



AROUND THE PALACE

Remembering HRH The Duke of Edinburgh



As a part of the celebrations of Croydon's Millennium in 1960, HM The Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh visited Old Palace on the 2nd November. They arrived at about 4.30pm and stayed for an hour, during which time they had tea in the Banqueting Hall, and watched a short scene from the Old Palace Pageant. It showed Queen Elizabeth I, conferring the office of Lord Chancellor on Archbishop Hatton, and afterwards Sister Fenella referred to it as the 'Royal Command Performance'!

Alumnae Janet Dean née Wilkie writes:

The Duke strayed from the red carpet to talk to the girls and worked his way along until, coming to stand in front of me, he asked me directly if I, and those around me, were not awfully cold? He explained that they had been caught in traffic. I curtsied and addressing him as Sir, insisted we were not cold, only excited at the chance of meeting with him and The Queen. The moment was then forever etched on my mind and this photograph remains testament to that moment, in a frame in my sitting room.

Dear all,

I very much hope that all Old Palace students and their families enjoyed the well-deserved break over the Easter holidays.

Over the break we learned of the sad news that HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh had passed away. This resonated with many members of the school community, especially those former students and staff who had the opportunity to meet him when he visited the school over 60 years ago and all those who have benefited from the DofE programme.

There is a very interesting report on this in the Bulletin which shows the impact that the scheme has on so many Old Palace students. He will always be remembered amongst the Old Palace community.

Jane Burton, Head

Easter Parade



How fabulous are the entries to Pre School's Easter Bonnet competition! There were eight categories:

- The Most Colourful
- The Most Creative
- The Most Original
- The Funniest
- Best Transition
- Best Pre School
- Best in Show
- Best Home Entry



Year 6: Making Easter Bonnets



Thank you to the Alumnae



Students in Years 7 and 8 were delighted with the OPA's gift of a special OP mask.

Dear Alumnae,

I would just like to thank you for all the masks, it was very thoughtful.

My whole form was delighted to get an Old Palace mask, and the best thing was the teachers were asking us where we got it!

My whole form hopes to meet you all in the summer as you all seem wonderful.

Kind Regards,
Fatimah, Year 7

Dear Mrs Fowler,

On behalf of myself and 7A, I would like to say thank you to you and the Old Palace Alumnae for the amazing face masks we received today.

Everyone in our class is very grateful. We are all looking forward to meeting you some time in the future when Covid restrictions have died down and we hope you are all doing well.

Kind regards,
Adaeze and 7A



International Dance Day

International Theatre Institute ITI - World Organization for the Performing Arts

International Dance Day is a global celebration of dance, created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO.

The event takes place every year on 29 April, which is the anniversary of the birth of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), the creator of modern ballet. This day is a celebration day for those who can see the value and importance of the art form “dance”, and acts as a wake-up-call for governments, politicians and institutions which have not yet recognised its value to the people and to the individual and have not yet realised its potential for economic growth.

The day strives to encourage participation and education in dance through events and festivals held on the date all over the world. Every year, since its creation in 1982, an outstanding dance personality is selected to write a message for International Dance Day and this year German Ballet Dancer, Friedemann Vogel will be writing a message about dance.

For more information about the day and to read Vogel's message can be found on the following website:

<https://international-dance-day.org/index.html>

Dance activities you could try!

Take a dance class, why not try a dance style you've never tried before. Have you tried Lindy Hop? How about Kathak? What about Waacking? Find a class online and give it a go, broaden your horizons and have fun! You know when you enjoy dance and stick with it reaps many benefits such as improved physical fitness, higher self-confidence and stronger determination to preserve.

Create a family dance, why not get everyone up and dancing at home. Do you have favourite track of music you could have a family groove to? Challenge your sisters, brothers, mum and dad to a family dance off? Could you connect with cousins or extended family via technology and dance it out together?

Be inspired, why not learn something new about a different culture and how they dance to celebrate? Research a new dance artist and watch them perform or analyse their choreography online. Visit the International Theatre Institute's website for clips featuring a variety of dance styles from around the world.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Under the patronage of
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Sixth Form Dance - Gold Arts Award Project

During the last lockdown, I had the opportunity to work with the students of 7Laud to create an online dance performance, inspired by Christopher Bruce's contemporary dance work *Shadows*.

