



New Head Appointed

Professor Philip Ogden, Chairman of Bancroft's Governors is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Simon Marshall MA, PGCE (Cantab), MA, M.Phil (Oxon) as the new Head of Bancroft's with effect from 1 September 2016.

Simon is currently Headmaster of The English College in Prague. He was previously Deputy Head (Academic) at University College School, London (2007-2013) and Head of English at King's College School, Wimbledon (2001-2007). He will replace the outgoing Head, Mrs Mary Ireland, who is retiring after eight years as Head.

Educated at Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby, Simon graduated in Classics in 1988 from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge where he was a Choral Exhibitioner. He also gained his Postgraduate Certificate in General Education from Cambridge. He subsequently graduated in 1995 in English Language and Literature from Trinity

College, Oxford and took an M.Phil there in Eighteenth Century Studies in 1997.

A keen mountaineer and runner, Simon also enjoys gardening, music and theatre. He and his wife Eleanor are very much looking forward to joining the Bancroft's community. He says, "I am honoured and delighted to have been appointed to lead such a flourishing and successful school. When visiting the School I was struck by the friendly, purposeful atmosphere and by the great affection felt for Bancroft's by everyone I met. I very much look forward to joining the Bancroft's community next year and working with pupils, staff, governors and parents to build on the superb legacy of Mary Ireland."

Professor Ogden said that the Governing Body is delighted with Simon Marshall's appointment and looks forward to working closely with him, "Mr Marshall's experience equips him ideally for sustaining Bancroft's excellence across a broad front and leading the School during the next stages of its development."



Top Physics Award For Mr Dixon

Many congratulations to Mark Dixon, our Second Deputy Head (Academic), who has been announced as being one of six teachers commended for their "outstanding practice as teachers of physics in secondary schools" by the Institute of Physics (IOP). The awards are given to celebrate the success of teachers whose excellence in the classroom has raised the state of physics and science in schools.

The IOP's teacher support manager, Chris Shepherd, said, "Teachers are honoured

alongside distinguished research scientists and industrialists as a way of recognising that without dedicated teachers there would be no physics researchers or technological base in our society."

Old Bancroftian (2001-2012) Harriet Bartlett, who is currently studying Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge University, said, "Mr Dixon taught me from GCSE right up to A level physics and he was responsible for my love of science. He went over and above the call of duty every single day and was the most inspirational teacher I have ever had. I can honestly say I would not be where I am today if I hadn't been privileged to have Mr Dixon as my teacher. He embraced any challenge or question

thrown his way and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award."

Bancroft's Head, Mary Ireland, is no less enthusiastic about the commitment and energy which characterises Mr Dixon's teaching. She commended him for encouraging "the brightest to push themselves beyond their comfort zone while supporting those for whom the subject is a challenge."





2015 Best Ever Results

It was a fantastic summer for Bancroftians in public exams with our best ever results at both GCSE and A2 level.

The Upper Sixth's results were stunning: an amazing 25 of pupils (a fifth of the year group) achieved 3 or more A*s. Over a third of all exams were awarded A*, 73% at grades A* or A, and 92% at grades A*-B.

All ten Bancroftians who had been offered places at either Oxford or Cambridge had their places confirmed. In addition, twenty-one Bancroftians have gone on to read Medicine. Kavin Vijayakumar achieved a fantastic five A*s (Latin, Physics and Triple Maths) and took up his place to read Maths at Christ's College, Cambridge. The Upper Sixth have now progressed to

universities, the vast majority to Russell Group institutions. This year UCL, Durham, Nottingham and King's College London have all proved to be popular destinations. They are also excelling in the arts with places at RADA, music conservatoires and art school.

Our Head, Mary Ireland, commented, "It is particularly lovely to see this year group doing so well. They were the first cohort I recruited when I joined Bancroft's and I have seen them start as nervous 11 year olds and develop into accomplished, confident and hardworking young men and women who have choices as they move onto the next stage of their lives."

Following this record breaking set of A2 results, our Fifth Form may have felt they had a lot to live up to. They did not disappoint with a phenomenal 99.4% of all exams taken

graded at A*, A or B. and 63.7% of the exams at A*. The number of pupils achieving a clean sweep of A*s has also seen an increase; last year nine pupils achieved ten A* grades, this year the number has risen to eighteen. Over half of the year group of 121 pupils achieved seven or more A*s.

Mrs Ireland said, "Naturally we are delighted with this set of results. The children were aware that with the move to linear A levels their GCSE results would matter more than ever and they worked really hard. Every one of them has achieved eight or more good GCSE results and should be pleased with all they have achieved."

Very well done to all the pupils on their achievements and a huge thank you to their teachers for all their hard work and patience.



UKMT Team Challenge 2015

A Bancroft's team of Soumya Krishna Kumar, Jathavan Thevarajah, Alex Yan and Swasthi Surendran put in a fantastic performance UKMT Team Challenge National Final on Monday 22 June. They finished the day as runners-up in both the main contest to Westminster Under School and also finished as runners-up in the National Poster Competition, which is an independent part of the day's activities.

Teams from over 1700 schools across the UK participated in the competition, with the top eighty eight qualifying for the National Final which was held in the grand surroundings of the Lindley Hall, part of the prestigious Royal Horticultural Halls in Westminster.

The day began with the Poster Competition. This was followed by the main competition comprising four rounds: the Group Circus (involving practical materials for problem solving tasks); the Crossnumber; the Shuttle and the Relay (a fast and furious mathematical race involving answering a series of questions in pairs). The competition promotes team work and encourages pupils to think mathematically in a variety of ways. Each team consists of four pupils in Year 9 or below, with no more than two from Year 9.



The prizes were presented by Dame Frances Kirwan, Chair of UKMT and Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University. To finish the event in second place in both parts of the event is a fantastic achievement. Very well done!



CSI Bancroft's

Bancroft's has been burgled, but "whodunit"? This was the scenario presented to our Removes pupils by Jon Bates of Sci High, during a series of forensics workshops held on 18 June.

The pupils were divided into teams and given a list of possible suspects, as well as bags of clues and evidence. Their job was to review the evidence and solve the crime, by examining suspects' clothing, matching footprints, and analysing handwriting. Meanwhile, several pupils were appointed as Scene of Crime Officers, who were charged with finding additional evidence: spots of blood on the wall, fingerprints on the door and imprints of shoes by the "body". Before the "judge" declared the suspects guilty and passed sentence, the pupils learnt about DNA testing and modern ways of retrieving fingerprints, which supported work carried out in their science lessons. Jon Bates, who ran the session, is a retired forensic scientist with a degree in chemistry; he now visits schools up and down the country to present these events. He said, "I enjoyed my day at Bancroft; it's one of the best schools I visit and a very rewarding day. The children were lively, fully engaged and with lots of ideas."



