



# AROUND THE PALACE



Dear all,

This week we took the time to reflect and give thanks for the founders of Old Palace and all they did to allow us to be educated and work in such a special environment. As ever the music department and the students delivered some stunning musical pieces as part of the event. If you haven't already done so then please do watch the video using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y6frknmn>

This Bulletin contains photos and extracts of the event too.

This autumn will be the first time in the history of the School that we have been unable to hold our Open Day in person. However, Old Palace has risen to the challenge and on Saturday we will be hosting three Virtual events on Zoom; two for Seniors and one for Prep. Places for these sessions can be booked via our website.

Best wishes

Jane Burton, Head

## The Preparatory School Celebrates European Day of Languages



Continued on page 10

## Mrs Burton's Founder's Day Service Address



My Founder's day address today focuses on the remarkable group of women who created Old Palace as a school. One of the reasons that I am always fascinated by history is that fact that when you learn more about the past then you also realise that basic human values and achievements happen at whatever point you are in history.

This term at Old Palace we launched the 3Cs as the framework for the school. This is the aim that all Old Palace students leave the school as capable, confident and connected individuals and of course we started the term with an excellent video from the student leadership team about what the 3Cs means to them.

The more you look into the history of the school you realise that Mother Emily Ayckbowm, the founder of Old Palace and her team of Anglican nuns from the Sisters of the Church order epitomized the 3Cs and I am going to take this opportunity to explain why.

Old Palace was founded in the 1880s. Queen Victoria was Queen, women still did not have the vote but a series of Married Women Property Acts at least gave them some control over money and possessions but it was still a 'man's world'.

In 1887, the 7th Duke of Newcastle presented the Old Palace to Mother Emily. The building was in ruins having been used for many different things and most recently a linen bleaching factory. This had meant that an entrance for horse and carts had been knocked into the walls of the Banqueting Hall. There was no glass in the building and many of the rooms had no floors.

One of the Sister's wrote:

'The whole place wore such a forlorn, dejected air, it looked as though it had slept a sleep of centuries and needed some enchanted wand to break the spell and start the old palace once more into active useful life'

I don't think the old palace needed magic in the form of an enchanted wand, rather it needed the vision, tenacity and dedication of a strong group of women and it got this is the form of Mother Emily and her sisters.

Reports say that at first Mother Emily was by no means overjoyed by the gift from the Duke of Newcastle and at first refused it. However, she made up her mind that the old palace would become a school and then the hard work began.

They had no money and so they needed to show entrepreneurial spirit to raise some. In 1888, they held concerts, markets, and a medieval fair where it is reported that one of the most popular stalls was a 'live pet stall'. They had pony rides and swings in the orchard which is now Howley Road and wax works in the Guard Room. This raised £80 which was a considerable sum in those days and that meant the school could open and so in September 1880 the school opened its doors to 18 pupils on the first day, rising to 24 by the end of the week. At first it was an elementary (primary) school.

Not every one thought it would be a success. One Croydon doctor wrote:

'They are brave ladies down there but they'll never make anything of the old palace'

How wrong he was, but it was very hard work in the early years. At first the only classrooms were in the Guard Room and what they called the Bishops Room, probably Sheldon. A year later, QER became a classroom and Panelled became a community room for the Sisters who slept in cubicles in the Long Gallery.

In 1890, another Fair happened on May Bank Holiday along with evening entertainment in the Banqueting Hall with what is referred to as 'fancy dances'. This time £100 was raised which was enough to restore the Banqueting Hall which meant more pupils could be educated.



Despite all this, Old Palace struggled with the powers that be to be recognised as a school and receive a state grant and three times the school was turned down by the Croydon School Board. They needed the grant because although the Duke had given them the building there was no other funding and the grant was needed in addition to the fees to keep the school running. It finally got its grant in 1892 and it wasn't until 1904 that it became a secondary school as well after much work by the sisters.

So when we talk about being confident, capable and connected, Mother Emily and the sisters certainly demonstrated these qualities. They were confident in seeing the vision for the school and achieving this in the face of opposition and financial hurdles. They were certainly capable and entrepreneurial, raising money for the school, teaching at the same time and it is understood that some of them also carried out necessary repairs on the school. They were also connected in the sense that they reached out to and helped the local community alongside using their links to the Church of England to help their cause. They epitomised the Old Palace values.

During the research I carried out for this address, I came across a very clear parallel between what staff and students faced in the early years at Old Palace and what we are dealing with now in the form of Covid 19. This is because in 1918 the Spanish Flu (or influenza to give it its full name) epidemic hit the world and affected Old Palace. In the archives the school diary of that time reveal some fascinating parallels.



