



AROUND THE PALACE



Dear all,

It has been great to see our students return after the summer break even if the weather this week has confused us all into thinking it is July again.

Over the summer, we enjoyed celebrating some very positive GCSE and A Level results. More details on this can be found in this bulletin along with individual and team successes in

some competitions and Old Palace's contribution to the invasion of giraffes throughout the borough of Croydon!

Welcome back everyone.

Jane Burton, Head

OP Team Wins Mayor of London Design Future Award *article on page 7*



Students Celebrate A Level and GCSE Success



Sophia



Alison (Joint Head Girl)



Lilia and Suraiya (Joint Head Girl)

A Level Results 2023

It was such a pleasure to be able to celebrate our students' A Level success with their families on Results Day at Old Palace.

In particular, we would like to congratulate Sophia, who is taking up her place at Oxford to read English and French (A* A* A and A* in her EPQ) and to our Joint Head Girls, Suraiya and Alison, who both achieved straight A*s and are off to study at Warwick (Maths) and UCL (Geography). In fact, 20% of students achieved the impressive feat of straight A*/A grades and almost a quarter (24%) of students achieved at least one A*, which is a remarkable accomplishment.

A huge well done to all our Year 13 students on securing places at some very competitive universities/courses, including Medicine, Law, Mathematics, Chemistry and Biochemistry. The most popular university was Warwick (4 students) followed closely by UCL and King's College, London (3 students).

- 70% of students achieved their first/second choice of university
- Almost half of students secured places at Russell Group universities
- 3 students secured places to study Medicine

We were especially pleased to celebrate the success of six students who have been at Old Palace since Reception at the Prep School.

Congratulations to:

Sophia: Oxford, English & French

Alyssa: King's College, London, English Language & Linguistics

Ione: Brighton, PE with QTS (Secondary)

Ria: Liverpool Hope, Film, TV, Radio & Media Production

Emily: Art Foundation

Aashni: De Montfort – Biomedical Sciences

Whilst traditional subjects at university are still popular with our students, it's interesting to see a number who have decided to pursue subjects which seem immediately pertinent to the issues facing the modern world, such as Global Sustainable Development and Population Health Sciences.

We wish them all the best for their future, whatever and wherever that might be. Don't forget to come back and see us – our students really appreciate hearing first hand what life at university is like.



Students Celebrate A Level and GCSE Success *continued*



GCSE Results 2023

Congratulations to our Year 11 students on a set of outstanding GCSE results. An impressive 65.5% of students achieved 9-7 grades whilst almost a fifth achieved four or more grade 9s.

Rebecca achieved the remarkable feat of achieving 10 grade 9s and Vedika secured straight 9/8s. All our departments achieved excellent results, for example over a quarter of students achieving a grade 9 in Maths and over a fifth secured a 9 in Biology. Other notable successes (80% 9-7 grades) were in English Language, French, Greek, History, Latin, PE and RS.

We would also like to welcome the six new external students who joined Year 12 this week.



Rebecca achieved 10 grade 9s



Welcome to our New Year 7 Students

We were so pleased to welcome our new Year 7 students on Wednesday – especially on such a lovely, sunny day. They all looked very smart in their new uniforms.





Welcome Year 7 and Prep



Catherine and Lola-Marie's Professional Debut

Over the Summer, Catherine in Year 9 and Lola-Marie in Year 8 took part in Grange Park Opera's professional production of Massenet's *Werther*, alongside some boy performers who came from Trinity's excellent boys choir. The production received some terrific reviews with some particular praise for the young performers. The Times stated '*The children's chorus's Noel is beautifully fresh at first, and, at the fateful close, an unwittingly cruel reminder of all that's been lost.*' And the Arts Desk wrote '*The children's chorus were vocally strong and flawless with movement*'

The two students had this to say about their experience:

Earlier this year, Lola-Marie and I were given the amazing opportunity to sing in an opera called *Werther* by Jules Massenet. The opera was put on as part of Grange Park Opera's season this summer and we joined four boys from Trinity Boys Choir to perform the parts of the young children.