Junior Maths Olympiad 2015

Many congratulations to our two Junior Maths Olympiad qualifiers, pupils Alex Yan (RW) and Swasthi Surendran (RW), who have done themselves proud in this extremely challenging paper.

Swasthi was awarded a Merit and Alex was awarded a Distinction, Gold Medal and a Book Prize, which places him within the top 50 pupils in his age group in the UK.

The Royal Society of Chemistry's Analyst Competition

Emma Jackson (U6S)

In June this year, Usmaan Hafiz, Peter Andreev and I took part in the final of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Analyst Competition, held in Aberdeen. Not only was it a unique chance to visit Scotland, but over the two days we had the opportunity to use many new analysis techniques and get to know other like-minded people from around the UK.

After horrendous delays at City Airport, we arrived in Aberdeen ready to do some chemistry. However to our delight, we were immediately whisked off to an amusement park to play bowling and smash into other competitors in dodgems! This was a great way to mix with the other teams and relax.

The next day was when the real competition began. Waking up early, we suited up in our new blue lab coats and fancy clean goggles and travelled to Robert Gordon University. There, we were split to do a few separate experiments to synthesise and check for the production of aspirin. The first, undertaken by Peter, was to carry out a high performance liquid chromatography and infra-red spectroscopy. The second involved UV/visible spectroscopy and an EDTA back



titration to produce the aspirin, for which Usmaan and I paired up. Both experiments were challenging and had to be completed under timed conditions, requiring complete concentration for the entirety of the day. To round off the experiments, we answered questions and produced graphs to display our results.

While the results were being judged, Professor Donald Cairns, Head of the School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, entertained us with a lecture on "Design, synthesis and evaluation of novel pro-drugs for the treatment of cystinosis", a fascinating talk enlightening us about how drugs are synthesised and continually updated to produce the best results.

Unfortunately, we did not win as we were up against many of the brightest analysts in the UK, making the competition incredibly tough. However, I thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Aberdeen and gained many invaluable skills. It was fantastic to get through to the finals, and hopefully next year's Bancroft's team will get through and win!

Science Summer School

Emma Jackson (U6S)

In August a group of STEM students, led by Mr Choy and Mr Ceeraz, took part in the Science Summer School at St Paul's Way School. This event, hosted by Professor Brian Cox, was a fantastic opportunity to listen to TED style seminars, take part in experiments, which were beyond the syllabus, and to talk to some of the leading scientists involved with the programme.

The two days were full of exciting 18 minute lectures, apparently proven to be the most effective length of a presentation. Brian Cox began with a talk on stars and the universe and the other lectures ranged from how naked mole rats are actually quite cunning mathematicians, how we can manipulate old drugs to create new treatments, how we are all really just stardust and even a talk on the maths behind chocolate fountains and other non-Newtonian fluids.



When we weren't listening to these lectures, we were in the labs partaking in a variety of practical workshops, from pouring liquid nitrogen over ourselves to making gold (or so I was told). In the afternoon of the second day, we visited a science exhibition at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park where universities such as Cardiff University, UCLA were exhibiting.



German Exchange to Hassfurt

Lana Mawlood (5E)

Last July, ten U4ths studying German travelled to Hassfurt, a small town in Bavaria, on an exchange trip. We had all previously met our exchange partners when they stayed with us and were looking forward to seeing them once again.

The first full day was spent at the school, *Regiomontanus*, to experience what the German education system is like. Many of us found we preferred their school day, which starts at eight and normally finishes at one o'clock (predominantly as this allowed plenty of time for a midday nap).

The weekend allowed us to relax and go out with our German friends, to visit the local malls, towns, restaurants and other attractions. On Saturday night we all met up for a meal at a neighbouring village for Italian Night, an annual festival with fireworks. In spite of the German folk music, it proved to be one of our favourite evenings of the stay.

Another highlight was our excursion to Nuremberg. We visited the Zeppelin field, where Hitler famously addressed the German public during the rallies held in the city. After a short walk we found ourselves in the *Dunkelcafe*, an underground café in complete darkness, served by blind waiters. Once underground, we were rendered completely blind: opening our eyes made no difference to what we could see. Funnily enough, a few of us chose to keep our eyelids shut as the notion of seeing pitch black with open eyes was frankly quite scary. Our lack of co-ordination turned out to be very amusing, as I accidentally sat on the table and Ally immediately knocked her drink over! The waiter later spoke to us about his life and how he came to lose his sight at the age of 16. This afternoon was extremely thought-provoking. I don't think any of us had ever experienced something so unusual before and it certainly made us grateful for our ability to see.

Our final day was spent at the nearby *Grundschule*, the primary school. The morning consisted of helping to teach English, followed by break time spent with the children. Siama's display of keepie-uppies



with a football quickly won him a crowd of marvelling eight-year-old friends. We got together with the younger girls for an enormous round of the hokey-cokey (I'm honestly not sure who had more fun).

By the end of the week we had all grown more confident in practising the language and were sad to leave behind our exchange partners, with whom we had closely bonded. Fortunately, some of us will be returning to Germany next year to visit our friends, and, of course, to enjoy the delicious *Bratwurst* once again.

Alexander the Great: Hero or Villain?

Ejaaz Patel (U6E)

Professor Paul Cartledge, a globally renowned Professor of Greek Culture Emeritus from Clare College, Cambridge, was invited to give a talk to our Classical Society on one of his specialist topics of Alexander the Great.

We were joined by Classicists from a range of different schools for what proved to be a fascinating talk. Most of us are only accustomed to translations about Alexander the Great which outline a favourable account of his life; these same translations, according to Professor Cartledge, provide an account which is unfairly biased in favour of Alexander. As the talk progressed, Cartledge explained how un-great Alexander truly was, both through his personal qualities and his empirical legacy. This "case for the prosecution" was eloquently conveyed by Professor Cartledge with a mixture of dry humour, Hollywood references and the brutal 'truth'. It was amazing to see the amount of historic evidence (ancient documents) in favour of Cartledge's view. As the talk came to an end, the feeling in the room was that we had been deceived; deceived by historians and deceived by Alexander himself. But one thing is true, to paraphrase James Joyce in *Ulysses*: for all its curiosity, history is a nightmare from which we are all trying to awake.



