



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,

Across the whole school, from Pre School to Year 13, we have seen Old Palace students continuing to be involved in so much activity in addition to working hard in lessons.

We have had a wide range of trips, sporting success, musical events and so much more. This Bulletin captures some of those moments and so please do take the time to read about what has been going on.

At the end of this busy term I hope that all Old Palace students enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

I would like to wish all Old Palace families a Happy Easter and Eid Mubarak to our Muslim families who will be celebrating the end of Ramadan during the break.

**Jane Burton, Head**



## Congratulations to the Old Palace Singers

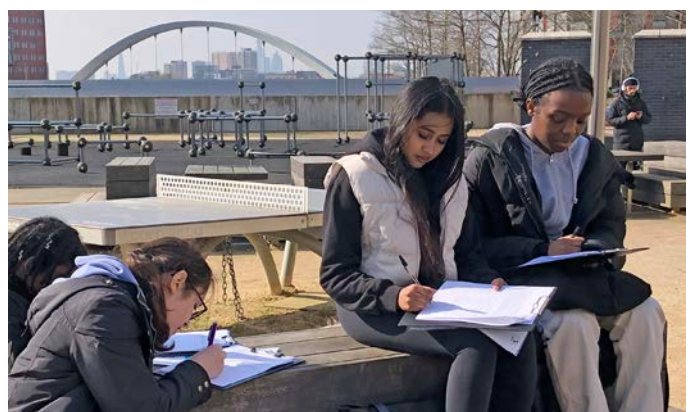


CONGRATULATIONS to the Palace Singers who this weekend were announced as the winners of the Prestigious Chairman's Cup by the Festival Committee of the Coulsdon & Purley Music Festival. We are so proud that Old Palace Prep should be going out on such a high - something that could not have been achieved without Ms Fitzgerald.



## Year 11: Geography Trip to Stratford

Year 10 and 11 Geographers visited Stratford last week to study the sustainability of the regeneration following the 2012 Olympics.

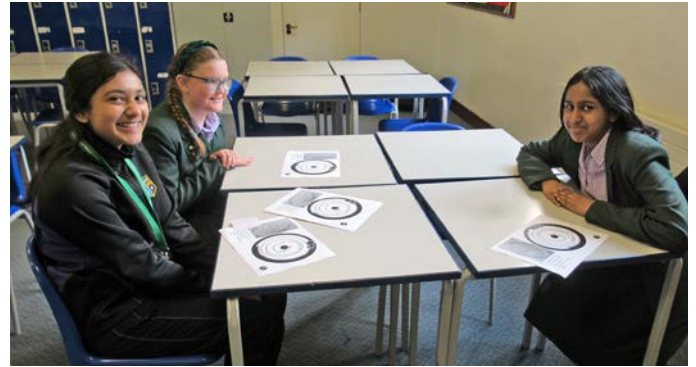




## Pi Day 2024



Together with students, the maths department celebrated national Pi Day on the 14th of March. Among fun activities throughout lunch, some students who participated took part in an investigation using a 100-sided dice to estimate the value of Pi.'



After a frantic half hour of rolling, we studied the results and based on the results obtained and the number of trials done, Pi was estimated to be 3.402. Not a bad estimate!

Our Year 7s and some of the Year 10 students also got involved by investigating crop circles and investigated Mike Reed's explanation involving Pi based on a special crop circle that appeared in Wiltshire in June 2008.

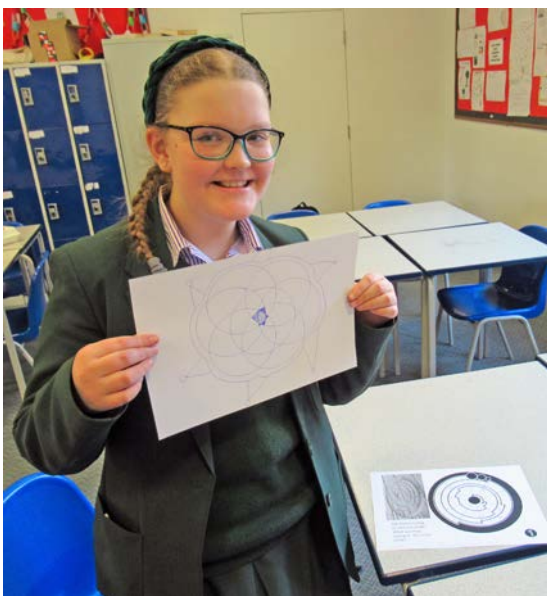
One of our Year 10 students explains:

