



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



There is evidence of the spring arriving at Old Palace this week with daffodils emerging at both sites and the longer evenings beginning to start. This bulletin showcases the great events and activities that continue around the school and the positive impact our students have in the school and local area, in national competitions and even making their mark on the international stage- well done Bethany!

In the week of International Women's Day, we can be certain that the students at Old Palace, who each and every day show spirit, determination and courage, are well-placed to be the female leaders of the future.

**Jane Burton, Head**

## Prep Celebrates World Book Day





## Palace Singers Nominated for Chairman's Cup at Coulsdon & Purley Music Festival

The Year 3-6 Palace Singers took part for the final time in the Coulsdon & Purley Music Festival last Friday where they missed winning the festival shield by just one point (congratulations to the winners, St Elphege's).

The Palace Singers scored 87% and were awarded a 'Distinction'. The adjudicator commented on 'very good diction, some lovely colours capturing the emotions beautifully' as well as 'great control of dynamics'. The Palace Singers have since been nominated for the Chairman's Cup at the Festival but we won't find out the result for a few more weeks.





## Chemistry Competition Success

We were privileged enough to take part in the Top of the Bench Chemistry competition. The competition had two aspects to it, practical and theoretical. In the practical we, as Year 9, made copper sulphate from copper hydroxide and sulphuric acid.

Avani in Year 10 had some unknown solutions and was asked to do various experiments to identify them, as well as displacing copper from its solution using zinc.

Arabella in Year 11, had the task of

measuring exact volumes using a burette and to measure the temperature given out at regular intervals during a neutralisation reaction. In the theory section, we had to think outside the box to answer the questions which was a fun challenge to take part in.

Our team of: Arabella (Year 11), Avani (Year 10), Shreya (Year 9) and Parvati (Year 9) came 6th out of 60 schools. Mrs Marren congratulated us on our superb efforts and presented us with achievement certificates. The

competition was a pleasure to take part in and we would like the opportunity to enter more in the future.

Shreya, Year 9



## Football: Bethany Represents Uganda

Last month, I was called up to represent Uganda in the under-17's women World Cup Qualifiers against Cameroon. I made my debut for Uganda against Cameroon in the first leg on the 3rd February 2024, and the match ended in a one-all draw. Cameroon were the clear favourites, but Uganda matched them and could have easily won the game in the dying minutes had it not been for the great Cameroonian defence line.

The second leg was played away in Yaounde on the 9th February, where Uganda dominated Cameroon and won the game 3-1, knocking them out of the Qualifiers. I was awarded the woman of the match, which I am proud of alongside the team's efforts. Uganda will be facing Zambia in the next round in May over two legs and I am really looking forward to that.

I would like to thank my teachers who have been very supportive, enabling me to juggle my education as well as my football.

Bethany, Year 12





## Year 12: BioSoc Debates AI's Impact on the Future of Medicine

BioSoc did a debate on the use of AI. This is a topic that they have discussed at MedPrep and they have looked at recent news articles and podcasts on the applications of AI. They particularly enjoyed Hannah Fry's *Uncharted* series and [www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001r1xx](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001r1xx).

In BioSoc this week, some Year 12 students took part in a compelling debate. The statement was: *'AI and its impact on the future of medicine can only be a bad thing'*. When split up into teams some of us were forced to contradict our personal opinions which, although it was difficult, was done very admirably. We were also expected to support our views with examples. Both sides showed a great effort and we all enjoyed having our individual moments to speak freely of our views.

By the end of the debate most of us were still in disagreement with the statement, but we all gained a greater understanding of the opposing side's views and were more considerate of why AI could have disadvantageous effects on the future of medicine.

Anaika B, Year 12



## Success in the Biology Olympiad



Year 13 entered the Biology Olympiad this term. More than 15,000 students from over 900 schools worldwide took part. The Olympiad tested their problem solving skills and wider knowledge of Biology beyond the classroom. The competition aims to introduce students to cutting edge and topical science.

We had seven students who were awarded certificates and two medal winners. Miali and Jhanvi were in the top 30% of all entries to the competition and achieved Bronze.





## Year 8: DT Party Snacks

Year 8 made some lovely party snacks in their DT Food lesson this week.

