



# AROUND THE PALACE

## Year 7: Getting to Grips in DT



Dear all,



Performing Arts appears to have taken 'centre stage' at the Senior School this week (no pun intended!). Well done to the Chamber Choir for their impressive success at the Croydon Performing Arts Festival. The students and staff involved should be very proud to have secured first place and to have seen all their hard work rewarded.

This week has also seen the Dance department and students working hard to get ready for the Dance Show which is being held tonight (Friday 3rd). This year they have secured the Royal Academy of Dance venue in Battersea for the performance which will provide a unique and rewarding experience for the dancers and audience alike. We look forward to the reports on the event in both the next Bulletin and the student-led assembly at Seniors next week.

**Jane Burton, Head**



## Chamber Choir Comes First at Croydon Performing Arts Festival



On Saturday 11th February, Old Palace Chamber Choir competed in the Croydon Performing Arts Festival at Croydon Minster. They performed Eric Whitacre's moving *Seal Lullaby*, and the uplifting *Hallelujah, Get Happy!* arranged by Greg Gilpin.

The adjudicator noted that the choir executed the ebb and flow of *Seal Lullaby* beautifully, filling the Minster with much needed warmth! He also praised the vibrant harmonies of *Hallelujah, Get Happy!* and thoroughly enjoyed the choir's tonal accuracy, awarding them 1st place with distinction!

The choir also received a cash prize of £100 and were the only choir to receive top honours on the day.

Two of the choir members said this about the experience:

*We sang two contrasting pieces: Hallelujah Get Happy, an uplifting song, and Seal Lullaby which was more sombre. We worked hard for this competition, and it was a rewarding experience as we achieved a distinction and came first in our category. Well Done to everyone who participated!*

**Zaynah, Year 12**

*I enjoyed putting a smile on the audience members' faces with our uplifting and joyous performance of 'Hallelujah Get Happy!' Singing with Chamber Choir is always a joy!*

**Amber, Year 9**

If you would like to hear them perform these pieces, the Chamber Choir will be performing them again at:

**Croydon Performing Arts Festival's Gala Concert** on Sunday 28th May at the Ashcroft Theatre (Fairfield Halls)

## Year 12: Irish Cultural Assembly

On Tuesday morning, the day before St Brigid's Day (the female patron saint of Ireland), I presented my Irish Cultural Assembly - which I had pitched as the first of a potential series of student-led cultural assemblies.

In the assembly, I spoke about the patron saints of Ireland (St Brigid, St Columba and most famously, St Patrick) and how their feast days are celebrated, I attempted to run as much detail as possible through Irish history from as early as the 5th century when St Patrick arrived to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. I explained the main politicians (President Michael D Higgins, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Tánaiste Micheál Martin in the Republic; & First Minister (Designate) Michelle O'Neill), food and

drink, sport (hurling, camogie, Gaelic football, etc.) and Irish dancing, showed pictures of my village, and gave some fun facts.

I also integrated the Irish language into it, opening by saying "céad míle fáilte" (a hundred thousand welcomes) and ending with "go raibh maith agaibh" (thank you in plural).

I enjoyed giving the assembly and have received many positive comments from students and teachers since.

**Caitlin, Year 12**

*A photo of me with Leo Varadkar, Taoiseach (Prime Minister of Ireland) in 2017, about a month before I joined Old Palace.*





## Prep Celebrates World Book Day

We were thrilled to welcome the illustrator, Liz Anelli, to school on Thursday. Liz held an illustration workshop for every year group, including Pre School. Under Liz's guidance, the pupils were amazed at what they could achieve.











## Success in French Debating Competition

On the 1st February, I attended the 'Joûtes Oratoires Lycéennes' French debating competition. For the competition I worked with a Year 13 student from Whitgift, and we debated against other schools including:

- Alleyn's
- Epsom College
- Tunbridge
- Sutton Grammar
- Trinity
- Christ's Hospital School

To prepare for the debates, we researched three motions: 'The

market of art has corrupted the work of art', 'It is necessary to disarm the French police' and 'Maths should be compulsory at A-level'.

During the debates we worked collaboratively to respond spontaneously and passionately to the other teams' arguments. We were delighted that we won the Regional Finals and have therefore progressed to Nationals.