This was part of my Gold Arts Award course, which requires students to lead a creative project and then evaluate it. I prepared three workshops to teach the students about the background to *Shadows* and introduce movement material from one section, the Daughter's Solo, which contributed to their final performance. The workshop also allowed the students to choreograph movement phrases using motif developments, giving them the chance to express their own dance style within *Shadows*.

Their performance was then recorded on Microsoft Teams and shared with members of staff. Teaching online has been a new experience for me and one which I have enjoyed. Although I have taught Dance to students in person before, switching to online teaching was challenging because each movement had to be exaggerated in order for the dancers to understand how to recreate it. Despite this, I have enjoyed being able to work with 7Laud at a time when creative collaboration across year groups has been restricted, and I have gained new perspectives on the process of teaching and learning Dance.



This experience has given me a valuable opportunity to develop skills such as adaptability, organisation, communication and creativity, which will be important for my future as an artist in a dance world that is constantly evolving through the creation of new works.

It was interesting to see how a recorded performance on Teams would work out, since this was new terrain. We encountered some technical challenges, such as our cameras glitching or not working.

However, these challenges were quickly overcome, and we were able to present performances with minimal interruptions. This has also given staff and students an idea of what could be achieved in other online Dance projects in the future.

As Dance Prefect, I enjoyed the opportunity to share the work of the Dance department with a wider

audience and gain feedback about how successful this first attempt at an online Dance event was. At a time when it is not possible to present live performances, it was exciting to hear what staff from other departments thought about the recorded performance.

Overall, this was an exciting new experience for myself and the Dance department, opening possibilities for online dance and other arts performances within our school community in the future.

Charlotte W

A collage of six small images showing students in various dance poses. The text 'Year 7 Digital Dance' is written in large, blue, stylized letters across the top. Below it, the text 'Through Teams, 7Laud are dancing together online, exploring the emotions connected to the World Wars' is written in white. In the bottom right corner, there is a school crest and the text 'Old Palace of John Whitgift School Independent Girls School'.

DofE Award Programme

Old Palace is very proud to have a very active and successful Duke of Edinburgh Award programme in place. The work that HRH Prince Philip put into setting up the Award will always be an incredible legacy and something that has given so many opportunities and experiences to students who may never have had the chance to do something like this before.

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, students have to participate in three different activities as well as expeditions. Please see a selection of activities that Old Palace students have chosen to do the last few years:

Skills	Physical	Volunteering
Ballet appreciation	Dance	Care homes
Reading	Netball	Charity shops
Violin	Cheerleading	Coaching younger children
Piano	Shotput	Afterschool club
Employment skills	Athletics	Girls brigade
Singing	Waterpolo	Sports Clubs
	Swimming	GP surgery
	Yoga	Library
	Fencing	

Number of students completing the Award in the last few years.

Years	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Total
2013/14	24	14	4	42
2014/15	23	0	1	24
2015/16	43	1	0	44
2016/17	22	0	1	23
2017/18	48	2	0	50
2018/19	27	11	0	38
2019/20	33	19	0	52
2020/21	35	7	0	42
TOTAL	255	54	6	315



As we reflect on the work The Duke of Edinburgh did for the Award, we asked some of our students for their own opinions and memories from completing the award.

Why did you choose to do DofE?

- New and fun experiences and opportunities
- To get more active and find out what it would be like doing camping.
- My mum made me!
- I wanted the qualification and it seemed like fun.
- It seemed like an experience that I would remember forever.
- To gain new skills and for a fun new experience.
- I thought it would be a fun experience. I was keen to try volunteering with swimming clubs so this allowed me to do so.
- I chose to take part in the award because I thought it would be a good way to use my spare time but also build and develop my existing passions and interests as well as work on my faults and weaknesses. I have four older cousins who all took part in the award, two of whom managed to achieved Gold who have inspired and encouraged me to take part in the award.
- I decided to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh programme to develop skills through extracurricular activities. I tried to improve my communication, leadership and teamwork skills.
- I chose to take part in the award because I thought it would be a great learning experience where I could learn vital skills such as first aid. I also saw it as a chance to improve other key skills such as problem-solving and teamwork.

continued

What did you enjoy most about completing the three sections?