## Mrs Burton's Founder's Day Service Address *continued*

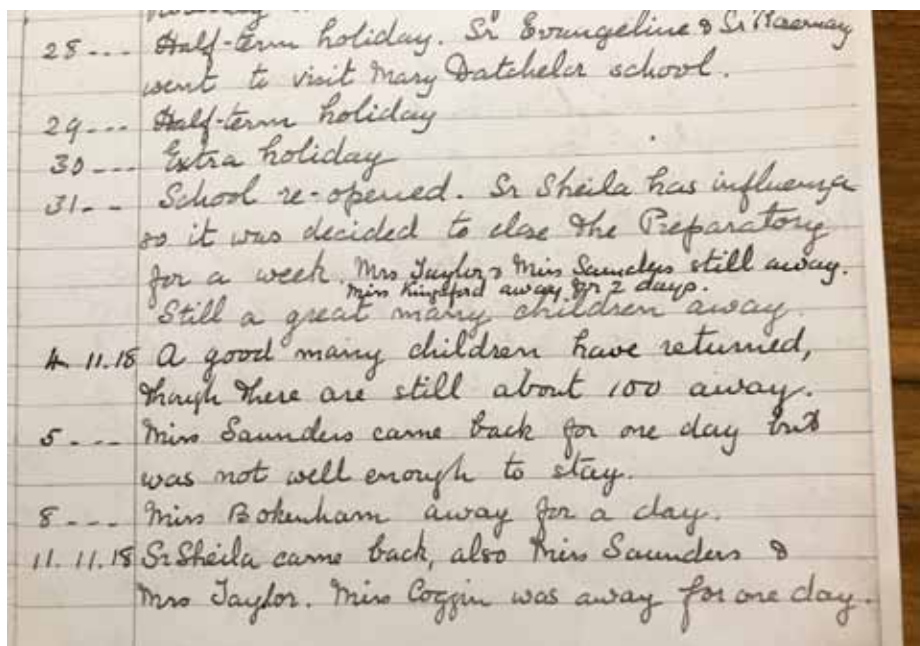
On the 21 October 1918, the Headmistress wrote that the influenza epidemic 'is spreading very much'. Two days later she says that '100 children are away' and many staff. 100 children was around two thirds of the school. She also reports that 'Prayers are being held in form rooms to avoid overcrowding in Chapel'. This is of course similar to some of the actions that we have had to take as a school.

She also reported that 'it was decided to have an extra day's holiday at October half term'. Before anyone gets excited, they didn't have the two week half term we have now. The school re-opened on 31 October but the Prep School was closed for another week as too many staff were away. The rest of the diary details pupils and staff being away throughout the winter months and on March the 17th the school was closed for a further 3 days due to a member of staff having influenza but from the records it seems that years 10 upwards were still in school. So, that situation is very similar to what we are facing in the UK today.

There isn't much more about the Spanish Flu in the diaries. In April it was decided to allow no more school games (we think that means PE) until the end of term. This doesn't seem to be because of the flu epidemic but because girls were 'meddling with their hats in cloakrooms and not owning up'

So, to bring this address to a close, I would like to pay tribute to those confident, capable and connected women who founded the school in the late 19th century. I hope that they would think that 130 years later we are doing a good job keeping that spirit alive alongside coping with the Covid-19 situation as pragmatically as they did with the Spanish Flu. So, to use 21st century language, I would like to give a 'shout out' to Mother Emily and her teams of dedicated Sisters..... we salute you and give thanks for all that you did to start the journey for Old Palace to become the excellent institution it is today.

**Jane Burton, Head**



25--- Half-term holiday. Sr Evangeline & Sr Maerway went to visit Mary Datcheler school.  
29--- Half-term holiday  
30--- Extra holiday  
31--- School re-opened. Sr Sheila has influenza so it was decided to close The Preparatory for a week. Mrs Taylor & Miss Saunders still away. Miss Kingford away for 2 days. Still a great many children away.  
4. 11.18 A good many children have returned, though there are still about 100 away.  
5--- Miss Saunders came back for one day but was not well enough to stay.  
8--- Miss Bokenham away for a day.  
11. 11.18 Sr Sheila came back, also Miss Saunders & Mrs Taylor. Miss Coggin was away for one day.