**Sophia H, Year 13**





## Year 9 Art: Collaborative Collages

This term, Year 9 have created a series of large collaborative collages based on the theme 'Layers'. The fantastic results are on display in the Shah building!





## English-Speaking Union Dartmouth House Debate - Mayfair

On Tuesday 28th February, I spoke at Dartmouth House in Mayfair at an English-Speaking Union debate on the motion 'This House Believes the COP Process will Fail'.

In the format of Mace style debating, I was the summary speaker for the opposition team making the case for why the motion was wrong. Both teams were made up of speakers with a plethora of experience and professional backgrounds in industries that are helping to assess and mitigate the effects of Climate change.

The line-up consisted of Karen McClellan, Caroline Russell (fellow opposition members) and Illana Adamson, Casper Rawles and Abhijith Subramanian (the proposition). It was an exhilarating event for me, the live audience and those watching online.

This opportunity was made possible because of my role on the London Speech & Debate Committee and the charitable mission of the English-Speaking Union.

**Sumaiya B, Year 11**



## Year 2: Making a 'Mini-Beast' Meal!

To celebrate the end of our super Wriggle and Crawl/Mini-beast Science topic, Year 2 had the task of designing and preparing their own healthy meal.

Children brought in salad and fruit and prepared and shared the ingredients. A delicious dressing was made using garlic, herbs and honey.

*"We washed all of the vegetables first and our hands, to get rid of any harmful germs!"* **Lyla**

*"I tried spring onion for the first time and really liked it. I helped today by cutting lettuce, cucumber and spring onions."* **Michaella**

*"I didn't think I would like the garlic and honey dressing we made but it was very good!"* **Katherine**

*"I tried mushrooms in my salad. I don't normally eat them but I really enjoyed them today."* **Sion**





## A Letter from Mrs Panteli



Dear all,

Such a busy week at Prep this week. Years 2 and 5 had the benefit of excellent fire safety workshops, delivered by Paul from the London Fire Brigade education team. All pupils participated with such enthusiasm and asked thoughtful questions; demonstrating how useful and engaging the workshops were.

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of meeting with the school council team for the last time before they pass over the baton to two of their peers. I am so proud of how confidently they all spoke and shared the views of their peers, listening to each other in turn.

The end of the week has been exciting too, with all the World Book Day events on Thursday and Friday, including workshops with illustrator Liz Anelli and author Caroline Blok. It was lovely to see so many staff and pupils dressed as their favourite book characters; we have had so much fun trying to guess who all the characters are.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.

**Mrs Jodene Panteli**  
**Head of Preparatory**

## Pancake Day Races at Prep

Many congratulations to Ellie in Year 4 who was the winner of the Year 3 – 6 Pancake Race at Prep on Shrove Tuesday. The girls had great fun flipping their pancakes as they raced across the tennis court.

Thank you to our Catering Manager, Mr Haigh-McLane and Mrs Coster for organising it.

Well done Ellie – and a huge thanks to Mr Jupp at Seniors who made the fabulous Pancake Race trophy.





## Half Term Holiday Club

What a fun week! The girls had a lovely time getting to know each other, cooking, making bracelets and showing their loved ones how much they love them.

Ahoy Me Hearties! Our Treasure Hunt was amazing! All the girls had fun finding and solving the clues to get to the Whitgift treasure, making pirate cakes, face painting and singing sea shanties and much more.





## Pre School: Puddles and Rainbows

Pre School girls are getting stuck into their new topic 'Puddles and Rainbows'. This week they have been finding out about colour mixing; indoors with rainbow ice painting and exploring how wet tissue paper can leave its colour on paper and outdoors with coloured mud in the mud kitchen and water play where they can experiment with coloured water potion making. With a striking pop up rainbow reading area on the stage and a massive rainbow in the making, there is something for everyone in all weathers!



Thank you to the PTA for their generous donation of new books







## Week 1

### Monday, 3 April

- Making Easter cards
- Making our own Easter games
  - Bunny and chick bowling
- Making bouncing bunnies
- Egg and Spoon, Bunny Hop Races
  - Who will win?

