



# AROUND THE PALACE



Dear all,

Welcome to the first bulletin of 2024. The new term has already seen our Year 11, 12 and 13 students complete their all-important mock exams, and next week we look forward to the school production of *Sister Act*. Please do come along and enjoy an evening of musical drama. A few tickets are still available on WisePay.

Year 12s experienced some much needed, post-exam stress relief with the annual Old Palace Bake Off.

You can see the four House entries on page 4 and learn who was the winner!.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Jane Burton, Head**

## Year 12: Bake Off Competition



Laud - Barbie



Hatton - Scream



Stafford - Vanilla Sponge



Anselm - Date and toffee

# gcse science live!

At the end of last term some Year 10 and Year 9 students attended GCSE Science Live! This was an event at which eminent scientists at the cutting edge of their fields delivered talks about their passions.

Dr Jessica Wade and Dr Eleanora D'Elia talked about materials science, while Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock's journey into astronomy – titled 'Reaching for the stars: the power of crazy dreams' – was inspirational in showing how determination can bring success. Professor Robert Winston's talk, humorously delivered, took us through his work on human fertility.

Professor Steve Jones was captivating in discussing genetics and Professor Andrea Sella rounded off the day by carrying out chemistry experiments that illustrated how a plant may get its striped pattern. In between, an examiner offered tips and advice on how to prepare for, and answer, questions in GCSE science examinations.



Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock

Some comments from students on the trip were:

*"I enjoyed the crossover between talks, such as between the electromagnetic spectrum, genes and DNA structure. It was interesting and accessible, so I could understand it."*

**Jana**

*"I finally know what a human egg cell looks like, and it was both traumatising and interesting! I also loved Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock's talk."*

**Safa**

*"Professor Andrea Sella's experiments were awesome. He was funny and enthusiastic, and he made us think."*

**Riya, Isobel and Dayna**

*"I loved the Space talk as it was really interesting. I found out about supernovas as well as the presenter (Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock)'s dream and it was easy to follow."*

**Alice**

Overall, the broad range of ideas covered ensured that every student found something of particular interest to them during the day.



Professor Steve Jones



Professor Steve Jones



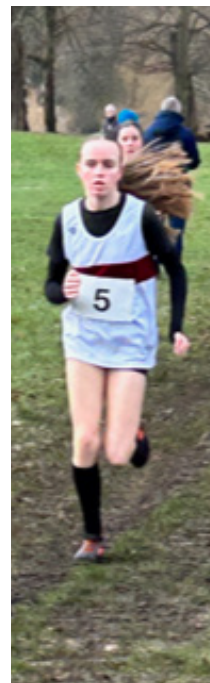
Professor Robert Winston

## Ellie Awarded Cross Country Challenge Shield



Ellie awarded the Challenge Shield by GB athlete Donna Fraser

Ellie has been participating in lots of athletics and cross country events recently. As part of her athletics at school she was selected to take part in the Surrey Schools Cross Country competition representing North Croydon.



*On Saturday I ran 3.2k at a cross country event where I represented North Croydon. I was selected to do this following the Croydon Competition back in October. It was held in Reigate Park.*

*I'm not sure of my placing and time as yet but I really enjoyed it.*

**Ellie, Year 8**

## Maths Puzzle Fun

### Millennium Leap

Leap years normally occur every four years. However, years at the turn of a century are leap years only if they are multiples of 400.

Therefore, 2000 was a leap year but the year 1900 was not.

**How many leap years will there be between 2001 and 3001?**

Answer on page 15



## Community News

### Welcome Back to the Class of 2023

We were delighted to welcome old friends back to Old Palace at the start of term, to celebrate their exam achievements last summer, collect their certificates and to catch up on news from the last term. It really was a reminder of how time flies - we teachers vividly remember the students when they joined us in Year 7!



