



# AROUND THE PALACE

## Fairy Tale Day



Reception's topic this term is traditional Fairy Tales. To support learning, we had a special Fairy Tale Day where the girls dressed up as their favourite character. In Literacy, we read stories and re-told them through role-play. We also focused on a character description of The Big Bad Wolf and made wanted posters. In DT we all worked together to make Fairy cakes. We read the recipe carefully and checked that we had all of the ingredients. After that we weighed, mixed and baked. Finally, the Fairy cakes were decorated – delicious!

*More pictures on page 11*

Dear all,



Some very positive pieces of news from Old Palace this week. Firstly, we have appointed a new Head of Prep, Mrs Laura Nike who will join us after February half term. Laura is currently the Head of School at the Oasis Academy Putney and brings to Old Palace a wealth of experience in both the independent and state sectors and in both early years and primary education. We are very excited to have her join the Old Palace family.

Secondly, the Sunday Times Parent Power rankings were published at the weekend. These rankings are based on the GCSE and A level results and we were delighted to see that Old Palace was the highest ranked all-girls school in the local area. More details on this can be found in the chart on page 2. Well done to all the students, staff and parents for making this happen.

*continued on page 2*

Finally, it is always a joy to see the Old Palace students being involved in different events and activities and this is particularly evidenced by two examples this week. On Monday, our Reception class had their Fairy Tale Day and the class certainly rose to the occasion. We don't like gender stereotyping at Old Palace and so Mrs Wellington imposed a 'ban' on princess outfits which led to much creativity with gingerbread men seeming very popular!

On Wednesday evening it was the Senior School's turn with the

annual Christmas Concert in the Minster with some outstanding choral and instrumental pieces from students from Year 6 upwards. The event was superb and was a fantastic start to the busy weeks ahead in the run up to the festive season.

Wishing you a very good weekend.



Jane Burton, Head



Mrs Laura Nike, the newly appointed Head of Prep.



## Sunday Times Parent Power 2019

### London Independent School Rankings

Old Palace is the highest ranked independent girls' school in the local area

London Rank	National Rank	School	Location	A Level % A*/A	A Level % A*/B	A Level Rank (National)	GCSE % 9-7	GCSE Rank (National)
31	86	Old Palace of John Whitgift School	Croydon	50	83	97	76	85
40	134	Sutton High School GDST	Sutton	36.0	77.3	140=	67.6	135=
44	163	Croydon High School GDST	Croydon	48.9	67.8	223=	73.4	98=
45	165=	Streatham and Clapham High School GDST	London	39.6	67.8	223=	72.8	103=
-	157	Woldingham	Surrey	45.5	72.8	171	64.2	155=

## REMINDER OPA and Friends Carol Service

**Monday, 2nd December at 7pm**

In the Chapel, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Guardroom.





## Croydon Schools KS4 Badminton Competition



On Thursday 21st November, Rachel, Zaina, Claire and Anna from Year 10 participated the KS4 Badminton Competition run by the Croydon School Sports Partnership.

There were eight teams involved in this exciting tournament. There were some really close matches but we were very proud of our performance which enabled us to get through to the final. We were unfortunate to miss out on the win by one point but were very happy to be silver medallists. It was a great experience and we also made friends from other schools.

This year's competition was harder than last year's as we were competing against girls who were older than us; however, I think we did a great job and I enjoyed it so much!

**Rachel, Year 10**

## Evensong at Croydon Minster

Monday saw Polyphonic's second evensong of the year which was a well-attended and reflective service. The girls sung some responses by Jack Oades, former organ scholar at Whitgift school and now award winning composer. These were ably led by student cantor Jessica in Year 13. Other pieces included the beautiful *Thomas Moore Canticles*, which included a lovely solo plainsong chant from Constanza in Year 11, and the Anthem was the tranquil *A Grateful Heart* by Mary Plumstead.



## Year 12 Professional Work Placement: Engineering

# RAMBOLL

Bright ideas. Sustainable change.

During the half-term holidays, I completed a work experience placement at Ramboll for one week. Ramboll is a leading engineering, design and consultancy company working across the following markets: Buildings, Transport, Planning and Urban Design, Water, Environment and Health, Energy and Management Consulting.

