



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



As ever, lots of content in this week's Bulletin showing Old Palace students out and about on academic, cultural and sporting trips and visits.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend (even if the sun doesn't shine!).

Jane Burton, Head

Special congratulations must go to the Year 8 team of Akshita, Rishita, Graci-May, Kemafo, Tianna, Ayesha and Liana, who won the U13 six-a-side Indoor Cricket Plate at Bishop Thomas Grant School last month.

Senior School Easter Assembly at Croydon Minster



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Community News

CCF Camp

CCF cadets took part in an action-packed camp at Longmoor barracks at the start of the Easter holidays. This provided the Year 10 students with the opportunity to practice their leadership skills and to develop the knowledge of fieldcraft.

The CCF Annual General Inspection at Whitgift took place last Friday also, and we were proud to have four Year 10 and 11 cadets represent Old Palace in the Guard of Honour – which is a huge achievement.



Year 13: Volunteering with St John Ambulance



A chance to save lives - are you ready to give it a go?

Before I started going to St John Ambulance, I didn't really have much knowledge of First Aid, but I had passion and that is what led me to pass my training program and become an Operational First Aider.

You can always level up and become a team leader, assistant leader and so much more. If you would like to earn this title, keep reading this article.

Being compassionate, considerate, and confident - does that sound like you? If it does then I have an opportunity for you. At St John Ambulance, you will learn valuable skills, especially teamwork, as you get to know everyone on your team whilst working with them to help save the lives of others. Firstly, when you join, you will have a training session with them where they brief you on the basics of First Aid. Then if you're lucky, you can do further training, followed by a practical exam to assess your CPR skills, the way how you communicate with patients of different ages and your knowledge of First Aid. If you pass this, you will earn a badge and a certificate to aid you with your CV. When you are on the team, you will be able to do duties like going to football events for free to treat people if needed and be first aiders.

To sign up for St John Ambulance you can join any unit near your town, and you do not need any past experiences or knowledge of First Aid; however, having basic common

sense is necessary, since I was told that 90% of first aid is based on common sense. Also, make sure you have a clear interest in being a cadet. When you are on the team, they will give you your uniforms and ID to bring to any events that you sign up for.

To have a membership of St John Ambulance, you may need to fill in a form given by your Unit Manager and pay a deposit of £72 per year.

If you are interested, I recommend downloading their app on your phone or use YouTube to check out their videos. I have attached the link here:

<https://www.sja.org.uk>

I hope you all consider signing up and becoming professional first aiders!

Joylin, Year 13



Alumnae News: Raychel Graham

On Thursday 28 March as part of one of Tate Moderns Lates, alumnae Raychel Graham had a number of her photographic pieces digitally displayed in the gallery. Part of the Soulful South London installation in the Blavatnik Building it showcased art work capturing the Present and Future of Black Queerness in South London.

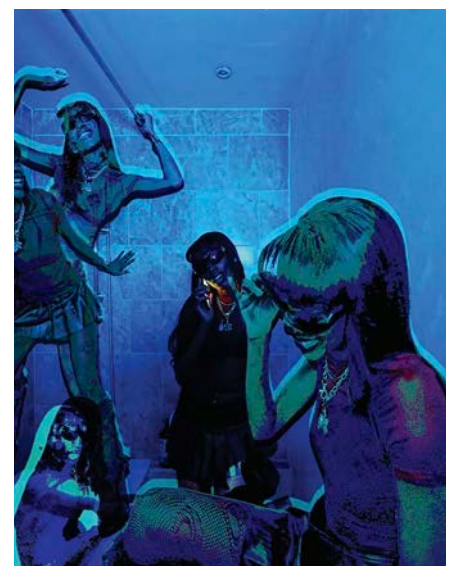
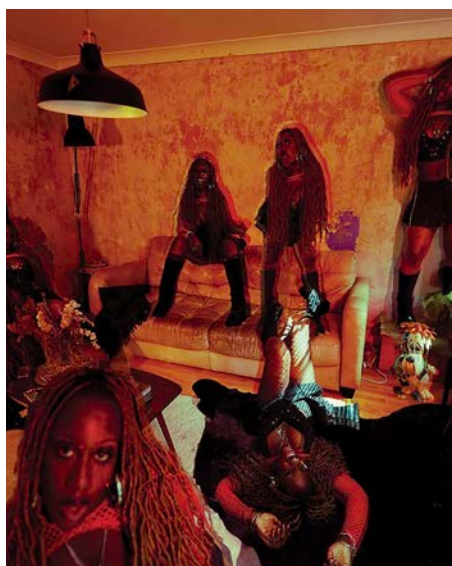
Raychel's work looks at Black women in contexts that are not often shown and tries to explore the less popular dimensions and aspects of Black femininity.

