



Insight

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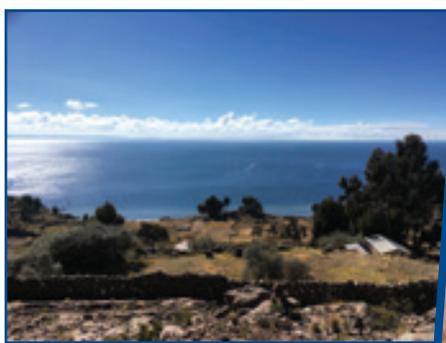
AUTUMN TERM 2018

Construction and Culture in Peru

Mr Richard Hays

The summer of 2018 saw 95 members of the Bancroft's community travel to Peru to be part of one of the largest and most far-reaching trips in the School's history. During three back-to-back trips spanning just over seven weeks in total, our pupils were able to: visit the amazing, "lost" Inca settlement, Machu Picchu; explore the Sacred Valley of the Incas; spend time on Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake; learn some Spanish; learn more about the local culture and sample the incredible Peruvian gastronomy. However, the highlight for many was their involvement with Aldea Yanapay a local charity helping to make a real and tangible change in the rural community of Lamay, an hour outside of Cusco.

Bancroft's has tried to support the charity financially for the last year or so, dedicating two "Own Clothes Days" to the cause and organising the unforgettable "All I Want For Christmas For Peru" benefit evening in December 2017 which will be making its triumphant return later this term. In total, we were able to send over £10,000 to Aldea Yanapay in advance of the trip and staff and children alike were delighted to see that money spent directly on improving the



quality of life of those most in need, without an overhead or bureaucratic expense in sight.

Bancroft's remit during our time in Peru was to help with the construction of six stand-alone bathrooms so that families would no longer expect the river, the community's supply of drinking water, to additionally serve as their toilet, shower and washing machine. The work was intense, laborious and difficult, but the manner in which it was approached by our pupils was nothing short of amazing. Some discovered muscles they did not know existed when carrying bags of cement up a steep hill 3399m above sea level. Others developed skills that certainly hadn't existed before – learning to plaster, learning to use a sledgehammer or learning to mix cement. The majority, however, were tasked with digging the enormous holes required for the bathrooms' septic tanks on a budget that could not afford a mechanical digger and on terrain that could not have been reached by one anyway. Pupils and staff alike toiled away come rain or shine, quite literally putting their blood, sweat and tears into the work, in a way that was truly inspiring to anyone who beheld it.



Inspiration was to be found in more than just the physical labour, however. Many were struck by the remarkable story of Yuri Valencia, the charity's founder and director, who has dedicated almost all of his life to his project and whose kindness, yet determination, to see a real change in Peru prompted many to declare that they would definitely be returning to volunteer with Aldea Yanapay again, whether that be with the next school trip or of their own accord.

It was an extraordinary summer for Bancroft's and everyone involved with the trip. The combination of breath-taking sightseeing, fascinating cultural discovery, no small amount of hard work and a similar amount of soul-searching made for an experience that few will ever forget. Perhaps more importantly, however, it has laid the platform for a mutually beneficial relationship to exist between Bancroft's and Aldea Yanapay – a relationship that many have already said they hope to see grow stronger and stronger in the years to come.





Thirds Go Wild in the Country!

Jessica Donnelly, 3W and Dhruv Verma, 3W

On Friday 28 September all the Thirds, together with our tutors and the Junior House Staff, headed to Hindleap Warren in East Sussex for an amazing overnight trip to get closer to the others in the year and get to really know our tutor group.

We found this trip to be a fantastic way to get to know each other, to try new things and have fun – we made loads of new friends. Over the two days we were away, we experienced lots of different activities. Highlights for us were: the Leap of Faith; climbing Jacob's Ladder; the night walk with creepy tales; learning all about bush craft and rock climbing.

Even though it was only a two day trip we met so many new people and learnt so many new skills!





Public Exams 2018

Once again, we were delighted to report great results in public examinations, which equalled the successes we have seen in previous years. Many congratulations to all our pupils and a huge thank you to the staff who have so ably and tirelessly supported them over the past years.

After a nervous build-up to results day, most of our pupils were happy with what they had achieved and the majority of them secured places at their chosen universities. The new A Levels were intended to be significantly tougher so we are delighted that the 2018 leavers more than equalled the achievements of recent years, with the most common grade once again being A* (over 36.2% of examinations) and with 70% of examinations graded at A* or A. Well done to the twenty-nine pupils of the cohort of 127 who achieved 3 or more A*.

