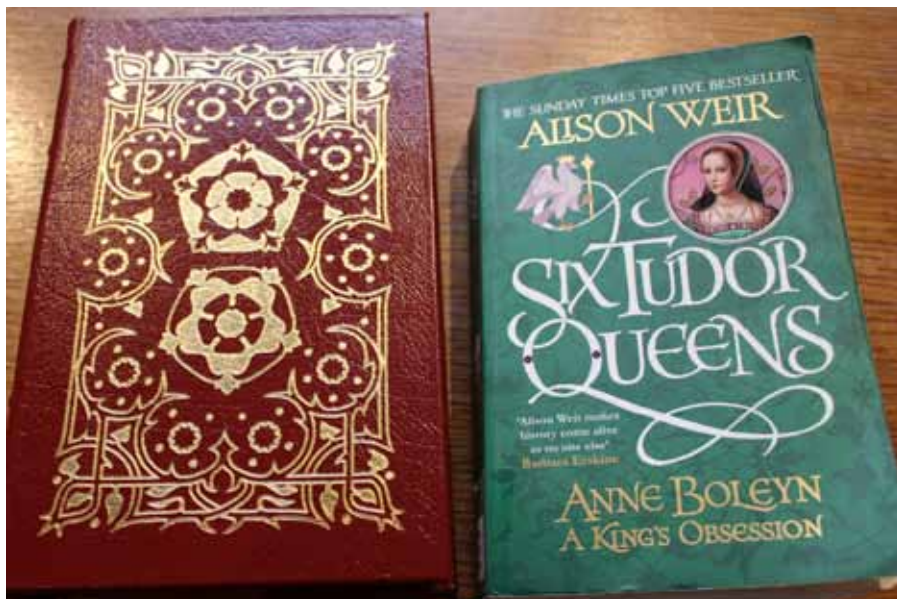




AROUND THE PALACE

World Book Day



With World Book Day this week, we are delighted to have received this beautiful collector's edition of *The War of the Roses*, given to us by its author, one of the best-selling female historians, Alison Weir (pictured above at the OPA reunion).

Alison has sold over three million books worldwide, publishing more than 23 titles since 1997. She is an honorary life patron of Historic Royal Palaces. Her books, including her most recent *Six Tudor Queens* series, along with some of her other Tudor books, can be borrowed from The Friends' Library.

Dear all,



On a daily basis, we at Old Palace get to experience how capable and confident our students are. It is therefore really pleasing to see our girls being successful and showing how amazing they are on a wider scale, through the various outside competitions and events.

Every week we show this in the Bulletin and this week it is great to see Old Palace students being so successful in a range of STEM competitions - well done to all this involved.

I am sure everyone will join me in wishing our **U18 Water Polo team** the very best of luck at the **National Finals** in Northampton on **Monday** - go girls!

Jane Burton, Head

SATRO Problem Solving Competition

Last week, two teams of the Practical Problem Solving Club took part in the SATRO Problem Solving challenge. This was an engineering competition between schools in this region in which each team had to design a structure to solve a particular task and then build it using simple materials, all in an hour and a half.

Similar age groups competed against one another, and the Key Stage 3 team performed commendably, working well as a team and achieving the remit of the task. The Key Stage 4 team, consisting of Year 11 students, showed similar harmonious cooperation in their construction efforts. They met the requirements of the task so well that they finished in second place.

As this was one of five regional heats, they have now qualified for the national final in Cobham in a few weeks' time. We wish them well.



Old Palace Alumnae Reunion Dinner



The OPA held a reunion on Saturday evening for students who left Old Palace between 1981-1986. Thank you so much to our charming guest speaker and distinguished author, Alison Weir (*middle*), for her fascinating talk on the last days of Anne Boleyn. Thanks also to the OPA Committee, whose members worked so hard organising the event. Everyone had a most enjoyable evening.

Katherine of Aragon at Croydon Palace

The guest speaker at the Alumnae 81-86 Reunion was the historical novelist Alison Weir. Although not an alumna herself, she has a close connection with the school, in that her daughter is an alumna. Here she describes how Katherine of Aragon lived at the 'Old Palace' for much of the year 1502.



