



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



This week, we received two very exciting pieces of news from Seniors: nine of our Year 10 students won medals in this year's (national) Biology Challenge competition whilst the Old Palace Urban Design Challenge team has been shortlisted in the 16-18 year category in the 2023 Design Future London competition.

The team rose to the challenge of redesigning a part of central Croydon by coming up with an imaginative plan to convert the Alders building into a sustainable community hub.

Do please vote for them by clicking [here](#) for the link.

The beautiful weather has ensured that Pre Prep and Prep's two Sports Days have already taken place without a hitch and the weather continues to look good for Seniors Sports Day next Thursday, 22nd June.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming over 80 guests to the annual OPA Summer Reunion this Saturday. My thanks in advance to our Sixth Form volunteers who will be joining our guests for lunch before taking them on a tour of Old Palace.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Jane Burton, Head

Year 10: Biology Challenge Competition



Pictured: Congratulations to Iqra (Silver) and Anoushka, Ava, Emily, London, Maheli, Natalie, Sanvi and Shazia (Bronze).



Well done to all the Year 10 students who took part in the Biology Challenge competition this term.

The students answered questions from their school Biology knowledge but the competition also rewards those students whose knowledge of the subject has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes, taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest, and are generally aware of the plants and animals around them.

Congratulations to Iqra, who gained a silver medal, placing her in the top 15% in the UK.

OP Entry Shortlisted for the Urban Design Challenge

The Old Palace Urban Design Challenge team entry has been shortlisted as one of the best design entries in the 16-18 year category in the 2023 Design Future London competition.

The challenge was to redesign a part of central Croydon, and the teams were tasked with identifying a particular part of the high street to focus on and to create a design that met the needs of the local community.

The Old Palace team chose to redesign the Allders building, converting it into a sustainable community hub.

The winner will be selected in a people's vote, so please support our entry!

Voting closes Wednesday 21 June.

To view all the entries and cast a vote, click [here](#):

Old Palace School: 16-18 year old category: Design 8



THE RENOVATION OF ALLDERS

By Old Palace of John Whitgift School

The abandoned site in central and west Croydon was once a hub of community activities and commercial operations. However, due to years of neglect, the site has become a burden to the area, leading to unsustainable practices. Additionally, the decline in public appeal has further worsened the situation, leading to the need for a renovation project to restore the site to its former glory.

The renovation project aims to restore the site's functionalities by transforming it into a hub of commercial and community activities.

Croydon Athletics

On a very warm Wednesday morning, 18 students from Year 7 competed in the Croydon Schools Athletics Championships at Croydon Arena. Armed with plenty of fluids and snacks, the students experienced, in some cases, their first big meet.

Everyone did well and worked hard, although some of the throwers learned a lot about the regulations relating to their event e.g not stepping out of the front of the circle. Well done to everyone and particularly those who, on a hot day, ran a middle distance event!

Special mention to

Ellie	Silver medal in the A String 800m - making her the second fastest at this event in Croydon
Lola	Qualified for the 200m A String final
Harmony	Qualified for the 200m B String final and a silver medal in the B String Javelin competition
Gracie-Mae	Silver medal in the B String Shot Put
Fanila	Third in the B String Discus

We look forward to some more excellent performances on Sports Day!



U14/15 Cricket v Sydenham High

A mixed team of U14/U15 players travelled to Sydenham to play 8-a-side softball pairs cricket. For some this was their first experience of cricket.

I was overseeing the B team – they did well! They are aware that we need to practise our bowling – but that said there were some really good efforts – Avani did particularly well. When batting we need to not be frightened to hit with power. Again there were some 4s hit (well done to Safa).

The B team won by 4 runs. Well done!

The A team also won by approximately 20 runs. The teacher from Sydenham had lots of positive words about their performance – good accurate bowling and some powerful hits. Well done to all!

Players: Arabella, Iqra, Zara Ti, Safiya, Zara To, Avani, Ploy, Jemima, Adaeze, Anastasia, Ishika, Safa, Harini and Sahana.