Cambridge Classical Texts Study Day

Ben Dyson (L6W)

On 1 October, the Latin and Greek Lower Sixth pupils visited Cambridge University's Classics Faculty for a "Set Text Study Day". The aim of the day was to introduce us to our prose and poetry pieces which we will be studying during the next two years and to give us a broader perspective of their themes and relevance to their respective Classical periods. It was also an opportunity to get first-hand experience of what we can expect from lectures at University.

The day consisted of a series of four lectures given by Cambridge University lecturers and PhD students, including Emma Greensmith, an Old Bancroftian. The first lecture was given by Ingo Gildenhard; the aim of this was to familiarise ourselves with a completely new text, *De Imperio* by Cicero. This was incredibly interesting and very

beneficial to our course, as we received a totally different view-point of the text to that which we have been taking during our lessons. The next lecture, on Ovid's *The Metamorphoses*, had a totally different feel about it and was more focused on a particular theme, which led to lots of discussion when we returned to our class.

After we had lunch in the city centre of Cambridge just outside King's College, we were treated to a Greek oriented lecture given by Emma Greensmith. This lecture, was thoroughly interesting, even to those who are not studying Greek, and everyone in our group was impressed with how captivating and enthusiastic Emma was about her topic.

Throughout the day we obtained a myriad of useful hints and tips and many points which we can incorporate into our exam responses, along with simply enjoying the buzzing atmosphere of Cambridge on such a lovely day. Thanks to Miss Stewart and Mrs Coyne for taking us.

The Greeks and the Golden Ratio: Phact or Phiction?

William Layzell-Smith (L6N)

The Classical Society's timetable continued with an evening combining Maths and Greek history, which, despite being different in style from many of the other lectures, was, nevertheless, no less enjoyable.

Mrs Morton delivered a very interesting presentation for mathematicians and classicists alike. The insight into phi and the Golden Ratio showed to everyone how aware the Greeks were about how certain mathematical shapes were considered more beautiful than others. From the fractal qualities of dodecahedrons and pentagrams to the Golden Spiral, this lecture showed us just how ingenious the ancient Greeks really were. It seemed incredible that they were able to use this mathematical knowledge with rudimentary equipment which, I am sure, many of today's technologists would struggle to cope with. When we try to understand a complex mathematical concept we ought to remember that the Greeks were able to use these concepts (perhaps not understand them fully) to create stunning architectural and artistic structures. It is never a waste of time to realise how, without the works of Ancient Greeks such as Pythagoras, Euclid and Eudoxus, our world would be so much less advanced than it is. As all classicists are aware, any society which wishes to develop can always find inspiration from those of the past.



Sixth Form History Visits

Mr L Brennand

Sixth Form historians have enjoyed some days out visiting buildings and sites relating to their A Level studies.

In June, two groups of A Level students spent time discovering the final resting places of some of history's greatest leaders. Those pupils studying nineteenth century history visited picturesque Hughendon Manor in Buckinghamshire and the final resting place of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, before being given a guided tour of the former Prime Minister's country estate. The second group, who had been studying the sixteenth century, explored the grand monuments which jostle for space inside Westminster Abbey, visiting the tombs of Queen Elizabeth I and her ill-fated cousin, Mary Queen of Scots. They then visited the Tower of London although seeking out the burial places of Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Lady Jane Grey proved a trickier prospect.



Choosing to wear jeans and trainers rather than doublets, hose and codpieces a group of intrepid Lower Sixth historians travelled back in time to Kentwell Hall and the year 1588. The enthusiastic local actors who recreate sixteenth century



England provided an excellent introduction to the Tudor period while recounting rumours of religious turmoil, political upheaval and rumours of a storm that had wrecked Spain's plans for conquest. As well as speaking to the locals,

the students also got to try their hand at pottery, test the latest remedies for sore throats, blocked noses and nettle stings, and sampled the same food as the gentry. Some fine weather and a brief exploration of the local church, built in the reign of Henry VII completed a successful, and fun, day out.



Architecture Workshop with STORE

Sarina Ramasamy (U4W)

On Tuesday 30 June, L4 GCSE art pupils embarked on a journey through architecture, working hard both in the classroom and outside in the Head's garden and ending with a final structural piece which we built using willow sticks, pieces of fabric, glue guns and our bare hands.

Two professionals, Greg Nordberg (a structural engineer from the architectural consortium STORE) and Stephanie Farmer (Artist and Art Educator and Exhibitions Organiser, at STORE), helped us learn more about architecture with nature in a dynamic way, and they organised a fabulous project which inspired every artist in the group.

The scorching hot day began by understanding the theme of organic architecture; we listened intently then played an amusing game of inventing our own bizarre animals on paper. Afterwards we collaborated in groups to design a habitat for the animals using only

classroom materials such as tissue paper, card and pipe cleaners. Everyone enjoyed the morning and was buzzing to create a final composition in the Head's garden, so we planned it out and set off on the challenge.

Our aim was to create an architectural piece influenced by the nature around us, we approached this by splitting into groups to work on different tasks. Throughout the time we experimented, changed and developed our ideas; even though problems arose we managed to overcome them, improving at every step of the way. Everything successfully combined together. We created a beautiful scene of a fabric and netting roof, which projected interesting overlapping shadows as the sunlight shone through it, and included simple handmade ornaments which dangled from the roof and a dome made out of withy and rope with green netting wove around it, including rope suspension. At the end of the day we all felt proud of our hard work and we were grateful to be given a wonderful opportunity to explore architecture in a fun productive way.



Summer Exhibition

The Art Department held its third end of year exhibition in the summer term. Following two successful exhibitions held at Queen Mary College and The View, it was decided that this year we should make use of space within the School and use the new "Courtyard" building.

The increase in space had several advantages; a wider range of work could be on show from our talented artists, including work by GCSE as well as AS and A2 students. A range of larger pieces could be displayed showing pupils working in a variety of media, such as Thomas Leung's impressive sculpture *The Redeemer*, the beautifully executed appliqué and tapestry banner *Do We Not Bleed?* and the arresting shower cubicle *A Distraught Tension* both from Tara White. In addition, final exam

pieces by our DT GCSE pupils were on show; these elegant pieces of furniture were fine displays of design and craftsmanship. By mounting the exhibition in School, it meant that the work was on display for longer, including during Visitation Day, and so more visitors were able to admire the fantastic work produced by this talented group of pupils.



DT Workshop Redevelopment

Mr S Vincent

Design and Technology as a subject has changed significantly over the last ten years and the traditional craft based approach of producing fine artefacts has given way to pupils using knowledge from mathematics and science to develop thinking skills through the process of analysis, designing, making and evaluating. This focus has a clear impact on the kind of experience that the department wants Bancroft's pupils to enjoy and, during the summer, work was completed on redevelopment of the Design and Technology workshop.

