



AROUND THE PALACE

Year 9-13 Senior Prize Giving



Guest Speakers Jumana Ebrahim and Taiyeba Sulemanji. To read more click [here](#).

Dear all,

Over the past few weeks we have enjoyed so many events that embody the Old Palace spirit and demonstrate how confident, connected and capable our students are. These include a brilliant sports day, a high quality performing arts showcase, the sports presentation event, and our two prizegiving ceremonies. This bulletin also includes many other individual and group achievements.

Outside of the school, Old Palace students participated in the Windrush anniversary event at Croydon Minster and received excellent feedback from many quarters.

We have also had the chance to engage with former students of the school through the OPA reunion and from the opportunity to listen to our guest speakers, Jumana Ebrahim and Taiyeba Sulemanji, at the Year 9-13 prizegiving ceremony this week. It has been a very uplifting end of term.

As the term draws to a close I would like to thank all Old Palace students for their hard work, positivity and contribution to school life over the past year. I would also like to extend that thanks to all our parents and wider families who support not only their daughters but the school as well.

Finally, a thank you to all the Old Palace staff for all that they do to make the school such a special place.

I hope that all Old Palace families enjoy the summer break.

Jane Burton, Head



Madinah

This year the Old Palace Alumnae have generously contributed five prizes. They reward outstanding contribution to the school community.

Suraiya, 13Anselm
OPA Student Leadership Award

Gina, 13Hatton
OPA Student Leadership Award

Madinah, 13Laud
OPA Award in recognition of contribution to the school community

Alison, 13Laud
OPA Student Leadership Award

Ione, 13Stafford
OPA Student Leadership Award



Year 7-8 Prize Giving



Many congratulations to our Year 7 & 8 prize winners who were awarded their prizes at a ceremony in the Banqueting Hall this morning. The students enjoyed a welcome speech by our new Head Girls: Zino and Chitleen, as well as speeches from our outgoing Head Girls, Suraiya and Alison.

Prizes were given for individual subjects as well as Achievement, Outstanding Progress and those awarded by the Heads of Year 7 & 8.

Congratulations must also go to the winners of the Million Word Reader competition and to those receiving Certificates for the Junior Mathematics Challenge.

See all the photographs here:

www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/year-7-8-prize-winners/



Year 7-8 Prize Giving



Sports Day

When it comes to Sports Day the question that every organiser is asking is 'what will the weather be like?'

Well, the weather this year was HOT! – and so in the build up to preparing for the day we ensured we had some shade.

The morning event was predominantly Athletics Events. All students competed in the 100m or 200m, one of the throwing events and a choice of High Jump or Standing Long Jump. Some students then also competed in the 800m.

There were some great performances and exciting track finishes. The High Jump certainly drew a crowd as the bar got higher and higher!

Records were broken!

Athlete	Year Group	Event
Tianna O	7	100m
Ellie T	7	200m
Harmony B	7	High Jump
Kemafo E	7	Discus
Harmony L	10	High Jump
Anjola O		
Harini R		
Leilani B		

After a lunch break in the shade the Year 12 Sports Leaders introduced the House Activities to the year groups. These were fun participation events and consisted of:

Sack Race

Hula Hoop challenge

Obstacle Course

Water Race

There were lots of smiling faces and engagement in these activities! Well done to the Sports Leaders for their hard work planning these activities and ensuring they were safe.

We then moved on to the RELAY. This was a 4 x 50m as we were using a 200m track. Lots of excitement and real competitiveness to ensure houses did their best to compete and claim points for their house. There were some great performances and close finishes!

Year 12 challenged the staff to a relay event and this was fiercely competitive as well as fun!

At end the day we gathered together to celebrate those who had medalled in the field events and to present the track medals. There was a lovely atmosphere as athletes were recognised for their endeavours.

The pinnacle was seeing which house

won overall! – and the winners were STAFFORD!!! Well done Stafford.