Mrs Smith



Year 12 Economists Attend IEA Sixth Form Conference

On the 14th of June, we attended a series of lectures delivered by academics from the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) at Lingfield College. These talks were on a wide range of topical subjects and gave us a better understanding of economics in the real world.



Our first lecture was on the free market response to climate change, and this was delivered by Andy Mayer. This was an interesting insight into how both governments and private individuals/firms could collectively tackle climate change. We learnt about the many ways the free market could help solve the climate crisis, including encouraging sustainable competition. Encouraging competition could prompt firms to innovate and find more sustainable means of production (e.g. production powered by solar), which can potentially help to prevent further stresses on the environment.

Our second lecture of the day focused on the “productivity puzzle” of the UK economy which outlined some of the reasons why UK productivity growth has consistently fallen in comparison to pre-2008 trends. Julian Jessop (who delivered this lecture) presented several government-led and market-led solutions to our productivity; for example, increase investment into infrastructure such as schools. A particular area of interest was our discussion on the future of artificial intelligence and whether this would benefit/hinder productivity improvements in the UK and around the world.

The final lecture of the day (delivered by Kristian Niemietz) was about social health insurance (SHI) and whether this

would be a good alternative to the NHS. He first explained the benefits of SHI, which is adopted in countries such as Switzerland, the Netherlands and Israel and compared SHI structures to the UK’s healthcare system (predominantly the NHS). One interesting point of comparison he made was how waiting times could vary so significantly between an area with SHI and the UK, for example. He noted that in the Netherlands (where SHI exists), waiting times, even during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, were lower compared to waiting times in the UK before the pandemic.

At the end of the conference we were gifted some recent publications by IEA academics, which will be incredibly useful as extended reading for topics that we will be looking at in Economics next year Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Lingfield, and we would like to thank Ms Ojukwu for organising this trip and Lingfield College and the IEA for running the event

Sarah, Year 12



Sports Leaders Level 3

Before half term our three Level 3 Sports Leaders in Year 12 helped at St David’s Prep School Sports Day. This was a chance to use and practise the skills they are learning on the course.

‘Thank you to the students from Old Palace School who gave up their time to help out at our Junior Sports Day in May. They were extremely helpful, polite and fully engaged with the afternoon. I hope they enjoyed the experience as much as we enjoyed having them along. Their main responsibilities included being located on an activity station (Basketball, obstacle course, throwing) before helping judge finishers during the races. Without a doubt we’d have them back again so thank you all.’

Mr Smith & Mrs Palfreyman
St David’s Prep School



Student Leadership Team Training Day

Just before half term, our new student leadership team were put through their paces on a leadership training day. Following some words of wisdom from Mrs Burton, the students were set a series of challenges to help them think about the best ways to inspire and lead a team, to work together and utilise each individual's strengths and the importance of resilience and determination.

The team completed the day thoroughly inspired and we look forward to supporting their initiatives in the year ahead.



Crochet Club Celebrates International Yarn Bombing Day

Our very popular crochet club runs every Monday lunchtime in the Library and aims to encourage everyone from beginners to advanced to pick up their hook and find relaxation and creativity through the craft of crochet.

Since September, the club has been teaching students how to crochet with the help of YouTube tutorials, books and one-to-one support from Natalie, Mrs Peplow and Mrs Chevalier. Each term has had a theme and students have learnt how to crochet hearts, flowers and seasonally themed items. We also held a very popular 'crash course' in finger-knitting from Liana in Year 7. Older Year 9 and 10 students have joined in, using the skill of crochet as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards assessments.

Sunday 11th June was 'International Yarn Bombing' Day. Yarn Bombing is when either knitted or crocheted woolly items are taken outside into the urban environment to

raise a smile with soft fluffy yarn. Yarn bombing began in America at the beginning of the 21st century as a way to brighten and soften the harsh or broken landscape of grey steel fences, benches and handles found in urban setting, adding a friendly touch to a hard and often bleak urban landscape. Yarn bombing was rapidly taken up during the COVID pandemic to bring 'Random acts of crochet kindness' to neighbourhoods, with Yarn bombing as well as anonymously left crochet gifts of hearts and flowers being put outside for people to find as either random gifts left on park benches or as post-box toppers, for the whole community to enjoy.

