



AROUND THE PALACE

Remembrance Assembly at Prep



Last Friday, our Senior Deputy Head, Mr Christie, together with CCF/Year 11 students Zara and Iqra, visited Prep for a Remembrance Assembly.

Pre School made a splendid poppy wreath which they proudly displayed during the assembly.

Dear all,

Another update on all that has been going on around the school, which I hope you enjoy.

On Saturday 11 November, the School joined with the wider Croydon community to celebrate the life of Elianne Princess Nana Ama Andam.

It was a very emotional day but all those who were in attendance, whether in person or online, were honoured to be able to be part of the service and hear tributes from the School, her Church, family and the community.

Elianne, may you rest in peace.

Jane Burton, Head



Urban Design Competition Winners

Following their success this summer at the Design Future London Challenge, the Year 13 team were invited to a prize experience day at the start of November.

The day was organised by 22 Bishopsgate and The London Centre, and was a day of fun activities, building on their experience in the design challenge.

Students met built environment professionals, visited 22 Bishopsgate to learn how the building has been designed as well as to appreciate the amazing views of London from the top floor.

They also took part in a workshop to create a legacy art piece for the building. In the London Centre they explored the scale model of London.

Here is a link to view their winning entry.



Don't Forget! Autumn Concert

Monday 20 November
at 7.00pm
Croydon Minster



Geography: Adventures in Iceland

During half term, we were lucky enough to visit Iceland with a group of Year 10 -13 students. We had an action-packed itinerary visiting the geyser park, some spectacular waterfalls, including one which we could actually walk behind. We also visited two locations where it is possible to see the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates moving apart, including Þingvellir. Other highlights included walking on a glacier and bathing in naturally heated spa pool.

The teachers are secretly very relieved that there was no volcanic eruption or earthquake during our visit, because we were very close to the recent seismic activity!

You can learn more about what is happening in Iceland [here](#).

Thank you to all the students who took part for their enthusiasm and energy – despite the moments of crazy weather (!), and to the teachers who made the trip possible: Ms Richards, Ms Tamplin, Mrs Barber and Miss Franklin.



Year 12: Healthy Active Lifestyle

We have been fortunate to secure some time slots at Trinity School to use their fitness suite. This is part of our Sixth Form Healthy Active Lifestyle (HAL) sessions. Last week, students were introduced to the different areas of the gym, warmed up and enjoyed using the different equipment. We look forward to the next few sessions!



Flamenco Dancing Workshop - An Immersion into Spanish Culture

On Monday 25th September, a group of us students were lucky enough to have had the opportunity to temporarily escape the stresses of student life and be reborn as graceful Flamenco dancers. For half an hour, our teacher Danielle taught us the fundamental steps of Flamenco; steps which we assembled into a lively duet with our instructor.

Flamenco dancing is anything but quiet, so the first thing we learnt was a loud rhythmic foot stamp and clap sequence that coincided with the music. Next, we learnt to point and retract our feet; movements which formed a basic sequence when paired with flowing arm gestures.

Then, like baby birds taking flight, we started to move across the Banqueting Hall. We bent our hips and stepped side-to-side across the space while bending our arms in graceful arcs. After we had learnt the key steps, we drilled them for the next ten minutes, and refined them until they were second nature.

Finally, it was time for us to transform our solos into duets. After forming a circle, each dancer took turns joining Danielle for a dance in the centre, while the other students maintained the rhythm by clapping merrily to the music.

Learning Flamenco was a fantastic immersion into a foreign culture, since the dance moves seemed to whisk me away to

the sunny streets of Spain. It was also an incredibly uplifting experience: no matter how many times I stumbled or missed a step, Danielle was always there with a gentle correction and a smile. Plus, practising the dance moves was the perfect way to dispel my worries – busying my feet did a great job of busying my mind too!

Thank you so much to Danielle for introducing me to this artform, and Ms Pietragalla for making this opportunity possible.

Lila, Year 11



Old Palace
Alumnae

OPA & Friends Carol Service

Monday, 11 December 2023
6pm-7pm

Refreshments and
tours of the school
are available from
4.30pm-6.00pm &
7.00pm-8.00pm.



RSVP: nberry@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk



On the 10th October, Year 10 Art GCSE students went to London and visited the Tate Modern for a day where we viewed many exhibits to aid us in researching artists and discovering our art style. We drew visual transcriptions of art that we liked and thought would link to our theme for later use in a poster on the Tate.

My favourite piece of art was *A Guide to Trees for Governors and Gardeners* by Yto Barrada and was a short film about the impact of revitalisation of an area for a political agenda and included many small but important details like the symbolism of the palm trees. Overall, I enjoyed the day and will be using the information and drawing from the trip in my art GCSE coursework.