© Balbusso Twins

It is often stated that Henry VIII's first queen, Katherine of Aragon, lived at Durham House, the Bishop of Durham's palace on London's Strand, after the death of her first husband, Arthur Tudor, Prince of Wales in April 1502. In fact, Henry VII gave the young widow - she was sixteen - the choice of two residences: Durham House and Croydon Palace, the Archbishop of Canterbury's residence in Surrey. Katherine chose Croydon and, by 4 May, was lodging there.

At that time, Croydon Palace was a large, stately courtyard house with

opulent chambers, a great hall, a chapel and a great parlour. There had been archiepiscopal buildings on the site since the tenth century. Since the archbishops used the palace as a summer residence, Katherine was probably accommodated in their own chambers, which had recently been partially rebuilt.

Late in May, the Queen, Elizabeth of York, sent her page, to Croydon, possibly to check on the Princess's health, and perhaps discreetly to ask her servants if there were signs of any pregnancy.

During the months Katherine stayed at Croydon, her future remained under discussion. Her parents, the Spanish sovereigns, Ferdinand and Isabella, were naturally concerned about her. On 10 May they had sent an ambassador to England with instructions to preserve their alliance with Henry VII, ask for the immediate return of Katherine and her dowry and, if possible, secure the Princess's betrothal to the new heir to the throne, Prince Henry, who, at eleven, was five years her junior. Everyone was aware that, if Katherine

had conceived a child by Arthur, her union with Henry would contravene canon law. Doña Elvira, her duenna, was adamant that the marriage had not even been consummated and wrote to Queen Isabella insisting that the Princess remained a virgin. In July, when it was beyond doubt that Katherine was not pregnant with Arthur's child, Isabella informed Henry VII that her daughter remained a virgin. But, although Henry also wished to preserve the Spanish alliance, he was hesitant. Months would pass before he reached a decision on the proposed betrothal between Katherine and Henry. Meanwhile, with her future still uncertain, Katherine had moved to Durham House; she was living there by 6 November 1502.

Her stay at Croydon must have been shadowed by sorrow and anxiety. All her life, she had been brought up as a future queen of England; now that destiny had been stolen from her. It would be seven long, stressful, penurious years before it was restored to her and she became Henry VIII's first wife.

Alison Weir, Author

WHITGIFT
PERFORMING
ARTS EVENTS
LENT TERM
2020

**FRENCH
WITHOUT
TEARS**

Wednesday 11 - Friday 13 March
7.30pm Performing Arts Centre
Tickets: £8 and £4 concessions
(by reserving on WisePay only)

www.whitgift.co.uk/events

Three Students Through to the Semi-Final of the Matrix Challenge 2020!

During half term, Shadh (Year 10), Navya (Year 9) and I received exciting emails, congratulating us on our success in this year's Matrix Challenge, run by the Police Cyber Crime Unit and the MET police. The three of us are amongst the top 20 performers in the thousands of students who entered in Greater London and we have now got through to the regional semi-final.

Nationally, there was a massive total of 65,259 students who entered this rigorous competition. To get through to the semi-final we took part in a series of online tests, consisting of multiple cyber security and programming-based challenges.

Although our knowledge of Python was more than enough to understand the programming aspect of the test, some of these challenges were about decryption, such as decoding an encrypted message, whilst others were more centred around being safe with



technology, like recognising which protection law had been broken in a given scenario and why.

The London semi-final will take place later this month aboard the HMS President, a retired warship on the Thames. The top 20 performers will be attending, including ourselves.

What makes this even more amazing as it is the first time Old Palace has entered this competition. I cannot wait to develop my problem-solving skills by encountering new activities and puzzles there. Good luck everyone!

Shreya, Year 12
Digital Leader

Maths Feast

On Wednesday, 26th February, Aparnaa, Suraiya and both of us participated in a Maths Feast, a feast of mathematical problems, not an actual feast!

