



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,

Last Saturday was our Open Day and the atmosphere around the school was fantastic as we welcomed record numbers of prospective parents to the school. Thank you so much to the very many students who led tours and helped in departments and to all the staff. The families that visited were able to get a real flavour of life at Old Palace from a Motown medley from the Chamber Choir through to exciting experiments in the science departments.

On Thursday we also welcomed families of students in Years 9, 10 and 11 along with external applicants to our well attended Sixth Form Open Evening. As ever, our students acted as very positive ambassadors for the school and were able to talk to families about life in the Sixth Form. Thank you to all the students involved and especially Megan, Head Girl, for her very well received speech.

It has also been good to see Black History Month celebrated across the School including the

various activities held at the Prep School and the thought provoking assemblies given at the Senior School this week by Mr Fuller, the Head of History and Politics.

I wish everyone a relaxing weekend after such a busy week.

Jane Burton, Head





## Dinner at the Palace

The Sixth Form had the privilege of experiencing a formal 'Dinner at the Palace' in preparation for university-style formal dinners. This was a wonderful event to which we could bring a guest, socialise with people in our year and experience an enlightening speech from Father Andrew.

He told us of a story about a young boy who had become paralysed. Though he faced several issues, he was able to overcome these and did not let this limit his aspirations. We saw two pieces of artwork he was able to produce through making numerous small marks with a paintbrush. This anecdote was extremely inspiring and particularly resonated with the two year groups, especially during this time of preparation for exams.

I'd like to thank Father Andrew for this speech and also all the staff and catering members for such a wonderful evening.

**Olivia, Year 12** Anselm





## Our First Half-Term in The Sixth Form

I interviewed my classmates and asked them how they had found their first half term in the Sixth Form. Here are their responses:

### Why did you choose OPS Sixth Form?

*"I had a good connection with the teachers at OPS and I didn't want to lose it by moving somewhere new and where I would have to build that connection again."*

*"OPS has such a nice, friendly environment that makes you want to come and study here. I also feel very comfortable in this environment and I know that if I were to get stuck with something I would get the help that I need."*

*"The facilities at OPS are really good for the subjects that I am doing, and life in the Sixth form is easier to adapt to if you already know the school really well."*

### What have you enjoyed so far about the Sixth Form?

*"One of the best things has been the lunchtime privilege as it allows you to have a little bit more freedom than the younger years. Along with this, the Sixth Form Common Room has also been the best part of being in Sixth Form."*

*"The fact that you go into deeper analysis of the subjects that you love allows you to have a whole new level of appreciation for the subject."*

**Others said that the private study sessions allow them to be more independent with the amount of work that they do.**



### Any Challenges?

*"Coping with the amount of content for each subject."*

*"Being able to balance school life and social life (which is getting harder and harder as each week passes)."*

*"Time management (We need more hours in the day!)."*

*"The new independence is hard to adapt to as you are solely responsible for meeting deadlines and organising your work."*

*"Trying to stay organised with the multiple teachers you have for each subject."*

*"Navigating the new boundaries with the teachers now that we are almost adults."*

*"Trying to squeeze in extra revision in what little free time we have (if any at all)."*

### Hopes for the Future?

**Everyone has different aspirations for the future. Here are a few from my classmates:**

*"Passing A-levels with good grades and going to university for Dentistry."*

*"Going to a good university e.g. Imperial or Oxbridge for Medicine."*

*"Studying at university for a Chemistry or a Biochemistry degree."*

*"To work in theatre or film – screen writing."*

*"Uni/apprenticeship - working in business and finance."*

### From our Form Tutor, Mrs Ball:

*"I have been very impressed with the way 12Laud have settled into Sixth Form life. Their cheerful good humour and the way they support each other will, I'm sure, lead to a very rewarding two years."*

**Anushka, 12Laud  
Form Leader**

## Year 8 Fabric Rolls

Year 8 students have been using the brand new sewing machines in DT to make their Fabric Rolls, inspired by Topshop and Paperchase.

Having the new sewing machines has made such a difference and students are enjoying working within textiles, learning new techniques and processes.



## U16 Netball v Archbishop Tenison's School

*7th October saw Year 11 play Archbishop Tenison's in a demanding match of Netball.*

We have been working hard in training on interceptions and avoiding contact and were eager to put our discussions and work into practice.

The game went in Old Palace's favour and we were able to play an incredibly fluid game, getting the ball swiftly from the centre circle right into the 'D' and then in the hoop.

There were some amazing interceptions down the court but defence players, such as Kayla, really used her height and

timed her interceptions beautifully. Additionally, Treynelle made some great interceptions on the edge of the 'D' being able to get the ball back to Old Palace's end of the court. We ended the game on a fantastic score of 13-7 to us.

Emilia was named Player of the Match by the opposition.

**Amanda**, Year 11 Sports Captain





## Students Lead a Drama Workshop at Age UK Croydon

On Tuesday 1st October, six of the Year 10 and Year 13 drama students led a workshop for the elderly at Age UK, Croydon. When developing the workshop, we were inspired by the

theme of the event, 'empowerment', to lead a workshop that would build the confidence of those taking part. We used visual images as stimuli and asked the participants to write a script inspired by their own experiences and memories related to the images.

We each led a small group through the activities on our own; not only did the workshop build their confidence, but also ours. We found that writing the script was the most enjoyable part of the activity because it allowed everybody to take part, even if they felt less comfortable performing. As a Sixth Form student, I found the interaction between age groups enjoyable and something I certainly wish to do more of in the future.

