



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



Welcome back to the start of what is obviously going to be a very busy term! This bulletin showcases some of the many exciting things that have taken place both at the end of last term, during the holiday and over the first few days of the summer term.

In particular, I am excited to introduce our new Head Girls, Chitleen and Zino, and Senior Prefects, Patricia and Lizzie, who take up their duties this term. I would also like to thank our outgoing Student Leadership Team who have done such a great job this year.

With Eid falling this weekend, I would also like to take this opportunity to say Eid Mubarak to all our Muslim families. I hope you enjoy the festivities.

**Jane Burton, Head**

## OP Teams Successfully Complete CanSat Regional Launch





## Introducing our New Head Girls and Senior Prefects



Chitleen and Zino, Head Girls



Lizzie and Patricia, Senior Prefects

Congratulations to Zino and Chitleen who have been elected our Head Girls for the coming year. Patricia and Lizzie have also been elected as our Senior Prefects. We very much look forward to seeing how they choose to lead the school this year.

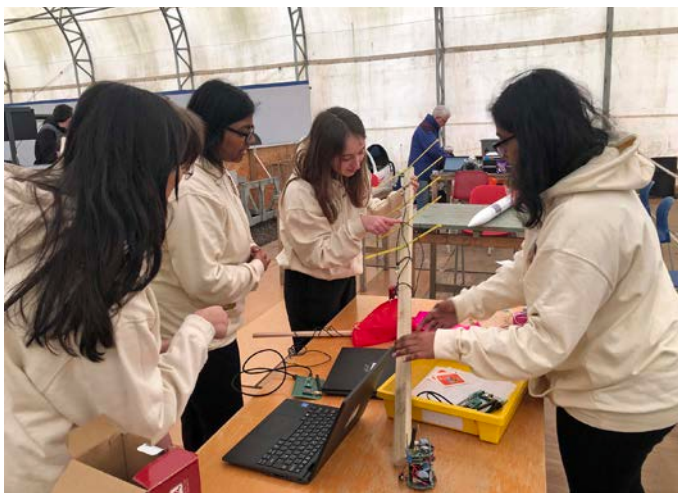
We would also like to thank the outgoing Student Leadership Team who have done a fantastic job this year: Head Girls Alison and Suraiya, and Senior Prefects Gina and Lone. We wish them well with their forthcoming A Level exams this summer.



Outgoing Head Girls Alison and Suraiya, and Senior Prefects Gina and Lone



## OP Teams Successfully Complete CanSat Regional Launch



Over the past five months, a group of Year 12 students have been engaging in the CanSat project. CanSat is a contest that is held for those who are interested in STEM or engineering. Participants are tasked with creating a satellite-like device from scratch, that should be limited to the size of a singular soft drink can. Old Palace had two teams entered into the contest – Team AstroOPS and Team OPSonomy.

On the 29th of March, both teams attended the regional launch for their CanSats at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, in Chelmsford. At the launch, the CanSats were each fired by a rocket to a height of 1000 ft! The 3D shells designed from scratch by the teams were strong enough to withstand the 50 g-force that the CanSat experienced during the rocket launch!

The primary mission for each CanSat, set by the European Space Agency, was to measure atmospheric temperature and pressure. Team AstroOPS's secondary mission was to track the trajectory of the CanSat using a GPS and to measure its acceleration in the X, Y and Z axis during flight. Team OPSonomy's secondary mission was equally challenging – they had to measure levels of UV at different heights using a UV sensor. They were able to receive data from their respective satellites throughout the flight, to the delight of the ground station operators!

Team OPSonomy faced some challenges on the day but they came through it all successfully and learnt lots along the way. On arrival at the site, they realised they had no power to their circuits! The problem seemed to

be a loose connection somewhere in their can (which had a myriad of wires criss-crossing to different components). With the calm of their team members, they were able to spot the problem. Once they fixed this, they realised that the connection between the can and the parachute wasn't strong enough to withstand launch forces. However, they fixed this by securing the parachute to the can using duct tape and Kevlar string. Their can survived the launch and the descent to the ground, remaining in one piece.

