



AROUND THE PALACE

Twelfth Night



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Dear all,

On Monday, the school began the Christmas season with the annual Old Palace Alumni Carol Service in the Chapel. We were delighted to see so many of our former students, of many different ages, back to the school to celebrate the nativity, sing carols and share many interesting and varied stories after the service over a mince pie and glass of mulled wine. Many thanks to the Polyphonic Choir who sang superbly during the service.

These events always reveal some fantastic stories about the school in years past. For example, I did not know that in the 1950s they used to have ropes dangling from the very high beams in the Banqueting Hall and that the girls used to climb to the top of the hall as part of their PE lessons!

The school's production of *Twelfth Night* has also been on this week but I am attending on Friday and so will report back in next week's Bulletin. However, the feedback from the performances on Wednesday and Thursday have been incredible so I am very much looking forward to seeing this for myself.

Saturday is the PTA Old Palace Christmas Fair at the Prep School. The event runs from 12-3 and we are welcoming the Mayor of Croydon to the event. The stalls and activities that have been organised by the very hardworking members of the PTA and staff are excellent, so please do come along and join in the fun. I will look forward to seeing you there.

Jane Burton, Head

Christmas Concert



Last week's Old Palace Christmas Concert involved students from across the Senior School, and featured the Wind Ensemble, the Brass Band, Jazz Combo, Training and Senior Orchestras, and Recorder Consort as well as choral works performed by several of our choirs. Students of all standards had the opportunity to play their instruments in a group to a large audience in the beautiful surroundings and acoustics of Croydon Minster.

The evening started off with performances from both Training Orchestra and Senior Orchestra showcasing musicians at different ages and stages in their learning. Chamber choir then performed Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, which featured many well-known Christmas hits such as *Wolcum Yole!* and *Balulalow*. The students' excellent choral skills were also shown in Year 6 – 7's mega choir, who sung *Christmas Jazz*, an extensive and impressive piece they have been working on in their music lessons.

Overall, the concert certainly marks the official start of Christmas at Old Palace, featuring many other Christmas classics such as *Jingle Bells*, *Mr Santa*, *Frosty the Snowman* and *Silent Night*.

Thank you to the Music Department for their hard work in organising the concert, rehearsals and extra-curricular clubs, and to all the students who performed.

OPA and Friends Carol Service



The annual OPA & Friends Carol Service provided the perfect start to the Christmas festivities. There was standing room only in our beautiful chapel, where Christmas has been celebrated for over 500 years.

Our thanks to Polyphonic for their wonderful singing and for the collection, which raised over £300 for charity. It was a bitterly cold night so the mulled wine and mince pies went down particularly well after the service.



French Trip to the British Film Institute

On Thursday the 21st of November, Year 12 students taking A-Level French went to the British Film Institute for an all-day workshop entitled "Contemporary Dramas and the Nouvelle Vague for A-Level French students".

The study day was organised by Dr Emily Salines based on the new A-Level specifications and consisted of various activities. The day began with a two-hour presentation by Dr Emily Salines about the revolution of French cinema and consisted of short clips of the movies studied at A-Level. We watched them and answered questions in the booklet as well as being able to speak directly to all the students.

All the movies came out during the Nouvelle Vague (New Wave)

– a French film movement. We compared the techniques used in each of the 8 movies and were given activities to complete regarding the movies. After lunch, we watched *La Haine* by Mathieu Kassovitz which focuses on 24 hours of the lives of three friends living in the French suburbs after riots had taken place. The film itself was very eye-opening for students of our age and generation as it gave light upon many hidden problems that were faced in that time era.

Overall, it was an incredibly informative study day which gave us as A-Level students a greater understanding of the Nouvelle Vague.

Lydia, Year 12



The Lessons in Financial Education Award (LIFE)

Year 8 students were given the opportunity to take part in a new Financial Education qualification offered by the London Institute of Banking and Finance. The Lessons in Financial Education Award (LIFE) is designed to give students real life, engaging ways to develop financial awareness.

The students involved were able to develop as independent learners, better understand the different ways to save, spend and borrow money, and the need to budget and store money safely. Activities were completed in accordance with internal deadlines, while progress was closely monitored. Students who took part in the course overwhelmingly agreed that they felt better prepared for making financial decisions in the future, and had a better understanding of financial literacy.



Below are examples of student's view of the course:

Whilst in Year 8 I was able to participate in the LIFE course and I found it to be extremely beneficial and informative. It was an eight part course and each part focused on a different section of finance. The course itself was sometimes done independently and because the resources were electronic I was able to fit in the activities around my own schedule. I started the LIFE course thinking I already had a good knowledge of finance but I finished the course feeling a lot more confident about making financial choices, and understanding some more money related terms. The course was explanatory, educational and fun to complete I am glad that I participated in this course.

Iona

Whilst completing the LIFE course we were able to learn about different accounts in the bank, budgets, denominations of currency and other useful skills we may encounter in our adulthood. The course was completed on computer which was helpful because we could do extra activities in our own time.

Each stage was based on a different topic, and within the stage we had interesting videos we could watch before answering questions. I thoroughly enjoyed every moment, and would highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in finance.

Mary-Rose

Twelfth Night *continued*

Performances of Twelfth Night are in full swing but here are some photos from the dress rehearsal.





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

Years 3 & 4 Netball v Cumnor

Years 3 and 4 had a very cold afternoon of matches on Wednesday against Cumnor.

Year 3 are just getting to grips with the netball but have improved tremendously since the beginning of the season. Their hard work has paid off and the excellent progress resulted in a final score of 3-2 Old Palace with Michaela M being awarded Player of the Match.