For the first couple of days, I mainly carried out research into specialist

terms and abbreviations as well as looking through PowerPoints and reports about minimising energy consumption through building design. This aided my understanding of the exciting projects that engineers around me were doing. For example, I was told about a project in Indonesia which involved designing bamboo buildings to better withstand earthquakes.

Later in the week, I carried out some tasks involving the use of specialist software, such as Bluebeam and AutoCAD. Seeing advanced 3D modelling in action and using computer-aided design software to contribute to heat loss calculations by

measuring window and external wall widths of a real-life building plan was inspiring.

I have gained a valuable insight into the work of building service engineers and have learnt much from it. This experience has also given me an appreciation of all the unseen work that goes into designing the many buildings around us.

I am grateful to have had this exciting opportunity and to everyone at Ramboll who helped to welcome me and share their knowledge and expertise.

**Nadia**, Year 12



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

**TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE**

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S  
**TWELFTH NIGHT**  
or *What you Will*

**4th | 5th | 6th December**  
Banqueting Hall at **7pm**

Tickets via WisePay **£5** adult | **£3** children/concession

## Anti-Bullying

In our Learning for Life lesson, we learnt all about bullying and the effect that it has, not just on the person it is happening to, but on all their family members.

Bullying is when someone, or a group of people, continuously, purposely affect someone's emotional intelligence and/or mental health. When bullying takes place this causes the victim to have a low self-esteem, because the bully will have made hurtful comments.

A speaker came in to tell us about "Amber's story", and about how she decided to end her life because of bullying. It also affected her parents and sister negatively. The words that I remember very well was when the speaker said "Bullies are unpredictable". When the speaker said this, she said it meant that you can not look at someone and tell what they are going to be bullied for, because it is only the bully who knows what the trigger is that makes them want to bully that person.

Bullies are cowards who do not want to face the problems or insecurities they would be facing in their own lives.

**Vaonaishe**, Year 7

**STAND  
AGAINST  
VIOLENCE**



## Year 7 *The Gobstopper Dance* from Matthew Bourne's *Nutcracker*!



In the dance, I was portraying a rather boisterous and rowdy Gobstopper. We had to use very determined and almost fierce facial expressions whilst performing fast, sharp and very jerky movements. We used many gestures that showed we were trying to show off and show how strong we were. We did this by using movements such as showing our muscles and powerful jumps.

We moved in different formations and performed on different levels too. The narrative of my choreography at the end was a fight where the three of us Gobstoppers were trying to eat each other (because we were sweets) and show who was the best.

I thoroughly enjoyed doing this assessment and I think I most enjoyed how it made me feel very happy and much, much, more confident!

**Emily, Year 7**

I developed facial expression skills from doing this dance since it was very lively and the faces of the Gobstoppers were very strong and they were very committed to the dance, since they were always in character and very confident.

The narrative of the end of our dance was that Sareena and I were fighting while Imaan secretly punched both of us which scared us off making Imaan win the fight. We portrayed these emotions and actions by trying to use our faces to communicate what was happening in the story.

What I most enjoyed about the assessment was choreographing the last section of the dance. The dances performed were unique and I liked watching everyone else's dances to see their twist on the dance at the end.

**Tusara, Year 7**



Last week, the whole of Year 7 did a dance assessment on a piece from Matthew Bourne's *Nutcracker*. We worked on a certain section called the Gobstopper Dance. This dance was very boisterous, but being girls we had to channel our inner boy and put it all out on the dance floor. We all worked in groups of three and as well as learning the choreography we had to incorporate our own ideas that matched the feel of the dance, but it also had to include something that was going to look good as a group.

Overall I think that the whole assessment went very well.

**Abigail, Year 7**



## Year 7 *The Gobstopper Dance* from Matthew Bourne's *Nutcracker*!

For our dance we were portraying the character of a Gobstopper. We had to be very tough, over confident and cool. Along with all the fun I developed my teamwork and confidence, which was very important as a Gobstopper. We were also given the chance to narrate our own ending. We decided on a chase, a spin and then a big gobstopper fight to end at. It was hilarious. I found it difficult not to burst out laughing, but that was definitely one of the challenges. I really enjoyed taking part in this dance, but my favourite part was definitely coming up with my ending.