*'For Pi Day, we learnt how to find the value of Pi using a pattern within a crop circle by splitting it up into 10 sections. Starting from the centre and moving clockwise in the spiral, the numbers encountered represent the digits of Pi. The sequence 3.141592 is obtained by noting the numbers following each step in the spiral, representing the first 6 digits of Pi. The pattern then continues infinitely, as denoted by the series of circles at the end of the spiral. We then contemplated who made crop circles whether it was an act of graffiti or created by aliens sending a message?'*

Students had fun creating their own crop circles as well, although these were unfortunately not supernatural messages!

A special thank you to Lucy for the lovely display of Pi in the Shah building and the lunch ladies for the delicious chicken and mushroom pie for lunch that really brought together a fun, maths-filled day!

*'I really enjoyed Pi Day because of all the interesting fun activities.'* Year 7



## Year 12: Work Experience at Epsom General Hospital



During my time at Epsom Hospital, I was given the opportunity to work in the stroke ward, an experience that provided me with invaluable insights into the different aspects of healthcare.

Each day began with morning ward rounds, where I had the opportunity to join the team of healthcare professionals in providing care for patients recovering from strokes. This

involved closely monitoring vital signs, adjusting treatment plans, and offering support to patients and their families during their journey towards recovery. I was also given the responsibility of completing each patient's history sheets every morning.

In addition to my work in the stroke ward, I also participated in stroke clinics, where I witnessed the ongoing rehabilitation efforts and the holistic approach taken by the hospital in supporting patients beyond the acute phase of their illness.

One of the most memorable moments of my experience was witnessing thrombolysis in action at the A&E department. On another occasion, I had the opportunity to observe a total knee replacement (TKR) surgery. The surgical team's skill and expertise were evident, as was the advancements of the use of AI in the field of surgery.

Overall, my time at Epsom Hospital was both enlightening and inspiring. It reinforced my passion for healthcare and deepened my understanding of the critical role that healthcare professionals play in the lives of patients.

**Razia, Year 13**

My name is Stephanie and I am an aspiring medical student and when applying to medical school it is favourable to get some work experience so that you have more insight into medicine and what it truly is like to be a healthcare professional. This is useful for medical schools to understand that you are making an informed decision to study Medicine.

So, since the start of Year 12, I and some other Old Palace students have been in correspondence with the Work Experience Programme at Epsom General Hospital and after some applications were filled and CVs sent, we were finally given places, coincidentally on the same week. I am going to tell you a bit about some of the experiences I had working in the Cardiology and Orthopaedic Surgery Departments.

So, during the work experience, I'd often start my day by going to the surgical floor to change into my (very flattering) blue scrubs, crocs and scrub cap and then I'd make my way down to the Cardiology Department. Until 10 am the medical students would be recording patient histories, treatments so far, and their effects to prepare for when the consultant came around for morning rounds.

Morning rounds were amazing as I had the opportunity to see how crucial the function of the heart is and

the variety of conditions that can stem from the chest right down to the legs. In this department, I was also able to see a pacemaker check-up with a lovely older patient, who was about to finally be discharged.

During my time here I got to understand how nerve-racking it can be to be in a hospital. That is why I enjoyed interacting with patients, from a comforting smile to having whole conversations about their families and time in the hospital.

Something else I also really enjoyed was watching angiograms. Unfortunately, because I am under 18, I was not allowed to be in the room so other members of the team put on their heavy, 3-piece lead aprons and entered the room and I was able to sit with the consultant and watch on the screens how the angiograms appeared. Angiograms are essentially where dye is inserted into an artery and moves through the heart to show where any blockages or narrowing occur. And seeing the doctor find the vein and insert the dye was fascinating.

I also spent a lot of time in the surgical wing where I got to see many surgeries including a: Latissimus Dorsi Tendon Transfer, Arthroscopic Capsular Shoulder Release, and both knee and hip replacements which were jaw-dropping.