Head, Simon Marshall, wrote, "This is the second year in which the majority of students took the new, linear-style A Levels and it is great to see so many of them rewarded for their hard work and achieve places at their chosen university or place of work; they seem to have coped particularly well with the pressures and stresses of the new syllabuses. There are very many outstanding performances at all levels, and we are especially proud of those pupils who have performed so well under adverse circumstances, whether through ill-health, bereavement or other challenging personal circumstances. This was an exceptionally committed and busy year-group (as their

many cultural and sporting successes throughout their time at the school have demonstrated) and they illustrate again that Bancroftians who most get involved in school life and learn from the variety of opportunities on offer also excel when it comes to final examinations."

There was an element of uncertainty ahead of this year's GCSE results. A radical shake up of the system, leading to a new grade structure together with tougher exams, meant that pupils and teachers alike were not quite sure what to expect. Many expectations, however, were exceeded and we were delighted to congratulate our Fifth Formers on their performances.

With the new grade 9 representing the very top level of the A* band, we were pleased that overall 42.2% of the new GCSEs were awarded a 9. Some subjects have retained the "old" grade bands and we have seen a total 86.7% of exams sat by the Fifth Form being awarded 9/8/7 or an A*/A. Forty pupils of the year group of 125 were awarded a superb nine or more A*/9/8s.

"I think nearly all our Fifths and their teachers can breathe a sigh of relief after a nerve-wracking two years of study and uncertainty," said Simon Marshall. "Our results compare favourably with the best any GCSE cohort has achieved at Bancroft's and even though, strictly speaking, it is impossible to judge this year's results against previous results, it is clear that this year-group has done exceptionally well.

The style and content of the new exams were designed to be challenging but our pupils and staff have all worked hard and so can be really proud of what they have achieved."



Science Trip to the Centre of the Cell

Shanuga Rubaraj, RE

On the 6 June, around twenty-five pupils travelled to the Centre of the Cell in Whitechapel, associated with the London Hospital, where we learnt all about the wonders of the human body.



The day kicked off with an amazing experience in the Nucleus where, with the help of videos, games and microscopes, we learnt the difference between cells diagnosed with cancer and healthy cells as well as learning about the different characteristics and functions of many specialised cells. We also got a closer look at the lives of the scientists who worked in the centre and their contributions to future discoveries. After lunch, we watched a presentation on "snot, sick and scabs" which at moments did make us look away. During this entertaining show Kiera Matthews made a whole bowl of "sick" from beans, vegetables, water and a lot of mucus! Let's just say it wasn't such a pleasant smell! With a bit of friendly competition between Kaitlin Lovell and Harry Blissett to assist us we studied a large variety of bacteria which could help us or contaminate us at any point in our lives.



This was truly a valuable enriching experience for everyone who took part and all the memories we made that day will always stick to us. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Dr Ismail for organising such a wonderful event and Mrs Hampson and Miss Prescott-Morrin for accompanying us.



Science Museum

Nimran Dhaliwal, L4S and Sejal Odedra L4N

On Tuesday 12 June, a group of twenty four Removes went on a trip to the Science Museum. The day comprised of a flying simulator; a 'Who am I?' exhibition about DNA and genealogy; an exciting visit to the Wonder Lab (which included a show on explosions) as well as an intriguing IMAX film on Space. We started the day by entering a flying simulator in which

we learnt about the physics of planes in a realistic way – it was as if we were the pilots of the aircraft. Some of us even went in a 360 degree rotating capsule, which simulated movement in space.

A favourite part of the trip was the visit to the Wonder Lab, where we were given the opportunity for an interactive experience. There were lots of displays which taught us many things about the different aspects of science. We particularly enjoyed riding down three slides, with different materials on each of their surfaces - grass, wood and plastic. This taught us in

an engaging way about friction affecting acceleration. Afterwards, we watched an entertaining show that taught us through fun experiments about explosions. We finished the trip with an IMAX movie based on astrology and space. The movie taught us about the importance of stars and the fact that without them no one or nothing could exist. Another interesting feature of the movie was its focus on how planets and stars allow us to discover the past.

We had a great day and thoroughly appreciated the wonderful experience; a huge thank you to Dr Ismail and Dr Ahmed for arranging the trip and accompanying us on it.

Visit From the Mobile Planetarium

Jemima Strong, U4W

We were always told in the Prep School to 'never stop looking up', that if we walked around with our heads down we would miss so much our world had to offer. That was certainly true on the afternoon of Wednesday 20 June when we were literally stargazing in a state-of-the-art mobile Planetarium.