At a time when, sadly, other leading independent schools are thinking of not offering DT at all, it has been a real boost to the department to extend its provision and capacity. The first job in redeveloping the space was to enhance the 'multi-material' nature of the space but set aside key spaces for modern computer aided manufacturing processes such as laser cutting and 3D Printing. Improved storage and a new design office has made the

workspace open and spacious, benefiting from a new state of the art interactive whiteboard, improved lighting, extraction and upgraded equipment.

The new space is a huge improvement in experience for the pupils and will help Bancroft's School continue to produce the leading designers and engineers of the future.



Leave it to Psmith, Junior Play

Emilia Hitching (L4W)

The Junior Play of 2015 was a raucous 1920s' comedy, featuring stolen diamonds, a pending proposal, and the eponymous wisecracking mastermind, Psmith. A wide array of talent was whittled down over auditions – such was the ability of the students that female roles were double cast, to give more talented pupils a chance.

I played Lady Middlewick, the domineering stepmother of the absent-minded Freddie, who hires Psmith to arrange a way for him to be married. I really enjoyed my role, and meeting the demands of my character was never a boring prospect.

Rehearsals were a crash-course six-week event which was tiring, but extremely rewarding. We enjoyed seeing the show come together, whether that was through Charleston rehearsals in which we tried to avoid sustaining injury during the complex footwork, or the ensemble 'big reveal' scenes where we worked on exaggerating facial expressions.

A three act play with numerous whole-cast costume changes, period hair and make-up, and an extensive set, sounds impossible to put on in such a short space of time, and would not have been possible without the hard work of Mr Collis, our stage and tech director, and our wardrobe, as well as make up student volunteers. They worked magic in a very short space of time to make our production what it was, and all involved are very grateful to them.

We first gave a matinee to local junior school students, which was a lot of fun and very



useful for refining our acting. The first laugh I heard at the start of our first show was one of the most relieving moments I've ever had. Heart thumping, I made my entrance in the first scene, and went on to thoroughly enjoy the whole show. As always, there were minor malfunctions – props mislaid or broken, costumes torn – but our cast carried on valiantly and let nothing on to the audience.

Our last show was a bittersweet occasion. All the hard work over the weeks had led up to this final moment, and we were determined

to do everybody who had assisted us proud, but we were all sad to see such a fantastically fun production go. It was a brilliant show to be part of; we all bonded terrifically and I look forward to acting with everyone involved in the future.

Special mention must go to Mr Goalby and Ms Middleton, our two tireless directors who spent many hours working with us to make the show a success. They made it such a wonderful show to be part of, and we are incredibly thankful to them.

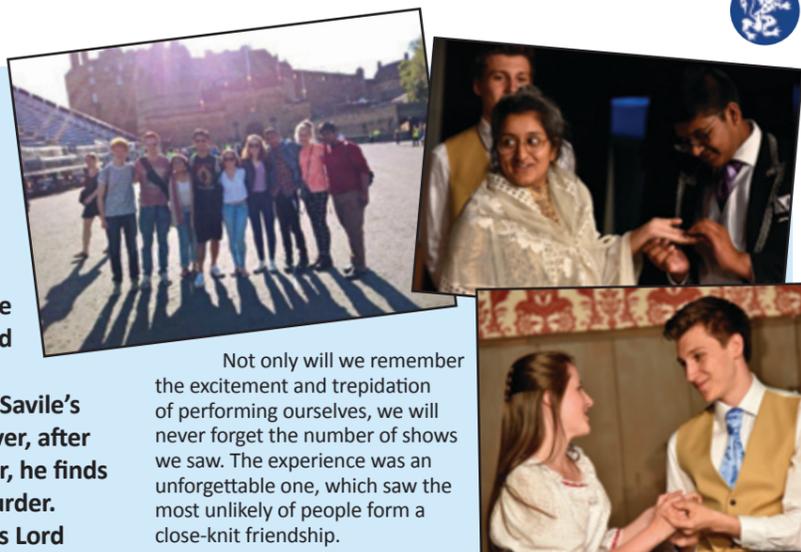
Edinburgh 2015

Zara Meyers (U6W), Kimran Rana (U6N)

This summer a group of nine senior students were fortunate enough to take part in the world famous Edinburgh Fringe Festival as the cast of *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* and adapted by Constance Cox from Oscar Wilde's dark short story. This comedy follows Lord Arthur Savile's pursuit to marry the woman he loves. However, after an unfortunate encounter with a palm-reader, he finds that, in order to marry, he must commit a murder. Despite the subject matter, comedy ensues as Lord Arthur and his companions fail in their schemes.

Auditions were held in March and some after some careful deliberation we finally had a cast. After two months of prior preparations and a week of intensive rehearsals in August we were ready to go! Thanks to Mr Collis and his van, the props did not have to endure the journey across England from King's Cross to Edinburgh as they have previously. After briefly making ourselves at home in Edinburgh, we were on the move again for a final rehearsal at our venue before performing on the Royal Mile the next afternoon.

Each morning we started our day alongside hundreds of other performers, flying on the streets of Edinburgh. Being in nineteenth century dress, we found we very quickly attracted passers-by and each day we found ourselves becoming more confident in selling our show and filling the seats. This obviously proved successful as we reached a near sell-out each day.



Not only will we remember the excitement and trepidation of performing ourselves, we will never forget the number of shows we saw. The experience was an unforgettable one, which saw the most unlikely of people form a close-knit friendship.

Miss Gartland, the show's Director, adds, "We were able to see a wide range of amateur and professional shows, somehow fitting in everything from circus to spoken word. The innovative and thought-provoking play *Foxfinder* was a hit with all those Bancroftians who saw it; *Sweeney Todd: the Panto* went down a little less well! One of my highlights was watching the improvement in the poetry of Louis Japaul and Harris Nageswaran; inspired by Loud Poets, they occupied a few walks between our venue and accommodation creating their own verse.

We must thank our sound and lighting technician Steve Collis for whom, sadly, this turned out to be his last Bancroft's gig. His help and support were greatly appreciated, not only in putting on the play, but in ensuring all ran smoothly at the accommodation, mending props, distributing flyers, suggesting shows to see and replacing broken umbrellas. We wish him all the best in his new job at the University of Kent in Canterbury."

House Drama 2015

Kimran Rana (U6N)

House Drama has always been a fundamental pillar of the Inter House Competitions and this year all four Houses felt the need to raise the standard even higher than previously. Within the first week of being back at School, auditions had been held. Every cast had a range of ages and included actors from each year group, which meant that it was a real effort from the entire House.

