



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



In my first year at Old Palace I never thought I would be writing an introduction to the weekly bulletin in such extraordinary circumstances.

As a country and a school community we will face many challenges in the weeks and months ahead and so amidst all the planning for what the school needs to do it has been a delight to read through this bulletin and remind myself of all the brilliant things that Old Palace girls

achieve every day. We know that when the school re-opens, life at Old Palace will resume and our students will continue to be the confident and inspiring young women we know they are.

I would like to say thank you to everyone in the school community during these difficult times. Thank you to the staff who have shown so much commitment to the school, thank you to our parents for their patience and kind words to staff

Year 13 Success in the 2020 Chemistry Olympiad



Warmest congratulations to four of our Year 13 Chemists on their success in this extremely challenging competition. The students had to complete a two hour written exam, tackling problems that extended their thinking well beyond the requirements of the A level specification. The questions are set in real life contexts and present some unfamiliar material which students have to navigate their way through. We are delighted to announce that Arian and Roshanna achieved Bronze Certificates and Megan achieved Silver. Shannon, having achieved Gold in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge last year, went on to secure Gold in the Olympiad: an outstanding achievement! There were 9182 entries nationally and only 8.2% of students achieved Gold. Very well done to all four girls.

over the past week and finally, thank you to our students who have shown much courage and resilience. In particular, the Year 11, 12 and 13 students were amazing in the face of huge disappointment over the public exams.

We will try and still publish a bulletin during the period of closure but this may not be weekly.

Keep positive and stay safe.



Jane Burton, Head

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS

The government announced yesterday that all schools and nurseries are to close from Friday afternoon. However, we have been asked to stay open to look after the children of key workers.

For further information and the latest letters home to parents, please go to: www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/contact/covid-19



New Head and Deputy Head Girls



Demi, Head Girl



Lisa, Deputy Head Girl

Congratulations to our newly elected Head and Deputy Head Girls, Demi and Lisa.

Interview with the New Head Girl

1 How do you feel?

I'm excited, nervous but ready. It's a big role but it's a commitment I'm prepared for. I'm excited to embark on this once in a lifetime opportunity.

2 What's the first thing you're going to do?

As I said in my speech, my fundamental aim is to bring the school closer together and to do this I would like to encourage primarily Sixth Form students to run clubs and societies based on their interests and the interests of younger students.

3 Which of your qualities made you stand out from all the other candidates?

To be honest, it's not really about having one particular quality, it's about building the trust and relationships right from the start. I know that I've always been an approachable and caring person, all I had left to do was to put myself out there and take the risk, which eventually paid off. I believe that everyone knows what I stand for and they share the same values as I do.

4 What made you run for Head Girl?

From the beginning of my time at Old Palace, I've always known that I've had the attributes to run for Head Girl. The small things I've built over the years, such as being Form Leader and Netball Captain, gave me a taste of the life of the role of a leader.

For me Head Girl wasn't for the title, it was about continuing to care for the people around me and being exposed to even more people that I can care for, while continuing to be the positive person I strive to be.

5 How would you ensure good communication amongst the whole school body and the SLT?

Good communication stems from the ability to be open and dependable. Having a Student Leadership Team who not only share my vision for the school but also have unique and loved traits it will create an engaging atmosphere for the school body.

Acknowledging each and every individual's potential will ensure that they meet their full capabilities with the help of the staff, SLT and the student body.

6 Anything that you'd like to add?

Thank you for all the support and encouragement that you have all showered me with in this process. I am forever grateful for this special position. I hope that with your continued support I will not only be able to impact you positively, but learn and grow with the knowledge I will form with this experience and from you all.

Questions chosen and interview conducted by Year 12

Bedtime Story

We enjoyed a very successful Bedtime Story Event at Prep last Friday evening.

All the girls came in their pyjamas and brought along their cuddly toys and their parents. We had a wonderful session with the Author Miss Nicola Stone who read *The Flamingo Who Didn't Want to be Pink* and *The Turtle and the Straw*

– both of which were very well received by the girls and parents alike.