The visual artist claims her work to be 'Romantic' as she actively transforms abstract ideas into concrete visual

pieces by also developing the ability to build teams of fellow creatives and bring the abstract vision to life.

I was delighted to be able to see this art work first hand on display.

Mrs Broad



Year 8 & 9 Visit Canary Wharf

Before the Easter holidays, 12 students in Year 8 and 9 took part in an exciting and informative trip to Canary Wharf. They participated in a morning of activities run by QBE's 'Women in Tech' group, which were all designed to increase awareness of different roles and routes into technology related careers.

The students picked up a lot of valuable careers advice during a round robin discussion with a variety of employees about their day-to-day jobs and their wider career paths. The morning ended with the students having great fun competing in teams to create and programme a Lego robot. It was pleasing to see how committed they were to their different roles within the group and how engaged they all were throughout the task.

Mrs Katie Hargraves
Head of Year 9



Work Experience with Inside Croydon

Through my work experience with Inside Croydon, I attended a screening of *All of Us Strangers* at the David Lean Cinema in Croydon.

Following the film, there was a Q&A with Andrew Haigh (who wrote and directed the film), Joanna Scanlan (patron of the cinema, and BAFTA-winning actress and writer) and Peter Bradshaw (film critic at the Guardian). It was a great experience, and I even managed to say hello at the end!

Caitlin



U13 Six-a-side Indoor Cricket Plate Winners

Well done to the Year 8 students who took part in the U13 six-a-side Indoor Cricket Plate Competition at Bishop Thomas Grant School last month. It was a busy afternoon as it was a round robin competition. Old Palace played the hosts first – there was a little confusion about the rules (not from Mrs Smith!) which threw us slightly, but strong batting followed by accurate bowling led to a win by one run.

After a short break, we played St Philomena's and put on a good display of batting and fielding. We did give away a few extras but the batting meant we stayed way ahead of that game, winning by 3 wickets.

Our final match was against Graveney. Anyone who had not yet had a chance to bat was given the opportunity in this match. We lost a couple of early wickets but batted well to get a solid score. Graveney batted well and it was anyone's game in the last two overs. Fortunately, our bowlers did a great job and we beat Graveney, meaning we won the overall competition.

Well done to all players: Akshita, Rishita, Graci-May, Kemafo, Tianna, Ayesha and Liana.

The Old Palace cricket team put on a great show in a friendly tournament against Bishop Thomas Grant and two other schools.

Playing at their grounds, Old Palace took the lead with confident batting and bowling. Our strong communication helped us win every match.

By the end of the tournament, Old Palace proudly went home having won all our matches.

Well done to everybody that played!

Kemafo



Sister Act The Musical

Last month, Old Palace students went to see 'Sister Act The Musical' at the Dominion Theatre. The anticipation for the trip was very high as many of the students were involved in the school's February production - and the show did not disappoint! With Beverley Knight's powerful voice and Clive Rowe's 'Steady Eddie' characterisation, we were taken on a comedic and heartfelt journey. From the show-stopping musical numbers to the palpable energy of the ensemble, we were swept up in the infectious vibrancy and rhythm.

It was especially nice to see many of the Old Palace cast members inspired enough to re-enact their character's scenes in the interval. The coach journey back was also filled with student sing-alongs of all the 'Sister Act' numbers. The message of sisterhood was felt by all. Students also enjoyed seeing a production they worked so hard to put on, brought to life by professionals. We hope the students had a fantastic time and that they will continue to visit the theatre in the future!



Oxbridge Tea: 'Should Children be Allowed to Vote in UK Elections?'

"Elections belong to the people. It's their decision." – Abraham Lincoln. So, why not let the children vote? They are people after all.

On Thursday, 14th March, Mr Seddon ran an Oxbridge Tea, discussing the much-disputed topic – 'Should children be allowed to vote in UK elections?'. David Runciman, professor of politics at Cambridge University, caused an uproar when he suggested that a possible way to advance democracy would be to allow children as young as six to vote. He argues that changing demography in "advanced post-industrial societies" makes young citizens the perpetual losers in the democratic game. Ageing societies contribute to political imbalances where older voters outnumber the younger ones, impacting electoral outcomes, and leading to policies that possibly don't align with the preferences of younger people. Despite brief moments of unity during the pandemic, it ultimately exacerbated existing generational disparities. The discontent it causes poses a significant risk to democracies, where people feel excluded, a risk that could be reduced by allowing the youngest of society to vote.

