



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



After the very difficult weeks encountered by the whole school community last half term, we thought it a good idea to re-introduce the Bulletin this half term so we can share some of the positive things that have happened since term started in September.

We will now continue to publish the Bulletin going forward so that our students' successes and contributions to school life can be shared by the whole school community.

I very much hope that you enjoy this edition.

**Jane Burton, Head**

## Black History Month: Visit by the Bishop of Croydon





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As part of Black History Month, Rt. Revd. Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon, addressed the school community at our morning assembly.

She shared with us the 'Three Cs' that had shaped her life and career: curiosity, compassion and consideration for others. She spoke of her childhood in Barbados, where her ancestors had been enslaved on sugarcane plantations with her surname a reminder of that brutal history, her move to the UK to join her parents who had travelled to the UK as part of the Windrush Generation, her academic career in international development and ethno-cultural

mental health which led her to travel around the world to work in countries such as Tanzania and Ethiopia and finally her call to ordained ministry in the Church of England.

Throughout her career, she has been a powerful champion for racial and social justice and she ended by encouraging us to hold onto our dreams and hopes for a better life.



## European Day of Languages at Seniors

In order to celebrate European Day of Languages which falls on the 26th of September every year, pupils were invited to take part in two workshops. Mrs Finotti, our Italian teacher, led a Venetian mask-making workshop where pupils could each decorate a mask with feathers, glitter and paint (wearing a mask is a yearly tradition in Venice when the carnival takes place in February).

Meanwhile, the Musical Theatre Club, led by Ms Berk and her team of Sixth Form students, also led a very exciting workshop in Spanish for students to sing songs from musicals they knew in a different language. It was great fun.

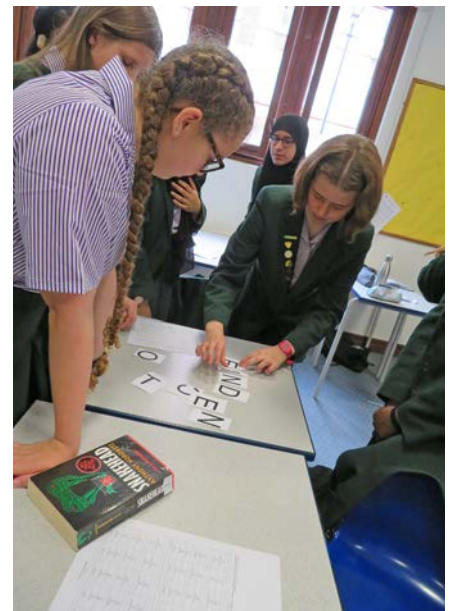




## Year 10: Team Building

Year 10 started the academic year demonstrating they have the attributes to be Confident, Capable and Connected as they completed a series of challenges.

It was exciting to see them work together and independently, utilising a range of skills and creative thinking. Who knew you could make the pyramid of Giza out of custard creams. What monument could you build out of custard creams and cocktail sticks?





## Dance: Alvin Ailey American Dance Company

*Are you in Your Feelings?* by Kyle Abraham was the one piece that stood out to me the most. The lighting was very important in showing the emotions that the dancers portrayed.

A warm orange/red light symbolised love and it set the mood for the rest of the piece. Wearing bright, bold shades of pink, orange and blue reflected the passionate love that the dancers displayed through the slow and intimate movements. The music was what set the scene for me; the smooth jazz, R & B and pop songs complimented the cool, calm atmosphere the dancers created with their immaculate timing and precision.

The style of the dance was what seemed to be a sensual duet, but with multiple couples on stage conveying all types of relationships in the space of the stage. The meaning of this piece can be applied to any member of the audience, whether it's the appreciation of Black culture or the feeling of breaking up with someone, getting together or just the emotion of love itself. Having the movements relate to the song that is being heard also highlights certain words that are sung or spoken which help the audience to enjoy and understand what is happening.

Kyle Abraham was very successful in communicating his choreographic intent to the audience because I understood what was going on and every movement was fiercely detailed, my eyes travelled with the dancers.

Olivia, Year 10



The use of dialogue in the opening piece, *'Are you in your feelings?'* by Kyle Abraham was particularly memorable and gave us a closer insight into the relationships between the dancers. There were hilarious interactions between the dancers, referencing the reality of modern-day conversation. This helped communicate the choreographer's intent of the dance; showcasing modern day love and the ways in which we convey our emotions. This makes the audience feel at home, as this contemporary setting is what we are familiar with.

