



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



As we approach the end of this academic year, we find ourselves at a poignant crossroads for the school. This summer marks the closing of our much-loved Prep School, and next summer will see the closure of the Senior School. This has undoubtedly cast a shadow of sadness over our community. However, amidst these challenging times, the spirit of our students, from Pre School to Year 13 has stood out.

At Prep, the pupils have enjoyed some memorable experiences including the Year 6 PGL trip and, of course, Aladdin. All our Old Palace pupils have continued to embrace every opportunity with enthusiasm and positivity, embodying the core values of our school. Similar spirit was evident last weekend at the Old Palace Association alumnae lunch where we welcomed back over 250 former students of the school. Looking ahead, we still have events happening on the last two days of term and these will be

reported on in a whole school bulletin at the end of the summer break.

To all those students and families leaving us this year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your hard work, contribution and support of the school and we wish you every success in your future endeavours. For those who are returning from Prep in the year ahead, we hope you enjoy a restful and rejuvenating summer break.

As I write this final message as Head, I am filled with pride and gratitude for having had the privilege to lead such a remarkable community through the challenges that we have faced. Thank you all for your unwavering support, and I wish you all the very best for the future.

Best wishes

**Jane Burton, Head**



Dear all,



In this very last bulletin featuring news from the Prep School, I write with pride at all we have achieved together. My time leading Old Palace Prep has been far shorter than I ever imagined, yet I still finish this chapter happy to have been a part of the history of such a wonderful school.

To every single member of the Prep School community, I thank you for believing in the vision and believing in me to lead the way. The kindness, trust and Old Palace spirit you all exemplify is like nothing I have ever experienced before, and I hope that wherever life takes you next, you take a little piece of Old Palace with you and remember your time at Old Palace Prep as fondly as I will.

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

## Holly Lands Role with the English National Opera



Holly has had her focus on auditions lately, as we had been sent an application for her to apply for a role with the English National Opera (ENO) at the Coliseum. I'm proud to say that after three auditions, Holly has been offered the role of Flora in the ENO production of *Turn of the Screw* at the Coliseum.

Holly was the youngest to be shortlisted for the role and we are so proud of her achievement.



## Borough Athletics at Croydon Arena

This year's annual Borough Athletics Meet was a spectacular display of talent and sportsmanship. Held at Croydon Arena, it saw participation from over 100 Croydon Schools competing in various track and field events.

The Old Palace Athletes team as usual did not disappoint. With the preliminary rounds being held on the Wednesday and the finalists being invited back on the Friday, the girls worked hard to impress and make finals night. The sprint was a crowd favourite, with Sion and Nia both making it through to finals night (setting a new school records). In the long jump,

Harriet narrowly missed out on a place in the final by just 10 cm!

Aideen worked hard in the heat of the 600m and ran an impressive race, but could not quite hang on to gain that place on Friday's final (a gutsy run nonetheless!). Charlotte battled it out in the High Jump for nearly two hours but secured her place for Friday where she managed to take the BRONZE medal!

Congratulations to all participants for their outstanding performances and dedication!

Many congratulations to the following girls for being selected to take part in the Croydon Borough Athletics.

Year 6	Adelise
	Caroline
	Jasmine Lee
	Imani
	Michaela K
	Tamalia
Year 5	Sarah
	Mya
	Sophia
	Paavana
Year 4	Anokhi
	Ellie
Year 3	Lana

With over 70 Croydon schools taking part, competition was tough. Special mention to Lana, Paavana, Tamalia, Jasmine Lee and Caroline for making it through to the Finals on Friday night





## Year 6 Induction Day

On the Year 6 Induction Day pupils enjoyed a creative session of icing and decorating cupcakes.



## Year 2: Visit to Brighton

We visited Brighton Sea Life Centre and after exploring the Aquarium we enjoyed a workshop. We ate our packed lunch on the beach (joined by several seagulls) and bought ice cream on the pier!