The snacks were to be served at a young child's party; therefore, they should be attractive and look appetising and easy to eat!





## Year 13: Bethlem Museum of the Mind



On the 7th of February, Year 13 Psychology students had the opportunity to visit Bethlem Museum of the Mind and the Gallery.

We learnt about the history of Bethlem Royal Hospital and how the treatment of mentally ill people has changed over time, through looking at the archived case notes of patients who had spent

time at the hospital. We analysed William Kurelek's autobiographical artwork *The Maze* which he completed whilst a patient at the hospital.

We also had the chance to explore the museum, which includes historical artifacts and celebrates the achievements of people with mental health problems, including Louis Wain, famous for his depictions of cats. This gave us a fascinating insight into changing attitudes towards mental illness and the experiences of sufferers. We were very fortunate to be some of the first people to view the exhibition *Lost in Parys* by the artist Alison Lapper which explores love, motherhood and grief.

**Abigail, Year 13**



## Senior Netball



It was great to see our senior netballers (Year 10 – 12) playing a match on Thursday. Sadly the weather meant our opponents pulled out – but we played anyway against each other as exercise is good for us both physically, emotionally and socially! It is also great to see our senior students enjoying being active.

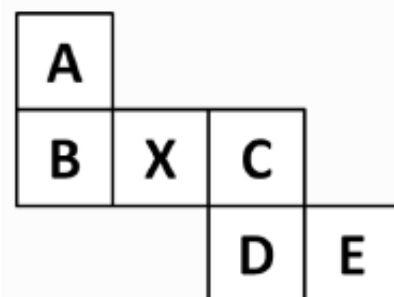
The red team won overall 11 – 7, but there were lots of changes along the way.

## Maths Puzzle Fun

### Cube Crazy

If the net shown below is cut out and folded to form a cube.

Which face will be opposite the face marked X?



Answer on page 18



### BEE Netball Event

On Tuesday 20th February all our Sports Leaders (Year 10 – 13) were involved in leading a BEE Netball Event for Year 3 and 4 pupils from local primary schools in conjunction with CSSP. Six primary schools were involved. The event was held at the Prep site. The leaders were responsible for ensuring all students were warmed up in a safe but fun way. Leaders then worked mainly in pairs to deliver a netball skills session to each of the schools working to encourage and motivate students to get involved in Netball and to enjoy taking part. The emphasis of the afternoon was fun!



The afternoon culminated in a round robin competition with schools playing the BEE Netball Flier rules (across a netball court) and our leaders were either umpiring, scoring, timing or motivating the players.

The feedback from CSSP and the teachers who brought students to the event was that our leaders were brilliant! They were confident and capable and worked hard to make sure the event was fun for the participants. Well done!



### Level 3 Sports Leaders

On 8th February our Level 3 Sports Leaders helped lead a multi-skills event for Key Stage 1 pupils at St David's Prep School in Purley.

Old Palace were also there taking part. Each of the leaders (and Miss Zejen) had the responsibility of a team of participants, helping them with the different challenges, motivation and encouraging them as well as helping with the set up of the whole afternoon.

The feedback from the Lead Teacher at St David's was very positive about the input from our leaders using their initiative and helping all those involved to have an active and fun afternoon.





## International Summer School - 7th July to 18th August 2024

Whitgift School is running the residential International Summer School from 7 July to 18 August 2024 for students aged between 11 to 17 to study on the Intensive English, Pre-IGCSE or Pre-IB courses.

We are looking to recruit Student Hosts from Year 7 to Year 13 to welcome the international students and take part in a range of activities.

### About the Student Host role

A central element of our summer school is the inclusion of Student Hosts. These are limited and prestigious roles which are offered to girls from Old Palace and boys from Whitgift School, who, if interested, need to apply for a Student Host position. Interacting with international students of a similar age is a great experience for our own pupils. It broadens their international horizons, develops their communication, teamwork, and leadership skills, and benefits their language studies. For the last seven Summer Schools, Old Palace students who have taken part have found the experience to be hugely rewarding and many are still in contact with new friends from across the world.

### How to apply

For the 2024 Whitgift Summer School we are opening the application process early for Old Palace students. We ideally like for student hosts to attend for two weeks, so please click on all weeks that your daughter is available. This is so that they can enjoy a similar session to the International Students who also attend for a minimum of two weeks.