As performances grew closer, the friendly competitiveness within the School rose and Bancroft's had a real buzz. For everyone involved, the school performance caused the most nerves as, being entirely student run, this was the first time we would be receiving feedback from any member of staff. The excitement and nerves proved to be an excellent combination as each House's performance left the audience entertained, the Drama Department impressed and the House staff proud. Following the school performances and the feedback, it was difficult to see who would come out on top, which only increased the excitement around the School in the lead up to the Final.

As the Final loomed and we all had our last rehearsal, we all got a sudden sense of pride. Pride for our House, yes, but more the pride that in the space of just four weeks we had produced a twenty-minute piece of entertaining theatre. From then we knew that regardless of the result we would be happy, and

this act of competition brought us closer as a House and as a School.

House Drama has started the School year with the thrill and excitement of taking part in Drama and House events. More importantly, however, it encouraged friendships regardless of age and created a closer-knit society within Bancroft's.



Music Report

Mr R Bluff

The Creative Arts Exhibition was held in the Courtyard Building towards the end of the summer term with exhibits from the Art and DT departments and viewings accompanied by music for flute, saxophone and guitar. The Soul Band provided teatime entertainment in the marquee on Visitation Day and a group of Bancroft's Singers formed the backbone of a choir on OBs' Day with a fine rendition of an anthem by Parry.

The 'Come and Play' afternoon for junior schools featured a large orchestra and choir and some very enjoyable and enthusiastic music making. In the Summer Concert many of the ensembles included our very talented leavers in their last official concert, three of whom are going on to study music at university or conservatoire and one to the Purcell School.

This autumn term's music began with an afternoon of Soul, Funk and Jazz with the Bancroft's Swingers and Soul Band. A large and appreciative audience enjoyed a wonderful array of musical talent together with cream tea. £670 was raised for the Barnardo's children's charity. In complete contrast, the chapel choir, with instrumental accompaniment, performed a week of music from the Taizé Community with its quiet repetitive and reflective style of worship.

Most recently, members of the London Chamber Orchestra came to Bancroft's to work with our musicians and launch Music Junction, an exciting project which will involve Bancroftians mentoring musicians from other



schools. The project runs through the year with LCO members working alongside pupils in groups performing and composing, with a final showcase concert in the Cadogan Hall in May.

We welcome James Kelsall to the Music Department this year. He is jazz keyboard specialist and is working towards a PGCE qualification.

Banned Books Week in the Library

Mrs K Squire

To coincide with International Banned Books Week, the Library wanted to highlight that even today we cannot take free speech for granted. New Zealand only last month, banned its first teenage novel for twenty two years.

As a bit of fun and to stimulate discussion we gave the reasons why ten very famous books were banned and asked tutor groups to try and work out what they were.

Who would have known that *Alice in Wonderland* was banned in 1931 in China for the portrayal of anthropomorphized animals acting on the same level of complexity as human beings? To their credit most entrants successfully guessed or worked out the answers. Efra Ashan (RS) won the individual prize (given when the tutor group was not taking part) while U6Na and RWa were the joint winners of the tutor group prize. We pulled an overall winner from a hat (well box) and U6Na came out tops, to be awarded a fantastic cake made by Mrs Dawkins featuring many banned books in chains. RWa also received a prize.





DofE Gold Award Presentation at St James'

Mr D Argyle

On Tuesday 6th October thirty seven pupils, who left Bancroft's in the last three years, attended a Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentation Ceremony at St. James' Palace to receive their Gold Awards. The magnificent surroundings were a fitting setting to mark a fantastic achievement which recognised the awardees as having completed a series of demanding expeditions, learning new skills and provided community support.

It is extremely rare to have such a large group from one borough let alone one school, a fact not lost on HRH the Earl of Wessex who exclaimed, "They are all from your school? Now that's just showing off!" HRH spent time talking with the group and their parents about memories of their experiences and what they had done during their expeditions.

The ceremony concluded with a special presentation to Pat Morton and Luke Brennand for their significant input into the success of DofE at Bancroft's.

Mr Argyle, our DofE manager, reflected that, "This number of Gold Awards is a fantastic achievement for our School and represents incalculable hours of work and effort by the participants, their parents and School staff. This wonderful event was a fitting ending to mark a splendid effort all round."

When asked if he was proud of his daughter, Rebecca, Gary Mead stated, "I was a very proud dad on this special occasion. The hard work, effort and determination shown by all these Bancroft's pupils is a credit to them, their School and all the teachers who give their time to this



(Image courtesy of Tempest Photography)

scheme. The Gold Award reception with Prince Edward at St James' Palace was a fitting pinnacle to their achievement."

Gold Award holder Matt Carnell said, "This was fantastic experience, and one which I will never forget. The presentation was particularly enjoyable as there was such a large Bancroftian presence, and so it allowed friends from different universities to be reunited and to reminisce about the joys of our expeditions. Visiting such a prestigious venue heightened the sense of celebration and the nature of our achievements. It's also pretty nice to be able to say to people "I've met one of the Royal Family!"

Sea Scouts

Mr S Young, Scout Leader, 4th Epping Forest South (Bancroft's School) Sea Scouts

After the hard work of passing our Royal Navy Inspection, the summer term was a little less pressured, but still a busy time.

Our Thursday night meetings moved to Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre, allowing the Troop to work on their practical boat work skills, including kayaking, canoeing, and sailing in a variety of dinghies.

The annual St. George's Day Parade, when the whole of the Scout District comes together, was a successful one as we were awarded both the District Swimming Shield and the District Scout Troop Challenge Shield. The latter is a competition held through the year in the disciplines of Five a Side Football, Golf, Chess, Badminton, Air Rifle Shooting, Swimming and a Quiz Night. The overall victory is a result of the keen participation of a large number of the Troop.

For the first time under my leadership, a group of older Scouts went to the Royal Navy Recognised Sea Scout camp in Portsmouth. This camp gives Scouts a chance to experience life on board a Royal Navy destroyer whilst taking part in either a multi-activity camp or a week long training course in a specific water sport. The camp also is great opportunity to make new friends as



Scouts come from all around the country. Of the nine scouts who went, two participated in the multi-activity camp with the other seven on training courses. Those who did the training courses all passed, so six Scouts gained the BCU 2 Star in paddle sports and one gained her RYA Level 2 Power Boating Award. While the leaders may not have come back with any formal qualifications we did gain valuable experience by working in a large team of Sea Scout leaders.

Just after the end of term it was time for the Summer Camp, this year a week in the New Forest. The camp allowed us to engage in both traditional and some less traditional scouting activities. On the traditional side were camping skills such as pitching tents, lighting fires, using lashing and knots. Among the less traditional were go-karting at Beaulieu Motor Museum and Laser



Tag during a visit to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Once again everyone enjoyed the occasion. It was also a good opportunity for three of our Young Leaders (Explorer Scouts aged 14-18) who came to help and were able to lead some of the activities, and so gain valuable leadership experience.