**Imaan, Year 7**



The role that I was portraying was a boisterous, arrogant character and they really thought that they were the best. Therefore, I had to show that in my over-the-top facial expressions and gestures. For example, I had to do a barrel jump which had to be smooth and huge. At the end of the dance, our choreography was that we would be resentful to each other and then make up. However, after making a truce we would almost immediately start fighting again.

In the end we finished storming away. I really enjoyed the aeroplane movements, the jumps and watching my frenemies do a cartwheel. This was a very delightful dance and I enjoyed doing it.

**Huda, Year 7**

## Hockey v Croydon High School



Old Palace girls made their way to Croydon High for a hockey match. They were very excited to be playing an 11-a-side match. The girls did well passing the ball around effectively. They got the ball into Croydon High's D quite a few times and there was some great defending from Natalia.

The girls persevered even though the weather was not on their side and unfortunately, Croydon High managed to get a few goals. The girls all tried really hard to pass the ball onto their fellow team mates. However, going forward, we need to work on using the width of the pitch and thinking about our formation.

## Love, Ambition and Happiness

Over the half term, the Year 13 RS class attended a lecture hosted by the Aristotelian Society located in the Senate House, entitled 'Love, Ambition and Happiness'. The speaker, Glen Pettigrove from the University of Glasgow, talked about how ambition can rise from love, but rarely does it precede love.

Pettigrove attempted to illustrate why he thought there was a conflict between the two. He argued from different perspectives, one of which was that due to the competitive nature of both love and ambition, the individual ends up choosing between the two, abandoning one and pursuing the other.

The talk was particularly interesting as it analysed the relationship between love and ambition in a way that we hadn't considered before. We look forward to attending future lectures hosted by the Aristotelian Society.

**Thakera, Year 13H**



## Debating Success!

Last Monday, Sruthisri and I headed to Whitgift School to participate in the first round of the ESU's Schools' Mace debating competition.

Over the course of the evening the pertinent topics of limiting flights to reduce environmental pollution and mandatory voting were vigorously debated by local Croydon schools. Our debate focused on the motion, 'Trial by Jury should be abolished', which we proposed, while Trinity offered strong opposing arguments.

Debating can be a nerve-wracking experience! Yet on reflection, Sri and I can certainly recognise the undoubted benefits: research skills, ability to structure arguments and confident delivery.

To our delight, and surprise, the judge declared that Old Palace would be one of the teams progressing to the next round. We are looking forward to the next stage of the competition to be held in late January 2020.

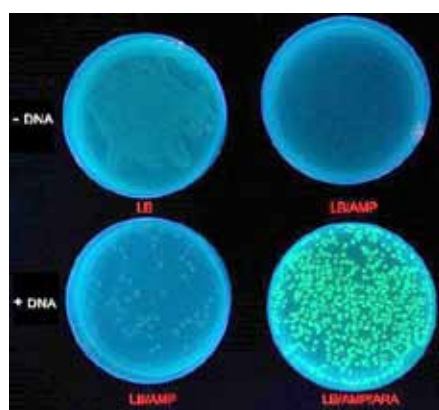
We would like to thank Ms McCabe for her coaching and Old Palace alumna and governor, Shiraz Engineer, for her enthusiastic support and encouragement.

**Charlotte**, Year 12

## Biology Society

In Biology Society we used genetic engineering to create fluorescent bacteria; we did this by essentially breaking down the structure of the bacteria using and introducing a plasmid with a new length of DNA into the bacteria's DNA called GFP (green fluorescent protein) which is found in a particular species of jellyfish, which are able to glow in the dark as a result of the GFP gene.

To actually transform the *E. coli* bacteria (which can naturally be found in your gut) with the GFP gene, calcium chloride was added to the plasmids. Adding it allows for the bacteria to take up the pGLO plasmid easier as it



neutralises the negative charges on phospholipids on the bacterial cell wall. This increases permeability of the prokaryotic cell wall which allows the

plasmid to enter the bacterium more efficiently. We allowed for a recovery period for the bacteria to repair its cell walls and express the new gene. *E. coli* doubles every 20 minutes, however, this can go up to one hour, so we allowed the *E. coli* to grow overnight in a 37 degrees Celsius incubator.

