



AROUND THE PALACE

Jessica Wins Associate Alumnae Competition



Many congratulations to Jessica in Year 8 who won first prize in the Associate Alumnae competition run by the OPA. Here she is pictured with Jo Tuck collecting her prize; a £50 Waterstones voucher.

Welcome

We met up this morning at 7am at Whitgift House Chapel for communion in celebration of Archbishop John Whitgift. There followed a magnificent service in our beloved Minster with glorious repertoire embracing music through time. The combined voices of the three choirs was truly uplifting.

I was delighted to meet up with so many parents and students at the Higher Education Fair last week. My thanks to Mrs Williams for organising such an inspiring evening, packed full of practical and helpful information. I did enjoy meeting representatives from all the different universities. Particular thanks to the PTA for their involvement especially to our parents Xiaoqing Li, Chunhua Ge and Rebecca Paulraj for their Career talks.

Finally, many congratulations to our newly elected Head Girl, Megan.

Carol Jewell, Head

House Netball

Year 4 and 5 House Netball was led by the Year 11 Sports Leaders on Wednesday.

All the players had a go at different positions including helping with the scoring and timing when they were not on court! There was a lovely atmosphere with some great teamwork being demonstrated.

Laud were the overall winners.



Year 7 Wins Football Tournament



The Year 7s played in a triangular tournament at Sydenham High on Thursday. They won both their games and so won the mini tournament!

The players won 1-0 against Sacred Heart School and won 2-1 against Sydenham High School.

The girls started well displaying lots of attacking play. They were all keen to get fully involved in the matches and worked hard on the pitch, showing a real willingness to play well. They were assertive in their tackles, taking on players at the right time and not backing off. They used the space well, making themselves more difficult to defend and challenge.

U16s Take Second Place At Croydon Schools Netball Tournament

The U16s played in the last ever fixture as a year group – the end of season Croydon Schools Netball Tournament. Considering they hadn't played together for a while, they did extremely well. With a squad of nine players, the team recorded the following results:

v Coloma	Won	3-2
v Shirley High	Won	4-2
v Norbury Manor	Won	5-1
v Woodcote	Drew	3-3

Fantastic Results! They reflect the demands of players at both ends of the court; lots of turn overs and interceptions and a real desire to compete. This set of results meant a **JOINT FIRST PLACING** based on points with Woodcote. However, Woodcote were officially placed first on goal difference.



Well done to the U16 Squad: Demi, Alicia, Hana, Tanae, Olivia, Tyra, Amy-Janet, Alice and Sarah.

U14 Netball Team Take Second Place

Well done to the U14 Netball Team who were placed a magnificent **SECOND** in the Croydon Schools Netball Tournament!



Their confidence grew as the tournament progressed and the flow of the game was impressive in the later matches. All the girls played really well when it mattered!

In the group stage the scores were:

v Archbishop Tenison	Won	3-1
v Woodcote	Won	2-1
v Harris South Norwood	Drew	1-1
v Coloma (B)	Won	8-1

These results placed us in the semi final where the team played really well to beat Shirley 6-1.

In the final, the U14 team played Coloma (A) in a very competitive match. The opponents had some particularly good moves into their shooting circle and their accuracy was good.

Old Palace fought hard and certainly didn't let themselves down. They lost the final 1-4 but should be proud of all they achieved!

Squad: Jessica, Mia, Sarra, India, Lilia, Amy, Lauryn, KC and Ingrid.

Higher Education Fair

On Thursday 14th March, parents and students from Years 10, 11 and 12 were invited to a Higher Education Fair where they had the opportunity to explore future university prospects and attend talks which gave an insight into possible future career paths.

Representatives from universities such as Warwick, Queen Mary's and many others, set up stalls which enabled students to discuss information about possible degree choices as well as university life. It was a very successful evening where students were able to learn about different degree options at these prestigious universities.

Fariha, Year 12



Last week, I attended the Higher Education Fair. Initially, I was reluctant to go, as I had already decided my future degree prospects. However, I am pleased that I attended because I feel more reassured now about my future.

There were many different talks open to students along with numerous stalls advertising universities and other higher education options. I attended a talk on Glasgow university, and thanks to the informative presentation given, I am very interested in the possibility of studying abroad.

I also collected lots of university prospectuses, and having read through them all I came across many different courses that I wasn't aware of before. I am now more motivated to persevere with all my subjects in order to reach the entry requirements of the courses I am interested in.

Overall, the Higher Education Fair was very engaging and has broadened my horizons about the vast array of options of higher education.