- I was able to improve my abilities and help out in public
- I enjoyed working with my team in netball and getting to know more of the people in my community through doing the volunteering work at the charity shops.
- The volunteering, doing something I wouldn't have thought about doing before. And in the end actually really enjoying it.
- I got to meet lots of new people
- I enjoyed teaching the violin to my sister's friends for the last part of volunteering.
- Relief that I did it
- I felt very accomplished and experienced once I had finished each section, and the feedback I received built up my confidence.
- Working with new people and building my skills.
- DofE meant that I had to ensure I went to as many sessions as possible so it gave me excuses to be in the studio and the pool as much as I could be which I thoroughly enjoyed. I also have always wanted to coach and this gave me my first opportunity to experience what it was like.
- I enjoyed setting myself targets and seeing my improvement
- The thing I enjoyed most was spending time with the people who I did the activities with and getting to know them really well especially when during volunteering. I loved learning new things and being able to improve at my existing hobbies.
- I enjoyed volunteering because I got the chance to meet and help people from my local area and I enjoyed completing the sections because I was able to feel a sense of achievement.

What did you enjoy most about the expeditions?

- Learnt new skills like map reading and using a compass, and had lots of fun with friends away from school
- I enjoyed bonding with my team, and learning more about myself. Even though the walking was physically challenging, it made us mentally stronger and encouraged our teamwork and resilience. I also enjoyed the satisfaction of knowing that we had made it through a whole day of walking once we had finally got to the campsite.
- Being in a group who I wouldn't normally put myself with and working together to find our way around. And just enjoying the nature, independence and time with friends.
- Spending time with my group
- Having fun
- The atmosphere my group created. We were able to make light of every situation, despite being the most competitive. We worked together well, and managed to split the responsibilities equally and fairly.
- The independence we had - having to figure stuff out for ourselves

- Being with girls who I wasn't necessarily close with and forming a new bond with them and making unforgettable memories. On one of the two expeditions, we went to the beach and it was so nice after a tiring day.
- When we arrived back at camp and were cooking dinner we had many hilarious memories of some of our group being quite questionable in their culinary skills and I remember someone burnt through a hole through a pot when trying to cook a sausage. Also camping at night playing cards and singing around fires was lovely.
- The independence we had - having to figure stuff out for ourselves
- I enjoyed working in a team with other people who I don't work with very often.
- I enjoyed learning about the wildlife, and since I was put with a different school, I loved making new friends.
- It was always most exciting when my group arrived at camp because at that point, it felt as if all the struggle attempting to navigate ourselves around the countryside during the day was worth it when we were able to set up our tents and rest for the night.

continued





Is there anything you found difficult on the expedition?

- Quickly learning and picking important skills
- It was of course very physically tiring especially when doing it in the summer heat.
- Sometimes having motivation to keep walking, towards the end you get very tired. And sleeping in the tents when it was FREEZING.
- Sleeping in the cold tent at night
- The mapping on the first day
- Waking up so early!
- Walking with the heavy bags on one of the hottest days of the year.
- I think that the experience was physically demanding, especially with such heavy back packs and such long distance walking. A few of my friends wanted to give up but we all supported each other and just sang songs to keep motivated.
- Not getting lost and encouraging your group to keep going.
- I found the mapping difficult although the walk was enjoyable on the whole. Even though towards the end of the walk we were all starting to struggle a bit we found ways of

encouraging each other and building our stamina together as a team.

- I found that directing ourselves in the right direction was a tiny struggle since there were so many tiny pathways that were not on the map, but we figured the way.
- The occasions when we would get lost in the middle of the countryside with only a compass and map to hand was fairly challenging but by working as a team we were able to find a solution.

Best memory of DofE

- Lying in the middle of an empty side road on a break, watching the clouds next to a cow farm.
- Walking into a llama and horse field on the same day on the practice walk on Bronze DofE. My best memory on Silver DofE was having a group of boys thinking that they could throw us some tomatoes for lunch.....over a river.
- We were walking up a very steep hill. And then a member of the group's leg buckled (because she was so tired) and she just started rolling down the hill with her massive rucksack still on her. I even managed to capture it on my GoPro - a very funny memory.
- My group and I made a video on our GoPro.