They say you never forget your first surgery and I can see why.

In the surgical theatres, they are almost militant about sterility and making sure that there is little to no possibility of the patient being contaminated in any way, so I had to make sure to stay very clear of all surgical equipment. My scrubs could not even touch the table and everything was fast-paced. And surgeons would do so much through sometimes keyhole incisions and it was so interesting to see what parts of our bodies truly look like through an endoscope. The materials and equipment used were also unbelievable and I got to hold the surgical cement which is used during knee replacements.

Everyone in the theatres was so kind as scrub nurses, anaesthetists, and surgeons talked me through parts of the surgery. I also enjoyed seeing the careful precision of every step from the lead surgeons and their assists can't wait to be exposed to the surgical theatre more in the future.

Good luck to any students who want to get work experience.

**Stephanie, Year 12**



## Percussion Festival

Students of Old Palace took centre stage in a symphony of skill, rhythm and creativity in this year's Percussion Fest! The school's percussionists showcased their talents and captivated the audience with their electrifying performances, leaving a mark on all who attended. Held in the school's Banqueting Hall, the percussion show was a culmination of months of dedicated practice and collaboration. Under the guidance of Mr Pachnine, students honed their craft, mastering intricate rhythms and exploring percussion patterns in popular music.

Pieces played included Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit*, which was performed by Nicole (Year 11), *Paranoid* by Black Sabbath, performed by Daisy (Year 12) and *Seven Nation Army* by The White Stripes and *Uptown Funk* by Bruno Mars which was performed by Ariana (Year 9).

Ariana shared her experience, stating: *"Playing the drums is the best decision I have ever made. Playing the drums for a crowd, was the best feeling I've had. Although I was petrified, especially since it was my first time playing in front of a much larger crowd. I was so happy when I played, the drums were music to my ears (literally and physically) and I was happy to play for the diversity of some less-musically active groups."*

The precision and synchronicity displayed by the performers were nothing short of amazing, demonstrating not only their technical skill but also their ability to communicate and connect to an audience through music. Beyond the exhilarating rhythms and dazzling performances, the Percussion Fest served as a platform for artistic expression and self-discovery. For students, the opportunity to

showcase their talents on stage was a transformative experience, bolstering their confidence and igniting their passion for music. Special thanks have to go to Mr Pachnine for over 20 years of service to Old Palace's percussionists!



## U13 Football v Sydenham High



The U13 football team beat Sydenham High 4-2, with goals from Tianna, Kemafo (2) and Lola.

The match started off slowly with the score at half-time being 1-1. A goal shortly after half-time for Sydenham sparked Old Palace into action and they launched a comeback with some fantastic team goals!



## Founder's Day Service



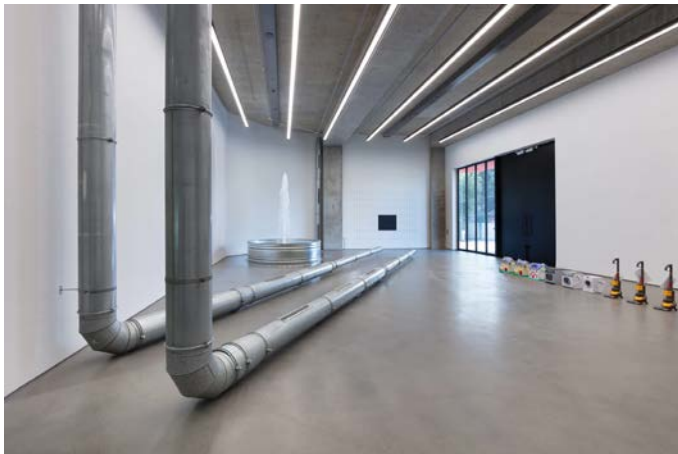
Our Senior School choir took part in JWF's annual Founder's Day Service which was held at Croydon Minster on Friday 22nd March.

## Turner Prize Exhibition

Are you looking for something to do over the Easter break? A past OP student thoroughly recommends the Turner Prize exhibition at the Towner Gallery in Eastbourne and writes that some of the exhibits might be of interest to GCSE/A Level students:

<https://townereastbourne.org.uk/whats-on/turner-prize>

### Ghislaine Leung



### Rory Pilgrim



She adds: 'A lot of the artwork is abstract and immersive as well as an artist who focuses on telling Windrush stories (which has ties to Croydon!). None of the artists/pieces were what I expected but I really enjoyed it. Plus the whole exhibition and the rest of the gallery is free!)

