



AROUND THE PALACE

Year 1 Visits the Horniman Museum



Year 1 had an exciting trip to the Horniman Museum for a workshop called 'Toys around the World'. The girls studied all sorts of moving toys from Russia, Portugal and Africa, some of which were made from recycled materials. We also visited the famous Horniman walrus and looked at other animals on display in the museum.

'My favourite toy was one with a bear who played the guitar when we pressed the button.' **Nia**

'My favourite part was when our workshop leader played us a song on an old toy accordion and we had a little dance!' **Kirstie**

Dear all,

I had the pleasure earlier this week of representing Old Palace at the Girls' Schools Association (GSA) Annual Conference in Bristol. The event gave me time to think about what advantages an all-girls education gives the students at Old Palace.

It is very true to say that in my first term at Old Palace, I have been so struck by the very many opportunities our girls have to take the lead from across the Prep and Senior schools and how they really enjoy the challenge of doing so. Every day, I see very many examples of our students building their confidence in their academic lessons alongside all the opportunities that our extra-curricular program bring and know that our girls are developing in a supportive environment away from any negativity caused by gender stereotypes, or out of date views about what girls can achieve. Above all, I see so much evidence of girls really enjoying their time at Old Palace and thriving in a supportive all-girls environment.

Although society has come a long way in terms of gender equality and equal opportunities for women, it is still not there yet and the fight continues. Old Palace students learn and develop in an environment where women lead and are not held back in any way, so that when they become the leaders of the future, in whatever fields they choose, they can continue the fight for gender equality to be embedded across society.

Go girls!

Jane Burton, Head

Year 5 Wins St Christopher's Netball Tournament



Huge congratulations to our Year 5 team, who were crowned winners of the St Christopher's netball tournament on Friday. The girls worked hard over seven games throughout bitterly cold conditions and did not lose a single match.

Lina and Marly excelled in the shooting circle and managed to convert seven goals in just one game! Kara and Daisy worked hard across the centre court to feed the ball into the circle from the centre passes. Andrea captained the team beautifully and Ava and Arisa's defending meant our opponents could hardly score any goals all afternoon.

Congratulations Year 5. A fantastic win!

Trip to Wembley Stadium

On Saturday, 9th November, 22 Old Palace students, accompanied by Mrs Smith, Miss Rodwell and Mr Fuller, set off to go and see England v Germany at Wembley Stadium.

We allowed plenty of time (by coach), but the journey took three and a half hours, so unfortunately we missed the kick off.

Apart from this first little hiccup, the match was brilliant and although the final score was 2-1 to Germany, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the match. The amazing atmosphere was contagious and soon everyone was on their feet cheering when England scored their first goal.

The ride back was uneventful, so before we knew it, we were home! It was a fabulous experience and everyone will treasure it forever.

Thank you to all the staff who came with us and a special thank to Miss Rodwell for organising this trip.

Natalie, Year 7

Music Award Holders Workshop



On Wednesday 13th November, conductor and member of the British Kodály Academy, Esther Hargittai, took the Music award holders through their paces in an action packed workshop on choral conducting. Esther is well known for setting up one of the best known and most

successful children's choirs in Israel, the Efroni Choir, which she managed and conducted from 1996 to 2005.

Throughout the workshop the award holders were taught various conducting patterns including how to conduct in 2, 3 and 4 beats in a bar, how to change meter, and how to start and end phrases. Key principles were eye contact, and how to engage with your choir and give clear instructions purely based on gesture. The workshop also involved a lot of singing, and girls were given many chances to conduct the group themselves.

The award holders said that they thoroughly enjoyed the session afterwards, and will be looking forward to a follow-up session later in the year.

Boy Blue Dance Workshop Year 9

On Tuesday 12th of November, a group of 18 Year 9 students had the opportunity to take part in a dance workshop in the dance studio with Bruno Perrier, from Boy Blue Entertainment. We looked at the different parts of Emancipation of Expressionism: Genesis, Growth, Flow and Connection and Empowerment. We learnt a lot about the piece and some of the company's signature movements such as the 'Ninja run', 'Ninja Glide' and the 'Ninja static'. We learnt more about the movements and that there is more to just running on the spot. We also learnt the story behind some sections of the dance, for example, the first section 'Genesis' was about the birth of Boy Blue Entertainment and the uniqueness of each dancer as they each have a small solo in different styles. I really enjoyed the workshop, I loved learning new things such as the B-points and the Rubik's cube formation and I hope there are more opportunities like this next year.