Lowering the voting age to six is suggested by Runciman as a pragmatic approach, given children's ability to express preferences and engage in the educational system.

It's argued that children in education have the resources and time to become informed voters, potentially contributing valuable perspectives to political discourse. Many question children's competency as a barrier to effective voting. Runciman challenges the notion of competence as a basis for excluding children from voting, arguing that adults also have limitations in political understanding. Should people have to pass a 'competence' test to be able to vote?

After much debate, we concluded that while it is a plausible option, such a test would never happen – nobody wants to be certified as incompetent. Disenfranchising, some may argue, at both ends of the spectrum is simply backwards for a democratic nation. Voting should be seen as a right belonging to members of a democratic community rather than solely based on individual competence. Giving children the vote is presented as a way to make political systems more responsive to the needs and perspectives of all members of society, bridging the generational divide and invigorating democracy.

However, many of us argued that giving children as young as six the

vote would cause society to go down a slippery slope. What other new rights might this lead to children demanding? What about the five/four/three-year-olds who think they are politically savvy? Do children with hardly any substantial world experience deserve the civil liberty to vote? If the parents are the ones living with them, who's to say that their vote hasn't already been influenced before they even arrived at the ballot boxes? Children need parental consent for multiple aspects of their life – would this be an exception?

Politically speaking, things do need realigning and our electoral system needs to ensure that nobody feels isolated.

It was a fascinating discussion and incredibly relevant to the upcoming elections. The Oxbridge Tea was thought-provoking, and students and teachers with different perspectives were able to share their thoughts and ideas on such a complex issue, and the input from everyone made it a truly enriching experience.

Faith, Year 12

The Drama Department Presents: Theatre, Film and Television Professional – Corey Lubowich

On the 26th March, students attended a Zoom talk given by Corey Lubowich – a writer, producer and director based in Los Angeles.

Corey is a founding member of StarKid Productions, a theatre company that produces musical parodies, which have been performed across the globe. Corey founded StarKid with other theatre professionals, such as Darren Criss, who went on to star in the hit television series, *Glee*. Corey has worked on many projects in LA, New York and Edinburgh, including his web series *Tin Can Bros*.

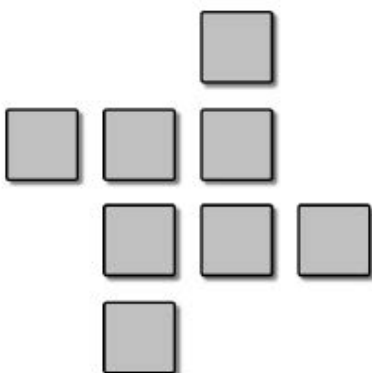
Corey spoke to students in Years 7-13 about his career pathway and showed some of his designs in his LA workshop. The talk was followed by a question and answer session, led by Nissi in Year 13, who is one of the Drama department Prefects. Students found the talk interesting and inspiring for their future ambitions.



Maths Puzzle Fun

Arrange the numbers on the squares so that the totals along each line of three squares are equal.

How many different ways can this be done?



Answer on page 12

Alumnae News: London Marathon

Huge congratulations to OPAs, Emily and Debbie Clarke-Irons, who ran this year's London Marathon - raising money for the charity MIND to help support mental health.

It was Emily's first marathon and she absolutely loved it!



England v Ireland in the Women's Six Nations

On Saturday 20th April, Mary, Ria, Arabella, Grace and Mr Simpson travelled to Twickenham to watch England play Ireland in the Women's Six Nations.

England scored 14 tries and won convincingly, with 88-10 being the final score. Everyone had a fun day with lots of entertainment on show. There were beach balls flying around, t-shirt cannons, karaoke sing-alongs, Mexican waves and Sophie Ellis-Bextor performed the half-time show; so those in the immediate vicinity were forced to witness Mr Simpson dancing to *'Murder on the Dancefloor'*.



A Level Philosophy

This year, we have begun the Philosophy A-level at Old Palace and I would like to share with you what we have been doing, since it has driven both me, and my classmate, to the brink of an existential crisis.

Would you believe me if I said, you don't know anything? That there is a way for me to make you doubt all your previous knowledge you have acquired? In your head, come up with something you know for certain. This could be your birthday or a random fact about something. Once you have got it, do not forget it, I will address it soon.

To make you doubt what you know, I will introduce you to **the argument from sceptical hypothesis**. This is an argument that pushes us to challenge the grounds on which we have built our beliefs, and urges us to accept the possibility that we might not know anything. How does it do this? Well, let me tell you a story.