The repetition of fluid arm movements created a smooth, aesthetically pleasing dance. The curved arms often looked like a circle. To me, it mimicked the cyclical emotions that come with relationship; happiness, stress, conflict. The soft dynamics helped create a mellow atmosphere that is calming for the audience, while having a deeper hidden meaning.

Theresa, Year 10

## Revelations

The warm, sunny lighting in the group piece called *Rocka My Soul in Bosom of Abraham* created a vibrant and inviting atmosphere. The use of yellow lighting symbolises the joy and positivity of the black, Southern, American. It also suggests happiness and energy as *Rocka My Soul in Bosom of Abraham* is meant to celebrate the 20th Century Black, American church experience and to signify its importance in their culture.

The use of props such as fans and stools helped in setting the scene of a church; for example, the audience when the group of 'church' women were using their fans as almost an extension of their arms whilst making everyday gestures, created a fun and lively atmosphere.

The general wash of yellow lighting on the stage and the choreographed realism of the fan movements successfully communicated to the audience a typical experience of a black, Southern Church.

Amira, Year 10



## Dance: Alvin Ailey American Dance Company *continued*



### Dance: Alvin Ailey American Dance Company

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Company performed a collection of pieces at Sadler's Wells called *Contemporary Voices*. They're a company of predominately young African American modern dancers who have performed for around 25 million people all over the world, as well as sharing their talent on television and online platforms. Alvin Ailey created the company to allow African Americans a platform in which they could perform in the contemporary style. After he died, both Judith Jamison and Robert Battle have continued his legacy by presenting his most important works. This performance was a clear symbol of that as they performed his main piece *Revelations* and continued to use his choreographic ideology in other pieces created by Robert Battle.

The performance consisted of four contrasting pieces, each showcasing different styles and production features. The first piece *Are You in Your*

*Feelings?* by Kyle Abraham was one of the most captivating pieces. The mix of more traditional dance styles infused with socially and culturally inspired movements to a much more modern and current aural setting was key to its alluring features. The musicality highlighted by the dancers in this piece was, for me, the best feature of this piece. Each movement highlighted a different part of the lyrics, or instrumental in the music. The dancers hit each beat, snare and so on, making the piece unpredictable and forcing the audience to be constantly engaged.

The use of a modern story line of the ups and downs of a relationship accompanied with songs this generation like, portraying different periods of a relationship made the piece so much more relevant, relatable and interesting.

The storyline was conveyed further through the lyrics and story of each specific song, showing the care that was taken whilst creating this piece to make the story line as clear and concise as possible, without making it predictable. The use of speech in this piece heightened the unpredictability and its ability to draw in an audience. Some of the speech was from monologues from different songs and some speech was by the dancers themselves, expressing the current part of the story and introducing humour and relatable language and actions for a modern audience.

The piece was somewhat more relatable for those of black decent, with urban movements, dancehall style movements and pedestrian characteristics movements associated

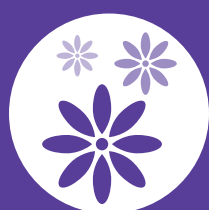
with and awareness of black African/ Caribbean decent. The flowery and colourful costumes drew in the audience, the informality of the choice of costumes highlighted the everyday feel of the piece and the relationships experienced.

Act 2 consisted of two pieces. The first was a gripping, fast-paced jazz piece *For Four* by Robert Battle performed by a quartet. The use of lighting in this piece was the highlight. The lights created a rectangular strip stage left that acted as a sort of catwalk for each dancer to enter the stage.

One by one they had a solo travelling across, giving each dancer a chance to show their character and personality within this piece. The aural setting consisted of a traditional Jazz/Funk track that complemented the style and the movement. The next piece, *Unfold* by Robert Battle, had a more balletic feel.

Although quite a traditional piece, it was largely dramatic. The aural setting was an Italian operatic aria which is very passionate and this highlighted the drama within the choreography. The name of the piece reflects the movement. The female dancer started and ended in a straight legged back bend from which she folded and folded again through the piece. Despite not being the most exciting piece of the four, it was very entrancing.

Jaéda, 13H



Old Palace  
**Alumnae**

## OPA & Friends Carol Service

Monday, 11 December 2023  
6pm-7pm

Mince pies & mulled wine will be available before and after the service.



RSVP: [nberry@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:nberry@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)



## Year 9: Trip to Kew Gardens

Just before half term, Year 9 spent the day in Kew Gardens.

Blessed with warm sunshine, the students enjoyed spending time together, and also carried out some research into the plant adaptations found in deserts and rainforests for their Geography lessons.





### Netball v Riddlesdown

On Wednesday 4th October, Netball Teams A and B were invited to a match at Riddlesdown for a friendly competition. Team A started off strong with 4 nil in the first quarter and finished with a whopping 10-3 to OPS.