### Tuesday, 4 April

- Design your own egg
- Making Easter bunny headbands
- Finger painting spring lambs
- Bouncing our way to the gym

### Wednesday, 5 April

- Make your Easter cakes
- Make your basket ready for the Easter Egg Hunt
- Mask making
- Face painting

### Thursday, 6 April

- Easter egg hunt
  - Who will find the golden egg?
- Arts and crafts - Paper daisy chains
- Making Easter chicks and bunny puppets

### Friday, 7 April

Good Friday Holiday Club CLOSED

## Week 2

### Monday, 10 April

Easter Monday Holiday Club CLOSED

### Tuesday, 11 April

- Movie Day with Peter Rabbit (Carrot sticks provided)
- Bicycle relay races outside (weather pending)
- Making a fruit salad
- Planting spring flowers
- Lawn croquet (weather pending)

### Wednesday, 12 April

- Workout in the gym
- Mindful colouring in
- Recycle modelling
- Stencil painting spring scene
- Learn new techniques to painting

### Thursday, 13 April

- Board games
- Dancing - playing musical statues
- Spring flowers - Hand print lilies
- Handmade Tulips

### Friday, 14 April

- Preparing for the Coronation - making banners, bunting, flags etc
- A collage of King Charles III
- Making your own tea party food, fit for a King
- Crown making

Due to popularity, be quick to book a place at Holiday Club as places are going fast! **Booking closes on 20 March**

**Email: [PStearn@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:PStearn@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)**

Bookings after this date are subject to availability, book early to avoid disappointment.



## U13A+B Netball v Coombe Wood

The A team had a tough match against Coombe Wood. Despite our best efforts, we lost 14-10. As a team, we can all say that this match was the best we have ever played and has taught us so much about each other as players!  
**Kara (A Team)**

The B team won 8-5. This match was particularly challenging, but as a team we worked together and did well.

This taught us that teamwork makes the dream work and not to give up.  
**Shankavi (B Team)**



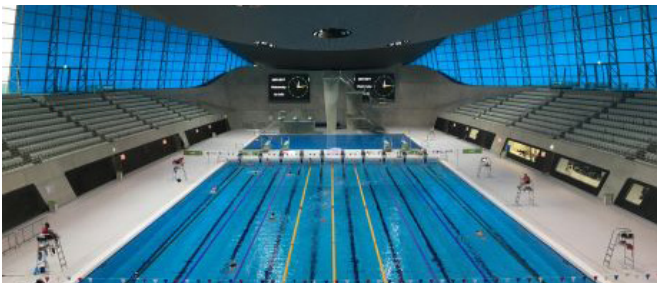
A Team Player of the Match – Kara

B Team Player of the Match - Ruqaiyah

## Kent County Swimming Championships

Sisters Leilani Year 10 and Harmony Year 7 competed in the Kent County Swimming Championships at the London Aquatic Centre last weekend. It is an achievement in itself to qualify for county championships and an honour to be able to compete in the Olympic pool. Harmony and Leilani, both sprint specialists, swam magnificently, each qualifying for their age group finals.

Harmony came 5th in her 13 year old age group 50 metre Butterfly final, a personal best time of 32.68 seconds. Leilani also qualified for the 15 year old age group final of the 50 metre Butterfly, coming 7th in another great personal best time of 31.49. Congratulations!



## Seniors: Table Tennis Competition

On Friday 24th February, Old Palace took part in a table tennis competition at Whitgift.

The students put on a good performance and had a lot of fun participating in the competition. Special mention and congratulations to Zainab who got through to the semi-final in the Girls U13 category!



## Sports Leaders Balloon Session

The Year 12 Sports Leaders led a session with their peers using balloons and introducing special goggles creating visual impairments.

This allowed students to appreciate how having a visual impairment can make activities challenging but also to appreciate how activities can be adapted to ensure inclusion of everyone. This is a key part of the Sports Leaders Course, making sure physical activity is as inclusive as possible.

Well done to Ria and Mary for leading the fun session.





# Maths: The Great Collatz Conjecture

Last term our students joined in a collaboration with schools around the country and indeed the world to help make a map of the Collatz Conjecture.

In Mathematics a conjecture is a mathematical statement that has not yet been rigorously proved. The Collatz Conjecture is some simple rules to follow repeatedly to give a mathematical trail which it is conjectured always end up at 1.

## Instructions:

Pick a positive integer (whole number):

If the number is EVEN, then divide by two

If the number is ODD, then multiply by three and add one

Repeat with the number you now have.