A huge thank you to all the staff and Year 12 who helped the day run smoothly with particular mention to the Year 12 Sports Leaders, and to all the students who took part with such high levels of enthusiasm! It was a great day and we are already planning and looking forward to next year!!







Sports Day *continued*



Sports Day Shows True OP Spirit

Nothing captures the Old Palace spirit more than Sports Day. Students are assigned to one of four Houses (Anselm, Hatton, Laud & Stafford) and these become like an extended family.

On Sports Day the House spirit is at its finest – especially when it comes to which House will win the Sports Day trophy! The students go to great lengths with banners and make up – all in their individual House colours – which makes the day even more fun. It really is one of the highlights of the school year (a big thank you to our wonderful Sports Department for making it all possible).



Year 7 - Creatures

Year 7 have been working on their theme of 'Creatures' throughout the year.

They have experimented with a variety of media and have recently completed highly detailed paintings.

Their final project introduces them to print making and also the art of Notan – a paper cutting technique.

We look forward to seeing their finished pieces!



Year 8 - Ceramics

Year 8 are following the theme of 'Identity' this year. They have produced cubist collages, sustained drawings and silk paintings to name a few. They have most recently completed a ceramics project where they have designed exaggerated, emotive faces. This task has allowed them to learn a range of techniques using clay such as; pinch pots, coiling, applying and incising.



Year 9 - Textiles

The theme for Year 9 has been 'Layers'. Students have explored this theme in a variety of ways; observational drawing, collage, mixed media, ceramics and collaborative work.

Their textile project has been really exciting as they have used a number of methods to create a layered fabric

design. Students began by painting or dyeing their fabric and then created a print to go on top of this. The printing techniques varied from screen printing, mono printing, stena and foam printing.

Year 9 finished their designs by embellishing them using sewing techniques and applying buttons and beads to add extra detail. The results were fantastic and really individual.



Community News

Windrush Celebrations at Croydon Minster

Congratulations to Ruby-Lee, Lila, Sapphire, Rojahn, Abigail and Janice who represented Old Palace at the Windrush 75 Celebration event last Thursday at the Minster.

Their inspiring contribution added a vibrant and meaningful dimension to the occasion, making it an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. They contributed significantly to commemorating the invaluable contributions made by the Windrush generation to society, and to quote event organiser Shelly from Croydon BME Forum, *'their talent and passion have left an indelible mark on our hearts'*.



Senior Prizegiving

We were delighted to welcome Taiyeba and Jumana as guest speakers at our Senior Prizegiving yesterday.

In addition to their emotional and inspirational speech, they were also able to award the inaugural 'Dr Salma Hussain Award for Special Contribution to Drama' to Madinah - a worthy recipient.

Outgoing Head Girls Alison and Suraiya also addressed the audience for the final time as leaders of the school.

The evening was certainly a celebration of student achievement and beautiful musical talent.



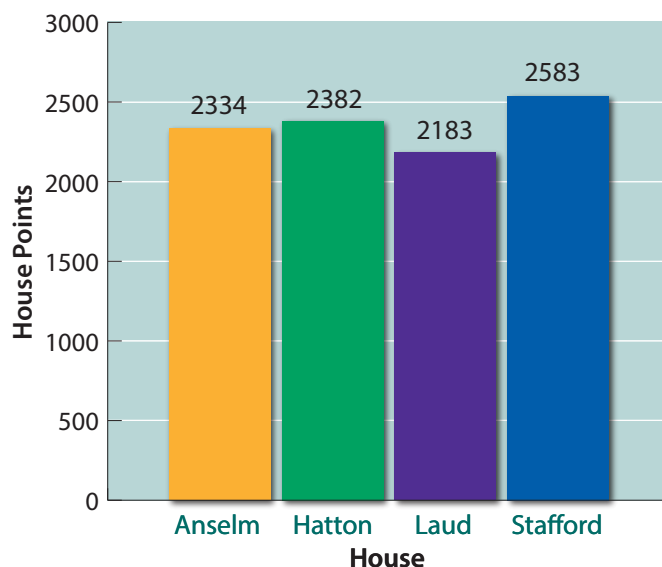
CCF Range Day

On a scorching Sunday some of the Year 9 and 10 CCF cadets were put through their paces on a weapons training and firing day. After passing their weapons handling tests, they tested their skills on the range.