The result was fluorescent bacteria which replicated with the GFP gene. I found this experiment challenging but insightful and enjoyable to see how genetic engineering is actually carried out.

**Lisa**, Year 12L

## Education in Action - Biology

I thoroughly enjoyed the Biology in Action trip. It was an eye opening experience which allowed us to see the various pioneering fields that you can go into and to see how hard work, determination and time can positively affect your career. I found the talk by Liam Drew on "Appreciating our mammalian-ness" especially thought-provoking as he described the evolution of the things that made mammals and showed how these traits help make us human. It was particularly fascinating to learn about the origins of milk; it is modified sweat which could have been originally used to incubate or disinfect eggs. Milk also helped to develop elementary post-natal care which allows mammals to become attached to and thus bring up their young which is different to other types of animals. For instance, turtles lay their eggs on beaches and leave the young to fend for themselves.

Additionally, I found the talk on the possibility of life outside of our world enthralling; scientists have discovered that the survival limits of terrestrial life lines up with extra-terrestrial conditions. For example, one of Jupiter's moons – Europa has warm conditions and has more water under its outer crust of ice than on the whole Earth. We were also privy to future



scientific projects e.g. ExoMars, genetically modified food, personalised treatment for oesophageal cancer and future drugs to combat obesity. It was remarkable to see cross curricular links forming between the different professions and was inspirational to see people speaking so fervently about their passions within the STEM field.

**Lisa**, Year 12L



Old Palace  
PTA

# Christmas Fair

## Saturday 7th December

### 12-3pm Preparatory Hall

Come join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at this annual Old Palace PTA event

- ★ Santa's Grotto
- ★ Hot and Cold Food
- ★ Book Fairs
- ★ Snow Cones
- ★ Toys and Game Stalls
- ★ Cake and Sweet stalls
- ★ Lucky Dips
- ★ Toy Tombolas
- ★ Unique Handmade Gifts
- ★ Christmas Gift Stalls
- ★ Christmas Decorations
- ★ Fun and Festive
- ★ Competitions
- ★ Second Hand Uniform
- ★ Christmas Hamper Raffle
- ★ Candy Floss and Pop Corn
- ★ Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
- ★ Entertainment courtesy of Old Palace Students

Please support this Fundraising Event as the proceeds will go towards supporting Local and National Charities as well as the Old Palace PTA activities in our Community



## Maths Challenge



Many congratulations to our brilliant team of mathematicians, who came fourth in the recent Senior Maths Challenge. This is our highest ever ranking in what is the most prestigious maths competition for schools.

On Friday 15th November, Megan, Piriyanika, Demi and I went to King's College Mathematics School, where we competed in the annual UKMT Team Challenge. The UKMT almost always include the current year in their questions, so on the journey we brainstormed facts based on the number 2019; it is the product of the primes 3 and 673, and we recalled a trick from Mrs Morris' STEP classes to show it can be expressed as the difference of two squares ( $10102 - 10092$ ).

We also discovered that this year can be written as the sum of the fourth power of the first six consecutive numbers:  $2019 = 14 + 24 + 34 + 44 + 54 + 64$  ...true maths nerds, I know! The atmosphere throughout the event was adrenaline-rushed and exciting, and we had the opportunity to meet others with a passion for the subject. We worked well together as a team under the time pressure, using the tactics we'd come up with during the weekly practice sessions with Mrs Morris. The competition was exceedingly high this year, and we ended up coming a respectable fourth place out of the 12 teams competing; the highest rank Old Palace has ever come in the Team Challenge!