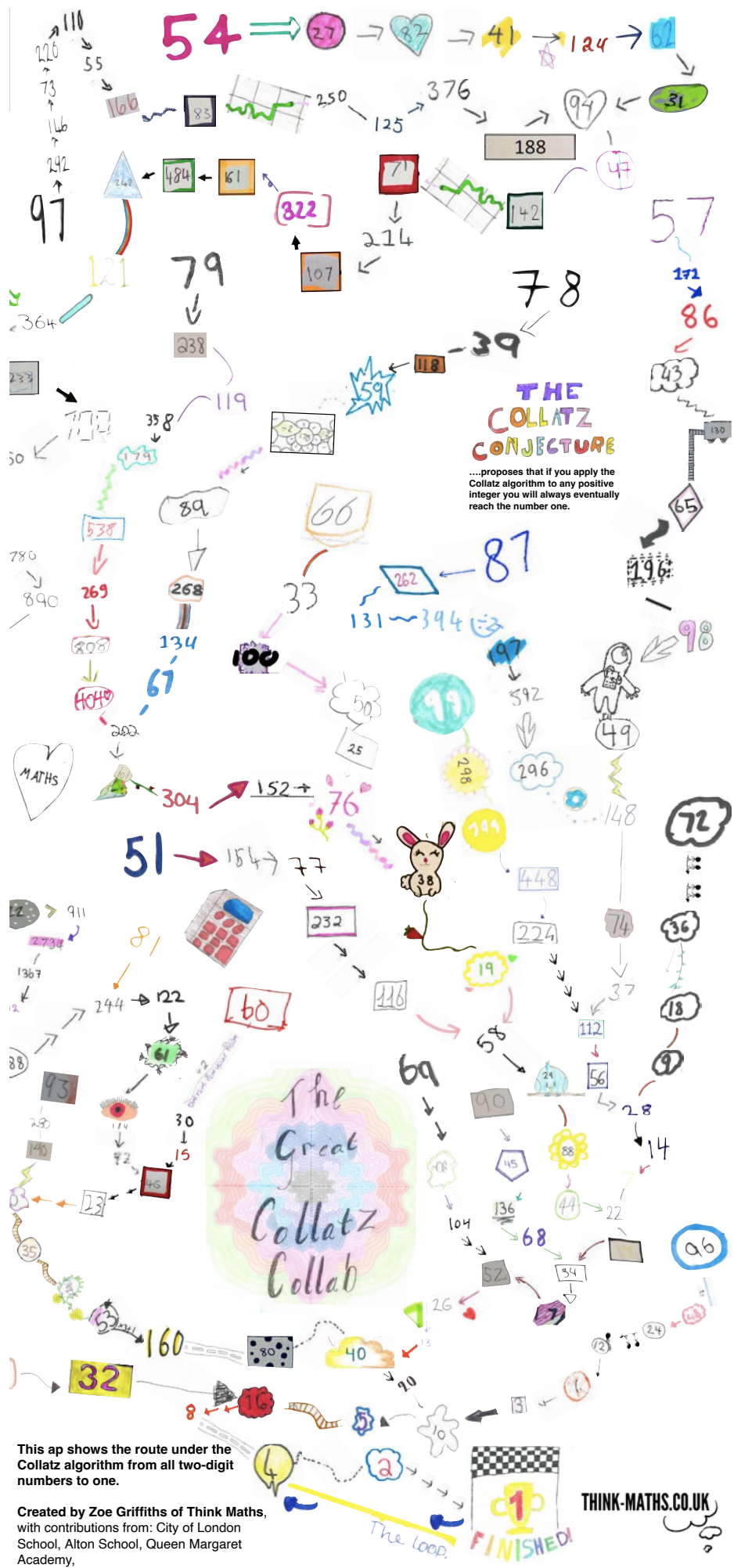
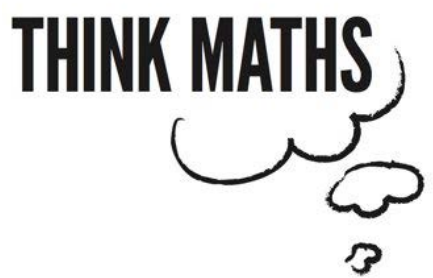
The organisers, Think Maths, collated all the work they received and produced this super map including some of our students' work.

Why don't you have a try – here are some questions to think about

**Do all numbers end up at one?**

**What happens when you get to one?**

**How many steps does it take to get to one?**



This ap shows the route under the Collatz algorithm from all two-digit numbers to one.