To mark International Yarn Bombing Day, Old Palace crochet club 'Yarn-bombed' our wonderful horse chestnut tree at Seniors with a 'tree-hugger' and flowers and vines, which we hope will raise a smile to everyone entering the Chestnut Gate at Old Palace. A big thank you to Paul and the caretakers for giving us permission to Yarn bomb!



Sports Leaders Level 3 - Skipping

As part of Rachel's Sports Leaders Level 3 she organised a skipping event at lunchtime for students in Year 7+8.

There was a timed skip – winners to be announced – and a chance to enjoy skipping as a large group.

Well done Rachel for organising and to all who joined in.



GCSE & GCE Art, Photography & Design Technology Exhibition 2023

Friday 23rd June
4.30-6pm
Shah Foyer



Year 10 Biology Field Trip

Just before half term, Year 10 collected and analysed the data for their GCSE Biology at Beckenham Place Park. For some students this was their fourth day of the great outdoors and beautiful weather, as they had just completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Practice Expedition.

The girls worked in small groups to identify the different species of plants in the grass and learnt methods to estimate the coverage or number of plants. Two studies were undertaken to understand the different methods

available to ecologists and students used equipment to measure how compacted the soil was, the ground temperature and light intensity.

As ecologists, the students then had to reflect on the methods and identify if they could improve on them.

'I enjoyed working as a group and getting more knowledge on how to collect data e.g. using a light meter and soil pin.' **Nikki**

'I learnt how to use the equipment correctly and what to look out for when doing the experiment.' **Ava**

'When we had to look close up we found all sorts of tiny plants and leaves and flowers, such as tiny clovers, whereas if I had looked from afar, or just walked or sat on the field, I would have thought it was only grass and an occasional daisy or dandelion.' **Imaan**

'When counting species, look at the bottom of the quadrat for shorter species that grow.' **Zara T**



THURSDAY 22ND JUNE 2023 6PM – 9PM

WINDRUSH CELEBRATION 75

THE CROYDON BME FORUM IN COLLABORATION WITH LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE – THIS IS CROYDON ARE PROUD TO CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THE 75TH WINDRUSH ANNIVERSARY & CELEBRATION SERVICE.

3PM TO 4.30PM

Explore the Museum of Croydon's Caribbean Influencers exhibition and take part in a family workshop investigating Windrush stories through poetry.

5PM

An array of food stalls from many countries available for purchase to ignite your taste buds

6PM

Windrush 75th Celebratory Anniversary Service begins

This event promises to be fun, exciting and educational, both adults and children are welcome.

LOCATION :
**CROYDON MINSTER CHURCH STREET,
CROYDON, CRO 1RN**

**SCAN QR CODE TO
VISIT OUR WEBSITE**



Eventbrite

BOOK YOUR TICKETS AT WWW.CBMEFORUM.ORG/LATEST-EVENTS



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Year 7: Team Building

As part of our PSHE programme, we welcomed David Seymour and his team from WO Youth Engagement/ British Army who led a dynamic team-building session where the girls worked in groups of five to build a structure as tall as the tallest person in the group.

The activity highlighted the importance of team work, communication, leadership and listening when completing a task as a group.

The students had great fun whilst undertaking what was quite a challenging activity.



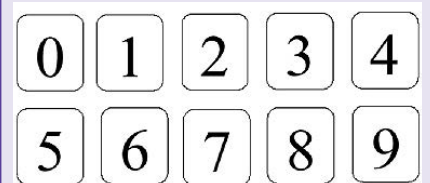
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY... ***MAGNA CARTA SIGNED***

On June 15, 1215, King John signed the Magna Carta. This famous document limited the power of the King and established the principle that even monarchs had to act within the law and respect some fundamental rights and privileges of the people.