A huge dome was constructed in the Great Hall in which the wonders of the universe were shown to us. The numerous constellations were projected onto the ceiling of the dome so that we felt as if we were actually travelling through space. Each Lower Fourth class in turn was taught how to stargaze and what to look out for in the sky at night. We were given lots of amazing information on the planets and how they orbit and also had the opportunity to look and touch various artefacts from outer space, such as moon rock.

This immersive experience was literally 'out of this world' and really captured my imagination. It enabled us to explore science, astronomy and geology in a fun and interactive way.



Science Summer School

Ankita Redla, L6W

In the summer holidays, several Bancroft's Sixth Formers, accompanied by Mr Choy embarked on a trip. Firstly, on Monday 16 July we went to the St Paul's Way Trust School for the Science Summer School. On Tuesday, the event was in the Here East complex we have all seen when heading into Westfields, in the Olympic Park.



The trip was an exciting opportunity to expand our scientific knowledge and gain an appreciation of the importance of science in all aspects of our lives. To start off we were given an introductory speech by Professor Brian Cox OBE, distinguished for his career in science broadcasting on television. We were then split into two groups, our group going to the lecture theatre first. We listened to multiple lectures all on different topics, ranging from the solar system to the science behind skyscrapers. A particularly interesting talk was one by Professor Frances Balkwill, OBE, professor of Cancer Biology. She spoke of immunotherapy being the possible cure to cancer. There were also several workshops throughout the day, covering various topics. We attended the interactive workshops on cancer screening and augmented reality; this widened our knowledge on these topics. To end each day we received a closing speech from Professor Brian Cox, all of us leaving having gained much more insight. We would like to thank Mr Choy for organizing and accompanying us on this trip.



L6 Biology Fieldtrip

Zoe Webb, U6W, Theva Swarnaprabha, U6W and Yoma Toweh, U6W

On a sunny Saturday morning twenty brave explorers and five dedicated teachers set off for the slightly less sunny Norfolk. Our first afternoon consisted of trying (with varying success) to find limpets along the rocky shore, and settling into the hostel. We were each 'coupled up' for the duration of the trip, which resulted in some interesting matches.

On the second day we travelled to Cley to sample some freshwater invertebrates, but hit a small problem upon arrival. All the equipment that we needed was still back at the hostel! After a quick drive back by Mrs Hampson we were reunited with our kick



nets. We looked at the rate of water flow by timing how fast oranges travelled one metre, and counted the species diversity in two sections. Among those found were some mating shrimps, mollusc shells and even some leeches. After all that hard work, the teachers quite rightly felt that we all deserved some ice cream. Following lunch, we returned to our favourite rocky shore to carry out investigations that we had been allowed to design ourselves.

Luckily for us we didn't need to take our own equipment for day three as it was provided to us by Holkham Hall. There we met Sue, our educational advisor for the day, who took us to a remote part of the beach. The scenery was beautiful, but we didn't get long to admire it as we had work to do. We took a profile of the beach identifying how the frequencies of different species changed to show evidence of succession. We also measured other factors, such as soil pH, temperature and the height profile of the beach. We wandered back through the pine forest to the hostel to write up our results.

We returned to Holkham the following day to have a look at the differences between

managed and unmanaged woodland. We heard about how Holkham is completely sustainable. They burn wood from felled trees to provide energy and manage the woodland using continuous cover forestry, which enables parts of the forest to have multiple layers of trees. They also grow a large number of different crops which they sell to companies, such as Adnams and Mars. The data we collected will be sent back to the forestry contingent at Holkham to help increase biodiversity. After the work in the woodland, we enjoyed a tractor trailer tour, where they showed us the beautiful estate, including some resident fallow deer. In the evening we wrote up results, just in time to see England scrape through their World Cup match on penalties- Halleluiah!

After all our hard work, we shared the fruits of our labour and presented the findings of our individual projects to the rest of the group on our final day. It was great to hear about the work our friends had been doing. Many thanks to Mrs Graham for organising such a successful trip, and to Miss Grimwood, Mrs Carter, Mrs Hampson and Mr Raw for giving up their time to take us.

New Scientist Live

Thevaguru Swarnaprabha, U6W

As a lover of all things science I have attended New Scientist Live for many years now but only as a visitor. This year, however, I was lucky enough to be invited by the company BioGrad to attend the event as an exhibitor for the four days from Thursday 20 September to Sunday 23 September.