Year 4 worked just as hard on court and were unlucky not to convert any of the chances in the circle. We will have lots to work on in the New Year, so that we go into the tournament season ready with stronger passes down the court. Well done to Chloe (Player of the Match) who showed determination and resilience throughout. Final score 1-0 to Cumnor.

Hockey Coaching

Year 9

Students in Year 9 were really fortunate to be able to take part in an England Hockey coaches training session. They were involved in a session led by the lead coach who was training the other coaches on the course. Year 9 enjoyed fresh input into their training and were shining ambassadors for Old Palace. The girls responded well to the positive feedback given by the coach and were even able to have a joke and enjoy his humorous delivery. The activity that Year 9 responded particularly well to, and really got involved and competitive in, was *Jack, Queen, King* which involved having an awareness of players around you to avoid being demoted, but also trying to be promoted to the top.



Year 7

Last Friday, some very excited Year 7 students made their way to Purley Walcountians for an afternoon of Hockey Coaching. The girls participated in an England Hockey coaching course. They had a fantastic time and learnt a lot from the experience. Students were split into three groups when they got there: these included a mix of dribbling, shooting, attacking and defending. The girls learnt many different skills which they then put into a game scenario. We hope at Old Palace we can continue to raise the profile of hockey within the school by taking part in activities like these.



Classics Department Word of the Week 02/12/19

PENINSULA

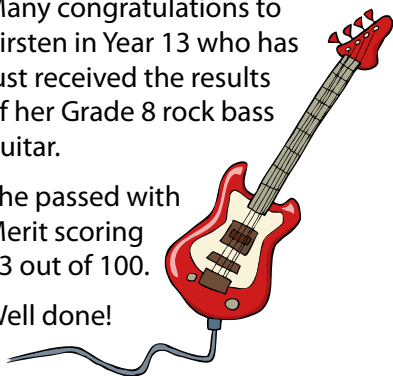
A piece of land almost completely surrounded by water or projecting out into a body of water. Comes from Latin: 'paene' – 'nearly' or 'almost' and 'insula' – 'island' so essentially means 'almost an island'

Music Exam results

Many congratulations to Kirsten in Year 13 who has just received the results of her Grade 8 rock bass guitar.

She passed with Merit scoring 83 out of 100.

Well done!



Greek Theatre

On the 26th of November, students who are currently studying A level Classical Civilisation attended a series of lectures on Greek Theatre. Undoubtedly, the lectures were fascinating and enabled our knowledge of the classical world to be extended and enriched. We were able to gain greater insight into the religious rituals in the Greek theatre, putting on a show and managing responsibilities in a Greek drama.

The fact that these aspects of Greek Theatre are linked directly to our A level syllabus was extremely helpful.

Sruthisri, Year 13



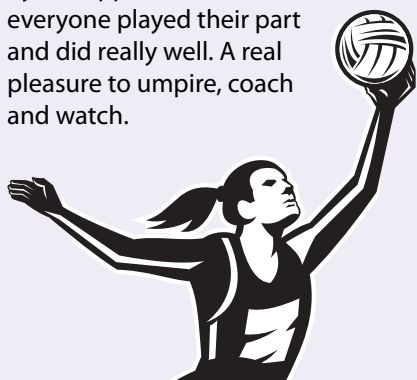
Netball v Wallington High School

It's always a pleasure to see the older students playing sport – and this match was no exception. We played against Wallington High School with our A Team and B team playing one squad of nine from Wallington.

Our A team (a mixture of Years 10 – 12) played a great standard of netball and all felt they had played to a high standard. It was good to watch – although we did start by allowing Wallington to score two goals pretty quickly. A combination of communication and decisive moves at the right time put the Old Palace Team ahead and the match ended in a 9 – 4 win for Old Palace. Great work at both ends of the court with good connections in the middle.

Our B Team (also a selection of Years 10 -12) were inspired by what they had seen and put on a great performance. There were some easy turn-over balls but, on the whole, the team worked together as a unit and worked hard to produce good quality netball – well done.

In the match the score line went in Wallington's favour: 3 – 6. Jessica was named Player of the Match by the opposition but, in fairness, everyone played their part and did really well. A real pleasure to umpire, coach and watch.



U15 v Royal Russell

A cold and icy court greeted us at Royal Russell for the U15 match on Monday evening. However, the A team were delighted that this enabled them to play inside. A close match followed with the final score being 4-6 to Royal Russell.

The B team persevered in the cold and showed enormous improvement throughout the game.



Year 6 v Royal Russell

The Year 6 girls all gathered very excitedly outside Shah PE for their match against Royal Russell. The girls played really well despite cold conditions. The A team had some good shots on goal and there was also some fantastic defending and some good passing. Despite all their efforts, Royal Russell managed to score a few goals at the end, winning 5-2.

The B team had a fantastic game, with some passes that were given effectively to their fellow team mates. They were moving into space and trying hard to get in front of the ball. There was some great shooting and they came away with a 4-2 win. Well done Girls! Great result.



Year 7 Netball v Wallington

Year 7 A+B played two netball teams from Wallington in their sports hall. Year 7 have been busy outside at Old Palace using the netball posts to practice their shooting and it has certainly paid off!

The A Team came away with an 8 – 2 victory and the B Team had a good match but lost 1 – 6. It is encouraging to see so many Year 7s using their breaktimes and lunchtimes to practice. Hopefully, this match will spur them on to keep practising.

Well done to everyone who played.



Year 10 Sports Leaders

Last Friday, a group of Year 10 Sports Leaders went to the Prep site to lead a group of Year 1 students in circuit of activities ranging from skipping to bean-bag throwing. It was very rewarding watching the girls pick up the different skills and having fun as they did so. Although, at first, some of us were slightly unsure on how to instruct the younger audience, we got used to it very quickly.

I had a very enjoyable time and would love to work with them again!

Shahd, Year 10



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