Created by Zoe Griffiths of Think Maths, with contributions from: City of London School, Alton School, Queen Margaret Academy,

THINK-MATHS.CO.UK



## Introducing our New Chef at Seniors

We are very pleased to introduce Kral Csaba Sandor, our new Senior School chef.



Kral Csaba Sandor is classically trained in his native country of Hungary. Kral came to the UK in 2013, helping a friend with a restaurant business on the Southbank. In 2016, he moved to work in a private members' club in Chelsea for two years. He then moved to contract catering in Paddington.

Kral joined Holroyd Howe, catering for Chiswick & Bedford Park Prep School, before moving to the Orchard House group of schools, also in the Chiswick area.

Kral lives in Croydon, so jumped at the chance to work that little bit closer to home when the opportunity arose to work at Old Palace.

### What is the best thing about being a chef?

I'm passionate, creative and love to taste new and exciting dishes. I love to work with like-minded people in my kitchen and try to get the best out of everyone.

### What is your signature dish?

Stuffed chicken breast with Parma ham, spinach & fig beurre blanc sauce.

### Which chef(s) do you follow?

I am inspired by Jamie Oliver. I like his ethos on waste, using minimal

ingredients to make fantastic dishes. Angela Hartnett is one of the best British female chefs of our time. She is a great female icon for girls to look up to and those interested in a career in hospitality.

### Hungarian Goulash Recipe

Feeds 4



#### Ingredients

100g Diced Pork  
100g Dice Beef  
100g White Onion  
2tsp Sweet Paprika  
2 Garlic Cloves  
50g Tomato Puree  
100g Chopped Tomatoes  
100ml Stock  
2 carrots  
2 diced potatoes  
1 bay leaf  
ground black pepper  
1tsp crushed caraway seed  
Parsley & salt  
Finish with Smoked Paprika

#### Method

Dice the white onion and sauté with the garlic until soft. Add the diced beef and brown.

Add the diced pork until brown.

Add the chopped and puree tomatoes, black pepper, caraway seeds and the sweet paprika.

Add the stock, bring to the boil, add the vegetables, simmer 45 minute to 1 hour, or until tender.

Season and add parsley.

Finish with 1tsp of smoked paprika sprinkled over the dish.

*Jo etvagyat (Enjoy your meal)*

**holroyd howe**  
feeding independent minds

## Fairtrade Fortnight



**Fairtrade  
Fortnight**

FAIRTRADE **27 Feb – 12 Mar**

Did you know? Coffee, bananas and chocolate could soon be much more difficult to buy.



Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink, but here is the good news...

More people choosing Fairtrade means extra income, power and support for those communities.

By making the small switch to Fairtrade, we can all support producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet.

[www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)



Coming up this half term:

- World Book Day
- Sensational Seeds tasting table
- Comic Relief



## Netball v Coombe Wood

On Monday 28th February, Year 10 and 11 played a netball match against Coombe Wood. Although Coombe Wood didn't have ideal circumstances with their teams, both Year 10 and 11 played very well especially since it was Year 11's first game this year and we won all the games we played.

Well done to Grace who got player of the match.



 **Old Palace of John Whitgift School**  
Independent Girls' School

**Old Palace Dance Showcase**  
**March 2023**

*Kinetic Flow*

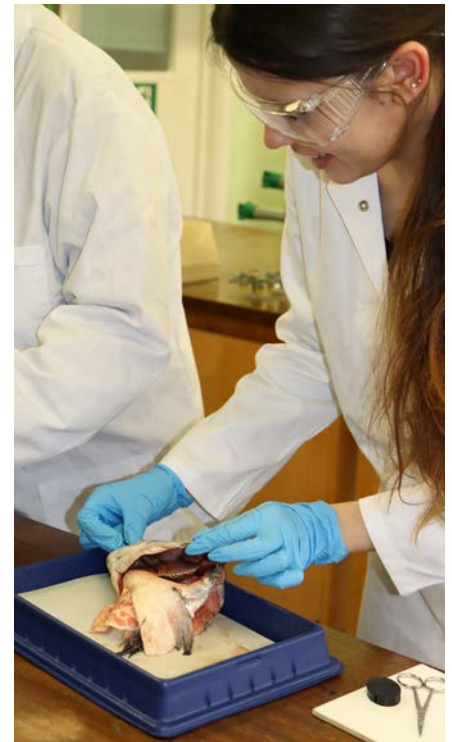
Purchase your own copy of the dance show performance  
**DVD or digital download**  
**available for £22.50**  
from **WisePay**  
*Limited copies available*