### CCF Training Camp for Year 10

Five brave CCF cadets from Year 10 spent the first weekend of term on a training camp in chilly Folkestone. Alongside their fellow cadets from Whitgift, they were completing their leadership training course to become JNCOs - Junior Non Commissioned Officer. This will prepare them to teach new cadets next year and to lead a team of cadets during future activity camps. Well done to Ploy, Fatima, Adaeze, Safiyah and Ella who completed the first stage with flying colours.



### Thank you to all who contributed to our Christmas fundraising at Seniors

I am delighted to announce that we have donated:



£500 to Lives not Knives (raised at the OPA Carol Concert).



£240 each to Crisis, Croydon Refugee Day Centre and Doctors without Borders, raised on Christmas Jumper Day, the Talent Show and Christmas Movie Night.



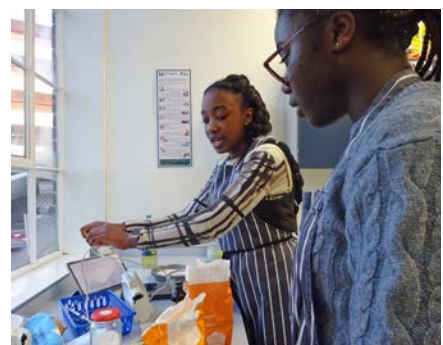


## Year 12: Bake Off Competition *continued*

Last week, we held a Bake Off competition for our Year 12 students as a bit of light relief following the completion of their exams.

The themes were: Celebrating OPS, Pop Artist/Group or Movie/TV Show.

The votes have been counted and the winning cake is *Scream* by Hatton.





## Vitality Netball Nations Cup



On Sunday 21st January, a small group of students interested in netball had the opportunity to watch two live professional games including England. Although we were disappointed with England's loss to Australia, both games were great to watch and were very close making them exciting. The quality of play was extremely good and helped us develop a better understanding of the game. Overall, it was an exceptional experience and we learned a lot.

**Zara and Arabella**

On Sunday, a group of students travelled to the OVO Wembley Arena to watch the Vitality Netball Nations Cup.

We saw two matches: New Zealand v Uganda and England v Australia. Both matches were close which made them exciting to watch! New Zealand just beat Uganda but Uganda were ahead a big chunk of the game.

The England match was very exciting. After a slow start with England allowing Australia to get 7 goals ahead – England then had a really good half time talk – and came out firing on all cylinders! At one point England were 6 goals ahead but Australia fought back and won by 2 goals.

The journey had a few highlights and comedy moments but we all got back safely!



## Football Tournament



On 16th January, we attended a football tournament at Coombe Wood where we competed against other local schools. The competition was strong and we showed a lot of resilience and determination to win. In the end the girls returned home with a smile on their face knowing they did their best, gained important experiences for the future and excited they got to see their old friends again!





**Old Palace of  
John Whitgift School**  
Independent Girls' School

PRESENTS

# Sister Act

**31st January, 1st, 2nd February**

**Banqueting Hall at 7pm**

Tickets via WisePay

**£10 adult | £7.50 concessions**

Music by  
**Alan Menken**

Lyrics by  
**Glenn Slater**

Book by  
**Cheri Steinkellner  
& Bill Steinkellner**

Additional Book Material Douglas Carter Beane

Based on the Touchstone Pictures Motion Picture 'Sister Act'

Written by Joseph Howard



## Evensong at Croydon Minster

We were very proud of the Senior School students, together with Ms Orr and some recent OP leavers, who took part last week in Radio 3's Evensong at Croydon Minster.

Listen here: [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001g9r4](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001g9r4)



## DT Food Club

DT Food Club is held every Wednesday after school from 4-5pm with Mrs Solari. This week the students made sweet and savoury pastries. They were delicious!





## OPA Carol Service

It was wonderful to see so many OPA alumnae at our Carol Service in December.

Whilst the news that the School will be closing in August 2025 was still fresh in everyone's minds, we all came together to celebrate Christmas and enjoy some festive carols, beautifully sung by the Old Palace choir. We raised £500 for *Lives Not Knives*.