# Virtual Open Day

## Saturday, 3 October

**Seniors** 9.00am and 10.30am starts

**Pre School & Preparatory** 2.00pm start

[www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions/open-days](http://www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions/open-days)

# Sixth Form Open Evening

## Thursday, 8 October 5.00pm start

On Thursday, 8 October we are hosting our first ever Virtual Sixth Form Evening.

We hope the experience will be as close as possible to a normal Sixth Form Evening, with an introductory talk by Mrs Burton, Mr Talleux and Ms Ford and no less than 45 individual ZOOM sessions with subject Heads.

Please use the table below to help plan your evening in advance

### Menu of Subject Presentations/Q&A Sessions via Zoom

17:00 - 17:20	Welcome and Introduction by Jane Burton (Head), Stéphane Talleux (Head of Sixth Form), Hannah Ford (Deputy Head, Academic)								
KEY	A Level Subjects		Other Subjects						
17:25 - 17:40	Computer Science	Economics	English Language	Government & Politics	Latin	Maths in Context	Med Prep	Music	Psychology
17:45 - 18:00	Biology	Chemistry	English Literature	Further Mathematics	Government & Politics	Languages: French/ German/ Italian/ Spanish	PPE Prep	Photography	Physics
18:05 - 18:20	Classical Civilisation	Dance (and Gold Arts Award)	Engineering Prep	English Literature	Geography	History	Mathematics	Med Prep	Religious Studies
18:25 - 18:40	Biology	Chemistry	Classical Greek	Economics	Geography	Law Prep	Physics	Product Design (DT)	Psychology
18:45 - 19:00	Art	Drama & Theatre Studies	Engineering Prep	Languages: French/ German/ Italian/ Spanish	Law Prep	Mathematics	Psychology	Religious Studies	Sports Leaders



## Lockdown Creativity Project

Last September, the school launched the whole-school creativity initiative. We began with the Creative Solutions to Climate Change project, where students used their ingenuity and creativity to develop workable solutions to this climate crisis. This was a very successful project, with students stretching their creative skills.

When the nation went into lockdown in March, Old Palace students did not cease to be creative. In June, we challenged students to submit

creative responses to their lockdown experience. They were provided with the theme – 'Being Together, Alone.'

We received many fantastic responses, but in this issue, we feature some submissions that captured our imagination.

There will be more creativity projects running this academic year, so watch this space!

**Ms Berk**

*Chair of the Creativity Committee*

### Not I was, I am...

I was lonely,  
I was speechless,  
It looked coldly,  
Making nights sleepless,  
Being locked in an empty room was  
no trophy,  
It was my only weakness...

Until you came along,  
You came to buy,  
A slave who was strong,  
You looked at me in the eye,  
It didn't take very long,  
On the 13th of July,  
I was bought and would belong,  
To you and only you.

You gave me freedom,  
You gave me light,  
I was part of your kingdom,  
As your only knight,  
You were no demon,  
You would never fight,  
I was one of own,  
Thank you, God, for this blessing.

Without you here,  
I would disappear,  
I am no musketeer,  
Nor am I Shakespeare,  
But this poem is dedicated to you.

Now,  
I am not lonely,  
I am not speechless,  
Your kindness is holy,  
Not making nights dreamless,  
The room you gifted is cozy,  
Now,  
You are my only weakness,  
For you I would do anything.

**Kiruthyaa, Year 11**



Face coverings by **Mayowa, Year 8**



**Tusara, Year 8**



Bertie and Ted modelling masks by  
**Natalie, Year 8**



October is the month in which we promote the knowledge and understanding of Black history and culture.

Our theme this October is Black British Pioneers. Pupils will be researching and celebrating the lives of individuals who have made huge contributions to society in fields such as art, music, science and literature.

Each class (Year 1 to Year 5) will research an influential Briton. Areas of research/learning will include:

- Childhood and early experiences
- Achievements
- Personal characteristics that may have enabled them to excel despite barriers
- Heritage – e.g. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's father was born in Sierra Leone – children will find out about the history and culture of the people of Sierra Leone

Each class will be presenting their learning to the other classes and we will be featuring some of their work in forthcoming issues of the Bulletin.

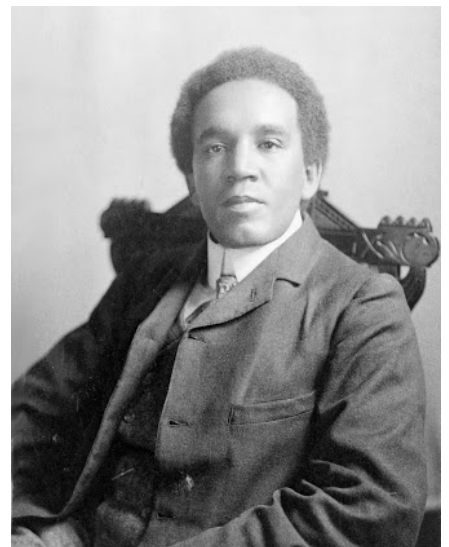
Early Years - Our youngest children will celebrate and learn through activities such as cookery, story-telling and art.