This was the first time when I had to exhibit to such a large audience, ranging from scientific professors at universities to primary school children. I was there as a company representative having been on one of the company's courses as part of my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. I spent most of the event talking to the public, letting them know about the courses, and scheduling meetings with the

company lecturers to get career advice. I also had the opportunity to attend interesting talks and meet many intellectuals. My most notable interaction was when I met Henry Marsh, author of *Do No Harm: Stories of Life, Death and Brain Surgery*, having previously attended his fantastic talk about brain surgery. As a big fan of his book and applying to study medicine this year I think it is safe to say that I was over the moon to meet him. On Thursday and Friday Mrs Thompson was also at the event to represent the UKMT Maths Challenge at a stall called 'Maths in the Real World' where visitors could take on fun and complex maths puzzles. We both greatly enjoyed being exhibitors, especially because we enjoyed the privileges of VIP access. I made sure to get a look at every stand at the event, with some highlights being the Virtual Reality Rollercoaster, Doughnut Shaped Storm and the Quantum City. The whole show was so much fun, and I can't wait for New Scientist Live 2019!





Innovations in Liver Transplants

Ankita Redla, L6W

On Friday 21 September we had the opportunity to attend a talk by OB Dr David Nasralla on his ground-breaking work on liver transplantation. David left the school in 1999 to study medicine at Oxford University.

His team's study was recently published in prestigious journal *Nature* and covered by the BBC. David's research involves a new technique of liver preservation, this

being normothermic liver perfusion. This involves connecting a perfusion machine to a liver, which pumps the organ with blood, nutrients and medicines. A control trial was set up to compare liver transplants where the organs were preserved in an icebox versus those kept 'alive' outside the body using a normothermic perfusion machine. They were able to successfully transplant more of the warm livers than the cold ones, showing the exciting prospects that lay ahead. As well as learning about David's game changing research, we got to learn about other advancements in the treatment of liver cancer. The talk was fascinating to



all and allowed many of us to be introduced to new concepts that we had never come across before.

Modern Languages Showcase Soirée

Jemima Strong, U4W

Félicitations to everyone involved in the successful Modern Languages Showcase Soirée held in the Great Hall on the 15 June! Lydia Doye, Alice Bolitho and Caroline Hubbard hosted a fabulous evening celebrating language learning in the senior school.

The event opened with a taste of Germany as the Thirds performed their *Alphabet Rap*. Other highlights from Deutschland included Ritika Chakrobarty performing *Raus Hier* and the Upper



Fourths performing *Chöre* by Mark Foster, with help from backing singers from the Thirds. After a mini interlude of cheesy puns, whilst we tucked into European delicacies, we then heard Upper Fourth Spanish students singing *Friends* by Anne-Marie and later *Me Enamoré*. There was also a hilarious Russian sketch of *Little Red Riding Hood* and we had some talented musicians such as Sahana and Matthew performing pieces from Russian, German and French composers on the piano and bassoon. From France we had the *Perfect Tense Rap* by the talented Zain Ali who then accompanied me as I performed *Déjeuner du Matin* by Jacques Prévert. Tom Martin gave a great rendition of *La Cigale et La Fourmi* and the Remove girls sang *La Chanson des Femmes de Service*. The audience joined in with the chorus.

There were many opportunities for audience participation and the evening culminated in everyone singing a Beatles' song in German, *Komm Gib Mir Deine Hand*. It was such a fun evening and gave prominence to just how much our school values Modern Languages. So *danke* to the MFL department and *bien hecho todo el mundo!*



German Translation Bee

Sejal Odedra, L4N and Nimran Dhaliwal, L4S

At the beginning of the year, all Removes pupils who learn German were given the opportunity to take part in a German Translation Bee. The aim was to be able to translate as many sentences from English to German as accurately as possible in a minute. After many weeks of preparation, Miss Williams held a School Final to determine which two students would progress to the Regionals. It was very close but eventually we got through and were excited to participate in the Regional Round.

The Regionals were held at the University of Westminster where many talented students from our region fought it out for a place in the top five to advance to the National Final. Following both a tie break and a nerve-racking Sudden Death Round between the two of us, we came 1st (Sejal) and 2nd (Nimran), securing a place in the National Final.



Not long after the Regionals, the final took place on Monday 25 June at Cambridge University. The standard of the competition had increased hugely, leaving us anxious but motivated. We were sent into rooms to have our one minute preparation time and it was here that the judges selected the final four in the country. We were both pleasantly surprised to find that we had both come in the top four. After another intense minute in the Lecture Theatre, we emerged victorious with Nimran coming 1st and Sejal 2nd in the National Final of the German Translation Bee.