We had hot chocolate and biscuits to make it feel like a real midnight feast. At the end, the parents had the opportunity to share a story with their daughters.



Reception Continues to Enjoy Weekly Swimming Lesson



The Reception class may have been a little depleted this week, but the girls continue to enjoy their weekly swimming lesson at Seniors.

Reception started their Old Palace Swimming adventure back in September. A few of the girls were confident and happy in the water from

the outset; however, many needed encouragement and reassurance to either get in the water or even venture onto the poolside.

Many of the class started off wearing arm bands; some for confidence and others because they could not quite reach the pool floor even on tip toes. The months have passed, the girls have obviously been eating hearty breakfasts as they've grown an extra few centimetres, and they are now able to stand up in the water.

They have all become so much more confident, with many of them now swimming unaided, submerging and some even doing forward and backward tumbles.

Armbands are now a thing of the past! Spot the only swimmer over 5 years of age!

Sports Relief Staff v Sixth Form Benchball

Staff v Sixth Form Benchball took place to raise money for Sports Relief. Spectators made a £1 donation to watch the excitement unfold in the Banqueting Hall. There was some very competitive play from both teams. However, the STAFF came out as the winners! A fantastic atmosphere and a great way to raise money for such a special cause.



Careers Fair

Last week we hosted our Biennial Careers Fair, welcoming representatives from a variety of careers to talk to our older students from Year 9 upwards. Pfizer, Sonnedix, Turner and Townshend, Elekta, Blackfords, Kings College, Andall Legal and the Civil Service were some of the companies attending. Alongside this we had a Data Scientist, an Archivist, two Psychologists, a Consultant Nephrologist and a Paediatric Doctor.

In addition to stalls in the Banqueting Hall, speakers provided talks about their personal career journey, skills they use in their current role and the opportunities in their industry. We were fortunate, and particularly grateful, to be able to tap into our network of parents, alumnae, previous speakers and both staff and their contacts who provided their career insights.

"Being able to talk to and ask experienced people at their stall was inspiring"

"Very informative talks"

"Great to hear they are very passionate about their job"

"Helped me get a clearer idea of what I wanted to do at university"

"Fascinating, engaging and answered questions I didn't know I had"



Grandpa Chatterji

Girls in Year 5 have been learning how to plan and write a character profile on characters in the book *Grandpa Chatterji*. As seen here, they began the process by working in groups to identify character traits for both the grandfathers who are depicted in the book.

Students then had to find evidence from the text to support their chosen words, ensuring that their character profiles are based on facts they have learnt directly from the text, and giving them the opportunity to practise their reading 'inference' skills.



Year 5 Yoga

Contact sports may be off timetable for the moment, but this didn't stop Mrs Coster from introducing Year 5 to some elementary Yoga.



Year 2 Made Shortbread

They did... Mixing, stirring, rolling, cutting, baking, washing, helping, weighing and sprinkling sugar. Delicious! Wow! what an exciting lesson. They were so tasty



Trinity Schools Book Awards

Now in its sixth year, the TSBA was launched by librarians from the 22 independent senior schools in the Trinity Schools Group, open to any interested secondary school. For the first time this year, Old Palace took part alongside Trinity and Whitgift.

The aim of the TSBA is to celebrate quality writing in both new and older fiction. The TSBA Committee determines a theme each year and shortlists books nominated by librarians. Students in Years 7-9 then read the shortlisted books through the autumn and spring terms, casting their votes in February to determine the winner. Alongside the reading and reviewing of the shortlisted books are two student competitions for the best book reviews and best creative response.

Four students from Years 7 and 8 represented Old Palace at the awards ceremony with around 200 pupils from participating schools at City of London School, on Thursday 12th March. In attendance were three of the shortlisted authors: Tanya Landman, Andrew Norriss and Nicky Singer. Penny Joelson, author of *I Have No Secrets* was unfortunately ill at the last minute and represented by her editors.