These are the four artists being shown in the Turner Prize exhibition.

### Jesse Darling



### Barbara Walker



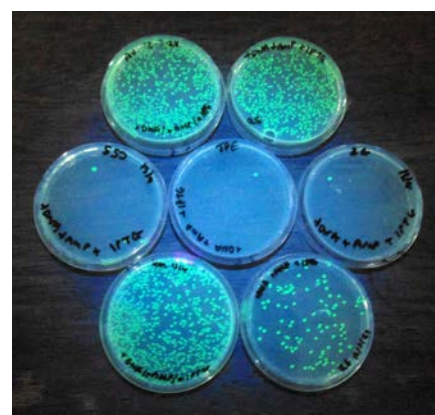


## Year 13: BioSoc - Glow in the Dark

In BioSoc we cultured our own Glow in the Dark bacteria! In the session we prepared petri dishes with the transformed bacteria, and they were then incubated overnight to allow for growth. Through our preparation we practiced aseptic techniques and precision in the measurements we were making.

The task involved much accuracy and care in order to give us favourable results and we had six successes! It was a challenging task, but it helped us to harness and build on our lab skills and we all enjoyed our fabulous results.

Anaika, Year 12 *Biology Prefect*



## ChemSoc - The Slime Ball Challenge

After learning the chemistry about forming polymers with borax to make slime, we had a fun competition to see who could make the most bouncy, bouncy ball. We split into teams and discussed the precise proportions by trialling each ball and seeing how we could adapt the recipe to get a better bounce. After figuring out the smaller balls tend to have a higher bounce, we were ready to win. We each had

three goes to give it our best shot with Mr Poole checking the test was fair.

After an exciting session, well done to the winner, Dilkushi, whose slime ball reached 60cm!

Rinii, Year 12



## Maths Puzzle Fun



In Charlene's household, her dad was always asking math questions and the morning of Good Friday was no different.

He said. "Three plus six times a number is equal to half of the answer to ten plus twenty times seven. What is the number? Once you get the number, we will start breakfast."

Answer on page 20



## Year 8: DT Food

Year 8 were super organised and prepared for their DT Food lesson this week. Their theme was "A balanced meal, using the Eatwell Guide" Some delicious and nutritious dishes were made, well done Year 8!





## 'Wicked' Casts a Spell!



The production of *Wicked* cast an unforgettable spell over our Year 10 and 11 students last week. In a captivating blend of magic, music, and mystique, Year 10 and 11 students embarked on an enchanting journey to witness the spellbinding production of *Wicked* on the West End stage. *Wicked's Defying Gravity* being a GCSE music set work meant that students already had a connection to the production, which promised an enjoyable experience for all!

Guided by the school's commitment to fostering artistic appreciation and cultural immersion, the theatre trip provided students with an opportunity to delve into the world of Broadway and witness the magic of live performance. Throughout the performance, themes of friendship, acceptance, and the complexities of



good and evil resonated deeply with the students, sparking introspective discussions and heartfelt reflections. The awe-inspiring choreography, breathtaking set design, and powerhouse vocal performances left a great impression on students, giving them a professional example of how the piece they're studying looks when it comes to life.

Following the final bow and thunderous applause, students showed their appreciation by giving a standing ovation. On the train home, many students shared favourite moments and dissected plot twists. We wish our GCSE Music students the best in the lead up to their exam and hope that this experience will be a fond memory for years to come!

## Year 8 Netball v Caterham



Year 8 had their final netball match on Wednesday against Caterham

It was a really well matched game with the final score 4 – 5 in favour of Caterham. The OPS team have worked hard throughout the season and the final match showcased the skills they have learned. Kemafo and Tianna were a formidable defence keeping the score line nice and tight throughout.

Centre court play was so much better with lots of drives and changes of direction – and this was commented on and commended by the opposing coach.

Players of the match – Tianna and Kemafo



## Community News

### Senior Netball

Last Monday, there was the opportunity for students to get involved in a community style netball match to earn merits and house points!