There will be a host of exciting celebrations throughout October including the following workshops:

- Ancestral mask making
- Tales of African kings and queens
- Traditional African drumming
- The history of the steel pan; steel pan experiences
- Special Lunch - The children and staff will enjoy a delicious Ghanaian lunch prepared by Chef Amma and her team.



**Lubaina Himid CBE**  
British Artist and Curator



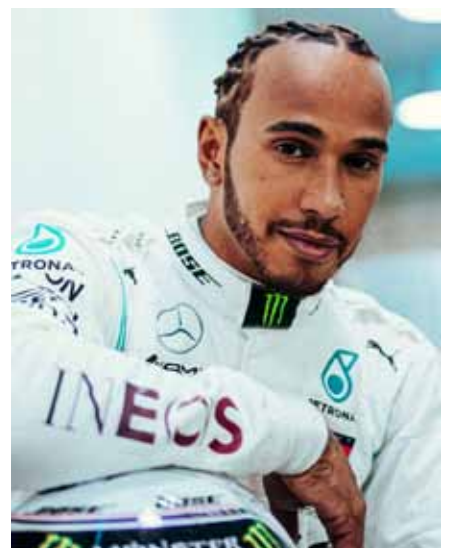
**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor**  
Composer and Musician



**Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE**  
Engineer, Science Educator and Space Scientist



**Malorie Blackman OBE**  
British Author who held the position of Children's Laureate



**Lewis Hamilton MBE**  
Formula One World Champion Racing Driver



## A letter from Mrs Nike



Dear all,

Black History Month is approaching, and we have an array of activities and learning experiences planned for the girls to promote knowledge and understanding of Black history and culture.

Our theme this year is Black History Pioneers, and I can't wait to see and hear what the girls create both in class and during the workshops.

It was a real honour to take part in the Founder's Day service this year. I really enjoyed watching and seeing our girls showcase their skills and talents.

I thoroughly enjoyed Mrs Burton's speech and hearing the extracts from the diary during the Influenza epidemic was fascinating!

**Mrs Nike**  
*Head of Nursery & Preparatory*

## Football News



Good luck to Ellie and Lola in Year 5, who have a football trial at Old Walcountians AFC this week.

## Could you be the next Prep Athlete?

Email Mrs Coster a profile picture of yourself and what sports you play to: [lcoster@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:lcoster@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)

## Football



Years 3 – 5 are now playing football. Mrs Coster held her first session with Year 5 last week and the girls are taking to this new sport with great enthusiasm.

# Prep Athlete Focus



**Name**

Daisy

**Age**

10

**Sport**

Football

**Club**

AFC Walcountians Girls Football

## Round Up

I play football for Old Walcountians Football Club in Banstead. We train on a Thursday night on grass or Astro. I have only been playing since July, but I love it because it is so physical and tough. I get to play matches every Sunday and we play all over Surrey. Last weekend we played in Farnborough and we won 3-2. I love tackling the other players and winning the ball. We play 7-a-side. We have not lost a game this season.

Playing football is such fun because it's all girls and it's fun to have lots of friends.



## House Drama Prize – Best Monologue Performance



In June, students in Years 6-13 competed in a Virtual House Drama Competition. Students participated in various categories, including monologue performance.

Ellen S (Year 13) won the competition with her soulful delivery of Shirley's monologue from *Blue Moon Over Poplar*, by Rebecca Lenkiewicz. Ellen won a copy of Stanislavski's book *An Actor Prepares*, which outlines naturalistic acting techniques for the actor.

Ellen said she was excited to read this book as '*she hopes to pursue a career in theatre and film one day.*'

Well done, Ellen!

*Ellen receiving her prize*

## Monologue Work in GCSE Drama

In Year 10 GCSE Drama, we have been preparing monologues. We all chose monologues in a variety of styles - naturalistic, comedic and Shakespearian.

In order to improve our performances and gain greater understanding of our characters and their intentions we have been studying the Stanislavski method. Konstantin Stanislavski designed a system of acting to help actors create believable characters. Through studying the Stanislavski technique we have gained an understanding of the character's "given circumstances" i.e.: Who they are? , Where they are? What time of day is it? And how are they feeling? Another part of the Stanislavski method is "The Magic If" which involves imagining your character in a particular situation and improvising how they would react. In class we explored this through pretending there was something behind a door that would cause a change in the character's behaviour and emotion.