Many congratulations to both teams on their amazing achievement. They have worked extremely hard during the past few months, learning many challenging concepts such as radio communication, programming electronics, 3D Design and Printing from scratch. They were great female STEM ambassadors at the Regional Launch, managing to troubleshoot last minute technical problems and having two very successful launches. The Launch Team was very impressed with their design as our CanSats were some of the few they had launched this week with no failure.

**Natalia** "It was a really exciting day finally seeing all our hard work pay off as we saw our CanSat being launched in the rocket."

**Ruby** "I found it to be a very valuable experience, especially seeing what is available outside of the Physics A-level curriculum and having an insight into potential career options."

**Shelise** "I was responsible for 3D design and printing. I feel very proud to see that the structure survived and was recovered without any damage to the 3D printed shell"



**Faith** "CanSat was such an amazing opportunity. It gave us a sneak peek into aerospace and electronic engineering as well as other interesting aspects of design and technology. Overall, it was a fun experience and I would happily do it again!"

**Navya** "It was a great opportunity to see what a real engineering project consists of and having a hands-on experience making a CanSat."

**Nishita** "At first, approaching this was very intimidating, as our teams were at the beginning of tackling a whole new world of physics, maths and computing. Overall, if it weren't for Mrs Aubeeluck's help, we wouldn't have managed to push through with what our hosts described as 'a well organized and constructed output' - it took us roughly five months to fully program, build and test our CanSat!"

This opportunity has been a great introduction to the world of engineering and team building and I cannot wait for the years below me to experience it!"

*continued*



## OP Team Successfully Completes CanSat Regional Launch *continued*

### Team Opsonomy's Tumultuous Experience

*"The Regional Launch presented us with some challenges, but I am pleased that we came out of it successfully. On arrival at the site, we realised that for a moment, we had no power in our circuits! The problem seemed to be a loose connection somewhere in our Can which had a myriad of wires criss-crossing to different components. With the calm of our team members, we were able to spot the problem. Once we fixed this, we realised that the connection between the Can and the parachute wasn't strong enough to withstand launch forces.*

*However, we fixed this by securing the parachute to the Can using duct tape and Kevlar string. Our Can survived the launch and the decent to the ground, remaining in one piece. During our launch we ran into an issue where our PC wasn't picking up our readings, which would have meant that we would have had no data. However, luckily it was being picked up on the other teams PC.*

*Despite these issues, we had an amazing experience working together and watching our CanSat shoot up into the sky!"*

**Mrs Aubeeluck** *"Many congratulations to both teams on their amazing achievement. They have worked extremely hard during the past few months, learning many challenging concepts such as radio communication, programming electronics, 3D Design and Printing from scratch. They were great female STEM ambassadors at the Regional Launch, managing to troubleshoot last minute technical problems and having two very successful launches. The Launch Team was very impressed with their design as our CanSats were one of the few they had launched this week with no failure."*



### Music Award Holders Workshop

On the 27th of April we held a Music Award Holders' Workshop at the Senior School with Colin Dowdeswell - a conductor who has composed music not only for choirs and string orchestras, but also film and television.

First, we went over the basic beat patterns for conducting in 2, 3 and 4 time. Then we went into groups and did a game, first as a pair, then in a bigger group of eight where one person conducted in a random time (2, 3 or 4) and the rest of us had to clap in time to it, eventually speeding up and slowing down.

Next, we did some singing, using the well-known song *Canon* by Thomas Tallis in time to Dowdeswell's conducting. He then called up someone randomly to conduct everyone in four parts.

After that, we did some spotting mistakes in three examples; we had the correct score in front of us and Colin would play something slightly different and we had to find what and where he played it differently.

We also looked at the structure of a score and where each instrumental section needs to sit.

After the interval we took out our instruments and started to play a song and talked about the different timings, tempos and dynamics. During the time we did this, Colin would randomly choose someone to conduct the orchestra and

would help them improve their conducting skills, whether it was to stay in a steady tempo or to exaggerate the upbeat.

Overall, I really enjoyed the session, particularly where we did the group activity of conducting and clapping.

**Tia, Year 8S**





## Classics Trip to Italy

The Classics trip to the bay of Naples was a great success. The students enjoyed walking the streets of Pompeii, climbing Mount Vesuvius and making gelato. The students will share some of their own experiences and memories in the next bulletin.