Maths Puzzle Fun

For this puzzle, it's a good idea to have a set of 0 to 9 cards. If you don't have any, just write down the numbers 0 to 9 on a piece of paper and cut them out.



By adding together the numbers of 3 cards, make a total of 15.

The puzzle is how many DIFFERENT ways are there to add up to a total of 15 (remember 1+2+3 counts the same as 3+2+1)

Answer on page 22

Year 8 Self Defence

As part of our PSHE programme of keeping safe, we enjoyed a practical session led by Tahir Ahmad, Lead Instructor for Defence Lab Training, which covered running for self-defence, the importance of mental strength and how to overcome fear, and how to effectively block a potential attacker. The session was great fun whilst learning an incredible self-defence system!

www.defencelabtraining.co.uk or call 0800 246 1878



Old Palace of
John Whitgift School
Independent Girls' School

Performing Arts Showcase 2023

27th | 28th June
Banqueting Hall at 7pm



Tickets via WisePay
£6 adult | £3 concessions





Congratulations to Aadya and Lilla who represented Croydon in the Year 3 and 4 red tennis competition at the London Youth Games last week.

It was an early start for Mrs Coster, Aadya and Lilla at East Croydon station to ensure they arrived at Gunnersbury Park in time for the 9.30am start.

The competition started off as a group round-robin where the team made it into 3rd place by the end of the morning.

The afternoon saw our team playing in the plate competition for the London Cup.

With over 28 London boroughs playing in the competition the girls performed really well and should feel very proud of themselves.



Join us for the annual

Old Palace PTA

Summer Fair

Entry **£1** per person

Saturday 24th June 11am - 2pm

- Inflatable Giant Darts • Target Practice Game
- Old Palace Steel Pans • Pimms, Ice Cream & Popcorn
- Sumo Wrestling • Tombola • Raffle • Individual Class Stalls
- Nearly New Uniform Sale

Old Palace Prep School
Melville Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7YN

Please remember that **Monday 19th June** is a non-uniform day for pupils

They can wear anything to school they would like, in exchange for any bottle that can be used at the Summer Fair for the Tombola.

Your bottle donations can be brought to the Prep Office any time before or on Monday 19th June.

Please double check that the Summer Fair on Saturday 24th June, 11am-2pm, is in your diary as we need the children here to help run their enterprise stalls and your support, together with family and friends, in visiting the Fair on the day.

Year 2: The Scented Garden

Year 2 have been very busy, planting in preparation for their plant stall at the Summer Fair on 24th June.

'First we put paper towel in a glass jar then popped in the beans. After a few days, green shoots appeared! We re-potted our beans in soil soon after.' Sion I planted a Nasturtium, it really likes the sunlight and grew very quickly! Aiyana

2J used fresh Rosemary and Lemon to create fragrant cookies to share with their families on the last day of term.



Year 6: Horse Riding

This term, Year 6 had a fabulous time horse riding at Kingsmead Equestrian Centre. The girls loved spending many afternoons outdoors surrounded by nature. They all grew particularly fond of Banksy, the (rather old) cat!

The girls learnt how to trot, steer, groom and lead horses. They also studied horse tack and how to care for a bridle to ensure it is kept in good condition and is safe for the rider to use.

For most, this was their first time around horses, and even though some girls were nervous at first, they were all quick to mount the horse and made the most of the experience.

Well done Year 6 for being confident, capable riders, and for connecting with the horses, making them feel calm in your presence.

"I enjoyed trotting on horses even though I used to be afraid. Horse riding was amazing and I owe it to my friends who comforted me." - Arabella

"If you are considering riding, do it!" - Ruby-Lee

"I loved learning about the welfare of the horses." - Tamalia

"During my lessons I feared riding a horse as I thought I would fall off and hurt myself. But when I climbed on, I felt relaxed." - Amelia

"When I first went horse riding, I was nervous because it was wobbly, and they smelt weird. But now I feel like I need to go horse riding every day!" - Michaela M

"I am particularly proud of my improvement in getting on and off the horse as on the first lesson I was petrified! Now, I can confidently hop on and off a horse." - Ayaana

"I particularly enjoyed spending time with my friends." - Jeeva



Jungle Explorers Holiday Club

This half term the theme of our Holiday Club was Jungle Explorers and girls had great fun discovering the secrets of the jungle. From making their own binoculars and jungle gym to mindful colouring and learning to draw their favourite jungle animals, there was much to do.