Aishah, Year 12



NSPCC Sponsored Swim



On Tuesday 5th of March and Wednesday 6th of March, Year 6 students took part in the sponsored Swimathon. The NSPCC stands for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

All the girls who participated had already started collecting money from family and friends outside of school. We had half an hour to swim and the most lengths swam was an

amazing 47 lengths, which is equivalent to 1.17 km! We all had lots of fun swimming while helping other children, and ourselves, stay safe.

We raised £963.25 in total!

Amarachi, Year 6

English Schools Water Polo

A small team of nine players nervously travelled to Alleyns School in Dulwich on Tuesday, for the prestigious U13 English Schools Water Polo Championships.

Water Polo teams can have up to 13 players; two designated goal keepers and 11 outfield players. However, only seven girls play at any one time. Having just nine players meant that several girls had to play the full duration of

all our matches. Exhausting by any standards! Emma and Mounisha, our goal keepers, both made many fantastic saves. They were greatly assisted by Mi Hye, Safiya, Abigail and Vedika playing extremely well in defence. Sareena, Natalia and Zino all played exceptional attacking games, also covering midfield.

The team all played extremely well and were completely shattered by the

end of all of their games. Mrs Tamplin was absolutely delighted with the Old Palace win against Colfes, which was nail biting close until the final whistle; Old Palace triumphantly winning by 4-3. Zino and Natalia both scored two great goals each. The whole event was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Astonishingly only three girls had ever played a Water Polo game before! If anyone is interested in playing Water Polo please speak to Mrs Tamplin.



Bedtime Story

Bedtime Story was fantastic!

Wearing our pyjamas to school felt a little bit weird but very comfortable. When we got to the gate, we saw some of our teachers in onesies, which was very funny. The library looked very different and mysterious.

There were moon and stars on the windows, purple shiny cloths covering the computers and the tables and lots of cushions on the floor for us to sit on. It was quite dark. The main lights were off and there were two huge lamps. On the ceiling, were fairy lights and sheep jumping over a gate.

First, a storyteller read some stories to us and we had to join in with the noises. Next we had hot chocolate and biscuits in Mr Horton's classroom. Then we sat back in the library, huddled up with our Mums and Dads and read stories together. At 8.15pm, we went home all warm and sleepy!

Tamalia and Amelia, Year 2J



Pi Day

Last Thursday, the Old Palace mathematicians in Years 6 to 9 took part in various activities for Pi Day; an annual celebration of the mathematical constant held on 14th March (since 3, 1 and 4 are the first three digits of pi).

The Mathematics department put together an extensive array of puzzles and challenges, ranging from pi-themed treasure hunts, dingbats, paper chains (where each colour represented an integer from 0-9), as well as a competition to see who could recite pi to the most decimal places.

Particular congratulations to Claire in Year 9, who managed to recall an astounding 100 digits! Recognition must also go to the Year 6 students Shazia and Tusara, who were highly commended for their remembrance of 50 digits, and well done to Navya, the lucky winner of the dingbats competition.

Students also had the opportunity to conduct an experiment; by dropping straws onto a grid of parallel lines and calculating the probability of them crossing a line, we found out that this probability is directly related to pi, and could therefore be used to approximate the constant.

The challenges were tackled with enthusiasm and perseverance, and it was overall a great opportunity for those with a passion for mathematics and problem-solving to explore the subject in a fun and thought-provoking way.

Shannon, Further Mathematics Prefect





**Old Palace of
John Whitgift School**
Independent Girls' School

Encapsulating Energy

A celebration of Dance
2019

Wednesday
27th March

Thursday
28th March

Banqueting Hall
at 7pm

Tickets available on WisePay
£5 adult
£3 children/concession

POD About Childhood Language Acquisition

On Friday 15th March Mr Seddon ran a POD about childhood language acquisition. The focus of this was how we learn to speak as children and, as many of us have younger siblings, it was a topic that interested many students. Mr Seddon discussed the different factors that influence the type of words we first say, such as nursery rhymes and interaction with family members. He even showed us a list of his son's first 50 words, which included 'daddy', 'duck' and even 'avocado'!

Mr Seddon talked about the fact some sounds are harder for small children to make, such as 'th' sound. This means that words such as 'the' take longer to develop than more simple sounds. He also discussed the Wug test, which explored how children use plurals in their language. Overall, this was a fascinating POD and gave great insight into the development of language in young children. A big thank you to Mr Seddon for running this event.

Floor And Vault Gymnastics Competition



On Monday, Old Palace welcomed Seaton House to the Prep School to compete in a Floor and Vault Gymnastics competition. Girls were able to choose between two different floor routines before competing in the vault. Then their scores were added together to make a combined total.