## Year 7 PSHE - Building Stable Relationships

In our latest PSHE lesson, we learnt about building stable relationships within friendships, school and in romantic partnerships in the future.

We started off by seeing examples of romantic relationships and were asked if we disagreed with the statements shown. Some of them were complicated, such as 'is it okay if someone buys you a gift once a month?' and or when your partner is

criticising your family. We shared our opinions which made us rethink what a healthy relationship is.

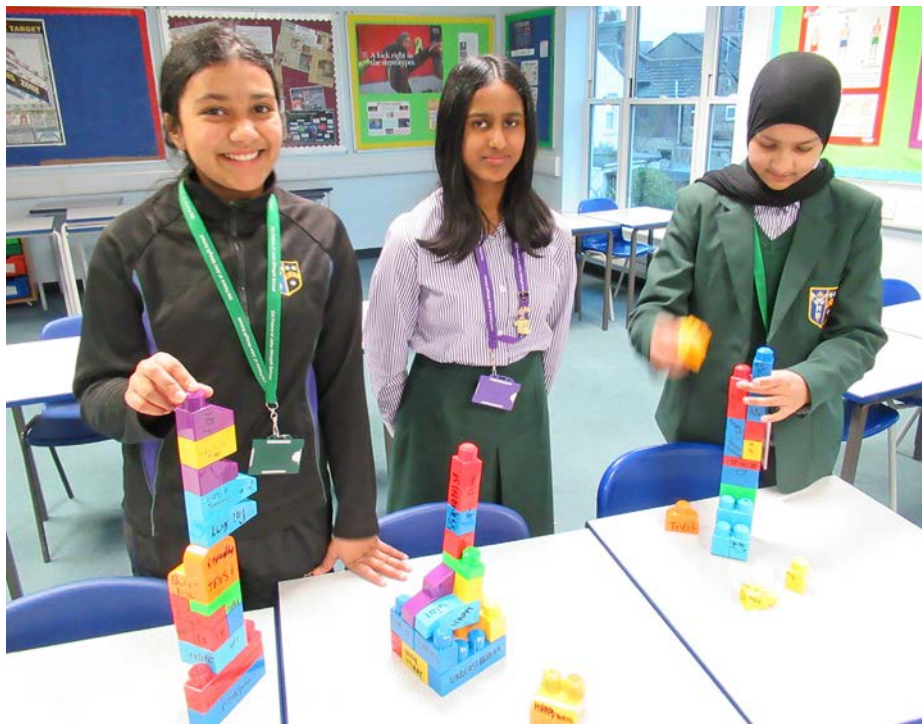
Later in the lesson, we were given a pile of building blocks and told to write in whiteboard marker one good quality we wanted in a relationship. We made sure these were qualities that were important to us.

After that, we were told to build bridges to symbolise the strength of

the qualities of our future relationships.

To add to the challenge, we had to take off bricks from our bridge to symbolise how relationships need all these qualities to have a healthy partnership. Two thirds of our bridges managed not to collapse, but instead stay in place. Overall, it was an imaginative and very interesting lesson.

**Anoushka, Year 7**



Author visit to Old Palace: Sufiya Ahmed! More information coming soon....

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

7 MARCH 2024



## Year 6: World War 2

On Friday, 12th of January, Sofia's grandmother came into school to tell us about her incredible, but chastening experience of World War II. She introduced herself, and showed us some monuments and photos from the World War.

She showed us some pictures of antique, china statues that reminded her of being evacuated at such a young age. As she was only 2 ½ years old, her mother had to come with her. She got evacuated to a pub in Liverpool, where she only stayed for six weeks but was separated from her brother and sisters, who were staying at a seaside town. She was delighted when she was reunited with her siblings around the age of 4.

She showed us the gas mask she had to wear, just in case a bomb was dropped and the poisonous gas was released; Hitler wouldn't give any warning. She also briefed us on how the people in the neighbourhood helped each other out; her mother did the knitting, her neighbour was in charge of growing fruits and vegetables, and so on. She also told us how the war made them eat more healthily and become a stronger community.