Mr Nolan



## Easter Sixth Form Trip to Washington D.C.

During the Easter holiday, some of our Sixth Form History and Politics students enjoyed a fascinating trip to Washington D.C. Students visited the US Capitol building, the Library of Congress, the White House and enjoyed a tour of the US Supreme Court.

They also learned about the history and culture of African Americans and Native Americans, as well as seeing artefacts from the Apollo moon missions at the National Air and Space Museum.

Thank you to Mr Fuller and M Ford for leading the trip. It was a packed few days away and everyone was exhausted when they came back.

There will be more photographs of where we visited to follow in the next bulletin.





## Community News

### Comic Relief

Thank you to all who donated so generously in support of Comic Relief in March. We raised over £400 at Seniors from our non-uniform day. The Charity Committee also organised a talent show which was hugely entertaining. Congratulations to Ruby who won and to all who were brave enough to take part.

Then of course there was our annual Staff v Sixth Form benchball competition: 3-1 to the staff this year!



## House Suppers

Our House Leaders would like to invite all students in Years 7-13 to attend their House Valedictory Supper.

Our Year 13 students are preparing for their summer examinations and this special annual House event aims to mark the occasion of their departure.

This is an opportunity for students to come together in their House mixing from youngest to eldest, and to celebrate and wish our Year 13s success in the future.



**Anselm**  
**Thursday 27th April**

<https://forms.office.com/e/9Vb2zAC3vg>



**Laud**  
**Thursday 4th May**

<https://forms.office.com/e/hBQ2Ziini>



**Hatton**  
**Friday 28th April**

<https://forms.office.com/e/Rn7C2nXy7P>



**Stafford**  
**Friday 5th May**

<https://forms.office.com/e/z6fNmbB7G2>

The events will take place in our Banqueting Hall, starting at 5.00pm and finishing at 7.00pm

To sign up, parent permission is required.

Please register on Socs, or using the links above. We look forward to welcoming you.



## South Asian Society

My name is Nishita and I decided to hold a discussion on South Asian representation in the media because I take a lot of pride in my South Asian heritage. However, I know many brown individuals like myself who do not feel the same amount of pride as I do, as there are lots of harmful stereotypes and casual discrimination across the advertising industry, social media etc.

Although many people know other minority groups have had an even greater negative experience of such racism against them than South Asians, I have noticed that people tend to ignore or overlook the needs and problems of groups such as ourselves as they don't think it's that big a deal.

In my talk at the South Asian Society, we discussed this through our own experiences of this subtle but harmful form of discrimination. An example of this is how people assume all people brown in colour speak Hindi.

We also discussed the instances of brown characters in western media and how some of them were stereotyped and mocked because of this; an example of this, which was very much agreed by many attendants, is our iconic Indian accent which is always made the butt of the joke as our pronunciation of English words may not be that of what one with an English or American accent would have.

Overall, this experience was not only (hopefully) educational for the students that attended my lecture, but

it was also an eye-opener for me as I learnt that discrimination took many different forms for different South Asians – and it also took place within the South Asian community itself, not just against the West.

I'm very thankful to those who decided to come along and listen to my ideas.

Nishita, Year 12



**South Asian Society** meets every Thursday lunchtime in Shah D

## CCF Easter Camp

Year 9 and 10 CCF cadets were excited to participate in the Easter camp at Pirbright army base at the end of the spring term. 32 cadets spent four days developing their leadership skills and also putting much of the theory learnt across the year into practice, alongside their fellow cadets from Whitgift School. This included navigation, camouflage and concealment, drill and cooking ration packs. As you can see from the photos, they had a fantastic experience.





## Curiosity Club - Design Through the Ages

It was lovely to see so many Year 7 & 8 students turn up for this event to share their thoughts on the evolution of design over the centuries.