Nissi, Year 9



I was very grateful to have the opportunity to work with a choreographer and dancer from Boy Blue who also performed in Emancipation of Expressionism, which is a dance that we are working on in class. The piece is about free movement and expressionism of the art and I learned a lot of techniques they used in the dance.

One of the choreographic ideas was the rubix cube, which you moved around in, a few people at a time, but always left one space as if someone else was in that space.

Mary, Year 9



The Boy Blue workshop was a great opportunity and will help with my choreography task that is based on Boy Blue's Emancipation of Expressionism, which is also one of the professional works on the GCSE Dance course. Bruno Perrier helped us explore key features of the style of Street Dance e.g. bpoint, rubik's cube and ninja runs. At the end of the workshop, he told us how he had recently been the assistant choreographer of Dave's new music video 'Professor X' and has choreographed for Stylo G and many more. This inspired me for the future.

Leah, Year 9

As part of the Boy Blue workshop, Bruno Perrier led a Q & A where he talked about the evolution of Hip Hop from being a highly skilled type of dance to being something that everyone can do. Perrier explained that during the 1980's and 1990's, the Hip Hop dance style was heavily influenced by the music of this time and the trend was to perform well known moves to pop songs in social clubs, again making hip hop more accessible to everyone. This is how well known dance moves are created. For example, Flossing, Bart Simpson and Orange Justice are all created from trends of social interaction and technology.

Catherine, Year 9



Youth Speaks Competition



Intermediate Team



Senior Team

On Tuesday 5th November, two teams from Old Palace went to Royal Russell to participate in the annual 'Youth Speaks' competition organised by the Rotarians.

Our Intermediate team spoke first on the subject of 'Street art and social justice – the politics of Banksy' considering how Banksy uses his artwork for the benefit of the local communities in the UK. Shelise from Year 8 was chair person and gave an excellent introduction while Sumaiya, as main speaker, impressed the audience with her eloquence. Finally, Catherine effectively summarised the presentation, making it clear that Banksy's street artwork should be appreciated and not exploited, which is one of the dangers of creating free, public artwork by a famous artist.

The Senior team chose 'Should capital punishment continue to exist?' as the focus of their presentation. Isobel did a fine job of chairing proceedings while our main speaker, Fiona,

spoke passionately about this difficult and emotive topic, highlighting some appalling miscarriages of justice. Emma's Vote of Thanks concluded the presentation and underlined the inhumanity of capital punishment.

Speaking for six minutes in front of a large audience was certainly nerve-wracking, but on reflection this was a worthwhile skill to master.

Both Senior and Intermediate teams presented eloquent and well-structured arguments, so congratulations to both of them. Well done particularly to the Intermediate team for winning first place in their category!

Finally, a big thank you to Mrs Parker and Miss McCabe who organised Old Palace's participation in the Youth Speaks competition.

Shelise, Year 9 and Emma, Year 12

Chemistry in Action

Year 13 reported back on their day at the Chemistry in Action conference. The lectures covered interesting historical aspects of Chemistry as well as present day and future applications.

Shannon wrote

"We had a day of lectures on a wide range of topics; from the chemistry of poisons and their antidotes to how the basics of chemistry could be used to rebuild civilisation from scratch after an apocalypse. I particularly enjoyed the final talk, intriguingly titled 'Do you smell almonds?'; in which we learnt about a type of isomerism called enantiomerism - molecules that have identical atoms and structures, but are mirror images of each other. I found it crazy how this subtle difference at the atomic scale can dramatically change the properties of a substance. For example, the molecule carvone smells like caraway, but when arranged slightly differently it smells strongly of spearmint."



Anna wrote:

"I enjoyed the day as I learnt many new things. I particularly enjoyed the first talk on different poisons as it was so interesting as well as engaging due to the speaker's way of presenting her talk. The last talk on different scents and the chemistry behind smells was also very interesting."

Lorelei and Lakshitha also found the talk on poisons particularly fascinating and Itohan was intrigued by the demonstration using milk to remove the colour from Coca Cola without affecting its flavour.

Senior Soiree

On Thursday 14th November, a number of students from Years 10-13 took part in the Senior Soiree in the Banqueting Hall.