If your daughter would like to apply to become a Student Host, applications open on 27th February.

To apply please click on the link below (you may need to right-click and 'open hyperlink'). **The deadline to apply is 12th March.**

[www.whitgift.co.uk/short-courses-key-information/student-hosts/2024](http://www.whitgift.co.uk/short-courses-key-information/student-hosts/2024)

All candidates will be contacted shortly after the applications have closed, indicating whether their application has been successful or not. Unfortunately, due to the high demand for places, we are not able to offer positions to all that apply.

For full information on the below, please click on the hyperlinks below:

Becoming a Student Host - [www.whitgift.co.uk/short-courses-key-information/student-hosts/become-a-student-host](http://www.whitgift.co.uk/short-courses-key-information/student-hosts/become-a-student-host)

We recommend reading through the Student Host FAQs before applying - [www.whitgift.co.uk/short-courses-key-information/student-hosts/faqs](http://www.whitgift.co.uk/short-courses-key-information/student-hosts/faqs)

If you have any queries, please email us at [studenthost@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:studenthost@whitgift.co.uk)



## Bake Off Competition Winners



Year 12H winners of the Year 12 Bake Off Competition with their winning chef's hats and wooden spoons and certificates!





## U13 Netball v Caterham



On Wednesday 21st February, the U13 Netball Squad travelled to Caterham to play a challenging netball match. We came back with a fantastic victory winning 9-2, despite a minor injury that one of our players had. There was some incredible attack/shooting and defence with many great interceptions and turnovers made on both sides of the court. On our attacking side our top shooter was Gracie-Mae - shooting all nine goals!

Congratulations to Tianna who won Player of the Match!

Well done squad! Squad: Tianna (Captain), Rishita, Gracie-Mae, Akshita, Chloe, Kemafo and Ishika

## Year 7: House Assembly Celebrating Gallentines Day



## U13 Football v Coloma

The Old Palace U13 football team beat Coloma 5-0. The game was closer than the scoreline suggested, but a fantastic hat-trick from Lola made sure Old Palace came away with a victory. Kemafo scored the remaining two goals and some great defending/goalkeeping made sure the clean sheet was kept in tact. Player(s) of the match went to Lola and Gracie-Mae.





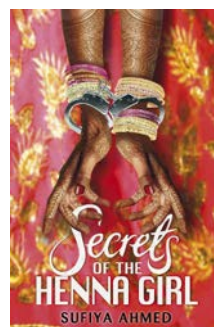
## Seniors Celebrates World Book Day



We were delighted to welcome the award-winning author, Sufiya Ahmed, to Old Palace on Wednesday.

Sufiya's first book was the critically-acclaimed *Secrets of the Henna Girl*, about a 16 year old girl who goes on a summer holiday to Pakistan with her parents, only to discover she is expected to undergo a forced marriage.

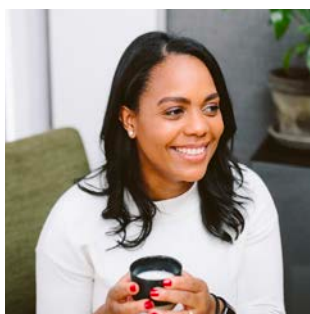
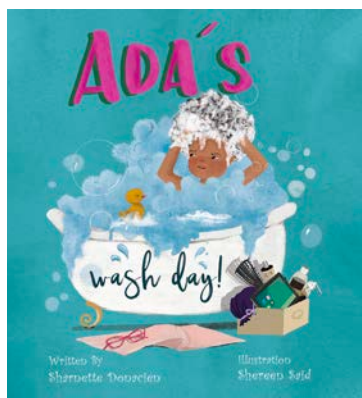
Sufiya talked to Senior School students about her career in politics and the House of Commons and the fact that it took her 15 years to become a published author. Her motto was definitely 'don't give up on your dreams'.



*Sufiya is an award-winning author of historical fiction and before becoming a full-time author, worked in advertising and the House of Commons.*

## Pre School to Year 3: Ada's Washday!

The younger children at Prep enjoyed a fantastic online workshop led by the author Sharnette Donacien. This gentle but humorous story reminds us that we should all celebrate what makes us different – a wonderful message for everyone.