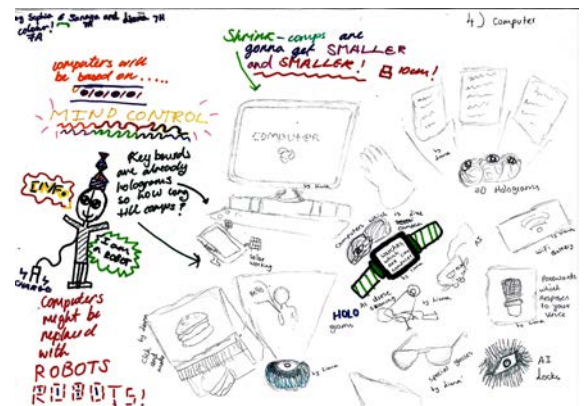
We looked at a range of products from the past. The typewriter was a big hit and students really enjoyed trying to type their messages using it. I think we all appreciate how easy computers are today!

We discussed how many changes and developments Queen Elizabeth II must have experienced in her lifetime and whilst on the throne and what amazing conversations one could have had with her and how important it is to share these conversations with Grandparents

and the older generation.

Students then designed their own products thinking about what they might look like or how they might function in the future? Would they even still be in existence or would they be obsolete?

It was a lovely, busy event, a great atmosphere and enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you also to the catering team for the delicious cake and refreshments!



## End of Term Prep Music Assembly

Ministrings led the assembly on the last Thursday of the Spring term with a fun, catchy rendition of 'Ministrings, yeah!' especially arranged by Ministrings chief, Mrs Parry-Dickinson. The girls learnt this music by ear and had to memorise the structure of this blues inspired piece. Their performance also

included some bow waves and 'cello spins!

Prep Polyphonic sung a song they had been working on called 'Under one sky', arranged by Andy Brooke. The song goes into three parts and the girls coped with it admirably. Instrumental

solos by Kirstie, Ariel, Lottie and Abigail completed the morning assembly line up.

The Hall was full with pupils, staff and parents. Well done to all those who took part!





## Aiyana Fundraises for The Little Princess Trust



Over the Easter break, Aiyana in Year 2 had her hair cut to raise money for The Little Princess Trust – a charity that funds the provision of wigs for young people who have lost their hair due to cancer and other illnesses. Having spent over three years growing it, she had an amazing 20 inches to donate.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated generously to this good cause – this placed her efforts in the top 10% of Just Giving fundraisers for the month of March with enough raised to fund the production and fitting of at least two wigs.

If you would like to contribute to the cause, please visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ayiana-ghumra>



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



Suitable for **girls** aged 4 and under



**Thursday 4th May**

**Time: 8.45am-9.45am**

RSVP

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



## Year 3 & 4: Wiz, Wham Alakazam

Wow! Year 3 and Year 4 really wowed us with their magical Easter production of *Wiz, Wham Alakazam*.

This musical about teamwork and togetherness was beautifully told by the girls through their expressive speaking, acting, singing, gymnastics, dancing and playing.

Thank you to the staff who worked so hard to bring the production together and to all the pupils for their enthusiasm and professionalism: you were amazing!









## Year 2: Art

On the last day of spring term, parents came into the classroom to help finish the Year 2 Art project. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed the fantastic Easter Egg Hunt around the school.



We read 'The Great Wave', a book inspired by the artwork of Hokusai. Hokusai is a famous Japanese artist. I used watercolour, acrylic paint, pencils and card and glue to create my own wave. My mum helped me with the boats. Avia





## Year 2: Art *continued*



## Year 2: Multi Sports Festival

The Year 2 girls enjoyed a wonderful afternoon in the sunshine taking part in lots of different sports. They improved their skills and worked hard as a team.





# Open Morning Reception (4+)



## Talk & Tour:

Thursday 27 April: 9.00am-10.30am

To book, go to: [www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions/open-days](http://www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions/open-days)

To mark **Eid ul-Fitr**, we are inviting girls at Prep to dress in their own brightly coloured clothing on **Monday 24th April**.

On this day, we will be serving a themed lunch, with meat and vegetarian options as usual and the servery will be decorated with crafts.

## Katherine Visits Blackpool Life Boat Station

In Geography, Year 2 students have been learning about coastlines. During the Easter break, Katherine enjoyed a holiday in Blackpool and was lucky enough to visit a lifeboat station.

Last term, we had a visitor from the RNLI and so Katherine was excited to learn even more about the boats and the work of this charity.

As you can see, Katherine would make an excellent RNLI volunteer.