After creating our scripts, we began to act them out. At the end of the workshop, some groups performed extracts of their pieces, while others explained what they were about. It was wonderful to see how immersed the participants were, and how much they enjoyed working with Old Palace students. The workshop was an excellent opportunity to uphold the value of Service (one of the School's Four Pillars) by serving the community.

Disha, Year 13



## Prep School Celebrated Black History Month

The Prep School's celebration of Black History Month began with an exciting assembly led by Mrs Frost on Thursday. We learned how to view prominent figures of history as role models, and how to learn from their experiences.

This was just the first in a series of different celebrations which are taking part right across Prep during October. These will include learning African songs, reading relevant books in the library during library sessions, displays of classwork throughout the school, cooking, mask making in the style of Lois Mailou Jones, quizzes and research into historical figures, and above all a special themed menu at lunch!

Watch this space for an update next week!



## Drama Students Celebrate Black History Month

This week, A Level students led a presentation and discussion for Black History month. The discussion was titled *Black British Theatre – Moving Forward*.

The students spoke about influential, modern British Theatre artists including Natasha Gordon and Debbie Tucker Green, as well as the work of 'Black Theatre Live'. Students then discussed the question - *Does British theatre celebrate black voices and provide sufficient opportunities for black theatre artists?* The discussion was very interesting and thought-provoking.

Thank you to SPECTRUM for inviting us to lead this session.



## Biology Society Debate



In Biology Society, we debated whether animal testing is unethical and looked at the scientific advancements made possible because of it.

I found this extremely interesting to look at, as most people blindly disagree with animal testing due to the emotive aspect of the argument, rather than the rational, scientific facts. For instance, treatment for Parkinson's disease, early detection of breast cancer and polycystic ovarian syndrome have all been made possible due to animal testing.

We also considered how effective animal testing is. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has noted that 95 percent of all drugs that are shown to be safe and effective

in animal tests fail in human trials because they don't work or are dangerous, whilst only 59 medicines are approved each year. There are also various alternatives to animal testing e.g. computer modelling, but it is difficult to replicate the complexity of the human body with a computer whereas primates have 98.8% similar genes which makes them ideal candidates. However, primates (e.g. monkeys) aren't the only animals used as animal testing is carried out on rats, fruit flies and worms etc. Although 60% of people oppose animal testing, many people would be unwilling to give up their medication or support human testing.

I found this debate very useful and experienced my view of the argument shift as people made their points. I was also surprised at how intense the argument got and how people worked together to create sophisticated points which were communicated with clarity and precision.

Lisa, Year 12

## GCSE and A Level Students see 'A Doll's House' at the Lyric Theatre

On 25th September, GCSE and A Level Drama students enjoyed a trip to see Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, adapted by Tanika Gupta, at the Lyric Theatre.

In this adaptation, the setting has been changed to Calcutta in 1879, during British colonial occupation. The play tackled race relations at the time, as

the main protagonist called Niru is an Indian woman married to an English man called Tom. I found this effective as you could feel the tension between the English and the Indians through the contrasting costumes and the acting choices.

The play also tackles gender politics, as it explores Niru's role as a wife and mother. I found this effective as this idea was integrated into the set design with the balcony creating a cage-like shadow around our female protagonist, Niru, keeping her captive in her own home.

The messages of the play were clearly communicated to the audience and it was an effective adaptation from the original text written at the same time this play was set, and so was very enjoyable for the GCSE and Drama students.





## Sixth Form STEM



Tuesday, 8th October  
was **Ada Lovelace Day**  
(inventor of the first  
computer programme/  
analytical engine).

Did you know that this year 79% of our Sixth Form students are taking at least one STEM subject at A Level? To celebrate, we gathered together some STEM students from Years 12 and 13 for some commemorative photographs.

Meanwhile, 64% of last year's Year 13 have gone on to study a STEM subject at university, including one to Oxford to read Physics.



## Recommended Exhibitions For DT Students



Open now until  
Sunday, 8 March 2020

# Tim Walker: Wonderful Things

An immersive journey into the fantastical worlds created  
by photographer Tim Walker

Experience the extraordinary  
creative process of one of  
the world's most inventive  
photographers through his  
pictures, films, photographic  
sets, and special installations  
– including ten new series of  
photographs influenced by the  
V&A's collections.





## U12 v Oasis Coulsdon

U12's A & B had their first fixture on Wednesday evening. The girls were a credit to the school, with some playing their first ever Netball match.

They worked as a team and tried hard to mark their player, however, sometimes a little too closely! There was an eagerness to gain possession of the ball and there was a notable improvement in their footwork throughout the match. The final score was 4-2 to Oasis for the A's and 2-2 drew for the B's. Well done to all who played.



## Year 5 & 6 Borough Cross Country Championships

The Year 5 & 6 Borough Cross Country Championships took place at Lloyd Park. This was a highly competitive competition with over 50 schools taking part.

Conditions were tough, as was the competition, with over 150 competitors in each race. Luckily the rain held off and our pupils worked extremely hard out on the 1800m course.

Congratulations to all the girls who took part, but a special mention must go to Marly in Year 5 who secured a top 10 placing. Miss Bovey and Mrs Smith were extremely proud of you all.



## SAVE THE DATE

  
Old Palace  
PTA

Saturday  
**7th December**  
**PTA Christmas**  
**Fair 1-3pm**  
Preparatory Hall