CCF: Fifth Form BITs Course

Cpl Annabel Sharkey (5E)

In the Fifth Form, Army Cadets are tasked with completing the Basic Instructor Training (BITs) course, learning to how teach lessons to the younger cadets. There are three topics; Skill at Arms, First Aid and Field Craft.

Skill at Arms centres on how to teach lessons about the safe and correct use of the rifles. This section was by far the most difficult but it was so rewarding when we had finished our presentation to see that our hard work had paid off. First Aid was the shortest of the topics, during this section we learnt how to deal with casualties, from minor injuries such as cuts



and small burns to more extreme situations of broken bones and unconsciousness. After a test to confirm our knowledge, we moved onto the final topic, Field Craft. We learnt how to teach skills which would be used at Army Camp and on other field days, such as movement with the rifle, camouflage and concealment as well as crossing obstacles. This part of the course



was enjoyable because we were teaching more practical skills, which come into play during section competitions.

The BITs course was a fun activity outside of our stressful exam preparation and it has allowed us to progress within the Contingent.

Girls to U18 Hockey Regionals

Mrs D Jewell

Bancroft's U18 girls set off to the Essex hockey tournament on Wednesday 30 September with a few of their usual team members missing due to injuries and prior commitments; therefore, they included some of the younger players, who really held their own, and played exceptionally well at times.

They started positively against Chigwell, their first opposition; although Bancroft's had most of the possession they struggled to convert. Eventually, from a penalty corner, we

managed to score a dubious and lucky goal (but they all count) to win 1-0. The second game was against Brentwood, and we were determined to score early on; luckily hard work proved fruitful and we scored twice for a 2-0 win.

Next, we took on Felsted and Coopers' Coborn in back-to-back games with no rest. The Bancroft's girls knew these would be their toughest opposition and were proved right; in two hard fought games we drew 1-1 with Felsted but lost 1-0 to Coopers'.

The last two games were really important as we needed to win both to go through to the Regional Finals. First, we took on Forest and won 3-0 and then New Hall and won 2-0 leaving Bancroft's in second place



and meaning we progressed to the Eastern Regional Final. It was a great day all around with some beautifully taken goals, and some solid defending.

Tennis 2015

Miss A Wainwright

It was yet another glorious tennis season with some very competitive, fun and entertaining fixtures for girls and boys in every age group and there was much very encouraging progress made along the way by players of all abilities.

The U12-U15 boys' teams had some very competitive matches in both the home and away fixtures. Over twenty boys competed in the Year 8 and 10 AEGON National Schools Team Tennis events, which gave them both vital singles and doubles match play experience, finishing with very respectable win-loss records. One of the best elements of the season was seeing boys from all age groups playing doubles with and against each other. David Nana's 7.1 LTA rating is good news for the future of boys' tennis!

The girls served up extra portions of success, with the U12s registering an unbeaten season and the



U13s and U14s demonstrating their formidable strength with some mighty wins. The U15s battled well in their set of fixtures but an overall team victory proved elusive, despite several good individual match wins. We were able to combine the very best in the U13 and U15 AEGON National Schools Team Tennis events and the U13s really stepped up a gear, with the A Team coming second in their group and the B Team, comprising Amelia Wood, Jaya Aggarwal, Anna-Francesca Hammond and Harriet Wood, finishing first, making them Area Champions.

The "doubles bug" was seen very clearly in the Inter-Year Doubles Tournament with fifty two girls taking part from the Prep 1s to the U4th. It is without doubt my favourite event of the season as it epitomises the warm spirit of the Bancroft's community, with the



more experienced players helping the less experienced even though it is in a competitive environment. This year's Inter-Year Champions were Phoebe Collins & Emily Lord (U4th) who beat Anya Shah & Roshni Parmar (Removes) in an entertaining final.

Special mention should go to Phoebe Collins who now has a 3.1 rating which puts her currently at number 1 in Essex at U18 level and in 155th place nationally in the senior rankings. She has been playing at number 1 for the School since the 3rds and she has represented Bancroft's superbly on court. Phoebe captained a strong Bancroft's contingent which played in the Queenswood East Region Championships at U13 and U15 level. She partnered Raya Uzunova in the U15 Division 1 category and narrowly lost to Bedford in the Final.



Singapore and Malaysia Boys' Hockey Tour

Nathan Rose (5E) and Ben Margetson-Rushmore (5S)

For thirty Bancroft's Hockey players the Singapore and Malaysia hockey tour was an experience of a life time. The tour was full of cultural experiences, visiting temples, national monuments, the famous Royal Selangor pewter factor. We also ate interesting foods as well as rode on rickshaws and walked through old parts of cities, which was like going back in time. We also had many exciting fixtures against schools and regional teams from both countries.

Immediately we arrived in Singapore we left the airport to tour this incredible city. We drove through China Town and Little India, past Raffles Hotel and saw parts of the Singapore Grand Prix circuit. We stopped and saw the Merlion, a mythical statue half fish and half lion, which spouts water out into Singapore marina. We experienced some great things, such as Universal Studios on Sentosa Island and the huge indoor gardens at Marina Bay. The highlight was attending the famous Raffles Hotel for high tea. This was no ordinary scones with jam and cream as it consisted of an oriental buffet with some unfamiliar dishes. The Raffles Hotel really made the group feel special when they helped us to celebrate TJ's birthday with a birthday cake. The afternoon was topped off with an evening swim in the hotel's pool.

We left Singapore and started our long drive with our new tour guide Hoon; he took some

warming too but we eventually managed to understand Hoon's interpretations of the English language. We spent most of the tour in Malaysia travelling and playing as we travelled from Johor in the south up the west coast to Penang in the north. During our travel north we stopped at a fruit shop quite different from those familiar from home. It had fruit we knew but several fruits which were new to us and we were treated to a prepared feast of dragon fruit, jack fruit (Talveen's favourite) as well as the most incredible sweet bananas, fresh pineapple and melons.

We visited the Malaysian Cameron Highlands, a British Hill Station where the Europeans would holiday to escape the heat of the Malaysian summer. The Highlands are famous for the BOH tea company. The tea plantations are kept in pristine condition and the tea produced is of the highest quality. The Heritage Hotel we stayed in was an old colonial building built in the early 1900s; it was a lovely hotel, if a bit tired having last been decorated when in the British were in residence. We all enjoyed a steamboat meal in the hotel which was a fun experience. It involved cooking your own meat fish and noodles. Of course we made a huge mess of things but were fortunate to have the hotel staff guiding us and making sure our chicken was fully cooked.