The first round was called "Merry-Go-Round" where we each received a small booklet and answered as many questions as we could in five minutes. Afterwards, we had to swap our booklets with another teammate and we then had four minutes to check the answers and to rectify any, if needed. Then, we swapped again, but only had three minutes and then swapped one more time and had two minutes to check. Last, but not least, we had one last minute to ask each other any questions we were unsure of.

In the second round, we were given six problems to solve. However, we were only allowed to hand four answers in. Our answers needed to be fully explained (along with the mathematical calculation), to receive the maximum of five marks per question. Some of the problems were quite challenging but some were easier.

In the third round, we were given a poster to study for three minutes on linear programming (an A level Further Maths topic). For the remaining



seventeen minutes, we had to answer questions based on the poster. The skills required to answer the questions were skills needed in A Level Maths but the poster taught us the basics needed.

The last round was a relay, where we split into pairs. There were four sections and each section had four questions: one pair had questions one and three and the other pair had questions two and four. In order to complete your

question, you needed the other pair's first. The answer for question one would help answer question two and so on. Although we got off to a rocky start, we still got full marks on one of the sections.

Sadly, we did not win. However, our team received a certificate for good teamwork.

Rebecca and Claire, Year 10

Nursery, Pre School and Preparatory



Working Open Morning

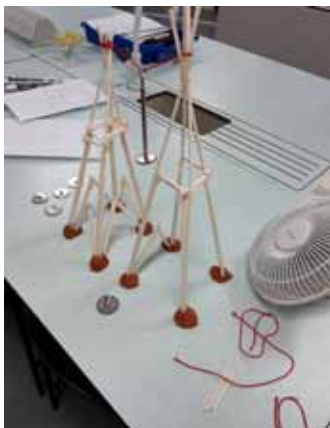
Wednesday

11 March 9.30- 11.00am

Engineering Society Fun!

Design, Build and Test Electric Pylons

For the past few weeks in Engineering Society, we have been creating our own mini pylons from straws. We were split into two groups led by Year 12 students, Nadia and Demi, who led enthusiastically.



The two groups competed against each other to see who could create the best aesthetically pleasing, but most importantly, strong and stiff pylons. Various rules had to be adhered to: for example, *you could only use the glue gun to stick the straws together.*

We started by drawing out our plans and brainstorming ideas to come up with designs for the best pylons. This proved to be quite a challenge as we had to consider the rules, bearing in mind that we only had a limited supply of materials as well. After finally agreeing on our plan, we started to build the pylons. It was quite exciting to see our plans take shape, although we had to make a few changes to our original plan to make our structure stronger (and better than the other team!)

At the end we tested our structures using a desk fan blowing from 30 cm

away (acting as the wind) and 20g masses (acting as animals, such as birds) to see how strong our pylons were. It was a very close call, but I think our group came out on top as the structure was more resilient, although the other groups definitely looked much better!

We really enjoyed this activity and felt it helped us gain some understanding of the thought process engineers go through and the different factors they need to consider and take into account when building structures of any kind. For example, in this instance a good understanding of forces and materials needed.

Thank you Demi, Nadia and well done to Jessica (Year 10) and Lakshana (Year 10)

Amy, Year 10

Sunday **8th March** 2020



AN EQUAL WORLD IS
AN ENABLED WORLD



 #EachforEqual
#IWD2020

Put your arms out and strike the
#EachforEqual pose.

Use the hashtags **#EachforEqual** and
#IWD2020 to show your support and to
motivate others to make International
Women's Day YOUR day.

Do what you can to truly make a positive
difference for women everywhere.

Drama Workshop with *Half a String*
Puppetry Company



On Wednesday, 26th February, students in Years 6-12 participated in a puppetry workshop led by the Half a String theatre company. The workshop was led by artistic director, Peter Morton and focused on the basics of Bunraku table puppetry.

In the session, students created their own inventive and whimsical puppets using nothing more than tape, brown paper and their imaginations. They then learned the basics of operating the puppets using three actors. Students worked together to create a short piece of theatre showing the puppets' morning routine.

The final performances were creative and demonstrated the challenging skills the students learnt throughout the workshop. It was also wonderful to see students working in mixed groups, with students older and younger than themselves. The workshop will also help GCSE and A-Level students in their studies. Working with Half a String allowed students to develop their practical skills and demonstrate their creativity.