**The Royal Academy of Dance**  
@ Aud Jebesen Studio Theatre  
188 York Road, London SW11 3JZ



## Year 12 Biology: Fish Dissection

As part of the A level course, our Year 12 biologists dissected salmon fish heads to examine their gills. This is part of the practical skill requirement where they practise their drawing as well as dexterity and observational skills. Despite the fishy smell (!), great fun was had by all, with much wonder expressed at the delicacy of the structures.





## Community News

### CCF Day

On Tuesday evenings during CCF, the Year 10 students have been learning about how to fire a weapon safely. They then had the opportunity to put their weapon handling into practice at the Ash Firing Range. They really enjoyed the day; practising shooting at the targets and developing their aiming skills.



### Running Club



Running Club has started now the evenings are lighter! It was good to see some who ran in previous years, but also some new faces this year.

Well done to all who have joined – please remember to sign up on SOC's as this is an after school club. Some students are running as part of their physical section for the DofE Award – others are running just because they enjoy it!

All students welcome – to run or combine running with walking to stay healthy.

A big thank you to Mr Taruwona, Mrs S Smith and Miss April for helping staff this club.

**Every Friday 3.50pm – 5.00pm**

### Prep Swimming Gala



Prep swimmers competed in a friendly swimming gala against St David's School on Tuesday.

They were very excited as the gala was also in preparation for the upcoming Croydon Schools Championships. All swimmers put in 100% effort with many outstanding wins. There was rapturous cheering for both teams throughout the gala. Old Palace triumphed winning by 20 points!

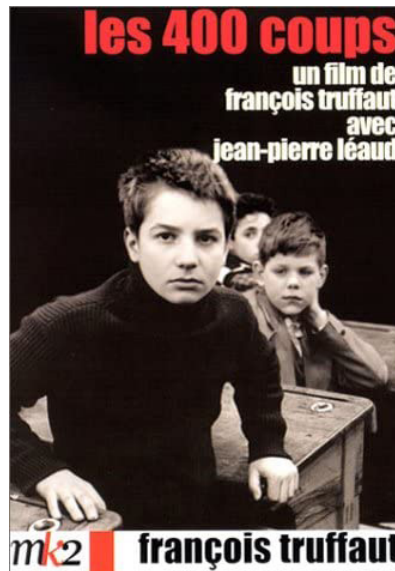
Well done to all those who took part. Hopefully we will have some great swims at the Croydon Schools Gala too.



## Year 13: British Film Institute

In Year 13 French, we were extremely fortunate to attend a fabulous conference on La Nouvelle Vague and its continued influence on films nowadays. Conducted in French, the morning session's clip-based presentation included various themes following the prescribed film texts of the new A Level specifications, which deal with present social issues while acknowledging the past.

Truffaut's films, *Les 400 Coups* (1959) and *Jules et Jim* as well as Agnès Varda's less well-known, *Cleo de 5 à 7* (1962), were compared to contemporary films which present current social issues of class and ethnic divisions like Nakache & Toledano's *Intouchables* (2011), Kassovitz's *La Haine* (1995) and Cantet's *Entre les Murs* (2008). What a successful day!



## Year 9: Carnaval Baking Competition

Last 21st February was martedì Grasso (Shrove day) and Year 9 took part into the Carnaval Baking Competition preparing delicious Italian pastries normally eaten throughout February.