- Training day when we got to use the CPR dummies.
- The freezing cold tent
- Walking to and from the nearby beach, and watching the sunset as we walked back.
- Accidentally entering someone's farm.
- Climbing a very steep hill holding hands as a team.
- Getting lost and going the completely opposite side of our destination.
- There were many amazing memories but I think the feeling of sharing the tents at night and just laughing, telling stories and playing games was so much fun. Also when we ended up walking into a random llama farm was hilarious as we could hear the camp on the other side of the trees but were so distracted by the llamas we remained lost for a bit of time.
- In the silver award - going to the beach to watch the sunset
- Some of my best memories from DofE are behind reception and in the staffroom when volunteering but also some really enjoyable moments with friends on the expedition.
- I loved camping with my friends, and it was an amazing time to bond especially with the other school.
- Life is completely different, especially making out food in our trangea.
- The relief and excitement my group and I felt when we reached camp first as well as making hot chocolates.

Final comments

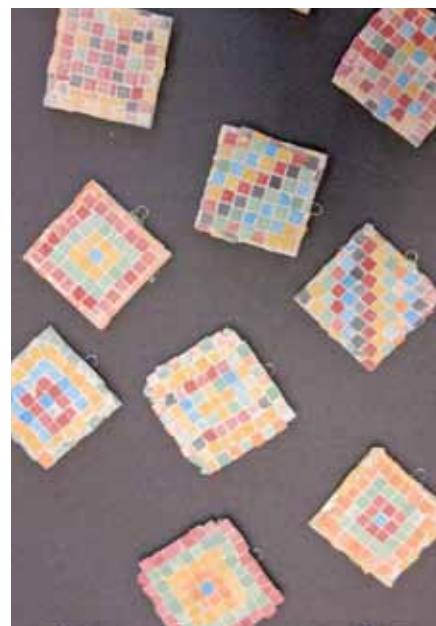
I think people who might not want to do it and do get forced by their parents, still do it because in the end it's a great experience and it's better than just sitting on the sofa and watching a film

I would like to thank HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, for putting hard work into creating the DofE Award.

Year 3: Roman Mosaics

Year 3's topic last half term was Emperors and Empires with a focus on the Roman Empire. To bring the topic to an end the girls designed their own Roman mosaic and used small tiles to create it. It was quite messy but great fun!

Look at our finished mosaics!



Prep Library News

Mrs Bhatt writes: Thank you for sponsoring your daughter(s) for the Reading for Good charity <https://readforgood.org/>

With your generosity, we have raised £396.

In return, as a reward, we received £79.20 worth of vouchers to spend on books for the school.



Cricket

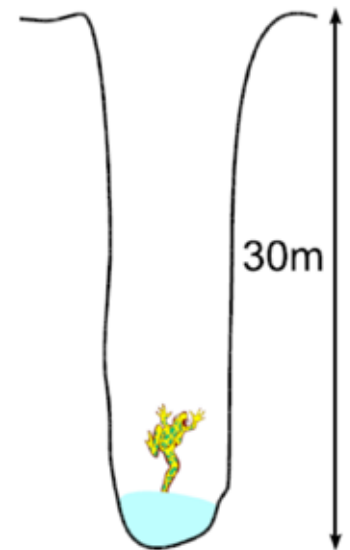
We are delighted to have a coach from the Surrey Cricket Foundation delivering cricket sessions to some students in Year 8 and 9 over the next few weeks. Amy Gordon is a Surrey Women's Player and is also working to promote girls cricket in schools.

This week, the focus was on having fun, developing reaction times, catching and throwing and decision making as a batter. We look forward to more input from her in the weeks ahead.



Maths Puzzle Fun

A frog has fallen into a pit that is 30m deep.



Each day the frog climbs 3m, but falls back 2m at night. How many days does it take for him to escape?

Answer on page 13

Word Champion Certificates

Many congratulations to Hiru and Aanya from 3J, Tamalia 4J, Lydia and Amanah from 5J, who have received Million Word Champion certificates.