The evening was hugely entertaining and featured a real range of music which was reflective of the eclectic tastes and diverse and very strong skill sets of the pupils. This included a wonderful Scandinavian-inspired Harp solo from Constanza in Year 11, a bass performance of 'Dune Tune' by Level 42 (a band formed in the 80s in the Isle of Wight) from Kirsten in Year 13, and an unforgettable rendition of Black Sabbath's 'Paranoid' from Sofia in Year 12. All of these performances sat seamlessly alongside some more conventional classical pieces, some jazzy pieces and songs from Musicals.

We would like to thank all of the students for performing, and Miss Orr and Mr Griffith for accompanying the musicians.



Youth Sport Trust UK – Endicott Trip USA

Hosanna was afforded the opportunity to travel to the USA over the half term following a series of coaching camps she attended in the UK. This was all started by her taking the Sports Leaders Course at Old Palace.



From the 20-27 October, I got the opportunity of travelling with seven other girls from the UK and two Leaders from Youth Sport Trust to Endicott College in Boston, USA.

The main aim of the trip was for us to observe, participate and learn about sports coaching and leadership in America. We left the UK on Sunday and flew to Boston, with a 2-hour stopover at Dublin airport. From Boston Airport, we had an hour's drive to

Endicott College. Endicott is a Private university based in Beverly, Boston, Massachusetts which gives academic scholarships based on merit.

We stayed at a beautiful hotel on campus and our first day included travelling, a mini tour of the campus, and dinner. On day two we enjoyed a sightseeing tour of the college. We were given a presentation on the facilities that Endicott has, and then went on to visit Wilmington High School - which looks so much like High School Musical it's uncanny - to watch a field hockey practice session. We interviewed the girls about what they liked about their coach, and we made notes on what the coach did.

On Day 3, we went to a sports marketing session, which focused more on digital marketing and advertising - getting sport knowledge out there. This was followed by "a thinking-in-sports" session, which was primarily about allowing people to explore sports themselves. We also did a coaching philosophy and ethics session, which allowed us to explore the stance we wanted to take as coaches.

On Day 4 we had a coaching panel in which five of Endicott's best female coaches were assembled, so we could ask them questions. We also went on a trip to Salem and whilst there we watched one of the coaches coaching a female football (or soccer) game with a rival school.

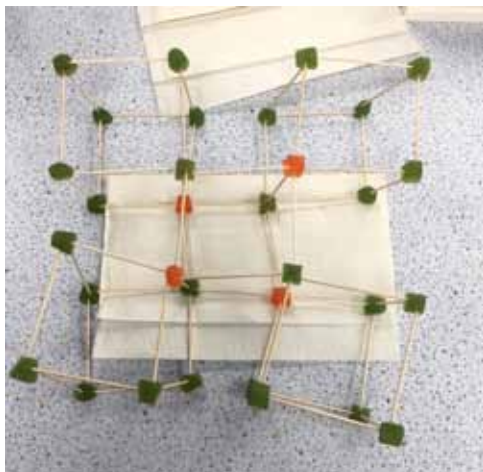
On Day 5, we got the chance to interact with people with altered ability in one of the indoor gyms, and play a game of volleyball. We were also able to go to a nearby primary school to see their facilities, assembly, and to talk to one of the coaches.

On Day 6, we gave a presentation about our experiences. Then we visited the aquarium in Boston and saw penguins, manta rays and seals, and we also went on a "Duck" tour around the city and learnt about the history.

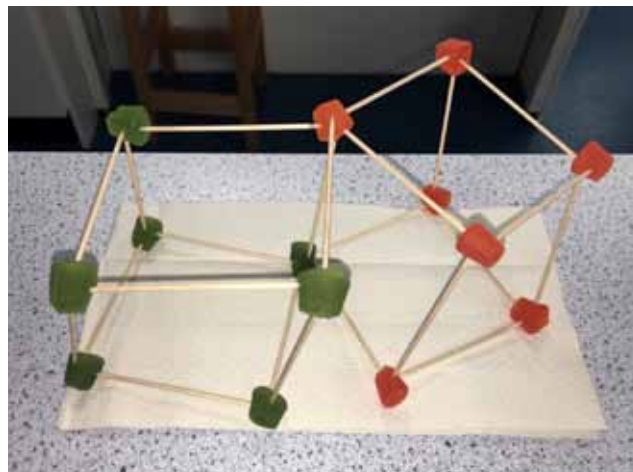
Overall, I'd say going to Endicott was an experience that I wouldn't trade for anything. I got to make close bonds with lots of new people and I was able to get a new and interesting perspective on the differences between sport in the UK and sport in the US.