Don't forget to book for the Summer Holiday Club now, as places are limited. Booking closes 3rd July.



Summer Holiday Club



Week 1: 10th - 14th July

Superheroes

Who will save the day?



Week 2: 17th - 21st July

Hawaiian Hullabaloo

Come join for a tropical Luau



Week 3: 24th - 28th July

Under the Sea

Discover what lies on the ocean floor

Week 4: 31st July - 4th August

Space

To infinity and beyond!



Activities will include:

- Paddling pool and slip slide every week
(weather pending)
- Pool parties
- Forest school session
- Arts and crafts
- Picnics
- Cooking
- Multi sports session with Professional Coaches

Week 5: 7th - 11th August

Minibeasts

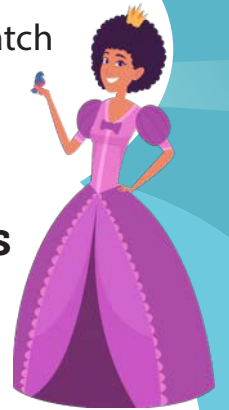
Caterpillars to butterflies watch them grow and let them go



Week 6: 14th - 18th August

Disney/Fairy Tales

Calling all storytellers



Week 7: 21st - 25th August

Symphony of the 5 senses

Making bath bombs and lip balms

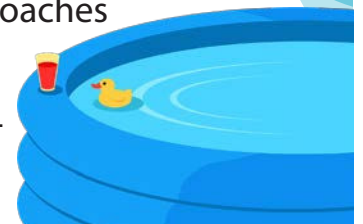
Week 8: 28th August - 1st September

We are the OP Family

A family that plays together, stays together



Come along and have some fun
and so much more...



Due to popularity, be quick to book a place at Holiday Club as places will go fast!

Booking closes 3rd July

Email: PStearn@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk or Wraparoundcare@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk

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

Pre School - Year 2: Sports Day

Congratulations to all the Pre School - Year 2 pupils who took part in Sports Day last week. Well done to all the individual race winners and to Stafford, who were the winning house.

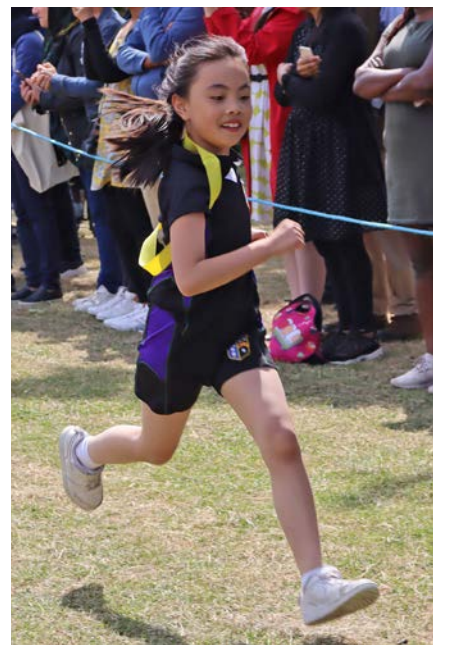
The final result was incredibly close; there were just three points between Stafford and Hatton!

Thank you to all the families who turned out to cheer on the children, and to our Year 5 helpers. Mrs Coster could not have managed without you.



Congratulations to Stafford, the winning house.





Year 3 - 6: Sports Day

The sun shone on the Year 3-6 Sports Day last week, and it was great to see our pupils taking part so enthusiastically in all the races.

Many congratulations to Hatton, who were the winning House, and to the winners of the individual races.