We stayed in some amazing hotels, but the best hotel had to be in Penang. The facilities as well as pool and direct access to the beach made the last few days incredible.

The main reason we went on this incredible trip was to play hockey and develop as players and improve our team play. The junior team won six and lost two out of their eight games and the seniors won three, lost two and drew

three of their games. The players all took time to acclimatise to the heat which took its toll in all games but less so as the tour went on. In every game we learned new things from the opposition and everyone gave 100% with some outstanding performances, scoring some incredible goals throughout the tour.

All the schools or clubs we played welcomed us, in particular the Royal Selangor Hockey Club. We were very fortunate and delighted to be invited to meals at two amazing locations, one in Kula Lumpur city and the other at their country club. We played in some incredible venues, especially the national pitch of Malaysia.

We would like to thank everyone who made us feel special as well as Mr MacLeod, Mr Dickinson, Mr Prole and Mr Arora for all they did to make our tour such an amazing experience. They organised everything with the help of our tour rep Desh and kept us on schedule throughout our time in Singapore and Malaysia. They worked hard so we could play and enjoy the experience, culture and ways of life the Far East. We were all extremely grateful for it.



Netball: Essex Met Champions

Bancroft's netball had a very successful day at the County (Essex Met) Round of the National Schools' Netball Tournament, held at Redbridge Sports' Centre on Sunday 18 October. Following their performances in the Borough Round, the School had teams competing in all three age groups of the Tournament: U14, U16 and U19.

The U14s had become Redbridge Champions in the Borough Round, while both the U16 and U19 teams were the runners-up. These positions were reversed in the County Round, which saw the U16 win every one of their six games to take the Essex Met title. As might have been expected, the match against Wanstead High School, the Redbridge champions, was a close fixture with the Bancroft's U16 girls edging ahead to win 10-9. The whole team performed well and it would not be fair to single out any one player as 'Player of the Tournament' as they worked



so much as a team. However, both the U16 Captain Simni Solanke and Vice Captain Tamika Quaterly are worthy of commendation.

Ms Dani Mugridge, Director of Sport and coach for the U16s said, "The U16 team were outstanding at the County Tournament and played some of the best netball I have seen them play over the last three years. They are one of the best teams I have coached and worked tirelessly to secure their victory. I am an extremely proud coach and really hope that they progress to the National Final next year

but we have some hard work to put in between now and the Regionals."

The U14 enjoyed some comfortable wins, their single loss was against Redbridge adversaries Trinity School, which Trinity won 5-3 to go onto take the U14 title. Ms Mugridge commented, "The U14s played fantastically as well, they are a fabulous team who will only improve ready for the Regionals. Overall I am very proud of all the efforts the girls and coaches have put in to achieve such great results!"

From the Parents' Association

Jo Hughes, PA Secretary



The summer term was packed as always with PA events: a Parents v Teachers Cricket match (teachers won!); refreshments at Prep and Senior Sports Days (how lucky we were that the rain held off till the end of the event) and the Great Gatsby Summer Ball (which raised a fantastic £7,341).

The PA calendar in the autumn term kicked off with the Alpha Quiz for families of the youngest pupils at Bancroft's School. This is now a well-established event, held on a Sunday afternoon, which allows families of new pupils to get to know one another. Other key events in the autumn term are the annual Quiz Night and Bollywood Night.

The PA AGM was held on 6 October. It was well attended by parents and teaching staff. Jo Hughes was voted in as the new Secretary and Hulya Muzammal becomes the



new Treasurer (photographed with Deepti Arora and David Hough who remain in office as Chair and Vice Chair respectively). Mr Mikdadi addressed the meeting with these kind words, "I would like to emphasise how much all teaching staff appreciate the PA, not only their fundraising activities, but also the way in which they bring the School community together with many different events. The work they do is remarkable".

The PA is represented on Facebook and Twitter so please "Like" us and "Follow" us!

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 Twitter@PABancrofts



Governors' Report

Prof Philip Ogden, Chair of Governors

Two new members joined the Governing Body in September. **Rej Bhumbra** is a nominee of the Drapers' Company. Rej is a Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon at Barts Health. He grew up in Buckhurst Hill and was a pupil at Bancroft's from 1985-1990. He was admitted to the Livery of the Drapers' Company in 2013.



The second new governor is also a medic. Professor Peter Kopelman is Principal of St George's, University of London and honorary Consultant at St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Peter has lived in the London-Essex area most of his life and currently lives in South Woodford. He is particularly interested in diabetes care, nutrition and obesity. Peter and his wife Sue have three children, all of whom attended Bancroft's.

We also said goodbye to Merfyn Jones, a long-serving governor at the end of the last



academic year. Merfyn, an Old Bancroftian, made two particularly noteworthy contributions to the Governing Body and the School. First, he chaired the Finance Committee and, with successive Bursars, ensured that the School's financial position remained robust, allowing us to expand considerably our buildings and facilities. Second, he was the inaugural Chairman

of the Bancroft's Foundation. This too has been an outstanding success and has already allowed a number of pupils to attend Bancroft's who would not otherwise have the financial resources to do so. The Governing Body and the whole Bancroft's community are indebted to Merfyn for his contributions, which will continue through his association with the Old Bancroftians.

Bancroft's Rugby World Cup Business Breakfast

Miss G Wicks (Director of Development)

On 11 September, more than forty Old Bancroftians, parents and friends of the School attended the latest Bancroft's Business Breakfast. The event was generously hosted and supported by Mayer Brown and the guest speaker was Old Bancroftian **Simon Winman (OB 1974-1981)**, Head of Club Development at the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

Simon spoke on the topic 'The Rugby World Cup 2015: what will success look like?' and gave an interesting insight into his integral role for the RFU in working with clubs around the country in the lead up to the World Cup to ensure a lasting legacy for rugby; focusing on the benchmarks for success both on and off the pitch.

An interesting Q&A covered a wide range of topics including selection, the impact of injuries, the role of clubs and sponsorship of the game, followed by a networking breakfast. The events also gave guests an excellent opportunity to meet and network with other professionals in the Bancroftian community.



Thanks to the support of Mayer Brown, all ticket monies were directed to the Bancroft's Foundation, which supports means-tested scholarships at the School to enable children to attend, regardless of their financial background.

If you would like to suggest a theme, venue or speaker for a future Business Breakfast event, or to find out more about the Foundation, please contact Gemma Wicks at gemma.wicks@bancrofts.org.