We started rehearsals in May and the last show was in early July. We got the chance to work with incredible professional soloists, and we all really enjoyed the story, which is about a young poet named Werther who falls in love with a young woman named Charlotte, and wants to marry her.

However, Charlotte has promised to her now dead mother that she will marry a man named Albert, and so has to turn down Werther's proposal, even though she has come to love him. Werther decides that he cannot live if he can't be with Charlotte, and so kills himself at the end of the opera.

My character was called Gretel, and I was the oldest of all the children characters we played. I loved the music and the principal singers were all fantastic, and Lola-Marie and I are very grateful to have been able to work with them and have the experience of performing on a large stage in front of so many people! We had a great time performing and we will never forget this incredible opportunity.

Catherine, Year 9

Playing Clara in *Werther* at Grange Park Opera was a fantastic experience. It was very interesting to see what happens backstage with all the lights, props and beautiful costumes. The grounds of the Opera theatre were magical.

Finally, all the cast and crew were lovely. I enjoyed my time there very much and would like to thank the school and Trinity for providing such a wonderful opportunity.

Lola-Marie, Year 8



Credit: Mark Brenner photographer



OP Team Wins Mayor of London Design Future Award *continued*

We are so excited and proud at the news that Old Palace has won the Mayor of London Design Future London award (16-18 year old category).

Our Year 12 team of Geographers, Engineers, Design and Architects created a fantastic design to redevelop Allders as an eco friendly community hub.



The challenge was to redesign a part of central Croydon, and the teams were tasked with identifying a particular part of the High Street to focus on and to create a design that met the needs of the local community.

They selected the Allders building because although it was once a thriving part of Croydon's high street, and the third largest department store in the UK, it sadly closed its doors in 2013.



Their design encouraged the diverse community of Croydon to come together and help to restore the sense of community and pride within Croydon.

They chose to use and retain the iconic structure of the building, but also to add a green wall of living plants to the façade. Each floor was designed to have a specific purpose with the old Allders carpark being converted into a safe and welcoming space for refugees and the homeless. The ground floor became a community and service hub for the elderly, and the first floor a community recreation area for young people. The third floor was converted into a sports zone with pool and the roof was converted into an urban garden and biodome.

The finalists were invited to a prizegiving ceremony on the 14th July hosted by the Mayor of London, and students were able to learn about the creative designs from competitor schools across London, and also to network with professional architects and planners. After a nerve-wracking morning we were thrilled when the results were announced!

Success at the BAFTA Young Game Designers Competition 2023



Clean City is a game designed by my friend Nega and myself in Computer Science for the BAFTA Young Game Designers 2023 competition.

This game is about cleaning the city. In this game you fly in an aeroplane above the city and collect as much rubbish as you can in two minutes. As you can see in the picture there are hoops and coins to help you navigate and help you keep on track.

We had decided on this idea due to the good message it passes to help to clean your city. The coins you collect allow you to customise your aeroplane as well as the city you are flying above and unlock new levels and different countries you fly over.

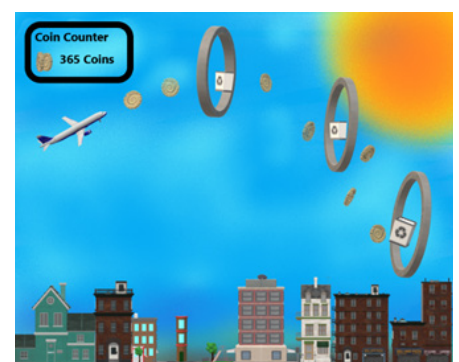
Our game managed to make it to the semi-finals, but sadly not to the finals. As we had made it to the semi-finals



we have been offered complimentary BAFTA YGD Showcase tickets.

Overall, myself and Nega had a great experience entering this competition and had a lot of fun.

Mythili, Year 7 (now Year 8)



Reception's First Library Session



Reception with Ms Elliott and Ms Pringle (Francesca & Chloe were away)



Reception enjoying their first Library lesson with Miss Tosh



Miss Tosh invited a very special guest



Hiru Wins Gold & Silver at English Schools Swimming Championships



We are so proud of Hiru, in Year 6, who scooped a gold and silver medal in the English Schools Summer Swimming Championships.