Olive, Year 10



U13 Football

The U13 football team were ball girls at the Crystal Palace v Lewes women's match on Sunday 12th November. This involved being positioned around the perimeter of the pitch and collecting the football when it went out of play to return it to the players.

The weather (mostly) held out, although some light rain did cause Kemafo and Tafe the occasional slip - something which was mentioned by the players during the meet & greet after the match! Luckily, Mr Simpson didn't have to put his chips down to administer first aid.

Everybody had a great day watching Crystal Palace win 3-2, from arguably the best seats in the stadium.



Year 10: Personal Development Day

The whole of Year 10 took part in a team building personal development day on 6 November. This was a day filled with challenges and various exercises to learn how to work together and to develop transferable soft skills when working as part of a team. The Year group enjoyed the day from start to finish and particularly the added bonus of ice cream during the lunch break.

"I liked the variety of activities"

"I improved my team work skills"

"It helped me to think outside of the box"

"I liked the fact that the tasks gave me opportunities to work with different people"



Year 10: Personal Development Day *continued*



Year 10: Food and Nutrition

This term Year 10 Food and Nutrition students Jessica, Laura, Anna, Tahlyah, Leen and Ayesha have been studying food safety and hygiene and investigating the function of the five main nutrient groups.

They have been developing their practical skills in the kitchen and focusing on presentation of their final dishes. They have made fresh pasta feta ravioli with a tomato reduction and grated parmesan, tomato soup with a parmesan crisp drizzled with balsamic vinegar and garlic oil, various international cuisines of their choosing and a traditional British dinner. This week we have been learning to fillet a fresh fish and make a fish pie.



Year 7 & 9 Go Ape

WOW! That was fun! Friday 3rd November was a real adventure for me and all my Year 7 friends including my older peers in Year 9.

We first did the Tree-Top Adventure course, which I found fairly easy. On that course the worst obstacles were those which wobbled around. The second course, now that was challenging! Each obstacle we faced got harder and harder as we progressed. The one that really threw me was the rock climbing wall. It was so hard that I nearly fell off!

One of the best parts was the zip line. As we all approached the end we did our best Tarzan impressions going down, which was hilarious. After lunch we did a team building activity as a whole group. This game was a Go Ape speciality called BABOONZELD and we had to do a range of activities like 'guess the song' and 'scavenger hunt'. My favourite game was 'trivia' as we were all calling out answers and had a good laugh. I was in a team of Year 7s and we were called the 'Silly Sausages'. Although we didn't win, we came in second place and were very proud of ourselves. Overall, I loved this experience as it helped me create stronger bonds with my friends and was an opportunity to meet older peers.

Tehya, Year 7

Last Friday, we went to Go Ape and it was a really exciting experience. I am not the best with heights, but I tried really hard on all the courses. They were all quite high and very wobbly.

Some of the courses meant you had to balance or turn around. For me, the zip line was the scariest part, because you had to run off a platform and the zip line was above lots of foliage and bushes. You landed in a heap of soft dirt. After summoning a lot of courage, and with the cheers of my friends to support me, I managed to do it.

We were all really supportive and proud of each other.

Isla, Year 7



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**Friday 24th to Wednesday
29th November**

Seniors in the Shah Foyer
from 12:45 – 13:30
and at the **Prep School**

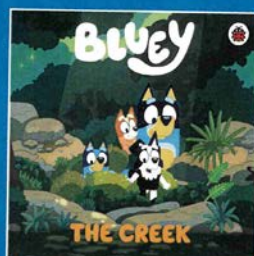
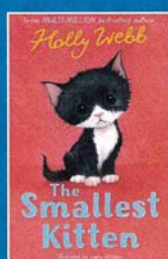
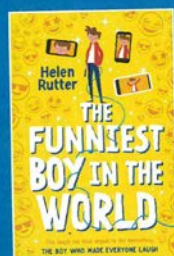
Further information to follow...

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OPA Forthcoming Events

Following the announcement by the John Whitgift Foundation that Old Palace will be closing in August 2025, the school and the OPA have put together a list of forthcoming events:

Monday 11 December 2023

OPA & Friends Carol Service	At 6pm, with refreshments and tours from 4.30-5.30pm and again from 7.00pm-8.00pm
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Saturday 13 April 2024

Reunion Prom	(Evening)
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Saturday 29 June 2024

OPA Summer Reunion	12 noon (lunch followed by tours and tea)
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Friday 27 September 2024

Founder's Day Service	Followed by celebration afternoon/evening event for alumnae
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Monday 9 December 2024

OPA & Friends Carol Service	At 6pm, with refreshments and tours from 4.30-5.30pm and again from 7.00pm-8.00pm
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Saturday 28 June 2025

OPA Summer Reunion	12 noon (lunch followed by tours and tea)
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If a group of alumnae wish to organise a reunion independently for a certain cohort then please contact us.



