answer

$$\bigcirc = 2$$

$$\triangle = 3$$

$$\square = 8$$

## Netball Club

Students have loved being involved in the Netball Squad Programme this year and it would be so beneficial for those who want to pursue netball to get involved in a club outside school. There are a number of clubs that run Junior Sections – for example Roundwood, Chequers, HS, Lifeline.

The flier below is for students upto Year 9 and the Open Day dates are in May.

# Selsdon Little League Netball

## OPEN DAYS

Saturdays, 13 & 20 May 2023

We currently have vacancies in our Junior and Senior teams for next season.

Are YOU interested in joining us for regular matches during term time?

**HAVING LOTS OF FUN**

**MAKING NEW FRIENDS**

If so, we would love you to come along to  
Riddlesdown College courts, Honister Heights, Purley

**JUNIORS:** Yrs 5-7 as at 1 Sept.  
Registration 9.00 a.m. for 9.30-10.30

**SENIORS:** Yrs 8 & 9 as at 1 Sept.  
Registration 11.00 a.m. for 11.30-12.30

If you can't make it on these days call Lorna Jones



For further information contact **LORNA JONES – 020 8651 2383**