Our amazing goal attack and shooter were Tianna and Savannah who scored all our goals. Team B too managed 9-6 to OPS with Gracie-Mae and Chloe as Team B's remarkable goal attack and shooter. Although our teams won, we learned that there are still things we can improve on to make a more efficient game and push us to work harder.

An outstanding well done to both Teams A and B for a flawless start to the season!

Kemafo, 85



### Year 9 Netball Match Report



On Wednesday 10th October, the Year 9 A and B netball teams were joined at Old Palace by Riddlesdown for their first netball match of the season.

The Riddlesdown A team defence were solid throughout the game but Old Palace displayed courage and constantly managed to work the ball into their shooting circle, although they just fell short at converting the passes into goals.

Despite the best efforts of the team, they lost 13-2. Player of the Match went to Kara for her amazing play throughout the court.



The B team started off solidly and the defence intercepted lots of passes. The attack then managed to bring the ball through the court and convert into goals.

The whole team consistently played well and the match ended in a 6-6 draw. Player of the Match went to Shaniyah for her fantastic attacking play.

### Off Site PE

Just to let parents know that we're off site for a number of PE lessons doing football and soon – hockey, at both Whitgift and Trinity Schools.

### Senior Netball v Sydenham High

On Monday 25th September, our Senior Netball A & B teams played against Sydenham High at home. Unfortunately, our A team lost 8-13 and our B team also faced defeat with a 9-19 score. Although we were disappointed with the results, there are plenty of positives to take away from this match.

For the B team, Stephanie, our GK, won Player of the Match for her brilliant defence work. On the A team, the Player of the Match was Anna A for her stand out performance. We will continue to work on our chemistry as a team whilst we adapt to playing with different members of the squad as well as learning new positions.

Hopefully, our first win of the season will not be too far away and we'll continue working hard in our Monday training sessions to achieve this.

Skye W, Year12

### U13 Football

Congratulations to our U13 Football team who played a friendly against Wallington Girls before half term and won 4-3.





### Year 8: Cross Country

Well done to Ellie, Sofia, Sierra, Ishika and Liana who represented the school at the Croydon Schools Cross Country Championships before half term.

Approximately 80 students took part in the 3km race. They all completed the course in good time, but a special mention goes to Ellie, who finished in 11th place. Mary-Rose (Sports Leader Level 3) was also in attendance and volunteered her services at the finish line; distributing place tokens to the runners upon completion of the course.



### Archery

Zoe and Grace (Year 12) helped at a primary schools archery competition at St David's Primary School.

Zoe and I went to run an archery competition at St David's Primary School. We were able to have an opportunity to develop key skills that will be noted down for our Sports Leaders qualification Level 3.

We both enjoyed this opportunity as it was interesting to have a go at a sport that is not offered here at OPS,

and help younger students setting up the bows and arrows. There were many different variations on how to earn points at each sections of this competition which created a more enjoyable experience for the younger students and this helped us when expanding skills like communication that we use often when running our own sessions.

Overall, we found this experience useful for our qualification and also enjoyed working with a younger year group, as it was an opportunity that we don't often get.

**Grace, Year 12**





### House Benchball

House Benchball is always a much anticipated event with plenty of excitement, competitiveness, shouting, cheering and fun. This year's was no exception!

Before half term, the Sports Leaders in Year 12 (Grace and Zoe) organised a great event for students in Year 7 and 8. This was the first experience for many, so time was taken to clarify the rules before starting. Zoe and Grace had a schedule planned and kept score to arrive at the winning team, which was Stafford. Laud came 2nd, Hatton came 3rd and Anslem came 4th.

A huge thank you to the Sports Leaders for organising the event and to the staff and house leaders for helping out.



### Medal Muddle

**Can you recreate the medal table from this information?**

Thirteen nations competed in a sports tournament. Unfortunately, we do not have the final medal table, but we have the following pieces of information:

1. Turkey and Mexico both finished above Italy and New Zealand.
2. Portugal finished above Venezuela, Mexico, Spain and Romania.
3. Romania finished below Algeria, Greece, Spain and Serbia.
4. Serbia finished above Turkey and Portugal, both of whom finished below Algeria and Russia.
5. Russia finished above France and Algeria.
6. Algeria finished below France but above Serbia and Spain.
7. Italy finished below Greece and Venezuela, but above New Zealand.
8. Venezuela finished above New Zealand but below Greece.
9. Greece finished below Turkey, who came below France.
10. Portugal finished below Greece and France.
11. France finished above Serbia, who came above Mexico.
12. Venezuela finished below Mexico, and New Zealand came above Spain.