Players were divided into two teams randomly – and there was a good level of netball on view throughout!

Well done and thank you to those who took part!



### Year 7, 8 and 9 Easter Egg Hunt

This morning (Tuesday 26 March) Years 7, 8 and 9 all took part in an Easter Egg hunt in the Medieval Gardens.

There were over 100 paper eggs to find and 8 Golden eggs, the golden egg doubled your total! Whoever found the most eggs from each year group won. The weather was perfect, a lovely cool sunny morning which set the scene for the event.

The students had fun searching out the eggs and I am pleased to say that the winners were, Arputha from Year 9, Lola-Marie Year 8 and Isla/Sansita were joint winners in Year 7.

Well done to everyone for taking part!





## A Letter from Mrs Panteli



Dear all,

Every term at Prep is a busy term, and this spring term has certainly lived up to reputation. Well done to all pupils who have represented the school; you have excelled and achieved great things. To all pupils, well done for another term of hard work, good fun and great success in all you do. I have never been prouder to lead our wonderful Prep School.

Wishing you all a restful break away, whatever your plans.

**Mrs Jodene Panteli**  
Head of Preparatory

## Pom Pom Club Easter Wreath



Girls in the Pom Pom Club have made this beautiful Easter Wreath which currently adorns the front door at Prep. It has been much admired!

## PTA Hoodies

A big thank you to the PTA for their lovely OP hoodies. We've introduced Hoodie Friday for staff and pupils because we enjoy wearing them so much!





## Year 1 and 2 Make Easter Bonnets

Pupils in Year 1 & 2 have been busy making Easter bonnets! Don't they look lovely?





## Year 4 and 5 Visit Hever Castle

As part of our 'Off with her head' Cornerstones Topic, on Thursday 14th March Year 4 and 5 visited Hever Castle, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn.

Anne Boleyn was the second wife of Henry VIII, the mother of Queen Elizabeth I and the first of Henry's wives to be beheaded. Hever castle was home to the Boleyn family.

We had our own private tour guide, Ian who showed us around the castle, including the room which would have been the kitchen during Tudor times, the Great Hall, Library, Long Gallery and Anne Boleyn's bedroom. Ian was very impressed with the girls' knowledge of the Tudor reign and family tree.

It was a beautiful sunny day, making

our picnic, walk around the stunning gardens to the lake and time in the adventure playground so enjoyable. Unfortunately, the maze was waterlogged in places so we were unable to go in, the perfect excuse for the girls to try to visit again with their families!





## Spring Prep Soloist Concert



On Thursday 21 March, students from Years 2-6 entertained friends and families with a wonderful afternoon concert. On this occasion two ensembles also performed.

Prep Orchestra began the concert with 'Mull of Kintyre' featuring a beautiful solo from talented violinist Abigail Regan whilst the fabulous 'Ministrings' brought the concert to a rousing close with 'Swinging Sheriff Blues'. Sandwiched in between were a variety of solo performances from eighteen students with pieces such as 'Tingalayo', 'Hoedown', 'He's a Pirate', 'Lavender's Blue', 'Sad Ghost', 'Nocturne in E flat' and 'Girl on Fire'. A wonderful range of music and definitely something for everyone!

Well done to everyone who took part but particularly to Amelia, Charlotte K and Amelie who performed a solo to an audience on their instruments for the very first time. A huge thank you to two of our wonderful Visiting Music Team, Mrs Ellie Parry-Dickinson and Mrs Karina Lucas (also in picture), for their support at the concert and accompanying pupils.

**Miss Fitzgerald**





## Swimming Gala

Year 5 swimmers, joined by two Year 4, enjoyed a fun filled friendly Swimming gala against St Davids. There were traditional stroke swimming races mixed with noodle riding races, partner kicking races and noodle train races.

Everyone had a brilliant time with lots of high pitched cheering and excitement in abundance. The afternoon finished with a fantastic couple of rounds of the Old Palace Spoons game, loved by all!



## Year 3: Café Trip

On Monday, 25th March, Year 3 went on a class trip to the Coach House Cafe in Coombe Woods as a culmination to their topic 'Scrumdidiliumptious', a topic all about food.