Modelling Molecules

Last week in ChemSoc, we explored the idea of using models to explain complex ideas, specifically atomic structure. For example, at GCSE level we tend to represent electron shells as circles around a nucleus, and at A level, we delve deeper and begin to look at the idea of orbitals. But last week we tested an atomic model created in the past by a chemist called Gilbert Lewis, which represents electrons at the eight corners of a cube. We explored this model using toothpicks and gummy sweets,



and found that although it worked for some molecules, like chlorine and tetrachloromethane, which are pictured above, we found that it didn't work for all of them. This also sparked a discussion on how science and our understanding of it is continually



changing, when it is time to refine or completely replace the models that we use, and how the models we currently use to represent atomic structure could change in the future.

Julieta, Year 12

Physics in Action



On the 12th November, we travelled to the Emmanuel Centre, London to attend a wide array of presentations delivered by various scientists. It was immensely inspiring to listen to the work they do on a daily basis at the forefront of their fields. We found the day very interesting as we were able to see the vast number of fields we can go into with A-level Physics

Our first speaker was Dr Gupta who talked about the Cosmos and 'the invisible universe'. Dr Gupta conveyed how different electromagnetic waves could be used to take images of our

galaxy. She also brought in a heat detection camera to illustrate how infrared rays can be used to track the formation of stars inside dense clouds of matter, which are impermeable to visible light. One of the most interesting points was how different elements emit a unique sequence of visible light specific to only that element. Overall, Dr Gupta left us feeling inspired and motivated to go home and research more about astrophysics.

Another presentation was delivered by Trevor Cox, Professor of Acoustic Engineering at the University of Salford. We learnt about the way the voice box works and the way technology, such as microphones, alters the way we make sound. For example, pop singers can whisper and still be heard, whereas opera singers must project their voices and use vibrato to stand out from the orchestra. The talk was fascinating and made us aware of the importance and existence of this less well-known field of engineering.

We also had the opportunity to listen to Dr Sella, a Chemist at Imperial College. At first it was quite strange to see a chemist at a Physics event but unsurprisingly the links between chemistry and physics were very

close. Dr Sella used the concept of convection currents in water to explain why ice keeps our drinks cool. He was a fascinating speaker and his passion for this field was so obvious and pleasing to see. He really captivated the audience with several live demonstrations. It was amazing how he pointed out a common misconception about ice and corrected the audience about the purpose of the ice in a drink. As Dr Sella explained, ice maintains a drink at a constant temperature rather than cooling it as per the concept of latent heat of fusion. This was a very interesting link to our Thermal Physics curriculum.

He used water to demonstrate how the increasing temperatures of the planet will affect the climate. One of the facts that startled all of us was 'For each one degree increase in temperature, there is a 6% increase in the volume of water in our oceans and seas. Dr Sella was our favourite speaker at the event as he linked one of today's biggest issues with the concepts and knowledge that we already have, as well as using his personal encounters with the natural environment as his proof.

Hayley, Nadia, Oluwademilade and Hana, Year 12

Wet Felting Workshop

The latest Art workshop took place on the 18th of November. While at this workshop, I and several others learnt the art of wet felting. Three 'A' level Art students joined us and helped with the workshop. This workshop was to give Year 9 students a taste of what they could do in GCSE Art. It was not necessary to have gone to the first workshop, but around half of the students did. We learnt the techniques of wet felting like how much soapy water we should add, how much felt, etc. The students who stayed for the entire time also had a go at dry felting. I enjoyed this workshop and can't wait to attend future ones.

Nicola H, Year 9



Year 3 Netball v Caterham



Year 3 had a lovely afternoon of netball on Wednesday. The hard work in training has paid off as the confidence from the girls on the court shone through.

All girls thoroughly enjoyed the teas after the match.

Final score 4-2 Old Palace.

Global Warming



Glaciers melting, sea levels rising, cloud forests dying, and wildlife scrambling to keep pace; these are some of the many damaging effects global warming is having on our planet today.