We also looked at the psychological gesture, a technique invented by Michael Chekhov, who was greatly influenced by Stanislavski and worked with him. This is about creating one key physical image that shows your character's feelings in the scene. We contrasted this work by exploring Brecht's gestus technique, which is an exaggerated physical acting technique.

This project has allowed us to grow our confidence as actors and be more willing to perform on our own. It has also allowed us to learn techniques that we can use throughout our time studying drama in order to improve our performances, whether in class or productions.

I would like to thank Ms Berk and Mrs Hargraves for allowing us to study such useful techniques and thoroughly enjoyed the project.

**Elizabeth G**, Year 10

The photos picture year 10 students exploring their monologues on their own and in pairs.



*Kulsoom A and Warda R*



*Lucy M*



*Knightly B*



## The Preparatory School Celebrates European Day of Languages

This year Prep celebrated the day in a more unusual way due to all of us staying in our bubbles. However, we still made it a whole school event and every class had fun activities. As in previous years, the whole of Prep participated in the European Day of Languages.

The day started with registration being taken in several different European languages – Year 5 took a vote and chose to do theirs in Hungarian and German. Playtime involved counting games with girls trying to earn as many stickers as possible.

Nursery and Reception classes had a special puppet show. Year 1 made flags from different European countries; Years 2, 3 and 4 completed quizzes, written especially for them by the Year 5 girls. Year 3 counted and sang numbers 1-10 in Italian, while Year 4 practised some Italian in line with their topic on the Romans; they used their knowledge of French to sort Italian numbers 1-10 and days of the week. They found out that they were, in fact, quite similar and they practised pronouncing the “ch” sound in “cinque” and in the date “venerdì venticinque settembre”. Finally, Year 5 also completed a quiz and have started doing research on different European countries.

However, everyone knows a celebration is not a celebration without cake and so the “pièce de résistance” was the “cremeschnitte” we had at lunchtime. A big thank you to our chef and her team for making such a delicious “cremeschnitte” to mark the occasion. Cremeschnitte is a vanilla and custard cream cake popular in several central-European countries, but it originated in Croatia. There are many regional variations, but they all include puff pastry base and custard cream.





## Year 7 and 8 Creative Workshops

Last Thursday, saw the Creative Workshops begin for Years 7 & 8. These practical workshops replace homework in the subjects of Art, Dance, Drama, DT, Computing and Music. There was a real buzz of excitement around the school, with the students eagerly getting involved in a range of projects and tasks. These workshops also give students the opportunity to mix with a variety of students across the year group in a fun and vibrant setting whilst expanding their practical skills. We look forward to seeing the outcome of the work produced.



## The Holes in the Sky

During lockdown I founded the blog named My Stem Cloud, a place where I could write about anything I had found interesting in the STEM field. I have begun writing some articles in the last three months and would really like to spread my passion for this exciting field.

Below is the introduction to one of the articles on the blog:

### The Holes in the Sky

***We now know for sure that we are amid a climate crisis. So many different terminologies get thrown around, but do we know what any of them mean?***

*Let us take the ozone layer. We know that the ozone layer is somewhere up there and that there is a hole that is slowly starting to emerge through it, but does it have any real importance and how does it affect us? The simple answer is yes, it does affect us. However, this one-word answer does not do a great deal at helping us understand the significance of the issue.*

*The ozone layer, which sits around 20 km from the Earth's surface, is an area with a high concentration of ozone molecules (which has the chemical formula of O<sub>3</sub>) in the stratosphere - the second major layer of Earth's atmosphere between 12 to 50 km above the Earth's surface.*

*Although ozone is toxic to humans, in the stratosphere, it absorbs harmful ultraviolet radiation (UV-C and most UV-B radiation) from the Sun which protects us from genetic damage and possible cell mutations which can cause skin cancer. It also has the task of stabilising the Earth's temperature.*

If you would like to continue reading this blog or are interested in different areas of the STEM field, please do head over to [www.mystemcloud.com](http://www.mystemcloud.com) and make sure to subscribe so you get notified each time I post a new article!

Demi, Year 13

# CHECKMATE

Classics Department Word of  
the Week 28/09/20

Used in chess when the king  
is trapped by opposing  
team's pieces.  
From Persian shāh māt"  
"the king [is] dead"



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