Hiru writes:

The weekend after we broke up from school in July, I took part in the English Schools Summer Swimming Championships. They were held at the K2 in Crawley – a 50m swimming pool which is twice the length of our school pool and has twice as many lanes. I swam two events; the 100m Backstroke and the 50m Butterfly.

I was delighted to win the gold medal in the Backstroke race, which is my best stroke.

I also won the silver medal in the Butterfly event, missing gold by the smallest of margins (less than a finger tip distance in fact).

I am so happy I could represent Old Palace at English National level, and winning was the icing on the cake! The medals are very big and beautiful. I feel this is my best achievement so far.

I now look forward to the start of the new season. I already have competitions scheduled; Surrey Relays in early September and the Octopus League Relay gala, amongst others. I am eager to represent Old Palace again soon and build on my recent success.

Well done Hiru!

Croydon Stands Tall Goes Live



Mrs Wallis was invited to the Preview Evening of Croydon Stands Tall at the Fairfield Halls. She was delighted to see that out of 10 small giraffes on display, ours was one of them (decorated in the Old Palace colours of purple and green of course!).

See if you can find our giraffe on the trail.

Trail maps are available to pick up around Croydon. There is also an app which is available on both Google Play and the app store. When you collect the code which is displayed at each giraffe there are offers/discounts for places and venues around Croydon.

You can donate to our JustGiving page where we are raising money to support Crisis in particular the Crisis Skylight Croydon, by clicking here:

<http://tinyurl.com/mvrxskae>



RSPB Silver Award



36 Be Wild Club girls completed at least two of the following activities over the course of last year, one activity to help nature and one to experience nature.

The six activities were: Composting, Fundraising, Mini Beast Safari, Wildlife Detecting, Sensing the World and Planting for Wildlife



ABRSM Music Exam Results

Name	Form	Instrument	Grade	Result
Eleanor	4J	Singing	2	Distinction
Eleanor	4J	Viola	4	Distinction
Amelia	7A	Singing	1	Distinction
Jasmine	6J	Piano	1	Distinction
Lottie	5J	Piano	1	Distinction
Lana	3J	Piano	1	Distinction
Hoi Kiu	6J	Singing	1	Distinction
Holly	5J	Piano	3	Distinction
Aideen	4J	Piano	1	Distinction
Aideen	4J	Cello	1	Distinction
Safah	4J	Piano	2	Distinction
Elyse	7A	Musical Theatre	3	Merit
Lola	7L	Singing	4	Merit
Aadya	4J	Piano	2	Merit
Amelia	10L	Piano	7	Merit
Hephzibah	9A	Piano	1	Merit
Anokhi	5J	Violin	2	Merit
Anokhi	5J	Piano	2	Merit
Eileen	3J	Violin	Initial Grade	Merit

Name	Form	Instrument	Grade	Result
Zara	7	Violin	2	Pass
Sabrina	7L	Clarinet	2	Pass
Avika	6W	Flute	3	Pass
Natalie	10S	Violin	7	Pass
Sabrina	7L	Singing	3	Pass
Reya	8H	Flute	5	Pass
Aanya	5J	Clarinet	1	Pass
Davinna	8A	Singing	2	Pass
Amber	9L	Piano	3	Pass
Aashna	5J	Violin	2	Pass
Chloe	7A	Flute	3	Pass
Lola	7L	Flute	5	Pass
Sanjana	10H	Trumpet	4	Pass
Sophie	9L	Singing	6	Pass
Methuni Hiru	5J	Violin	3	Pass
Tia Amelie	8S	Piano	5	Pass
Vaonaishe Nicole	10H	Piano	2	Pass
Ada	7L	Trumpet	2	Pass

Senior School Open Morning

Inspiring girls' futures since 1889



Saturday, 30 September 9.00am - 11.00am

Follow us on:



Find out more at: www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk



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