For some of our girls it was their first experience of a competition. Well done to all competitors

We would especially like to thank the Senior School Sports Leaders who came and judged the competition and helped to run the afternoon.

Learning 4 Life Personal Finance

Last week, two people from NatWest bank named Zara and Claire came to our school.

Zara and Claire taught us about money fraud and how to stop it. They gave us a case where someone had taken out a loan in a lady's name. There were pieces of evidence around the room suggesting how people could have got her personal details.

There were also news flashes making some of the pieces of evidence wrong. We got to go around the Banqueting Hall learning how to stay safe every step of the way.

In the end we found it was because she had posted an invitation (on line) to her birthday party with her name, age, address. This shows just how careful we must be with our personal details.

Overall this was a very fun and informative lesson and I enjoyed it very much.

Sanjana, Year 6

U13 A & B Netball v St Philomena's

Earlier this week, the U13 A & B Netball teams played a match against St Philomena's Girls School.

It was a great fixture with two wins for Old Palace. The A team won 11-9 and the B team won 8-2.

We got off to a strong start with some accurate passes and many goals being scored from our shooters.

There was also some fantastic defending and marking which stopped the opposition from gaining possession.

Natalia, Year 8





On Friday 15th March, Year 4 visited Lullingstone Roman Villa as part of their History project. The girls had a number of items to spot around the villa's remains, including the Europa mosaic, the marble busts of Pertinax (Governor of Britannia) and his father, the coffin and skeleton of a young man, buried around 300AD and the cornelian intaglio (engraved gemstone) which was the personal seal of Pertinax.

The girls dressed up in Roman costumes, tried out a Roman board game and recreated some of the mosaic patterns. They also worked hard to sketch some of the artefacts.

Here are some comments from the girls.

Ava: "I liked the Bellephron mosaic best because it tells a story."

Serwa: "I found the video of the history of the villa very interesting."

Catherine: "I really liked doing the drawing and trying on the Roman clothes."

Sophie: "The governor's seal was interesting too because it had a carving in it."

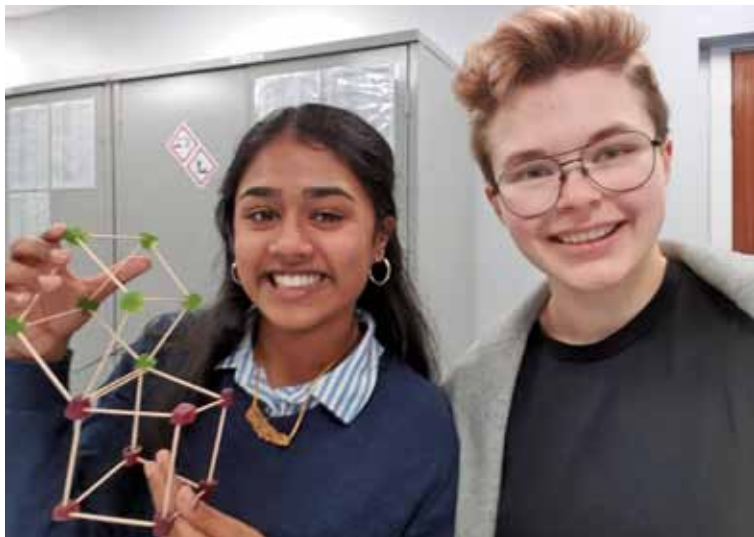
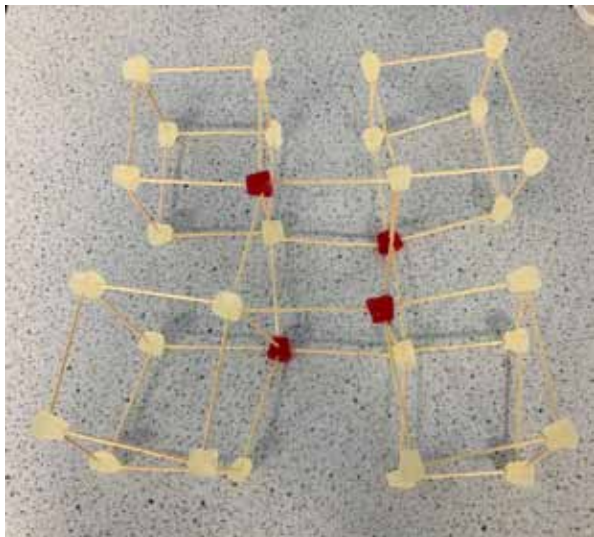
Avani: "I also liked the drawing and seeing the Medusa head on bone. I loved the shop too!"