### Sharnette Donacien

Sharnette is a former financial advisory expert who pivoted from the corporate world to follow her passions and fulfil her dream of becoming a published children's picture book author. She considers herself a natural storyteller, who has always enjoyed writing songs, poetry and short stories.

After years of writing only for herself, Sharnette published her debut picture book, 'Ada's Wash Day' in November 2021.

## Poem by Year 3J

### This is Old Palace

This is Old Palace we work hard.

We have Kindness, Bravery, Honesty, Curiosity, Independence and Resilience.

We are kind to each other.

Old Palace is strong.

We forgive each other and be a family forever and never let go.

We never say I cannot do this but inside you can do it.

We're a family not just Friends.

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Friends.





## Prep Celebrates World Book Day

We were excited to welcome the author, Sufiya Ahmed at Prep today. Sufiya writes historical fiction, blended with true stories of real women who have stood up for their rights and made a difference. She brings lesser-known heroines to the forefront and the girls (and staff) enjoyed a fascinating and informative talk with slides, books and dressing-up props, before embarking on a creative writing workshop. Sufiya ended the visit with book signing.

*Sufiya Ahmed is an award-winning author of historical fiction who before becoming a full-time author, worked in advertising and the House of Commons.*



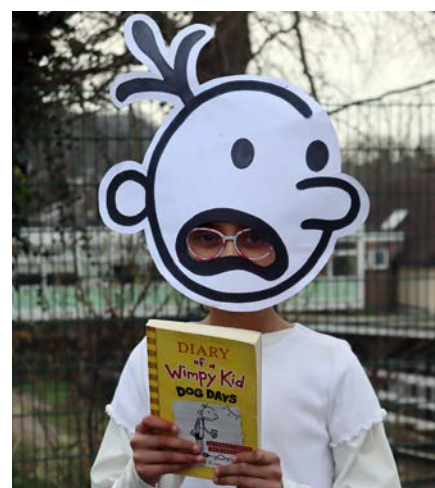


## Prep Celebrates World Book Day

We celebrated our last ever World Book Day at Prep with an array of fabulous book characters. Can you guess who they are (and doesn't Mrs Panteli look amazing as Cindy Lou Who from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr Seuss?).













## Pre School Gets Ready for Mother's Day

As part of their topic Ready Steady Grow! Pre School discovered that a variety of evergreen plants with green or variegated leaves grow around the school. They used these together with some pretty flowers and hand painted pots to make their own flower arrangements ready for Mother's Day.





## Year 2: Wriggle and Crawl

To finish off the learning in the Cornerstones Wriggle and Crawl topic, Year 2J enjoyed a wonderful workshop with Cairis and her animals.

The girls met a beautiful corn snake called Rusty as well as a very hungry bearded dragon, a giant millipede, a hermit crab named Wallis and a giant cockroach with very tickly feet.

The girls were fascinated to find out more about the many ways in which animals protect themselves and hunt their prey.





## Year 6: Frozen Kingdoms Workshop

Year 6 have been studying animal adaptations in the context of their Frozen Kingdoms topic.

On Wednesday, they had the opportunity to explore some adaptation features closer to home. A particular favourite was Cece, the bearded dragon. These wonderful creatures puff up their beard of spines as a warning. Luckily, Cece wasn't threatened by us.





## Year 2: RNLI Workshop

On Monday, Year 2 pupils were delighted to welcome Mick from the RNLI. The RNLI workshop brought to life the learning in the Cornerstones topic, Coastline. Mick explained how the RNLI was founded by Sir William Hillary in 1824. This year, the organisation will be celebrating its 200th birthday - look out for articles and news reports in the press about the charity.

This week the girls used an interactive map to locate the life boat stations around the UK and watch clips of rescues at sea. If you would like to find out more about this charity or donate, please visit <https://rnli.org/about-us/our-history>.



## Maths Puzzle Fun page 6 Answer

E is opposite X

When the shape is folded up, imagine X is on top. This means B is on the left hand face and C is on the right hand face. This means A is on the back face and D is on the front face. This leave E on the bottom face, so opposite X.