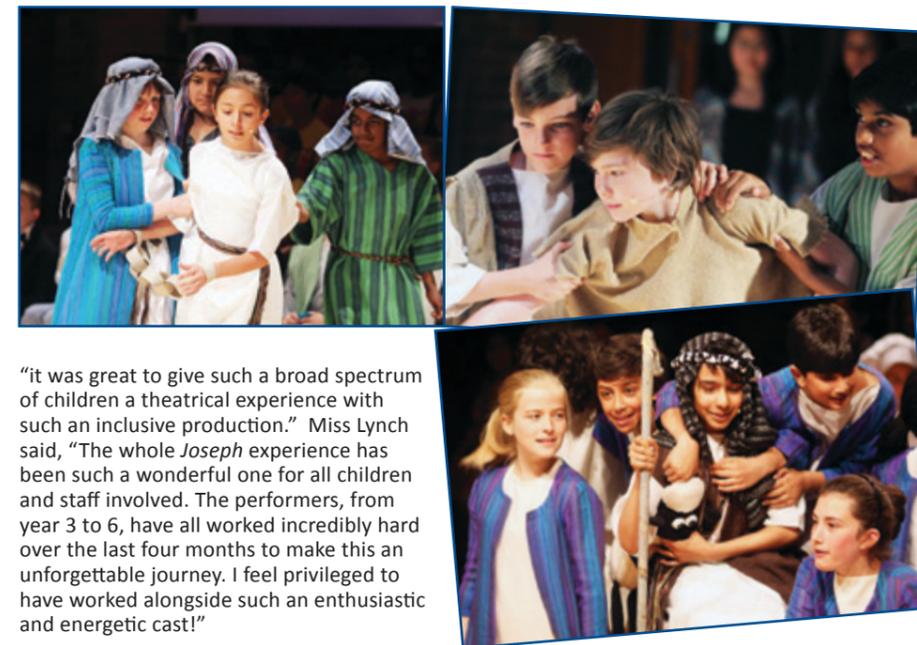


Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

Prep 2 leavers had a busy few weeks during the summer term: firstly their exciting trip to France and then their fabulous production of *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*.

Using two casts ensured that every single member of the year group was on stage; so there were two Josephs (Edward Sands-Grant and Mila Stoilova), two Pharaohs (Sahana Sekhon and Sarib Khan) and 22 brothers! This, together with rehearsing four separate Alpha and Beta choirs, meant logistical nightmares involving a fair amount of juggling for Director Kat Lynch and Musical Director Adam Baum. This was an exuberant and energetic production; the looks of joy on the children's faces clearly displayed just how much they were enjoying Andrew Lloyd Webber's dangerously catchy tunes and Tim Rice's witty lyrics.

A Prep 2 parent described the production as "utterly engaging" and commented that



"it was great to give such a broad spectrum of children a theatrical experience with such an inclusive production." Miss Lynch said, "The whole *Joseph* experience has been such a wonderful one for all children and staff involved. The performers, from year 3 to 6, have all worked incredibly hard over the last four months to make this an unforgettable journey. I feel privileged to have worked alongside such an enthusiastic and energetic cast!"

Charity Day at the Prep

Pupils at the Prep School had a very special guest on Wednesday 3 June when Tansy, a pony from Chigwell Riding Trust for Special Needs, visited along with Deborah Hall from the Trust.

Chigwell Riding Trust had been chosen as one of the charities to benefit from money raised from the Prep's annual Charity Day. The day raised over an amazing £11,000 which will also benefit a second local charity - the Loughton branch of Sportability, which gives disabled children access to sport - as well as the African Children's Choir, which visited the Prep School in the autumn, and the Nepal Earthquake Fund.

Chigwell Riding Trust plans to use the money raised by the Prep to fund a new pony. Headmaster Joe Layburn said, "Everyone loved Tansy, she made a real impression on the children. She even had her own visitor's permit! Chigwell Riding Trust is a fantastic and very special local charity doing an absolutely brilliant job. Many of our Senior pupils have volunteered there. The children worked hard and enthusiastically to raise funds for these fabulous charities which help disabled local children and children worldwide. I am immensely proud of their efforts in raising a record sum by this annual event."



Betas To PGL

The Betas enjoyed another successful trip to PGL Marchant's Hill in October. This trip is always a brilliant way to give our pupils a sense of adventure, in a fun and exhilarating environment.

It was wonderful to see the children socialising together and supporting and motivating each other. Our children have gained confidence, are now more self-reliant and have enjoyed the freedom of the outdoors. Most importantly the activities were challenging and took the children outside of their comfort zones and these experiences will be treasured, talked about and remembered for years to come.

Here are just a few of their very positive comments, "It is one of the best places I have ever been. The scariest part was jumping off the top of the Power Fan. It took me so much courage to do it, but I feel so proud of myself." (Mustafa Suleman) "I got to the top of the platform, looked down, and was terrified. I closed my eyes and jumped off. It was a big achievement for me." (Frank Williams), "PGL will change my life any time I need to step out of my comfort zone. It was the best school trip ever, by far." (Bradley Varaden) and from Tanishaa Venkataraman, "I have learned that teamwork is a really good skill to have and that you should never give up on your first attempt!"





New Staff: Autumn Term 2015

Kate Hughes, History

Kelly Johnston, Head of Girls' Games (Prep)

James Kelsall, Music

Rob Young, English



Baking Bonanza for Macmillan

Once again pupils in both the Prep and Senior Schools joined enthusiastically in the "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Both Schools held cake sales during break times on Thursday 24 and Friday 25 September when a fantastic array of homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, biscuits and other delicious treats were on sale. In the Senior School pupils crowded around the stalls which were organised by Thirds and the sound of satisfied munching soon filled the school. In the Prep the event was a little less of a bun fight (pun intended) and the Prep 2 pupils did a fantastic job in running stalls. Pupils needed little encouragement to indulge in the goodies raising in excess of £900 for the annual event which encourages Macmillan supporters to get together with friends and family and host a coffee morning to raise funds to help people affected by cancer.



Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2015

Wednesday 9 September - Friday 18 December

Half term

Monday 26 October - Friday 6 November

SPRING TERM 2016

Tuesday 12 January – Thursday 24 March

Half term

Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February

SUMMER TERM 2016

Monday 18 April – Friday 8 July

Half term

Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June

AUTUMN TERM 2016

Wednesday 7 September - Friday 16 December

Half term

Monday 24 October - Friday 4 November

SPRING TERM 2017

Tuesday 10 January - Friday 31 March

Half term

Monday 13 - Friday 17 February

SUMMER TERM 2017

Monday 24 April - Friday 7 July

Half term

Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June



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