## *A-la-la-la-laddin* – A Musical Tale of Gems and Genies. A round of applause for our Year 6 pupils!

We were thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our incredible Year 6 pupils for their outstanding performance in the *A-la-la-la-laddin* (Aladdin) play! Their hard work, dedication and talent shone brightly on stage, leaving the audience in awe. The girls brought the magic of Aladdin to life with such energy and enthusiasm, making it an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

We also want to express our deepest gratitude to the amazing members of staff who supported the girls throughout the rehearsals. As we

celebrate, this being the very last Old Palace Prep production, we honour everyone who has contributed to this wonderful finale. Your guidance, encouragement, and tireless efforts were instrumental in making this production a success. Thank you for your commitment and for nurturing the creative spirits of our young performers.

We also extend our gratitude to our catering and caretaking staff; and to all the parents, friends, and family members who came to watch and cheer on the girls, your support means

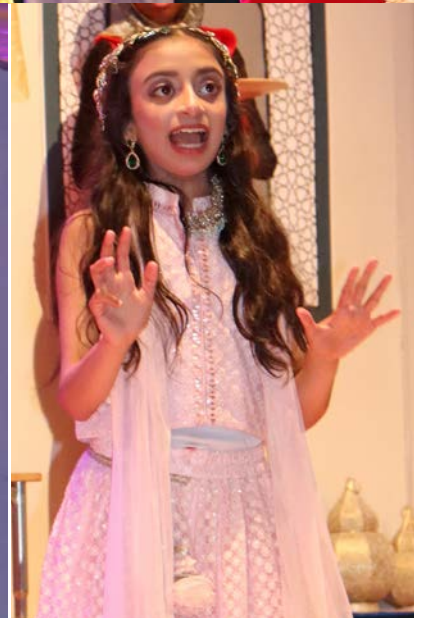
the world to us. We couldn't have done it without you!

Special thanks to Miss Fitzgerald, Ms Berk, Mrs Hargraves, Mrs Barber, Mme McMullen, Mr Talbert, Miss James, Mrs Anderson, Miss Best, Mrs Best, Mrs Egbuonu, Mr Randall, Mrs Wallis, Miss Jenkins, Ms McKenzie, Mrs Coster and Miss Coleman.

Congratulations once again to our Year 6 stars and the wonderful staff who made it all possible.

























## Pre School & Reception: Chessington World of Adventure

Pre School and Reception enjoyed a wonderful final trip to Chessington World of Adventures with perfect weather all day.

The girls enjoyed a fascinating interactive workshop on sea life which introduced them to a range of sea shore and rock pool creatures and their extraordinary habits, including starfish with eyes on the end of their feet, hermit crabs who move home as they grow and shrimps who are the best friends of sharks! They also found out about some of the sea animals that live at Chessington including Pip the penguin and Hugo the sea lion who they saw for real later in the day.

After a break for lunch, we headed off to the Sea life Centre to take a closer look at life in the ocean, getting up close to see animals of the Shoreline such as Seahorses and rays and the Reef where they found the clownfish amongst the anemones and in Amazonia, dart frogs and skinks were hiding in the jungle. On the way out we walked through the ocean tunnel with sharks swimming over our heads; it was a delightful experience.

Our final adventure was the Gruffalo river ride. We climbed aboard the boats with great excitement, which took us down the lazy river through the magical deep dark wood, following Mouse who led us through this familiar story. There was just time for a final look at the sealions before heading home.

We all enjoyed the day immensely and learnt lots about life on the beach.

The EYFS team have had a terrific year and hope that the girls will take away some of the lovely memories we have all made together. The team wish them the best of luck in their new schools.

Mrs Anderson, Mrs Taylor-Robinson, Ms Elliot, Miss Best, Mrs Pringle, Mrs Lewis, Mrs Noel and Mrs Hawkes.





# Pre School Visit Coombe Wood

The girls enjoyed one last trip to Coombe Wood; this time for ice creams!





## Courtney Orange



Last month, all members of our school community from the very youngest to the experienced athletes in Year 6 took part in a sponsored fitness challenge with supreme athlete Courtney Orange. Parents brave enough to join laced up their trainers and took on the challenge of spotty dogs and star jumps!