Final House Points Total

Congratulations to Stafford – worthy winners of the Old Palace House Trophy 2023!



MFL Hosts Eurovision Song Contest



Students of MFL have joined up as Eurovision jury to give their votes for past Eurovision songs in the native language of the subject they study. Four songs in Italian, German, Spanish and French were displayed and students gave their opinions if and why they like the songs.

It was nice to see all language students connected and to see

that so many students wanted to volunteer as judges at this lunch time event. It was also a good opportunity for them to revise numbers in the language as they gave 12, 8, 6 and 4 points for each song and all numbers had to be added up in the end to find out who the overall winner is.

The Italian song *Volare* won the contest. L' Italie - 26 points.

Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip

The annual Geography GCSE trip to Swanage was once again blessed with good weather to see Old Harry and Lulworth Cove, although sadly sea mist prevented sight of Durdle Door!

The students worked hard and collected some excellent fieldwork data on the beach.



Year 12 Economics Students Enjoy Talk From OPA Stefani Williams

Stefani Williams, a former pupil of Old Palace, visited Year 12 Economists to talk about pursuing a career in the Finance sector, particularly for women. She discussed how studying A Level Economics inspired her to complete a degree in the subject, and that even today Economics is still a very male dominated degree, with only 25% of Economics university students being female.

She then spoke about how this led her to a career in finance. Stefani is a Chartered Financial planner at Holden & Partners, which involves working with clients to manage their wealth and plan for their future (e.g., retirement planning or tax-efficient investing). She spoke about how connecting with her clients on a personal basis and promoting sustainable and ethical investment were some of her favourite aspects of her job.

Overall, Stefani's talk was very informative and thought-provoking, especially when she encouraged us to feel empowered rather than intimidated when entering a male-dominated setting at any point during our future career. She also motivated more of our Economics class to consider a potential career in finance, so I think I can speak on behalf of my class when I say it was a very enjoyable and useful talk.

Albertina, Year 12



Sports Presentation Evening

Our Sports Presentation evening is an opportunity to celebrate and recognise those students who have been very involved in Sport at Old Palace.

We were thrilled to welcome ELLIE RAYER as our guest speaker on Monday night. Ellie is a GB and England Hockey Player and was part of the Tokyo Olympic Team GB squad who won bronze and the Team England Squad at last year's Commonwealth Games - winning gold!

Her talk encouraged students to enjoy the journey in sport and appreciate that you only thrive on the 'highs' in sport because of the 'lows' you might encounter along the way. She stressed how sport really builds resilience in an individual as well as many other life skills.

Ellie was a great role model for our students and it really was a pleasure to have her with us for the evening.





Annie Evans Violin Result

Well done Annie!

Many congratulations to Annie in Year 8 who passed her Grade 8 violin with a distinction!



This is a hugely impressive result, passing the highest grade with the highest possible result.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY... **RATIONING ENDS**

On July 4, 1954, meat and all other food rationing finally ended in the UK. Rationing had been in place for fourteen years since 1940, when it had been introduced early in World War II. A typical weekly adult ration had included 4oz Bacon or Ham, 2oz cheese, 2oz butter, 8oz sugar and 1 egg!



OPA Summer Reunion 2023

On Saturday, we welcomed over 80 alumnae to our annual OPA Summer Reunion and what a lovely day it was; the sun shone, we enjoyed an excellent lunch in the historic Banqueting Hall and our Sixth Form guides kindly showed guests around the Old Palace.