*Answer on page 20*





## Poppy Day 2023 (Seniors)

Student librarians in their colourful lanyards will be around the library and Old Palace seniors, promoting books linked to and selling poppies and merchandise for Remembrance Day.

Paper poppies and merchandise will be available to buy from The Friends' Library every morning break and lunch time from 1st November until Friday 10th November.

Suggested donations from £1.00



## Library Buddies

On behalf of the whole of Prep, 5J would like to thank our dear friend and librarian, Mrs Bhatt, for all the wonderful books she has so kindly donated for every classroom. She has certainly chosen some great titles and knows exactly what everyone enjoys! We miss her and we are all trying to read even more, to make her proud!





## Year 6 Spend time with their Reception Buddies

In September, our Year 6 pupils spent time getting to know their Reception buddies.

After spending the morning helping with activities in the classroom, the girls enjoyed going outside at lunchtime to make mud pies in the mud kitchen and having fun on the swings.

It was lovely to see the oldest and youngest pupils having such fun together.





## Year 5 & 6: Teambuilding

Teambuilding is a new activity for Year 5 & 6 this year. On Monday, both year groups got together in the gym to experience a number of exciting activities designed to improve their teambuilding skills and challenge the girls thinking about working together. Thank you to The Hub Challenge for such a fun day.





## Pre School: French

Today Coco, (a little French pig), wanted to show Pre-school some of his favourite things about France. He brought in his special bag with items associated with France. As you can see, his favourite French game is "boules" and he loves to eat cheese and chocolate. He had fun saying bonjour and playing with the girls.





## Thank you from Purley Food Hub

Dear Parveen,

Please find attached our thank-you certificate from Purley Food Hub to the pupils, families and staff of Old Palace Preparatory School for the donations from this month's Harvest Celebration.

We are most grateful for the school's generous support, especially at this increasingly difficult time for so many people.

As you may know, at the Food Hub we provide three-day emergency food parcels to local families in crisis, and this month we passed 325,000 meals for over 36,000 people since we opened in 2013.

It is directly through the amazing support we receive from schools like Old Palace Preparatory, as well as churches, businesses, community organisations and many individuals and families, that - together - we can make a real difference to clients and their families currently facing real hardship.

And this support means that we will continue to be here for people in crisis for as long as there continues to be a need.

We hope you will be able to bring our certificate to the attention of the pupils, their families and the staff and display it within the school.

With our warmest thanks and best wishes,

Steve Hunt

Purley Food Hub



This certificate is awarded to the

**Pupils, Families & Staff of  
OLD PALACE  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

for the generous donations to  
Purley Food Hub from your  
**HARVEST CELEBRATION**  
in October 2023.

We are most grateful for your support -  
it will help to make a real difference  
to families in crisis who are facing  
real hardship at this time.



PURLEY FOOD HUB  
Tel: 01546 606291 | Email: purleyfoodhub@gmail.com  
Website: www.purleyfoodhub.org  
Charity no: 1112807 | Company no: 08557885



## Year 5 & 6 Netball Champions



A huge congratulations to our Year 5 & 6 Netball team who won the Seaton House Competition earlier this week.

They were unbeaten against 7 other teams.

Well done girls. Mrs Coster is VERY proud of you all.

# MOZART AT THE MINSTER

**PIANO CONCERTO NO. 20 K. 466 | REQUIEM K. 626**

Whitgift Chamber Choir  
The Choir of Croydon Minster  
London Mozart Players

Saturday 11 November 2023  
7pm / Croydon Minster

Tickets are by donation  
(£15 suggested) at Eventbrite

[www.croydonminster.org](http://www.croydonminster.org)



All proceeds from this concert will  
be donated to Lives not Knives





## Pre School: Forest School

Pre School children made the most of a sunny autumn afternoon this week by learning some Forest skills. Despite everywhere being very wet, Mrs Anderson managed to get the fire going and the girls were even able to toast some marshmallows.





## Fatemah is top Restless Development Fundraiser



Fatemah was invited to an event held by Restless Development for all the top fundraisers who took part in their school's triathlon.

It was held in the heart of the City at 6pm so Fatemah had to change and leave right after school.