We can both say that it was a wonderful experience that will help us to make progress in German, but we could not have done anything without the continuous help and support of Miss Williams; *danke, Fraulein Williams!*



Bancroft's Players at the Edinburgh Fringe

Jaya Rana, U6N

Last summer, a group of upper school students had the opportunity to attend and perform in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The Fringe Festival is the world's largest and most famous arts festival taking place every year from the 1 to the 31 August. The Bancroft's Players put on a production of Frank Wedekind's *Spring Awakening*. This play is famous for its revelations about social oppression; although the original centres on 18th century Germany, the message it sends is universal and timeless. An ambitious play to choose! Our director Ms Middleton embarked on creating this show with less than a week of rehearsal time.

After a very intensive seven days of rehearsing we packed our bags and headed for King's Cross. Six hours of enjoying the beautiful countryside views later, we arrived in Edinburgh. The city was abuzz from the moment we stepped foot off the train! Every corner we turned we were approached by comedians, actors and singers encouraging us to see their show. Considering there were over 53,000 performances and we only had 13 days, we had to pick and choose. My personal favourite was a show called *Flight*, which was an immersive experience in which 20 of the 25-minute production were in pitch black, the experience being entirely auditory. We also went to see a thrilling production of *Antigone* in which the infamous



antagonist King Creon was instead portrayed as Queen Creon, something which I felt added an interesting and innovative dynamic to the play. We performed our play every night (bar one) and spent an hour a day handing out flyers, something which definitely taught us how to receive rejection! Fortunately, it paid off as we had a decently full audience every night, which was very encouraging.

As we had a fair amount of free time, a group of us decided to go to the Edinburgh dungeons which was very enjoyable. We also saw *Trump: The Musical...* something I don't think I can ever un-see! Overall, from our nightly renditions of *Teenager in Love* backstage to spending hours every night singing and playing the guitar together in our flat, I think it's fair to say that this trip was an unbelievable experience and something none of us will forget.

Wendy and Peter: Lower School Flying High

Cast members of the Junior School Production were literally flying high during performances of Ella Hickson's *Wendy and Peter*. Pupils from Thirds to Lower Fourth approached the production with enthusiasm and, according to the Director Ms Elie Middleton, were "highly creative, not to mention hugely entertaining."

Ella Hickson retains many familiar elements from J M Barrie's *Peter Pan*: the flight to Neverland from the nursery; Hook's feud with the crocodile; even the audience being called upon to revive a dying Tinkerbelle by



demonstrating their belief in fairies. It also gives a real 21st century slant to the story. Hickson's retelling of the story places Wendy (Jaya Robertson) firmly in the centre of the action. She leaves behind the girl conforming to society's stereotypes to develop into a determined young woman who knows her own mind and rejects the role Peter assigns to her as "mother" of the Lost Boys. Together with a TOWIE-esque Tinkerbelle (Georgia Moncur) and the feisty Tiger Lily (Isabella Erdem), Wendy demonstrates real "girl power" by defeating Hook. Lucy Joyce gave a mature and nuanced performance as a disturbingly creepy Hook, while Josie Grimsell as Peter, clearly revelled in her opportunities to fly. Jaya was well supported by Olly Hughes as John Darling, who conforms to the Edwardian expectations for his gender, and Dylan Karunathilake as a questioning Michael.

This production showed true company spirit with the cast demonstrating tight ensemble playing particularly among the Lost Boys and Hook's pirate crew. Mr Aron Whitbread together with his team, should be commended on the fantastic pirate ship which was an evocative background to the action. Congratulations to all those involved, including the hardworking backstage crew and those members of staff who assisted in the flying scenes. All elements seamlessly combined to make a truly magical show.



Music Junction Project 2018

Mr Chris Butler, Assistant Head Co-Curricular

Music Junction is a ground-breaking education and outreach programme run by the London Chamber Orchestra (LCO). It aims to address a number of needs which were identified by the LCO following collaboration between violinist and conductor Yehudi Menuhin and Rosemary Warren-Green, the LCO's Education and Outreach Artistic Director. The project aims to promote confidence, nurture self-esteem and encourage participants to develop empathy and respect for themselves and each other within their wider communities, through music making. In the long term, Music Junction seeks to address at a community level the challenges posed by a fragmented society, where there is often little opportunity for people from different backgrounds and communities to connect in a meaningful way. By bringing together children and young people from very different walks of life, Music Junction helps to foster a greater sense of connection between its participants.