During this topic we have been learning about different genre of non-fiction writing and so, before visiting the café we created interview questions. When we arrived at the café, Year 3 showed great curiosity and bravery, speaking clearly and politely to the café manager. We found out that the manager's name is Mina, she explained that the most popular cake is a Bakewell Tart and they have about 100-400 customers a day!

**Emira** said, "I love it, it was a long walk but I did have an orange juice."

**Avia** said, "The chocolate chip cookie is delicious, it's so big you can share it with your friends."

**Michaella** said, "I was nervous doing the interviews but the people were really friendly and kind."

**Sion** said, "I loved the café, it was set in a garden which means you can run around after you have had a drink."





## Pre School and Reception: Godstone Farm - Ready, Steady, Grow!

Pre School and Reception enjoyed a very exciting trip to Godstone Farm this week as part of their topic Ready Steady Grow. The weather was perfect for Farmer Selma to show them around the farm and introduce the animals, some of whom even had babies.

The girls were very lucky to see some newly born lambs and piglets. They helped to feed the sheep and pigs before going into the barn to be shown

the 96 year old tortoise called George, a bearded dragon called Ginny and even a cockroach! There were so many animals; rabbits, ducks, alpacas, goats, donkeys and the delightful Shetland ponies who were very curious. The farmer was keen for them to see everything and test their knowledge of baby animals!

After a lovely picnic lunch outside, they enjoyed a final activity in the

farmhouse garden. The children tried digging and found worms, they closely observed different types of seed and found out that soil can be very different too when they tried to mould it into shapes. They also tried their hand at pollinating with glitter and helped to fill the raised bed with compost ready for planting. It was hard work!

The girls had a great experience and would love to go back again!













## Year 2: Make Easter Cup Cakes

2J made crispy Easter cup cakes with Chef Gary. The girls worked together in pairs to make cakes to share with their families.





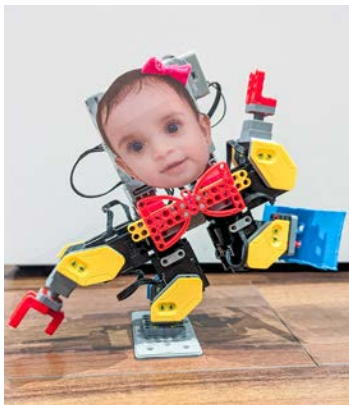
In line with their new Cornerstones project – Tomorrow's World, Year 6 were given the task of creating a coding project...

### ADEW The Baby Breakdancing Robot

Since I was little, I've been incredibly interested in robotic toys, and I've always wanted to build one of my own. So, finally, my chance came to show my invention to others; with ADEW the baby robot for our robotics themed holiday project. ADEW is inspired by a younger me, who was known for making up funny little dance steps. So, this is quite reminiscent as well as fun.

It was really challenging to build and code ADEW. I had to build the body like a Lego set and connect the servo motors and wires to the main controller unit, which converts 1s & 0s into physical motion. My Dad helped me with the project; however, he was very proud of how little help I needed with it as I managed to troubleshoot and fix most of the issues on my own.

I wrote the code using Google Blockly (a visual programming language



similar to Scratch). The code involved adding blocks of instructions which would mimic the robot doing a dance number in sync with a groovy tune. And finally, I gave it character by attaching a photo of my baby face to it with a spring to make it bounce about when it dances.

Seeing how much my friends and

Ms. McKenzie enjoyed watching ADEW dance, I think my mission was a resounding success. I want to thank to my dad for his help, and to Ms. McKenzie for the fantastic encouragement and support.

**Aadhya, Year 6**

### Maths Puzzle Fun page 7 Answer

$$3 + 6n = (10 + 20 \times 7)/2$$

$$3 + 6n = 150/2$$

$$3 + 6n = 75$$

$$6n = 72$$

$$N = 12$$

## Join us at the *final* OPA Summer Reunion

**Saturday, 29 June 2024**  
**£15.00 per head**

- Tours of Old Palace: 11.00am
- Welcome Drinks: 12 noon
- Lunch: 12.30pm
- Cake cutting/presentations: 2.15pm
- Future of the OPA: 2.45pm (incorporating AGM) Finish 3.30pm

Tickets will be available from 15 April