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

Celebrating National Dance Day  
Whole School

# Danceathon

Thursday 27 April 2023

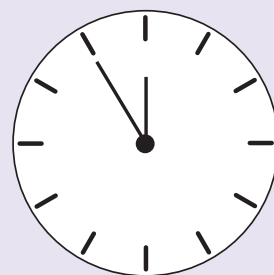
1pm in the Courtyard



All welcome, staff and students  
Come and join in the fun, no dance experience required

## Maths Puzzle Fun

Jemma couldn't see the clock to tell the time but she could see its reflection in the mirror. If this is what she saw, what was the real time?



Answer on page 16



## Year 5: Tudor Day

On 30th March, Year 5 came to school dressed as Tudors and took part in a number of fun activities.

In the small hall (complete with beams), we learnt a Tudor dance to *Pastime with Good Company* which was written by Henry VIII around 1513.

Next, we cooked bhajis for Ramadan (our RS topic) and Elizabethan Naughty

cake, making enough to share with our parents during our showcase event the following day.

We enjoyed a lesson about Tudor music with Miss Fitzgerald before heading to Seniors for a Tudor tour of the site expertly led by Mr Fuller. He showed us the Tudor building in the Medieval Garden, Queen Elizabeth's bedroom, the restored Long Gallery, the

Banqueting Hall (including Archbishop Whitgift's coat of arms that we have on our blazers) and the Chapel – so many connections between the Tudors and our school!

Finally, Mrs Salter taught us to write our names in calligraphy using pen and ink.

It was a great way to finish our topic, "Off with Her Head!"





## ABRSM Music Results

Name	Form	Instrument	Grade	Result
Leen	8H	Violin	3	Pass
Imaan	7H	Piano	3	Pass
Elena	3J	Piano	2	Pass
Yea	7H	Piano	3	Merit
Olivia	5J	Singing	2	Distinction
Grace	11A	Piano	3	Pass
Jemima	9L	Singing for Musical Theatre	4	Distinction
Simone	10A	Cello	6	Pass
Charlotte	5J	Trumpet	2	Merit
Holly	5J	Voice	3	Distinction
Azriella	9L	Violin	5	Merit
Tamalia	6J	Voice	2	Merit
Tia-Amelie	8S	Oboe	5	Pass
Rhiannon	3J	Piano	1	Merit
Jasmine	6J	Singing	1	Merit
Harriet	4J	Piano	2	Pass
Rohaam	13H	Piano	6	Pass
Harriet	4J	Flute	1	Merit
Anjola	10L	Piano	6	Distinction
Sophie	9L	Cello	5	Pass
Kayla	12S	Singing	5	Pass
Ria	13H	Voice - Classical	8	Distinction
Eleanor	4J	Piano	5	Distinction
Kezia	3J	Piano	1	Merit
Hawwa	7S	Singing	1	Pass
Saanvi	3J	Singing	Prep	Present
Grace	7A	Violin	3	Pass

## Jewellery Notice

**Just a reminder...** students are not allowed to wear any jewellery for PE, Swimming and Dance.



## Maths Puzzle Fun page 14 Answer

12:05 is the answer. Last winner was Ayesha in Year 7

## Catering News



Something new and exciting is coming to the lunches this term. Introducing 'Take Over Tuesdays'.

At the end of last term, Year 7 learnt in their year group assembly all about healthy eating and eating a balance diet. To test their knowledge of these talks, Mr Haigh-McLane from Holroyd Howe challenged the girls to create a daily menu based on the principles of healthy eating and how Holroyd Howe create their menus for the school. Instruction were given out and plenty ideas came flowing back.

From Tuesday next week, the students will be able to see, taste and vote for the menu most likely to make a come back and be a staple in the menus next year. Every Tuesday will be different and the most popular day created by one of the Year 7 girls will be healthily rewarded.

Don't forget to check out the Summer term menus on the portal.

## Coming up...

Monday 24th April	Eid al Fir
Thursday 4th May	The King's Coronation
15th – 21st May	National Vegetarian Week
Thursday 8th June	World Ocean Day
13th – 18th June	Healthy Eating Week

Look out for great seasonal tasting tables throughout the summer term and foodie themed posters around the catering areas.