On a local scale and within our Music Junction hub, LCO's team of musicians have shared their expertise over the academic year. They have encouraged and supported the participants throughout a series of musical activities including: flash-mobs, creative workshops which incorporating focused instrumental learning time, and performances.

In the London hub, workshops have taken place at three of the schools involved in the project in the London Boroughs of Waltham Forest, Havering and Redbridge. Creative work took place in a series of workshops hosted by Bancroft's School and The Drapers' Academy and led by the Music Junction Artist in Residence and the LCO musician team. More accomplished pupils mentor beginner and less experienced instrumentalists. At the heart of the workshop sessions is the opportunity to work alongside a composer on a new commission, inspired each year by a different artistic theme. Each year the Music Junction participants work with the artist in residence for the season, exploring ideas within the workshops, and in this way contributing to the process of making new work.

The new piece, commissioned by the LCO, is premiered in a showcase performance as part of its concert season. This year the second performance of Ollie Howell's Music Junction piece *Between Emotions* was performed at the hub's showcase concert at Bancroft's. It finished what was a fabulous



evening which also included performances from the Bancroft's String ensemble, who played a Vahal Trio, and a brass ensemble who played a trumpet quartet. Havering Music School performed an ABBA medley; the Drapers' Academy Choir sang two pieces *When She Loved Me* and *This is Me*. We were also fortunate to see the LCO Music Junction Orchestra play Bartok's *Romanian Dances*. The evening was a sell-out, and it was fabulous to see parents from our partner schools come and watch their children play. Ollie Howell's piece was beautifully performed by the entire orchestra and was the perfect way to finish this amazing collaborative experience. It really was the ultimate 'team experience'.

(Photos courtesy of Marc Gasgoine)



Singers' Italy Tour 2018

Numayar Chowdhury, 5W and Maximillian Stear, 5W

During the summer, with the company of Mrs Foinette, Mr Kelsall, Ms Middleton, Mr Young and Mr Cairn, the Bancroft's Singers embarked on a five day long adventure in picturesque northern Italy, namely Lake Garda and Verona. The trip started on an alarming note with the news that British Airways had cancelled our flight! Luckily for us, we had the formidable force of Mr Kelsall in our midst, who saved the situation. Even though the flight to Milan and the connecting coach to our hotel near Lake Garda were excruciatingly long, the day finally closed with traditional pizza made by our Italian hosts. After a good night's sleep, we awoke to our luxurious mountain views thanks to the splendid hotel balconies. The swimming pool was

also a positively noteworthy feature of the accommodation.

It is safe to say that this trip was one riddled with highlights. On the first night we took a musical excursion to the Arena di Verona, which also allowed us the opportunity to witness the world-renowned Juliet's balcony. While our first concert had a slightly disappointing attendance, the concerts which followed would prove to be very popular with the much-approving locals. Our group mainly consisted of the Bancrofts Singers, and some multi-talented members who delightfully provided some instrumental intermissions throughout the performances; the Jazz Band playing *Shape of You* by Ed Sheeran went down well with the natives and the rest of the Singers alike. On the final day we took a detour to Venice and spent a day among the splendid canals of Venice.

A huge amount of work went in behind the scenes in organising the tour and rehearsing all the pieces by Mrs Foinette. She was a driving force behind the impressive singing that the Italians witnessed in the streets of scenic Italian towns. This trip was something that many of us will never forget; a final thank you is owed again to all the teachers involved.



Cecchetti Choreographic Competition



Hanna, 5S

I recently was fortunate enough to perform a dance which I had choreographed at the Royal Ballet School in Covent Garden at Cecchetti Day. This was after I had won the Cecchetti Choreographic Competition in Cecil Sharp House in London and I was also awarded with the Susan Handy cup for Musicality.

After performing my dance at the Royal Ballet School, I had the chance to meet Darcey Bussell - it was an exciting experience! I am also a Cecchetti graduate at the Rambert School of Ballet, where I go every month for ballet classes taught by dancers and professional choreographers of various musicals and ballets. I dance for five hours a week at the Buckhurst Hill and Woodford School of Dancing where I learn ballet, Classical Greek ballet, tap and jazz. I am very happy that there is now a Dance Society at Bancroft's and I would like to thank my teachers for supporting me in my activities outside of school.



What Have the Romans Done for Us?

Last academic year the Classics Department organised a project for the L4ths asking “How did the Romans benefit modern day society?” This exercise helped both with persuasive writing in English, and with public speaking. Each group in a class showed their presentation to convince the rest of the class and the best one from each class was chosen to compete against all the other L4th classics classes.