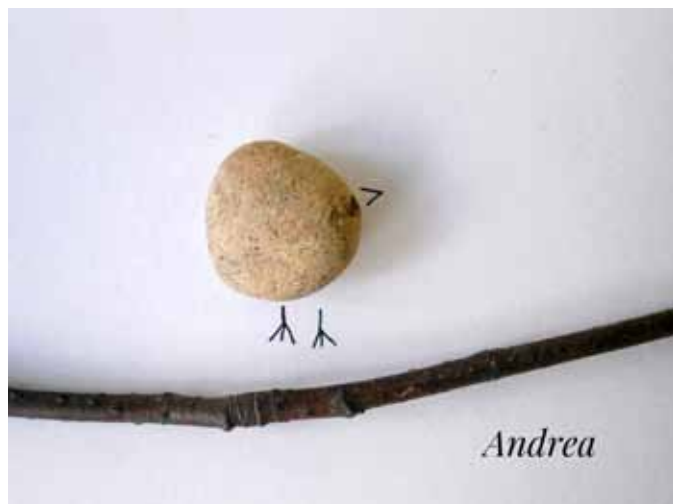
News From ChemSoc: The Lifetime Of A Model

This week, students from Years 10 and 12 investigated the use of models to explain complex ideas, such as atomic structure, in Chemistry. Students are familiar with representing electron shells as concentric circles around the nucleus of an atom, but this was not always the case. American Chemist, Gilbert Lewis, used a cuboid model, placing electrons at the corners of the cube. Using cocktail sticks and sweets, the girls tested Lewis's atomic model to see how it worked and why it was eventually rejected. The pictures below show their Lewis models of tetrachloromethane.

This activity highlighted the fluid nature of scientific understanding and the way in which new technologies can lead us to refine our models.



Pebble Art - Preparatory



La Salle des Enigmes

On the 12th of March, 50 French students from Year 9 to Year 13 had the opportunity to watch an interactive French play by a company called "Onatti". It consisted of two native French speakers, who not only engaged us with their acting but also encouraged volunteers to take part in their play!

The plot was based around two friends, a practical man by the name of Jérémy and an eccentric woman (with pink hair) called Marie, who had to complete an Egyptian escape room with the help of some Old Palace student volunteers.

The play was amazingly funny and easy to understand, and the booklets provided by the company helped anyone who

was struggling. After several exciting moments, including a rubber toy being thrown into the audience, the magic words to escape were finally revealed and Marie and Jérémy were able to escape.

The play was thoroughly enjoyed by the entire group of French students. We had the chance to ask the actors questions about their lives at the end, which provided us with a look at what French culture is really like for people who live both in France and the UK. Overall, the night was a huge success and very educational!

Shanaya, Year 10



Schmiedefeld IMPULS School Visit

On Monday, 11th March we had the visit of 30 German school pupils and their teachers from Schmiedefeld near Weimar in Germany.

They came straight from their rural location in the mountains of Thuringia to spend half a day in Central Croydon; a very different environment for them. They visited the school and helped Year 10 and Year 11 pupils with their German, whilst others carried out research projects on Croydon in the library or attended French and Spanish classes.

P Le Berre, Subject leader for MFL



On Monday the 11th March, Year 10 met with their German pen pals and engaged in conversation. We got to know our pen pals better by discussing topics such as family, friends, school and free time.

This opportunity enabled us to further our linguistic skills in German. It allowed us to make new friends from a different country.

We found it challenging to interact freely as we did not always have a very wide range of vocabulary but we have now learnt a lot from the experience. We will endeavour to learn as much vocabulary as possible to be able to communicate better with them in future.

Fatima, Zara, Alice and Constanza



SATRO Competition

On 26th February a group of students from KS3 and KS4 went to St Philomena's to participate in an Engineering tournament for schools in the surrounding area. Our task was to build a mechanism that could lift a banner while simultaneously completing a circuit to turn on a light in a limited amount of time.

The challenge tested our creativity and forced us to think outside the box. After a strenuous hour and a half the KS4

team managed to place 5th. We learnt that we could work well under pressure and collectively agree on ideas as a team, and that everyone working in a project should play an important part for the project to fully function and work. It was a great experience, and everyone involved enjoyed it.

Hollie



Year 6 Netball v St Peter's

The Netball A team did really well against St Peter's. There was some effective passing around the court and some really good interceptions in defence and attack. Emerald and Amarachi had some great shots on goal. The girls won 6-2. Well done girls.

The B team also did well against St Peter's. There was some good passing around the court and the girls' footwork was much better. The girls intercepted well but unfortunately lost 2-0. It is now important that we continue to work on our spacing.