Imagine, you're on your bed drifting off to sleep. During your deep sleep, an evil genius enters your bedroom and injects you with a powerful sedative. This evil genius gets out a hacksaw and begins the process of cutting around

your skull. Taking off your scalp, your brain is exposed in all its gooey glory. The evil genius takes your brain and puts it into a vat of nutritional gloop. Now with your brain safely kept, they go to their lab and connect your brain to a supercomputer. This computer has the ability to exactly replicate the brain stimulations that our everyday experiences normally cause.

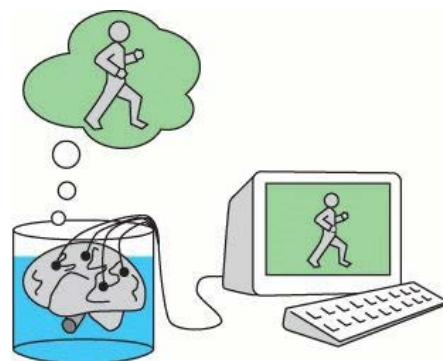
If you were connected to the computer in this way, then you would not be able to distinguish the sensations you're having from the ones you would have been having in the real world. So that begs the question: how do you know that we are not just some brain in a vat (or (if you know the film) just a part of the Matrix?! How will you be able to prove that you know anything about your immediate environment or even about yourself? If you are not able to know for certain that we are not just some brain in a vat, then you cannot know for certain that your experiences are real. So, if you can't prove that you are not a brain in a vat, then it looks like you fail to keep all your previous knowledge you have attained!

Now recall the fact you thought you

knew at the beginning. You are unable to prove that you are not a brain in a vat, therefore you are unable to claim that you know any truth that was formed via your senses. You're not even able to know for certain you are experiencing the real world. The grounds in which you built your knowledge on is subject to doubt.

And there you have it. I have spun an imaginary story that (hopefully) caused you to doubt everything and everyone you have ever known. If you wish to know more about scepticism, then join Sceptic Society every Friday. And if I'm lucky I have sparked a passion for philosophy, and you can study the whole course!

Chisom





A group of enthusiastic Year 6 pupils took charge on the Prep sports field by leading a dynamic sports leaders session for their younger peers.

Over the course of two days, more than 200 pupils from local primary schools visited Old Place Prep. With confidence and warmth, our pupils organised relay races, agility drills and teamwork-building exercises, infusing the air with infectious energy. Guiding the younger pupils with patience and encouragement, they fostered a spirit of camaraderie and healthy competition.

Through their leadership, the Year 6 girls instilled valuable lessons of sportsmanship, perseverance and collaboration, inspiring the next generation of athletes. As laughter echoed and friendships flourished, these young leaders embodied the transformative power of mentorship, leaving an indelible mark on their local school community.

Congratulations Year 6!



Year 6: Aztec Masks

6J have really enjoyed decorating masks for their Hola Mexico topic this term.



ABRSM Exam Results - Spring Term 2024

Name	Form	Instrument	Grade	Result
Harriet	5J	Flute	3	Pass
Aanya	6J	Singing	1	Merit
Abigail	5J	Voice	1	Distinction
Abigail	5J	Piano	3	Merit
Tarinya	10A	Guitar	4	Pass
Charlotte	5J	Piano	1	Pass
Aayushi	11	Singing	5	Merit

Maths Puzzle Fun page 8 Answer



SAVE THE DATE

Summer Party on the Green

Saturday 22 June
2 - 5pm

Join us for a fun-filled event
with food, drinks, games and
activities suitable for the
whole family!



Prep House Music Competition 2024

This is the 11th (and final) year of the competition

As always it is a solo competition and there are three sections or categories – vocal, instrumental and piano, but this year there will be Beginner-Grade 1 and Grade 2+ categories for each section

The competition will be open to all students in Reception - Year 6.

The HEATS will be at lunchtime as follows:

Tuesday 14 May 2024 – Vocal

Thursday 16 May 2024 – Piano

Tuesday 21 May 2024 – Instrumental

and finalists will be selected by Miss Fitzgerald.

Finalists will be notified by Thursday 23 May 2024 and the finals will be after half term in June (more details to follow) and judged by an external adjudicator.

Miss Fitzgerald would like to encourage everyone who learns an instrument or sings, to take part as everyone will receive house points for entering the competition and will therefore contribute to the overall winning house.

Please email Miss Fitzgerald (tfitzgerald@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk) if you would like your daughter to take part.