As one of our alumna said: *"I really appreciated all the work that went into making it such a successful and enjoyable event and particularly the extensive and unrushed tour of the wonderful old building, with its many memories for all of us".*

If you've not been to the OPA Summer Reunion yet, we hold it every year towards the end of June. Look out for the 2024 date on the OPA section of the school website soon.



Performing Arts Showcase

The Performing Arts Showcase was a wonderful collaborative event, that provided students with the opportunity to display their skills in music, dance and drama.

The performance began with an energising and entertaining performance of *Come Alive!* from chamber choir, this feel good performance encouraged audience members to shake awake and dream big. Other musical performances included Senior Choir's beautiful and emotional performance of a medley from *Les Misérables*, and our Year 9 and 12 vocal quartet who transformed into princesses for the night with *Songs of a Disney Princess*.

The night was also filled with entertaining and moving theatrical extracts. The first was an extract from *Annie the Musical*. Students rose to the challenge of portraying these classic characters and the choreography performed by the Year 7 dance ensemble in *Hard Knock Life* was to a very high standard. Despite this being a challenging undertaking, the students performed with such maturity and passion, the audience were certainly entertained! Other performances included an extract from *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe;

a thought provoking and exciting piece about young girls in an American soccer team. The actors in this piece astounded the audience with their ability to perform with such emotional maturity whilst using an unfamiliar style. The actors also impressed the audience with their profoundly moving and empowering performance of *The Greek Women*, a story of powerful females in Greek theatre and literature who were finally given a voice.

The dancers of Old Palace also performed with grace and fluidity in *The Waiting Room*. This piece told the story of four patients, whose spirits depart from this world and enter into a new realm; the afterlife. The audience were immersed in the emotions and beauty of this piece, and cherished its message of love and life. The night ended with a collaborative and spirit-raising performance of *Blinded by Your Grace, Pt. 2* by Stormzy which filled the performance space with love and light.

The Performing Arts Showcase was the epitome of unity and showcased Old Palace students as truly confident, capable and connected performers.



Performing Arts Showcase *continued*







Year 10 & 12 History & Politics: Hamilton

The Hamilton trip for Year 12 Politics students, and Year 10 History students was a wild success. Act one focused on the war of independence, and the battle tactics used by the American army, relating to the migration topic studied by Year 10 students where they study this.

Act two focused on the aftermath of the war, with the creation of the new American government and its economic system created and promoted by Alexander Hamilton (the star of the show), consolidating Year 12's understanding of the constitution for their exams.

The music and visuals were entrancing and drew everybody in, teaching them in a method different from in the classroom. This trip has created widespread love for the subjects and was very effective at making the students understand their topic at a deeper level that will stick with them through their exams and for the rest of their lives.

Here was some feedback from students and staff:

'It was a thrilling performance' **Year 12 student**

'The cast was excellent' **Year 10 student**

'Eliza and King George III were my favourite characters!'
Year 10 student

'The cast had very strong singers' **Mr Griffith**



Polyphonic Sees the Year Out in Style

On Monday 19th June, Polyphonic choir sang their last evensong of the academic year at Croydon Minster. We were joined by two tenor and two bass singers.

We sang repertoire by Stanford including his *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* in G, in which Ria in Year 13 and a guest baritone sang spectacular solos.

This was the last evensong that polyphonic sang this academic year. It was particularly special for the Year 13s that are leaving us.

Lily T, Year 8



England Pathway Event - Tahalia and Bethany

On 30th May, Bethany and myself attended the F.A Women's England, National Talent Event. This was held at the University of Warwick.

We took part in passing drills, mini matches and ended the day with a tournament. I saw some players that I recognised from previous teams that I have played against.

It was a great honour for myself and Bethany to be recognised by the England F.A. I look forward to whatever the future brings.

Tahalia, Year 11



Year 7 Make DT Aprons

Year 7 students have completed making their own aprons in Textiles/ DT.



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