



# AROUND THE PALACE



Dear all,

As you know, at Old Palace we aim for our students to be capable, confident and connected individuals.

This week's bulletin has these three elements shining through with reports on some fantastic achievements for our students (see Sumaiya's success in being appointed Chair of the LYA - see page 2).

We were also thrilled that the school was mentioned on ITV's The Chase on Monday (see page 2).

In addition, our new video showcasing the Prep School is worth a watch, to see all the exciting ways that Prep has been developing.

<https://youtu.be/K5QMSvzSe4Q>

Have a good weekend

Jane Burton, Head

## Christmas Comes Early to Prep



On Thursday, pupils recorded their Speech and Drama poetry recitals with Mrs Jerome. We love the festive decorations!

Have you seen our new film about the Pre and Prep School? <https://youtu.be/K5QMSvzSe4Q>

## Sumaiya Appointed Chair of the London Youth Assembly



From the title, you may have guessed that I have become the Chair of the London Youth Assembly! The London Youth Assembly is a pan-London approach to tackling issues that are of great importance to young people. It is an assembly formed of representatives from over 20 boroughs aged 11 to 19 (up to 25 with a disability). From Youth Council members, to young mayors and members of youth parliament, I am honoured to work with such a versatile, talented and intelligent group. We are supported by the Greater London Authority with the

Assembly Secretariat playing the lead role. After becoming a LYA member, I decided to attempt applying for The Chair position despite it being my first term. After a successful application stage and interview, I was selected to become the third Chair of the London Youth Assembly.

As Chair, my responsibilities are varied. I am the key link between the London Assembly and LYA liaising. Main duties include facilitating group discussions, allowing everyone's voice to be heard and providing clarity on actions to be taken by the LYA members. Ordinarily our meetings would take place in City Hall and various sub-regional venues. However with Covid-19, they are now taking place virtually. I must say it is rather interesting chairing a meeting with 50 or more people on Microsoft Teams! Yet, it is a learning experience and a positive one so far. I have the task of creating agendas, working with the GLA team and inviting guests to speak at LYA meetings. Another responsibility is running the social media pages for the LYA. I suggest that you all go and follow the London Youth Assembly on Twitter (@LYAssembly) and Instagram (@lyassembly) for regular updates!

Previous achievements from the LYA have been the Recommendations for

the Mayor of London in regards to youth violence and crime, as well as mental health and wellbeing. Various campaigns preceding me as Chair have paved the road for youth activism, something Old Palace students are greatly involved in. Our first London-wide meeting of the 2020-2021 year took place on Wednesday, 11th November. I enjoyed it greatly, learning from the members about issues they wanted to focus on. Many spoke with such passion despite not being in person with each other. It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm coming from LYA members and youth workers. I was blown away by how welcoming and encouraging my fellow peers were! The support was phenomenal!

To be 'Pragmatic, Persistent and Positive': is how I would like the LYA to operate.

This year should be full of excitement no matter what goes on with COVID-19!

"All things are difficult before they are easy"

A quote I left the members of the meeting to consider.

**Sumaiya, Year 9**

## OPA Alumnae Stuns Viewers with her Knowledge of the Tudors on The Chase



One of our alumnae appeared on ITV's popular early evening quiz, The Chase, this week (Monday 16 November).

Sian Morgan, from Purley, wowed viewers with her knowledge of the Tudors when she answered the question "Which of Henry VIII's children has the highest regnal number?"

Her swift answer, "Edward" drew the host, Bradley Walsh, to ask if she had been 'swotting up', to which Sian replied: "No I haven't, I actually went to school in a Tudor Palace. I know quite a lot about the Tudors."

She confirmed it was Old Palace in Croydon, one of the former residences of the Archbishop of Canterbury.



"They used to go there on their summer holidays," Sian said, "Summer holidays in Croydon, would you believe it!"

Sian went on to answer so many questions correctly that she was the only other team-mate left up to 19. She also won an impressive £6,000.

Read the full article in My London:

[www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/bradley-walsh-stunned-chase-contestant-19291513](http://www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/bradley-walsh-stunned-chase-contestant-19291513)



## Cultural Celebrations - Diwali

Prep students were excited to join in with the celebrations for Diwali – the Festival of Light. Everyone dressed up; some in their traditional dress or costume and some in casual clothes.

Each class had a chance to experience making sweets called coconut Ladoo, which they took home afterwards to share with their family.

The significance of Rangoli\* and Diya (small lamp), is to welcome God in to your home. Pupils made sparkly paper

Diyas which they decorated with glitter and everyone used dry colour sand to make a rangoli pattern which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

2J performed the story of Rama and Sita organised by Mrs Coster.

*\*Rangoli is an art form in which patterns are created on the floor or the ground using materials such as coloured rice, coloured sand, quartz powder or flower petals.*





## A letter from Mrs Nike

Well, it has been a busy time completing our projects for Anti-bullying Week. Year 2 have created fabulous bunting, and Year 5's patchwork quilt displaying anti-bullying messages is well underway.