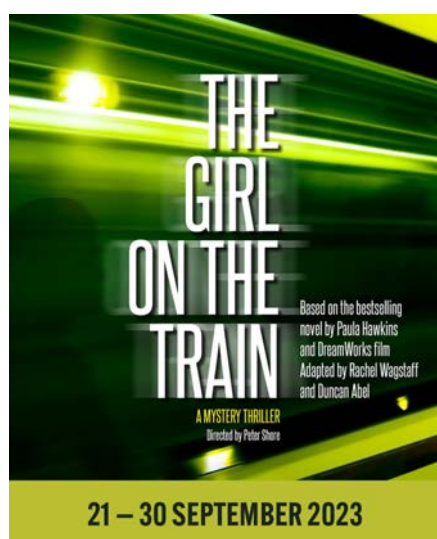
A huge congratulations to Fatemah, who was their No1 top fundraiser out of all the events this year! 7,500 children took part this year.

She managed to raise in total £2,800. That is an incredible achievement.

Well done Fatemah.



## 'The Girl on the Train' – Miller Theatre Company Soundtrack Recording



Year 6 Prep students Holly and Olivia recorded the *Magpie Song* for the forthcoming *The Girl on the Train* production at the Miller Theatre in Caterham, which opened for a 10 show run.

[www.millercentrtheatre.org/index.php/currentseason/14-coming-productions/thisseason/271-train](http://www.millercentrtheatre.org/index.php/currentseason/14-coming-productions/thisseason/271-train)

They recorded a beautifully expressive acapella version of the *Magpie Song* (One for sorrow, two for joy...) and the Director Peter Shore and the cast loved their evocative and haunting vocals. Holly's solo vocal lines opened the whole show and Olivia's began the second half. They then sang a short chorus together.

**Olivia said**

*'We had an amazing opportunity to sing a spooky nursery rhyme and make a recording for a play. We did two 'takes' in the music room and six in the small hall. I preferred the small hall as it sounded echoey.'*



**Holly said**

*'We were so excited to have this opportunity. Our voices seemed to blend and work so well together. We slowed down together at the end to create an even more eerie atmosphere.'*

Holly and Olivia met the Director at the theatre on Saturday to look around the set.

A huge thank you to their singing teacher, Miss Lucas, for helping to prepare the girls for the recording and to Mme McMullen for connecting us with the theatre.

**Miss Fitzgerald**





## European Day of Languages and Diversity



On the 21st September, Mrs Warren organised a Year 1 and Year 2 assembly on Hispanic Latino Heritage. They discussed what heritage means and that the children share heritages reflecting the cultural richness of our school. They spoke of the geography of where Spanish is spoken in the world. Mrs Warren brought some fans and pottery from Spain and shared them with the children. Some children shared the Spanish words they know (greetings and counting to 5). They also watched a short, dynamic video of Latino children saying where they came from and something about the culture of their country, such as salsa dancing, yummy food and fun festivals.



On the 26th September, the kitchen made a special lunch to mark the day of European Day of Languages. The dining hall was decorated with flags and there was an exotic mix of European cuisines with a tasting table for those who were brave enough to taste something new. The next day we had a whole school singing assembly, where Mrs Warren and Madame McMullen led the song *A Rainbow of Love* in Spanish and French.

Miss Tosh, our new school librarian, provided books for each class to research different European countries and Year 1 even created some beautiful posters. There were also plenty of quizzes, counting games and even an escape room challenge!



## Pre School Harvests Potatoes





## Year 5 French

Just before half term, Year 5 pupils made a delicious fruit salad during their French lesson with Madam McMullen.



## Year 2-6: Soloists Concert

Congratulations to all our Prep pupils who took part in the soloists' concert before half term.

Mrs Fitzgerald was very proud of you all.





## African Storytelling

To celebrate Black History Month, Prep invited African storyteller, Alim, to share the traditional tales of his childhood. Through drumming, call and response and role play, Alim shared cultural life lessons with a focus on resilience, self-belief and teamwork.

The assembly hall was filled with laughter as children enthusiastically took on the roles of characters in the stories. We all agreed that laughter and learning go hand in hand!





## Success for Neeha

Congratulations to Neeha in Year 11 who passed her grade 7 violin and grade 7 singing exam with a merit recently.

This is a wonderful achievement and no-doubt testament to her hard work in preparing for these exams.

## Maths Puzzle Fun page 9 Solution

1. Russia
2. France
3. Algeria
4. Serbia
5. Turkey
6. Greece
7. Portugal
8. Mexico
9. Venezuela
10. Italy
11. New Zealand
12. Spain
13. Romania

## More ABRSM Music Exam Results

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have passed ABRSM music examinations out of school recently:

Name	Year	Instrument	Grade	Result
Saanvi	4	Piano	2	Distinction
Charlotte M	5	Singing	3	Distinction
Kezia	6	Violin	2	Merit



## Prep Staff Netball Match



The Prep Staff celebrated the start of half term with a fun (but very competitive) netball match.