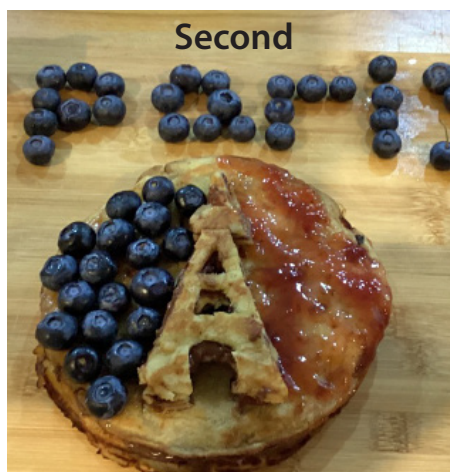
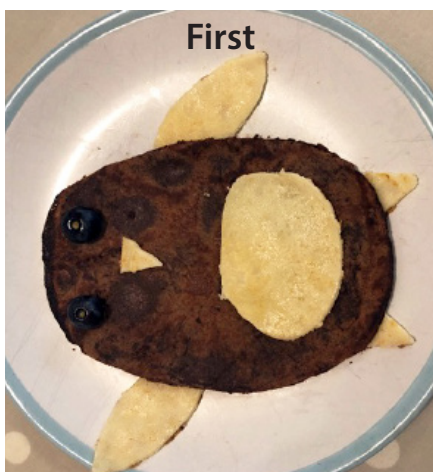
Ella Prince got the first prize with Castagnole al forno and Anastacia Bond the second prize with Churros fritti.



## Year 7: Cr pe Competition

Year 7 learned about *La Chandeleur* this month. On 2nd February each year, French people celebrate *La Chandeleur*. In English this is known as Candlemass. This falls 40 days after Christmas and signifies the day that Jesus was presented at the temple.

During Half Term Year 7 took part into a Cr pe competition and three cr pes were selected: First place - Ada Year 7L, second place - Helena Year 7L, third place - Ruby Year 7H.





## Safer Internet Week Leaders Report

On Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th of February, the Digital Leaders from Seniors went over to Prep to teach students from Years 2-6 about being safe online. Before going over, we prepared resources for a 'carousel' of three activities to complete with the younger students.

These activities included a quiz, colouring/crosswords and bingo. The quiz contained some "what if" scenarios as well as some general questions related to internet safety. If the students did well, they got merits for their efforts.

For the colouring/crosswords, we had word searches and crosswords for the older students but colouring for the younger students. The bingo had questions to do with being safe online and how to handle personal information.

The students learnt what not to share with strangers online, what age you can download certain apps, what to do in certain situations and when to speak to a trusted adult.

We got the chance to 'be the teacher' and overall it was a great experience as we got to meet the younger students for the first time. We also ran a creative competition for them on this theme, which we will be judging after half term. We hope to continue taking part in something similar to this in the future.

**Charlotte, Dayna, Riya, Zara, Ishika, Safa, Mahima, India and Jana** Year 9 Digital Leaders



### THIS WEEK IN HISTORY...

## Salem Witch Trials

On March 1, 1692, three women in Salem, Massachusetts, were charged with witchcraft. More than 150 people, mostly women, were subsequently accused and 13 innocent women were executed. Knowledge of the witch trials reached a mass audience through Arthur Miller's play and subsequent film, *The Crucible*.



### Maths Puzzle Fun

If I had one more sister,  
I would have twice as many  
sisters as brothers.

If I had one more brother,  
I would have the same  
number of each.

**How many brothers and  
sisters do I have?**

Answer on page 20



## Reception: Puddles and Rainbows

Reception have begun their topic 'Puddles and Rainbows' by using their brand new weather station to act out different weather scenarios across the United Kingdom. They have been conducting live weather reports and using weather symbols to describe the weather. They have added fun details to their role-play such as 'It looks like you might need your raincoats and umbrellas today'. The children have also shown a fantastic interest in rainbows and how they are formed.





## Congratulations to Aadya



Many congratulations to Aadya who took part in the U11 LTA tennis tournament recently and came second. Well done!



## Maths Puzzle Fun page 18 Answer

I would have 3 sisters and 2 brothers  
The previous winner was **Caitlin** in  
Year 7.

## Swimming Gala

I recently took part in a Swimming Gala at the City of London Freeman's School.

I swam in three categories in my age group: 25m backstroke (in 27.9 seconds), 25m breaststroke (in 35.23 seconds) and 25m freestyle, in which I swam front crawl, (in 25.14 seconds).

I really enjoyed taking part and when I found out that I came second place in all of my three races I was surprised and thrilled.

**Aashna, Year 5**



**Old Palace of  
John Whitgift School**  
Independent Girls' School

*Free  
Easter Workshop*  
(parent and child)  
*at Pre School & Preparatory*



Suitable for **girls**  
aged 4 and under.

**Monday 27th March**  
Time: 8.45am-9.45am

RSVP  
email: [admissions@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)