The exhilarating sponsored fitness event, featuring renowned celebrity athlete, Courtney Orange, took place in the gym and girls completed sets of star jumps, burpees, squat thrust and press ups! The action-packed afternoon of workouts was followed by health tips and a motivational assembly. Pupils were then treated to a dazzling

display of Gymnastic skills by Courtney, gaining insights into his professional career as a gymnast and dancer. Everyone left feeling totally motivated and with the important message from Courtney that "I CAN DO IT" no matter how hard things are.

The girls were phenomenal in their fundraising and have raised over £1,300 for Sports for Schools which helps fund athletes of the future.

Congratulations everyone!

## LAMDA Results

Congratulations to all the Speech and Drama pupils for their terrific LAMDA examination results. You have all been amazing. Well Done!



## Green Tree Award

We are delighted to celebrate the hard work and enthusiasm shown by the girls in the Green Pioneers Club this term. We have achieved both the Bronze and Silver Woodland Tree Awards, working in collaboration with the Woodland Trust.

The girls have taken part in community research, mapping the trees in our school grounds as part of a country wide survey. They have explored different woodland view-points, learnt about trees around the world, written poems and taken photos of the amazing school grounds.





## Year 6: PGL Residential Trip

We had such a wonderful week at PGL. The girls did so well - working in their stretch zone and drawing upon their character development skills, with others pushing themselves to reach new heights.

A huge thank you to all the staff that made this trip possible - from the office to the team that came along to PGL.





On the 17th June 2024, Year 6 had the most extraordinary, unforgettable week of the year at Liddington, Swindon.

On arrival we were welcomed by our kind-hearted guide Ellie who showed us to our dorms. Each dorm had an en suite bathroom with a shower and sink.

Ellie then took us on a tour of the grounds, pointing out the activities we would be doing. We all agreed that the grounds of PGL were colossal!

We then proceeded to have dinner in the massive canteen. We were pleased to see that there were many food options and a scrumptious salad bar. There was even flavoured water with two different options!

The following days passed like a blur as we went from one exciting activity to another: Jacob's Ladder, Giant Swing, Rock Climbing, Trapeze, Aeroball and the grand finale – which was everyone's favourite- the campfire. Everybody enjoyed the campfire where we were entertained with funny stories, silly rhymes and songs and delicious toasted marshmallows.

The PGL staff made the activities really memorable by singing repeat-after-me songs. All the girls joined in with joy and laughter which really touched our hearts.

Here are some quotes from some of the girls:

*'PGL was a really fun experience and I would love to do it again.'* **Kezia**

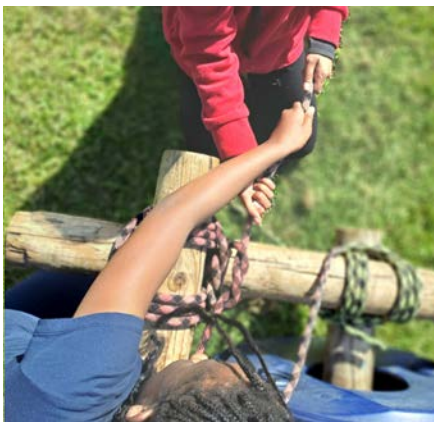
*'I really enjoyed PGL and my favourite activity was the trapeze because even though I struggled to hold the bar it was still fun.'* **Elissia**

*'In PGL everyone got pushed beyond their limits. Sometimes it was tough but we stayed positive and supported each other.'* **Olivia**

*'I loved PGL; it taught all of us to be more independent. We helped each other in tough times but we still had fun.'* **Paavana**









## Loom and Crochet Club

Some KS2 girls are enjoying learning new skills with Mrs Warren.

The students have been learning the basics of loom knitting and some went on to learn crochet. Fatimah in year 6 has been a real star creating little animals, granny squares and helping and other girls to learn crochet.



Loom and Crochet are relaxing activities and have many other benefits including concentration, fine and gross motor skills, creativity and problem solving.

Aideen and Sion are proudly showing their creations: a teddy and an alien. Also, Emira is showing her bunny rabbit in working process and Ashna and Paavanna are busy working.



## Year 1: French

Year 1 have been learning about famous French monuments and also about the fireworks on July 14th to celebrate the French Revolution.