It was great to see all the girls arrive at school on Monday wearing their odd socks. Thank you for your generous donations for the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

Play List is Year 4's new topic and they are learning all about sound. Our new decibel metre has been a great hit. They have also written anti bullying messages in Morse code and performed it using two different percussion or body sounds. Year 4 have used Grażyna Bacewicz as inspiration for story writing. Grażyna Bacewicz broke new ground as a female composer in Poland and learnt the violin and the piano as a child. She enjoyed composing music for instruments, including piano sonatas and seven violin concertos.

Why not check out her Overture.  
[www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-ks2-grazyna-bacewicz-overture/z6q2kmm](http://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-ks2-grazyna-bacewicz-overture/z6q2kmm)

We are looking forward to parents' evening next week. Please don't forget to book your appointment.

Great work this week girls! Well done

**Mrs Nike**  
Head of Nursery & Preparatory

## Alynnna's Robot



Alynnna really impressed Mrs Wallis by working on her own robot companion as she was unable to come in to school last week.

## Year 4 Class Orchestra

Year 4 have formed a Class Orchestra! In music lessons, as part of their Cornerstones unit 'Playlist', they are enjoying learning more about the four families and how sounds are produced on the different instruments. Their debut performance is planned for December.





## Diwali Song

All students in the Prep School learnt a special song 'Diwali is Here', with movements choreographed by Mrs Spencer.



## Science at Home Festival



# Science at home

21–22 November 2020

Students across the school might find an activity or animation to follow this weekend (21-22 November) at the Science at Home festival organised by the Royal Society of Biology.

Don't forget to send your BioArt submissions to Dr Edwards.

The competition closes on **30 November**.

Email your photos and text by Thursday, 26 November.

[www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/biologyweek/bioartattack-competition](http://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/biologyweek/bioartattack-competition)

*Books that explore the  
idea of humanity in all  
its diversity, and are  
ultimately uplifting in  
these difficult times*

# Only Human



TENTH SCHOOLS BOOK AWARD  
**2021  
SHORTLIST**



Winner  
announced  
on March  
17th



<http://tsba.edublogs.org>



@TSBA\_UK



# Virtual Open Event

## Seniors

Wednesday,  
25 November  
1.00pm Live Q&A

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

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"We have seen him flourishing in a way he could not do living alone with little company."

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## Puzzle Fun

WHEN I WAS 14 YEARS OLD  
MY FATHER WAS 42 YEARS OLD,  
WHICH WAS THREE TIMES MY  
AGE. NOW HE IS TWICE MY AGE,  
HOW OLD AM I?

Answer on page XX

## Virtual London Youth Games Sports Hall Athletics Competition

Some of our classes have entered the Virtual London Youth Games Sports Hall Athletics Competition – representing Croydon. The five events were Speed Bounce, Standing Long Jump, Vertical Jump, Shuttle Runs and Chest Push.

The students were in small groups and worked well together to perform, measure and record their outcomes and try and improve their personal scores. We hope our results will help to boost the Croydon result against all the other London boroughs.



## Year 4: Playlist - Musical Instruments

As part of their music-based topic, 'Playlist', Year 4 have been making an instrument of their choice using resources that they collected from home.

Some girls made an ocean drum, shaker or maracas using contained beads or rice to produce the sound. Others created a guitar and experimented with elastic bands of different thicknesses to vary the pitch of the notes it could produce.





## Mock Medical and Dental University Interviews

Aspiring Year 13 medical and dental students took part in mock interviews in school last week.

They had already discussed what to expect in lessons and undertook independent research.

*'I practiced answering questions from a bank of common medical interview questions. I also ensured I knew my personal statement well.'* **Anushka T**

*'I annotated articles I had found on medical news and read the most recent coronavirus updates.'* **Shaaruka**

*'I went over some ethical issues and practised some questions with my friends too.'* **Khushi**

The students completed eight mini interviews of five minutes each, moving on to the next interview when the bell rang. In that way it could be compared to parents' evenings or speed dating!

*'I enjoyed the ethical station as I found that it really makes you think, and it puts you in a situation where you would have to make a tough decision.'* **Zainab**

*'I enjoyed the role play and the mathematic section. I enjoyed the role play section as it is a scenario that can occur whilst working as a doctor.'* **Piriyanka**

# Prep Athlete Focus



**Name**

Adelise

**Age**

8

**Sport**

Gymnastics

**Club**

Ladywell Gymnastics Club

## Round Up

I started gymnastics when I was really tiny at home. When I was old enough Mummy took me to a gymnastics club. I train three days a week. On Saturday and Sunday I train for five hours and on a Tuesday I train for slightly less hours.

The best move I can do at the moment is a round off back hand spring. One day I would like to do a round off back handspring tuck back somersault or the Biles! One day I would love to go to the Olympics.

## Answer Fun Puzzle Competition on page 5

My father is 28 years older than me. (42 - 14 = 28)

If he is now twice my age then I am 28 years old and he is 56 years old.

## Maths Puzzle Winner

Last week's puzzle was much harder, so many congratulations to Olive in Year 7, who was the only student to answer it correctly.

Classics Department Word of the Week 16/11/20

# Barbarian

**A violent, uncivilised person. From Greek *βάρβαρος* (barbaros) meaning non-Greek. The Greeks thought people speaking other languages sounded like they were saying 'bar bar bar'.**

 **Old Palace of John Whitgift School**  
Independent Girls' School  
For School to South Stars

 **Old Palace of John Whitgift School**  
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