A letter from Mrs Nike

Dear all,

Well done to all those girls that received their Honesty and Bravery badges this week. I would also like to congratulate all those children who received their Million Word Champion Certificates. What an achievement! Excellent work.

This week, I had the wonderful task of presenting nine girls in Year 3 with their pen licences. Year 3 have been working really hard to perfect their cursive handwriting. I was very impressed when I saw the handwriting in their books. Keep up the good work!

The Pre School class had the pleasure of listening to Ellie play the violin. What a treat! The children listened so carefully and loved hearing the live music.

Year 4 have been busy learning about Misty Mountains and I was particularly impressed by their Matchbox Diaries.

I loved looking at the pictures of the Easter Bonnet parade in Pre School. The children did such a good job of creating colourful and lively bonnets. What I liked most of all was seeing the sheer look of delight on each and every child's face as they paraded around the playground. It was a really lovely way to end the spring term. It was also great to see that Year 6 had a lot of fun making their own Easter bonnets.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Nike

Head of Preparatory

Year 3: Pen Licences - Exciting News!

For the first time ever some girls in Year 3 have been awarded their pen license. Historically, it has only been awarded to girls in Year 4 or above.

Mrs Nike looked through the girls' written work and awarded nine girls their pen licences on the last day of term. On Wednesday she revisited the class to give the girls their pens in a very special ceremony.

As you can imagine, the girls were very excited and couldn't wait to do some work!



Year 4: Misty Mountains, Winding Rivers



During the second half of our topic, we have been studying rivers and the water cycle. With the sunnier days this week, we were able to set up our water cycle investigation and observe the falling water level as the water was heated and evaporated.

We have learnt about the main river features and how they are formed by erosion, transportation or deposition. We have also learnt the names and locations of the longest rivers in the world.

We used the website below to test and improve our knowledge, reducing our times and increasing our score!

<https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3133>

To finish our work on 'Cinnamon' by Neil Gaiman, we wrote newspaper articles about the Princess's decision to leave the royal palace to begin a new life in the jungle with the tiger.



Bravery and Honesty Badges

At Prep, our values are key to our students becoming confident, capable and connected. Our focus these last two half terms have been bravery (which coincided with being in lockdown) and honesty. Both of these values seem very apt in our current climate, as being brave during lockdown has affected everyone and we have all had to rise to the challenge and being honest, and speaking one's truth, is currently at the epicentre of the news.

Honesty is an important value to learn, as it is a bedrock for bringing together and connecting students, not only in the classroom, but also in the school and wider community. We have been impressed at how the girls have been displaying both of these values and we are extremely proud to present the following girls with our bravery and honesty badges.

Pre School:	Alice (bravery) and Ishaani (honesty)
Reception:	Katherine and Avia (both for bravery)
Year 1:	Eileen and Sonia (both for bravery)
Year 2:	Marina (bravery) and Harriet (honesty)
Year 3:	Arya (bravery) and Olivia B (honesty)
Year 4:	Annabelle (bravery) and Tamalia (honesty)
Year 5:	Advika (bravery), Chloe and Lola-Marie (both for honesty)

Pre School



Reception



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 4



Year 5



Year 5



Year 5



Pre School go on a Musical Trip

Pre School welcomed a very special visitor to their music lesson this week who took them on a musical trip up the river. Ellie, the violin teacher, used her jet rocket backpack to fly up from the bottom end of the school and arrived with a bump in the music room!

She showed us what was inside her jet pack, we thought she had an umbrella and a drum stick but it was a violin with a bow! Ellie's violin said hello and helped us look for frogs by playing music as we rowed up the river, we found three little ducks and old Macdonald's farm on the way. Finally, we found five little speckled frogs sitting on a speckled log and all joined in singing with the happy violin. Then Ellie's violin said goodbye and is going to come back to play with us again soon.



Maths Puzzle Fun page 10 Answer

It will take him 28 days to escape.
After 27 days and nights the frog has only 3 metres to go. On the 28th day the frog is able to jump clear.

Maths Puzzle Fun Winner

The winner before Easter was **Zainab** in Year 7.

Classics Department Word of the Week 26/04/21

MORTGAGE

Meaning: A loan a bank or building society lends you to help you buy a property

Etymology: derives from the old French "mort gage" meaning death pledge



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