Global warming is the gradual increase of the earth's overall temperature, primarily caused by human activity as we increase the levels of carbon dioxide through burning fossil fuels and deforestation. To add to the crisis, we have increased the volume of methane through decomposing organic matter and natural gas extraction as well as the level of nitrous oxide through our heightened use of fertilizers.

If the global warming crisis continues, the effects will soon be irreversible, having a huge effect on the younger generation and generations to come, as we will see a big increase in severe weather, the shrinking of the north and south poles as the glaciers melt, rising sea levels and risks to the population's health. Global warming will see a reversal in reducing children's undernutrition and the increase in infectious diseases through unclean water and contaminated food. Therefore, it is our responsibility to do all we can, whether it be using public transport instead of driving or increasing the amount you recycle, to help reduce the global warming crisis.

Molly, Year 13

Spanish Trip to the BFI



On Friday, 15th November, the Spanish A-Level students went to a 'Study Day' about a well-known film director, Pedro Almodóvar. It was all about Almodóvar's life as a film director and how he has included some aspects of his personal life into his films as well as his stereotypical portrayal of the Spanish people, which has caused a severe backlash by some Spaniards.

The morning session looked at the different characteristics of Almodóvar's films, such as the background music, intertextuality, a mixture of genres and the camera angles. These were just a few of the aspects we looked at while analysing the movie clips that we were shown.

This session really helped me to understand why Almodóvar might show us certain scenes in certain ways. For example, in the film *Matador* he uses quite a lot of los planos picados, which means 'high-angle shots' that often portrays the figure or object as vulnerable and powerless.

We also learnt that Almodóvar had a huge involvement in the period of time called 'La Movida Madrileña' which started after the death of the Spanish Dictator Francisco Franco. Almodóvar helped Spain leave the harsh reign of this Dictator, by making his first movie in 1980: *Pepi, Luci, Bom y otras chicas del montón*, which portrayed the punk rock style of Madrid after the death of Franco.

This was followed by a viewing of the film that we are studying in class by Almodóvar, called *Volver*. While we were watching the film, we were told to think about some of the questions in the student pack provided by the BFI organisation.

These questions will act as prompts to further broaden our knowledge of the movie, as it will allow us to analyse some things that we may not have thought of. I think that this day has helped us very much, as it will make it easier to analyse the movie.

Anushka, Year 12



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

Spirit

*Empowerment
through Dance*

**Tuesday
10th
December
2019**

**Banqueting Hall
at 7pm**

Tickets available on WisePay
£4 adult
£2 children/concession



Year 13 Northern Irish Literature



On the 31st October, seven Year 13 A-Level English Literature students took an early morning flight to Belfast, Northern Ireland. The purpose of the trip was to gain a greater insight into the lives and works of Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney, and critically acclaimed author David Park, through visiting the landscape and environs that inspired them.

Following a scenic drive past lush green fields with distant views of Lough Neagh, our first stop was at the Seamus Heaney Home Place in Bellaghy. Guided by Heaney expert and enthusiast Marie, we enjoyed an engaging tour of the exhibition 'Seamus Heaney, Man and Boy' which is dedicated to exploring how Heaney's childhood and family influenced his poetry throughout his career. Alongside readings and explanations of Heaney's poems, two personal items were particularly significant: Heaney's school satchel highlighting a love of learning that continued throughout his life and a Conway Stewart fountain pen. Given as a gift from his parents prior to attending boarding school in Derry, the pen represented Heaney's remarkable career as a poet. The exhibition was imaginatively curated, and we particularly enjoyed learning more about the influence of Gaelic and Ulster-Scots in Heaney's writing by attempting to understand the words such as 'dulse' (seaweed) and 'pampooties' (slippers/shoes).

Following our moving tour of the Heaney Home Place, we had the privilege of participating in a short seminar with Dr Alison Garden of Queen's University Belfast. We compared Heaney's poetry in conjunction with extracts from David Park's *Travelling in a Strange Land*, focusing on the writers' themes, genre and style. This was incredibly useful as it not only offered new perspectives on the texts, but gave us an insight into academic study at university.

As we made the short drive to Belfast city centre, we passed Cave Hill, the original inspiration for *Gulliver's Travels*. The novel's author, Jonathan Swift, noted that it resembled a giant in repose!