Careers Fair 2020

Wednesday 11 March

5.30-7.30 Old Palace Senior School

Open to students and parents in Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13

Want a chance to learn more about a career or interest and chat to people in those industries?

Come along to our talks and stalls representing a variety of career sectors:

- Archives and Museums
- Building services
- Creative Careers
- Data Science
- Earth Sciences
- Electronics Engineering
- Enhancing Employability
- Finance and Tax
- Government
- Immunology & Microbial Sciences
- Nephrology
- Patent Law
- Pediatrics
- Pharmaceuticals
- Psychology/ Psychotherapist
- Public service, charity & social work
- Shaping the future through humanities
- Solar Energy
- Technology
- Wind Power



Year 7 Croydon Netball Tournament



Year 7 played in the Croydon Schools Netball Tournament at Shirley High. The weather was very unpleasant (to say the least), but the players kept going despite getting absolutely soaked!

In their group they won three matches, lost two and drew one match. This meant they didn't qualify for the semi-finals but did mean they could get back on the warm and dry minibus – for which they were very grateful.

It is hard to play good, consistent netball in such bad weather and there were lots of dropped balls from all teams; but they enjoyed playing and it was good to see so many schools involved.

Upcycle Club

As part of the Whole School Creativity Project, Upcycle Club has started at Prep.

This week, as part of a skills based workshop, the girls were learning how to découpage. Using a small square piece of wood, girls used an A-Z map of London, carefully tearing the map into small shapes to paste onto the wood.

They carefully overlapped the pieces of map and finished with a thin layer of glue over the top to create a glossy finish.



House Hockey

9E/F took part in House Hockey at Purley Walcountians on Friday morning. The weather was less than favourable; however, the students persevered and there were some excellent goals scored. The final results were:

Anselm	1st	Laud	2nd	Hatton	3rd	Stafford	4th
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**Old Palace of
John Whitgift School**
Independent Girls' School

REVERB

A Celebration of Dance 2020

Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th

March

**Banqueting Hall
at 7pm**



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

U11 Croydon Schools Netball Tournament

Old Palace was delighted to welcome six visiting teams on Tuesday afternoon for the preliminary round of the Croydon Schools Primary Netball Tournament. Old Palace qualified for the finals, which will be held on Friday, 13th March.

We played four matches including the one which got us through to the semi-finals. We did not start off as strong as we could have done, but we improved throughout the tournament and our results reflected this. Overall, we achieved one draw, one loss and two wins.

Amber and Belen, Year 6



London Library Trip

On the 24th of February, half a dozen AS English Literature students were given the opportunity to have a fascinating tour of The London Library. We visited many areas of interest including the Times Room – a purpose-built facility providing open access to over 200 years of original copies of *The Times* newspaper. My favourite area of the Library was the book stacks, with their striking iron-grille floors, which house over one million books dating from the 1700s to the present day – no wonder that over 17 miles of shelving is required! I also found the Library's striking architecture and the atmosphere of the Reading Room (itself a setting in A. S. Byatt's novel *Possession*), quite remarkable.

A surprising fact is that almost all of their books can be borrowed by Library members including first editions by Charles Dickens and T S Eliot. With many such famous writers having been members themselves, you could be perusing a book that has been borrowed by Virginia Woolf or Kazuo Ishiguro!

Lisa, Year 12



Year 7 Football v Sydenham High

On 25th February, ten Year 7 girls made their way to Sydenham High School to play a 7-a-side football match. The players started off very strong scoring a goal within the first ten minutes. They were very good at attacking the ball and pushing up using the width of the pitch. By half time the girls were winning 2-0 which was a great start!

In the second half, Sydenham managed to score a goal which made the match competitive again. Old Palace continued to play with confidence and were determined to score. However, the final score was 2-1 to Old Palace and the Year 7 players should be very pleased with their performance. Well done!



U13 and U14 Netball v Royal Russell

The U13 and U14 played netball on Tuesday after school in terrible weather! The visiting school was a little late, meaning the match was very short, but long enough for us to get absolutely drenched!