Shannon, Year 13



## Tea Towels for the Christmas Fair

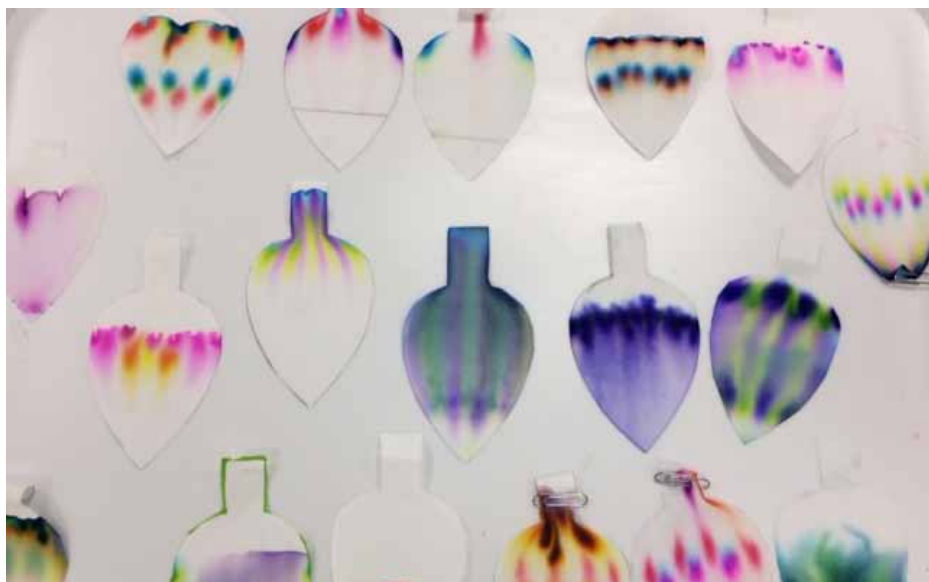


All Nursery children have had tremendous fun contributing their handprints, footprints or portraits to make some fabulous designs on 100% cotton tea towels.

These will be available to buy from the Nursery stall at the Old Palace Christmas Fair on **Saturday 7th December** and have always made very popular Christmas gifts.







### Deck the Halls with Boughs of ... Chemistry?

Our students let their creative and artistic juices flow this week as they made decorations for our now legendary ChemisTree. They created chromatography baubles, borax crystal festive shapes and Christmas tree shapes decorated with solutions of different pH values, with indicator, to give a range of colours. We will be decorating the "tree" next week. Watch this space!

Sophia from Year 10 wrote:

*"I immensely enjoyed the session which involved creating decorations for the school's ChemisTree. The festive music added to the lively atmosphere and I loved seeing everyone's designs at the end. I cannot wait to see the tree once it has been decorated!"*



## SCHOLASTIC Come to our Book Fair!









## Nursery & Pre School News: November

Nursery has had an interesting month with the younger children getting fully involved with the theme 'transport'.

Babies, Toddlers and Transition used a wide variety of media and materials, experimenting with colours, shapes, textures, sizes and model making that resulted not only in some wonderful displays but also a large scale bus, bus stop, zebra crossing and traffic lights. These were used with enthusiasm in the garden to support imaginary play.

With the onset of frosty mornings, the Pre School have been looking at the winter season, finding out about the colder regions of the world and how we adapt to the change of weather. As a group, they created a model igloo and made a lovely winter board full of snowmen and winter woollies!

Thank you to everyone who donated to Children In Need; our Pyjama Day raised a magnificent £100.00 for the charity and the cake making was enjoyed by all.





## U14 Netball v Nonsuch

The U14 netball squad had a match against Nonsuch on Wednesday. With a few of our players missing due to rehearsals and illness we had some

amazing Year 8s fill in. With a few of us out of position Jessica (GS/GA) filled in at C and played fantastically. Lily in Year 8 played GS and scored some amazing

goals. Our defence was also good with both Natalia and Megan getting some great interceptions.

Overall, the A Team had a fantastic game, winning 8-2. The B Team also had a good game with their defence and mid court getting lots of interception. They struggled in the 1st quarter getting down the court, but overall a good game from both teams.

Our Players of the Match were selected by the opposition; Tahalia was selected for the B Team and I was selected for the A Team.

Lily D, Year 9



## Year 11 Learning for Life



Year 11 enjoyed a lively 'Learning for Life' session on 21st November, when they were asked to reflect on healthy and unhealthy relationships.

After discussing a number of real-life scenarios, the students were then given children's building blocks to create a bridge that would stay standing. Each block was given an attribute of a healthy relationships, such as compromise and communication, and then the students had to see how long the bridge would last as those building blocks were damaged by the elements of an unhealthy relationship, such as lack of trust.

It was lovely kinaesthetic exercise that really encouraged the students to talk about this subject.