On arrival at the historic Linen Hall Library (founded in 1788 and the oldest library in Belfast), we were afforded a wonderful opportunity to meet the author of one of the texts we are studying, *Travelling in a Strange Land*. Although not one for the limelight, David Park was lovelier than any of us had imagined and very helpfully answered all



the questions we had about his book, its inspirations and themes. However, this was not just an interview: he also provided us with some very personal anecdotes on themes such as teaching and parenthood, describing how his own experiences influenced the characterisation and concept of the novel. To emphasise David Park's generosity, he gifted each of us a copy of his other novels or short story collections. We had some gifts of thanks in return. To acknowledge Park's love of music, Kirsten had created a mixtape which was inspired by the musical references throughout the novel.

To conclude the day, we walked the short distance from the Library to the magnificent City Hall which was built to mark Queen Victoria's act of granting city status to Belfast. We thoroughly enjoyed exploring the exhibition located inside and discovered more about Belfast's great ship-building and linen industry past, and Northern Ireland's future in the filming industry. In recent years, the province has provided key filming locations for the incredibly popular HBO series, 'Game of Thrones'. The exhibition was also a reminder of Belfast's rich literary and cultural heritage with C. S. Lewis (*The Chronicles of Narnia*), and Anna Burns, who wrote the 2018 Booker Prize winning novel, *The Milkman*, being just two of the many great writers who have hailed from the city.

We are very grateful to have been given this invaluable opportunity to deepen our knowledge and understanding of Northern Irish literature.

Natasha and Kirsten, Year 13

Netball Club



Hello, my name is Lily and I play Goal Attack and/or Goal Shooter at Hillcrest Netball Club in Warlingham. On the 17th November I played a tournament, which I play twice a term. My team and I played three, thirty minute matches against: Dorking, Crystal Palace and Whitton. Our first match against Dorking was tough and we worked well as a team, however they had a strong defence team. Therefore, the final score ended up being a draw 7-7!

Our second match against Crystal Palace was less challenging but still tough, and our defence team was quite strong. We ended up winning 15-7! Our third and final match was against Whitton and was a really good match. Both teams had a strong defence and attack side, however we ended up winning 17-5!

Lily, Year 8

PTA Christmas Fair

Saturday 7th December

12-3pm Preparatory Hall

Donations still needed for second hand uniform and don't forget your entries for the cake decorating and best decorated sweetie jar competition.

Run your own stall and earn some money for Christmas.

U13 & U14 Netball v Shirley High School

The U13 & U14 Netball teams came away with two very well deserved victories against Shirley High on Wednesday evening. The U13's took control from the beginning, quickly settling into a rhythm. They thought about their spacing and showed real team work which resulted in an incredible 17 goals being scored and only conceding 4. The U14 match was much closer with a nail biting final quarter. In the final minutes Old Palace was a goal down but managed to score two goals in quick succession to make the final score 14-15!



Deux Moi



Last week, we were fortunate enough to visit the French Institute to watch the premiere of the film *Deux Moi*.

The film was projected at the Cinéma Lumière at the French Institute in South

Kensington. The French director, Cédric Klapisch, also famous for *L'Auberge Espagnole*, was present at the end of the screening for some Questions and Answers.

Cedric Klapisch is well-known for making films that explore the ways in which individuals exist in relation to a group of people, whether that group be a family or the denizens of an urban neighbourhood. This session fits perfectly with one of our A-Level components as we need to research "The cinema in French speaking countries".

The movie was extremely enjoyable with plenty of comedy and a moving storyline. We thoroughly enjoyed

listening to the director discuss his process in developing the story line and he is particularly admirable for his work with young actors such as Romain Duris.

Overall, we had a wonderful evening and will be sure to visit the French Institute again to watch more French films.

Shreya, Year 12



Year 2 Visit St Paul's Cathedral

On 15th November, 2J travelled by train to London to visit St Paul's Cathedral and the Monument to the Great Fire of London. At St Paul's we took part in a workshop.

We were shown statues that were actually in the cathedral in 1666 and survived! Parts of them were missing because they had exploded due to the intense heat. We also acted out the story - playing the roles of Thomas Farriner and his family, the firefighters, Samuel Pepys and King Charles II - and learnt

how the people of England supported those who had lost their homes, while the city was rebuilt.

After lunch, we walked along the Thames Path to the Monument and Pudding Lane, spotting famous London landmarks along the way. Fortunately, the rain held off and we walked 10,000 steps. We were very happy to get seats on the train for the journey home!



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