The U13s held their own and won 3-1. The U14s were holding a steady draw at 2-2 but lost some momentum and allowed Royal Russell to steam ahead; the match finished 2-5.

Well done everyone for persevering in the weather – and good practice for the upcoming tournaments.

U13 A&B Netball v Croydon High

Year 8 enjoyed their first home match this term against Croydon High on Thursday, 27th February in the evening. Old Palace started off really strong, going ahead by three goals within the first five minutes. However, Croydon High started to come back and it was 5-5 at half time.

Unfortunately, Old Palace then lost their momentum during the second half and couldn't quite maintain a draw.



Who Freed the Slaves? History PoD with Dr Furniss

Last week, many students, including myself, attended the PoD entitled "Who Freed the Slaves?" by Dr Furniss. It was an intriguing 30 minute presentation, where we delved further into the emancipation of slaves in America. Dr Furniss put emphasis on the point that although Abraham Lincoln is often seen as the key emancipator, there may have been other possibilities as to who should receive the credit.

Radicals in Congress, such as Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner, who pushed for the abolition of slavery, were presented as the possible liberators. The Union Army, who fought in the Civil War on behalf of the North, were presented as a further option. The final possibility was that the slaves were self-emancipated, a prospect many of us thought was the most likely. It was very provocative exploring deeper into a series of events that for many years have been taught as plain facts. This PoD gave us an opportunity to reassess formed attitudes towards slavery, and the way we perceive certain historical figures.

Hopefully this is just the start of the amelioration of the way slavery and race relations are perceived and taught! A big thanks to Dr Furniss for presenting such a compelling topic!

Sumaiya, Year 8



Mondrian Artwork



Just before half term, the Reception girls had fun learning the names of some colours in Spanish. They then created their own "Mondrian style" artwork to help them remember the colours: rojo, amarillo and azul.

Piet Mondrian was a Dutch artist who was famous for his abstract paintings. He is best known for his later paintings, which used straight lines and primary colours (red, yellow and blue). It is said he was inspired by a trip to Belgium, where he saw beauty in the neat farm fields.

Pancake Day!

Reception had lots of fun learning about how Shrove Tuesday is celebrated around the world.

After mixing the ingredients and making three huge pancakes, we topped them with lemon and sugar and shared them.

The best part of all was tossing the pancakes as high as possible!



Prep Netball v St Christopher's

The A team made a big effort and after a quick change around of positions at half time, managed to come back 4 goals from behind to finish 5-3. Plenty of room for improvement on passing accuracy and movement into space. The B team were not quite as successful; never mind, better luck next time!



Biology Society – Examining Stages of Mitosis

Last week in Biology Society we prepared slides of garlic root tip cells to observe under the microscope. This involved cutting away the half of the roots furthest from the tip (as there would be fewer dividing cells here) and staining the roots with acetic orcein on a microscope slide.

Acetic orcein stains chromosomes red, which enabled us to observe the different stages of mitosis based on the position of the chromosomes within a cell. After staining the root tips, we smashed the tissue using the flat end of a glass rod – this ensured that the cells would be separated from one another.

Following this we placed a cover onto the microscope slide and folded filter paper around it. This absorbed any excess acetic orcein and allowed us to put pressure on the slide to squash the cells so that they burst and spread out the chromosomes. We had to check that when we applied pressure with our thumb to the slide it was at a 90° angle to avoid rolling up the cells with a horizontal motion.

Then we set up our microscopes and tried to identify as many stages of mitosis as we could. Between us we were able to identify a cell in every stage. For example, we found cells in

anaphase in which the chromatids (replicates of chromosomes) are pulled apart from the equator to the poles of the cell. We also identified cells in telophase through the presence of two nuclei within a cell and those in metaphase through the alignment of chromosomes at the equator of the cell.

I found being able to practice identifying the stages a useful revision of my classwork and practical skills. It was also really satisfying when you eventually found a cell not just in interphase. Here are some of the pictures we took of our cells.

Charlotte, Year 12