Her uncle was taken in twice by the Nazis; the first time he escaped but the second he unfortunately didn't and was held prisoner until the end of the war.

We are very thankful to Sofia's grandmother for giving us such an enjoyable and educational experience.

**Aadhya and Lottie, Year 6**









## Pre School: Starry Night

As part of their topic Starry Night, the Early Years classes are learning about animals that come out at night.

Last week, in Outdoor Learning, they found out some interesting information about bats!

They found out that bats can squeeze through very small spaces and they sleep upside down; bats can also fly around in dark caves without bumping into anything by using echolocation!

The girls looked closely at a new bat box made by Mr Talbert, noticing the entrance was too small for a bird and that it had a ladder to help the bats climb inside.

After examining the bat box and thinking about where it could go, they helped put up a dark 'bat cave' den which became base camp for the afternoon.

Be Wild Club also took part in den making tasks.





## Year 6: Fire Station

On 15th January, Year 6 went on an interesting trip to the Croydon Fire Station.

On this amazing trip, we enjoyed many different activities that prepared us for walking on public streets while in secondary school.

First of all, a policeman talked about different scenarios where someone tricked another person into doing something illegal such as possessing harmful property that belongs to someone else.

In the next room, we were taught about who to trust and how to know to trust them (looking at their ID card or uniform). We were also given a test where someone (who was actually another policewoman) asked to take a picture of us to put on our school website but her ID card was fake

and covered by her camera. Everyone followed her to have a picture taken. Big mistake! We learned we should always check an ID card before trusting anyone.

Other activities included learning about public transport-never scratch a window unless you want a criminal record!

The ambulance crew taught us how to put an unconscious person into the recovery position and how to check for consciousness. They call it 'Dr ABC'.

We also learned about fire safety and had a talk about dangerous substances.

It was a spectacular morning. We really enjoyed it and learned so much.

**Aashna, Alynna and Arya, Year 6**





## Reception: French Lesson

Reception girls are learning about sea creatures in French. Today, they learnt about "le poisson" (fish), "le crabe" (crab) and "l'étoile de mer" (starfish) and they all took part playing with specially made puppets to create an underwater puppet show.

The girls had fun acting out and singing "Viens sous l'océan avec moi" (Come under the sea with me), creating special dance moves to represent these creatures.





## Congratulations Holly



Congratulations to Holly who has received her surplice and is now a full member of The Minster Choir.

## Maths Puzzle Fun page 2 Answer

There will be 242 leap years between 2001 and 3001.

2001 to 3001 multiples of 4

In 1000 there are 250 multiples of 4

Remove multiples of 100 which are not multiples of 400

2001 to 3001 multiples of 400

2400, 2800 - so out of 10 multiples of 100, only 2 are multiples of 400

$250 - 8 = 242$

## ABRSM Practical Music Exam Results - Autumn Term 2023

Name	Form	Instrument	Grade	Results
Safah	5J	Violin	1	Distinction
Charlortte May	5J	Violin	1	Distinction
Yan Kiu	5J	Piano	1	Merit
Isabella	11L	Piano	3	Pass
Chitleen	13A	Singing Musical Theatre	8	Distinction
Olivia	6 W	Singing	3	Merit
Lola-Marie	8S	Flute	3	Merit
Lola-Marie	8C	Singing Musical Theatre	4	Distinction
Sarah	13A	Flute	8	Pass
Zaynah	13L	Singing	8	Distinction
Aideen	5J	Piano	2	Pass
Flora	12S	Singing	6	Merit
Holly	6W	Musical Theatre	4	Distinction
Amanah	8S	Piano	3	Pass
Charlotte	6W	Trumpet	3	Pass
Sonia	4J	Violin	1	Merit
Aideen	5J	Cello	2	Pass

## Year 6 Hockey

On Wednesday, Year 6 enjoyed a training lesson with Seaton House. It was great to see the girls putting their hockey skills into practice.