Emily Harris, U4E, Keira Murphy, U4W and Charlotte Peters, U4E wrote, “With many interesting talks, the lunch time debate

was packed with facts and provided many insights into different aspects of Roman life. With the subject of the talks ranging from architecture to entertainment, every group offered a different perspective on what was the most significant influential legacy. Holly and Isher, for example, spoke about roads and city planning, while Amina, Pari, Daya, Kemi and Bhavleen told us about sports and leisure. After their talk, each group had to answer a question from Mrs Coyne and Miss Stewart, who were the adjudicators; these were wonderfully answered. We were pleased to be chosen as the winners (our topic was architecture) and are now much more aware of the wonderful way of life which the Romans have left us.”

Sahana Sekhon’s (U4S) group came up with the intriguing idea of looking at

propaganda. She explained, “The Romans used propaganda in different types of forms, for example, in art, literature and buildings. One example of Roman propaganda was when local people would graffiti on walls of buildings saying which gladiator was better than another. Propaganda was used throughout the Roman Empire. One of the most famous writers in Roman times was Livy. We know that he expressed his ideas and views in literature, and sometimes his work was used for propaganda as it fitted the views of what an ideal Roman should be. I found this project fun as we got to work with people we would not normally work with; we also not only had some freedom to choose a topic that interested us but we also found out new, interesting and important information which still has relevance to us today.”

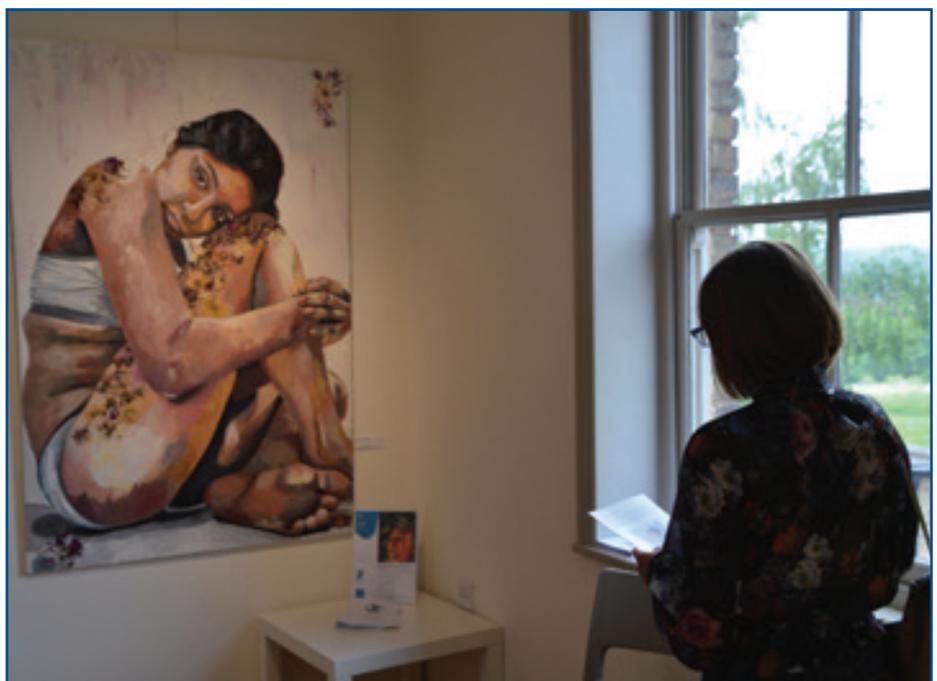
The View Gallery Sixth Form Exhibition

Lucy White, U6N

The summer exhibition at The View Gallery in Chingford was once again an outstanding display of Sixth Form artwork. The pieces ranged from hyper-realistic to abstract art with extremely different subjects and messages. The inspiration behind each of the paintings varied differently and featured powerful emotions and meanings about self-identity or how we interact with other people.

Films produced by the pupils were cleverly projected onto the stairway wall, creating a cinematic experience. These videos showcased a different type of media and posed interesting questions, they often helped to explain the deeper meaning behind the paintings. Audiences were invited to enter the students’ artistic worlds as they made their way towards the gallery with the beautiful views of the sun setting over the forest.

The evening was heightened by musical performances from Mr Conington, Abi Thompson and Tom Dean which provided a lovely atmosphere and backdrop to the artwork. The evening was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and a great chance for teachers, students and parents all to share an appreciation for art and music.