Thanks as well to the many families who energetically cheered from the side lines and to Mrs Coster and staff for organising the event so efficiently.





Year 5: Residential Trip to Frylands Outdoor Activity Centre

On Monday, Year 5 went on a memorable two-day residential trip to Frylands Outdoor Activity Centre. Our first activity was the photo challenge. We were given pictures of different objects dotted around the grounds; we went on a hunt to try and find them and plotted their position on the site map.

After lunch, our two groups enjoyed archery and rock climbing. In archery, we were briefed on the important messages about using a bow and arrow and the correct technique. We attempted to shoot at the target and our results were positive. After that, we played a game called 'Make a Pizza' and tried to hit various colours with our four arrows to complete it: red for the tomato base; yellow for the cheese; blue for a topping of our choice and white for the pizza base. If you hit black, your pizza burnt!

In rock climbing, we were attached to a harness and our goal was to climb

to the top and hit the buzzers before floating back down. Each coloured rope had a difficulty level but no matter which rope we climbed, it was a very good challenge and everyone enjoyed the experience. Then we visited the tuck shop. There was a lot of choice to buy with our budget of £5! We enjoyed a glorious dinner of fish and chips before the entertainment section, where a few people performed dances and plays and songs. It was a real treat!

Before bed, we looked for wild rabbits and it didn't take long before we spotted some. We finished off the day by roasting marshmallows and sandwiching them between some biscuits to enjoy with a mug of milk or hot chocolate. In the morning, after a tasty breakfast, one group went on the assault course while the other went grass sledging. There were many sections in the assault course such as Monkey bars, a small rope laser experience and a tunnel slide. In grass

sledging we raced each other down a grassy bank and saw who could go the furthest. We also rolled down the hill without sledges which made us quite dizzy. We made and cooked our own pizzas in the pizza oven in the woods. They were delicious!

Back at school, we had half an hour in the air-conditioned library, listening to our class reader and...sleeping! It was a fantastic couple of days.

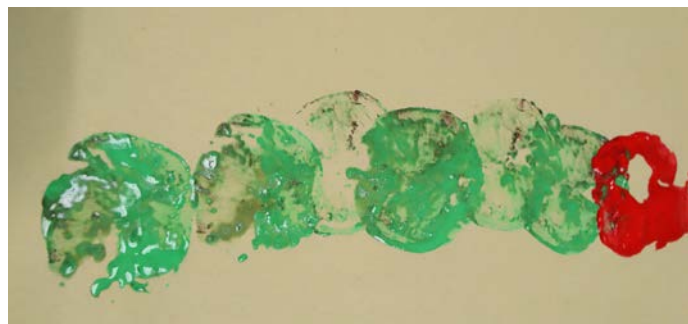
Holly, Year 5J





Pre School: The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Pre School girls have enjoyed a week of fun food activities based around the story of the Hungry Caterpillar as part of their topic Creep, crawl and wriggle. They had to make difficult decisions on their preferences when tasting all the fruits from the story, found out about Swiss cheese, printed with fruit and used weighing scales to measure the ingredients to make delicious cup cakes! At the end of the week there was an exciting delivery of live caterpillars! We will be looking after these and watching them grow and change over the coming weeks.



Reception: Tilgate Nature Centre



Reception had a fantastic time visiting Tilgate Nature Centre. They enjoyed an educational workshop on classification where they looked at some real-life examples of reptiles, birds and mammals and sorted them based on their features.



Maths Puzzle Fun page 9 Answer

Solution:

There are 10 ways to do this:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 9 + 6 + 0 | 8 + 5 + 2 |
| 9 + 5 + 1 | 8 + 4 + 3 |
| 9 + 4 + 2 | 7 + 6 + 2 |
| 8 + 7 + 0 | 7 + 5 + 3 |
| 8 + 6 + 1 | 6 + 5 + 4 |

Senior School Open Morning

Inspiring girls' futures since 1889



Monday, 26 June 9.00am - 11.00am

Follow us on:    

Find out more at: www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk

