



AROUND THE PALACE



Biology Society

Once a fortnight, Years 11-12 are given the opportunity to attend the Biology Society where they can extend their knowledge beyond the syllabus and to carry out practicals they may not otherwise be able to experience.

Last week, 20 students had the chance to carry out eye dissections. This opportunity was opened up to Year 13 students as well, meaning names had to be drawn from a hat due to its popularity.

The students carefully performed dissection and were able to gain a greater understanding of an important part of the human body.

Italian exchange

Old Palace has had a link with Taddeo da Sessa School in the Campania region of southern Italy since 1997.

This year the host family weekend in Croydon will be from Friday 16 to Monday 19 March. This is an excellent globalisation activity for students of all ages so if you would like to host an Italian student, please email Mrs Mazzeo (the Subject Leader for Italian) on lmazzeo@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk this week. You do not have to study Italian to host a student. If you enjoy the experience you may be able to join our trip to Sessa next year.

Letter from the Mayor

The Mayor of Croydon has expressed his sincere gratitude for the contribution Old Palace students and staff made to the recent Holocaust Memorial Ceremony on 27 January.

Councillor Graham Bass, Mayor of Croydon, conveyed how beautifully the Chamber choir played, ensuring the meaning of Holocaust Memorial Day was perfectly observed.

The Mayor also commented on the number of positive comments Old Palace students received on the day from guests and colleagues in attendance.

Welcome

As you are enjoying your well-earned half term break, the School is preparing for the next few weeks of the Spring term.

Old Palace resumes the Masterclass series with Modern Foreign Languages, Maths and English showcasing over the coming weeks. Students in Years 5 and 6 will be challenged and stimulated with a taste of learning and teaching opportunities available at Seniors.

Thank you to Year 11 families who have been in during half term - it has been a real pleasure to hear about their aspirations as they look to the future. I look forward to meeting with more Year 11 families straight after half term.

Carol Jewell, Head

House points

	
455	453
	
452	452

Since the start of 2012 a total of 239 house points have been collected.

Laud gained the top place for the inter-house Drama competitions and Anselm collected the most house points from teaching staff.

The totals has never been so close with just a difference of three points separating the four Houses! Laud has retained the lead on 455 points, closely followed by Hatton on 453 points. The race is on to see who claims the winning position for the Spring term. Good luck everyone!

With thanks

Old Palace has received a vote of thanks from one of the charities who benefitted from the proceeds of the Old Palace Christmas Fair.

John Broom, Chairman of Croydon Churches Floating Shelter (CCFS), thanked staff and students for their hard work and efforts to ensure the Christmas Fair was a great success.

The charity will use the £1,911.35 raised to help the homeless in Croydon.

Forthcoming events

Mon 20 - 16:15

Year 11 Netball v Harris CP, Seniors

Tues 21 - All Day

Years 6 – 13 Polyphonic Evensong, Salisbury Cathedral

Tues 21 - 16:00 – 17:30

Maths STEP Classes, Westminster, St David's & Truro

Wed 22 - 08:00

Ash Wednesday Service, Juniors

Wed 22 - 12:50

Ash Wednesday Service, Seniors

Wed 22 - 13:35 – 14:35

Sixth Form Citizenship – Food Justice, Oxfam Talk, Banqueting Hall

Wed 22 - 16:30 – 18:30

Year 9 Consultation and GCSE Options Evening, Shah

Thu 23 - 12:45 – 13:20

Year 9 Business & Enterprise Challenge Spring Fair, Shah Foyer

Thu 23 - 13:35 – 14:35

Year 13 Learning for Life: Personal Safety Seminar, Shah PE

Thu 23 - 13:35 – 14:35

Year 12 Learning for Life: Driving Safety Seminar, Banqueting Hall

Thu 23 - 15:45

Years 9 & 12/13 Netball v Woodcote, Seniors

Thu 23 - 15:45 – 17:00

Bronze DoE Training: Trangias & Food (Green Expedition), Shah PE

Thu 23 - 19:00 – 20:00

The Palace Group Information for Year 7 Scholars, Banqueting Hall

Fri 24 - All Day

AS Art Examination

Fri 24 - 14:40 – 17:40

Drama Workshop, Seniors

For a complete look at the week ahead please visit www.oldpalaceofjohnwhitgift.org/parent-calendar

Junior Extension Tea

Having completed ten extension tasks, 24 girls and their parents were invited to a special tea party last week.

The girls and parents discussed their successes and were treated to an interesting powerpoint presentation showing women who have risen to challenges in order to become highly successful in many ways. We learnt that students at Old Palace Juniors aspire to be doctors, lawyers, vets, authors, sportswomen, yachtswomen and teachers amongst many others!



Well done to all the girls who are rising to the challenge of being extended in their learning.

Jacobin opera performance

Congratulations to the 18 girls who were chosen to sing as part of the children's chorus with Trinity School at the Barbican concert hall on 4 February.

They performed with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Singers, a cast of soloists and conductor Jiri Belohlavek in a concert performance of Dvorak's little performed opera Jacobin.

With nearly 200 musicians on stage and an audience of 1500 this was an exciting experience.

With little under three weeks to learn all the music from memory, including singing in the original Czech, the students should be very proud of their achievement. Numerous compliments were received from the conductor and other professional musicians as to their performance, the clarity of their Czech and the professionalism they showed in sitting motionless on stage for 90 minutes before their first entry.

The concert was also broadcast on Thursday 9 February on Radio 3 as their Afternoon Performance.



Lauren Sinclair, Year 7 commented, 'It was really fun and exciting and an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience. Working with the conductor was easy and he was very nice and quite funny!'

Emily Wallis and Brinnelle Miller, Year 7 added, 'The orchestra were very loud and we had to sing extra loudly! It was amazing to see how focussed and in time with orchestra was with each other. Although it was a long performance and we had to sit still for a very long time we really enjoyed it!'

GCSE Science Live

On 9 February a group of Year 10 students participated in the GCSE Science Live Conference at the Dominion Theatre, London.

The day comprised of lectures by 'celebrity' scientists at the top of their field, including such household names as Professor Lord Robert Winston.

Topics discussed covered a range of topics from 'The future of IVF treatment' to 'Time travel: fact or fiction?'. These were all followed by a Q&A session where some thoughtful ideas had even these eminent scientists lost for an answer. There was also a useful session by

a chief examiner giving revision and exam technique hints and tips.

The students involved thoroughly enjoyed the day and have been inspired to follow in the footsteps of the speakers and become leading lights in the world of Science.