A question and answer session led by the English department of City of London School asked the authors questions submitted by students. Author Nicky Singer had some inspiring answers, reminding students to always ask 'What' and 'If' when plotting stories

Students' creative responses to the books were also on display and ranged from computer games, poetry, drama



and art. This included our submission to Andrew Norriss's book *Mike* that included embroidery on a tennis racket.

The winner of the 2020 Trinity Schools Book Award was awarded to Penny Joelson for her debut novel *I Have No Secrets*. We thought this book was a worthy winner and would recommend reading it!

Fourteen-year-old Jemma has severe cerebral palsy. Unable to communicate or move, she relies on her family and carer for everything. She has a sharp brain and inquisitive nature, and knows all sorts of things about everyone. But when she is confronted with this terrible secret, she is utterly powerless to do anything. Though that might be about to change. This is a page-turning thriller seen through the eyes of a unique narrator, this is a truly original, heart-rending and compulsive book for young adult readers. Perfect for fans of *Wonder*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* and *Looking for JJ*.

Student reports:

At the TSBA ceremony, there were a few of the authors - Nicky Singer, Tanya Landman and Andrew Norriss - a Q&A regarding them and a book signing event at the end. During the Q&A, the authors gave us [the audience] their opinions on their books as well as advice for those budding authors. At the book signing we had the opportunity to get a book signed or the brochure instead. All in all, it was a very fun experience and I would certainly do it again! - Ebonie, Year 7

Meeting Andrew Norriss, Tanya Landman and Nicky Singer was amazing. Some of the answers during the Q&A really surprised me, like when Andrew told of how he ignored his child falling down the stairs because he was in the middle of a sentence! 'I Have No Secrets' by Penny Joelson is the best book I've ever read, and it won! I have to say that that was the highlight of the evening. - Natalie, Year 7



Joe Wicks Launches Virtual PE Lessons



U11 Croydon Netball Finals

Having played exceptionally well earlier this season, the U11s qualified for the Finals and these were played at Croydon High on Friday after school. They played really well and there were some fantastic interceptions in defence. The girls did really well to get the ball down the court into the shooters, who had some shots on goal.

The Old Palace Team won two and lost two of their matches. They should remember how well they have done to get to the finals and use this as a learning experience for the next season. Well done Year 6!



Running Club – Week Two



The newly created running club/Couch to 5k club met for the second time on Friday with a great turn out again! Mrs Smith was pleasantly surprised that so many came as often, after week one, some decide it is not for them! 31

students and 9 staff this week! And those who took part last week had done their best to complete their run twice more during the week to build up their stamina. Some participants choose to just run for 20 minutes and develop their stamina by tracking the number of laps of Wandle Park they do; others work on the Couch to 5k programme and this week we were up to 90 seconds running and 2 minutes walking over 20 minutes.

Well done to everyone who has joined this club – and try and do your two extra sessions during the week.



This year's theme is "Happier Together" focusing on what we have in common, rather than what divides us.

In Learning For Life we recognise the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world.

Year 9 Croydon Schools



Congratulations to the Year 9 Netball Team who made it through to the semi finals at the Croydon Schools Netball Tournament! They just missed out on a place in the final as they lost 2 – 3 in the semis. Their level of play improved as the tournament progressed and as they played better opponents. Moments of good netball – well done! And still aspects that need to be developed. Good to see Year 9 playing as a unit.

Results:

v Harris South Norwood	3 – 1
v Thomas More	5 – 0
v Quest Academy	2 – 0
v Riddlesdown	1 – 9
v Coloma	3 – 0
Semi final v Tenisons	2 – 3

Squad: Kei Kei, Lily, Jessica, Zino, Megan, Natalia, Dusita and Patricia

Prep House Netball

Year 4 and 5 House Netball was held on Monday afternoon. The Level 2 Sports Leaders ran the tournament as part of their qualification and acted as team managers, umpires, scorers, timers, first aid, photographer and in control of the score table.

The students had to swap positions at half time and the end of each game, giving them the opportunity to play in a variety of different positions. There was some excellent netball scored and a real house spirit shown with Anselm coming out as the winners.

1st place	Anselm
2nd place	Stafford
3rd place	Laud
4th place	Hatton