**Old Palace
Alumnae**

Maths Puzzle Fun

Alphabet Number Puzzle

Using any letter only once, what are the largest and smallest numbers that you can write down in words?

Example: EIGHTY

But not NINETY as N is used twice

Bonus 1: allow negatives such as MINUS TWO

Bonus 2: allow calculations such as TWO SQUARED

Solution on page 16

A Letter from Mrs Panteli



Dear all,

Prep pupils have been making a noise about bullying this week, starting in assembly on Monday morning. Two pupils in RJ earned a special character development merit sticker for their bravery. Francesca and Crystalla started the 'noise about bullying' in assembly by speaking alone in front of the whole of the Prep School and encouraging others to join them in 'making a noise about bullying'.

We all agreed we want our school to always feel safe and happy for everyone, and we learned about the difference between 'banter' and 'bullying' and how we can help each other and ourselves.

Thank you to all the staff and pupils who wore their odd socks to school on Monday as this created a lot of buzz in school. The odd socks raised awareness of and served as a visual reminder of the importance of the topic of anti-bullying. Thank you to the staff for keeping the 'noise' going all week and engaging in really important conversations with the pupils about bullying. Pupils have been learning about what bullying is, how to spot it, how to help and importantly, that sometimes bullies do not know they are causing hurt, which means that often they need help from adults too.

Please encourage your daughters to talk to any adult in school if they are worried about bullying, and if you or your daughters have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact their Form Tutor.

Mrs Jodene Panteli
Head of Preparatory

French Games

This week, the pupils have been playing French games during their lunchtime. Not only is this fun, but it also allows the girls to expand their friendship groups beyond their own class.

At Prep, we have 'wellbeing' Year 6 prefects, who help the younger girls share games. This week, they have been learning about "La Marelle" (Hopscotch); the French version starts on earth ("La Terre") and goes up to Heaven ("Le Ciel").



Year 2: Whitgift House Tea Party

Last Friday, pupils from Year 2 took their teddies to Whitgift House for a very special tea party. The residents made them most welcome with juice and cakes, before bringing out some fascinating World War 2 artefacts, such as a tin hat and a ration card and explained to the girls what they were used for.

After this, Year 2 treated the residents to some really fun festive songs, including *Away in a Manger* – a carol everyone knows the words to!

Finally, the girls were absolutely thrilled to be given a little gift of a hand-made key ring.



Cross Country

What a fantastic day we had for the Cross Country event last week. We had all weathers; sunshine; rain: a rainbow and a cool breeze but most importantly the mud and a lot of it!

Congratulations to all the competitors in Year 1- 4 that took part. Taking part in Cross Country takes real grit and resilience and our girls really demonstrated that.

Special mention to Anaya in Year 1 who finished in 3rd place and Eileen in Year 4 who finished 5th.

Mrs Coster was very proud!



Year 4: Mighty Saxon Workshop

Last Thursday, Year 4 took part in a Saxon workshop. Our workshop leader, Lauren, taught us the story of Beowulf which we re-enacted wearing ridiculous masks. We also found out about old Anglo-Saxon names for the days of the week. Did you know that some days were named after Anglo Saxon gods and goddesses?

Luckily, we also got to hold real weapons and they were extremely heavy! Particularly the sword. We also got to try on chain mail. Year 4 had a great time recreating the Battle of Hastings. We played Saxon games against our talk partners which was exiting as we had never played these games before. One of the games was called 'Fox and Goose' which was a little bit like droughts.

Overall, our favourite part of the day was acting and holding the weapons. Also, fishing for the most unusual/ revolting cuts of meat. Did you know the Saxons used to eat peacock? Ew!

Written by 4J



Grade 1 Singing

Congratulations to Eileen in Year 4 who passed her Grade 1 singing with Merit recently and is now working on Grade 2. Well done Eileen!



Grade 1 Piano

Congratulations to Olivia, who passed her Grade 1 piano performance with Distinction.



Maths Puzzle Fun page 11 Solutions

Largest: FIVE THOUSAND

Smallest: ZERO or NOUGHT

Bonus 1: allow negatives

Smallest: MINUS FORTY

Bonus 2: allow calculations

Largest: SIXTY CUBED (=216,000)

Year 6: Fizzy Experiment

Year 6 are reading *The Unforgotten Coat* by Frank Cottrell Boyce.

We used a plastic canister, some Blu Tack, a little water and an effervescent tablet to create a rocket similar to the one featured in the book.

It was worth it as the girls screamed with delight when the tablet dissolved in water, releasing its gas in the tiny canister, shooting the lid high into the air. Talk about a storm in a tea cup, or perhaps a fizzy explosion in a canister!