The Globe and Tate Modern

Olly Hughes, RS

The Culture Trip for Thirds to the Globe Theatre and the Tate Modern was a fantastic occasion and everyone had a great time. It started off with a quick coach ride down to London where we got off and immediately saw the towering building of the Tate. Most people don't know this but the Tate Modern used to be a power station!

When we went in, everything was extremely bright and colourful and even the toilets had art in them. All of the pictures were fascinating and every picture or painting had a deep meaning to it. One of my favourite pieces was a tower of electric radios and there was another piece that was a town made of cous cous! The cous cous town smelt funny though. After that, we went to Shakespeare's Globe and it was a treat for us to see some professionals acting on the stage in preparation for their performance that evening. We then did a workshop on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* when we were able to explore the characters and get



familiar with Shakespeare's language in a fun way. The trip was absolutely amazing and I would recommend it to anyone. Thank you, Mr Ford and Miss Evans, for organising such a wonderful trip for us.



The Great Bancroft's Globe Off

Following their exciting visit to the Globe Theatre organised jointly by the art and English departments, the Thirds were encouraged to participate in a mini-competition. They were challenged to use their knowledge to recreate The Globe in the most imaginative way possible. They were given total freedom of choice in the media they used but suggestions were: a mini video, a cake, a piece of art, a song/dance, a poem/story... or anything else they could think of! Here a few of the entries.





The Thirds' Spelling Bee 2018

Ali Khan, RS

On Tuesday 26 of June, the Thirds' Spelling Bee had finally arrived and the teams were raring to go. The teams were: 'Wot Khanage' (Eliot Watson and Ali and Rafi Khan), 'To Bee or not to Bee', 'HCGBees', 'Saved by the Spell', 'The Spelling Gs', and the 'SASSy Stingers'.

The first round was Last Man Standing and the objective was to spell the words correctly without losing your two lives. The last pupil standing was the winner. The words started off relatively easy

before gradually getting harder as time passed. The winner of this event came from 'Saved by the Spell' and it was Juliet Wong who spelled every word correctly without mistake. The next round was the Quickfire round. The aim of the game was to spell as many words as you could in two minutes collectively as a team. All of the scores in this round were really close and the winning team won this round by one point. In second place, with seventeen words spelled correctly... was 'Wot Khanage' which meant that in first place, came 'Saved by the Spell'.

I would like to say thank you to Miss Evans who organised this fun event and the Sixth Formers who gave up their spare time to host it.



Adventure Writing Success

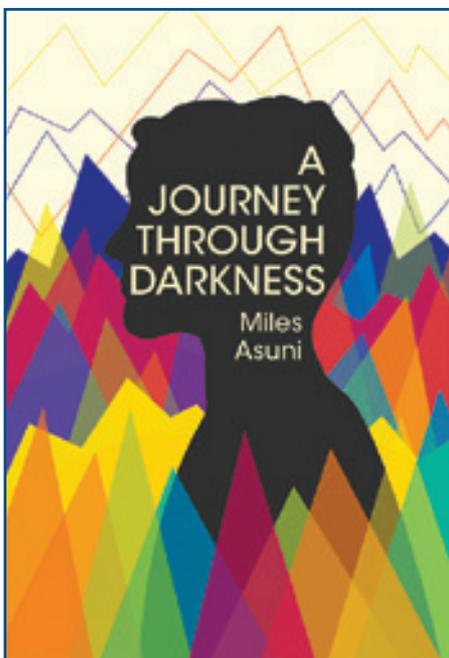
Bancroftians enjoyed great success in the annual Wilbur Smith and Niso Smith Foundation 'The Author of Tomorrow Award'. This annual competition is designed to find the adventure writers of the future. It is open to young people, aged 21 and under, who have completed a short piece of adventure writing in English. The stories must be 1500-

5000 words. The award is run in partnership with Worldreader, a charity which aims to make everyone a reader.

Miles' (L4W) story, *A Journey Through Darkness* was one of five shortlisted. The judges praised the young authors who made the shortlist saying, "what set these five stories apart was their spirit of adventure." Miles described his story thus, "Disadvantaged and different, Aaron leads a tough life. He is lacking something most

of us consider as essential, sight. But when the opportunity arises to prove himself he jumps at the chance. Can he defeat the odds and surpass expectations?"

In addition, Edward Sands-Grant (U4N) received a "Special Commendation" for *Under an Amethyst Sky*; *The Search* by Clementine Jamieson (U4W) and *Rosaline* by Mehek Sennik (U4S) were both long-listed. Miles and Edward attended a presentation at the Stationers' Hall in September to receive their prizes.



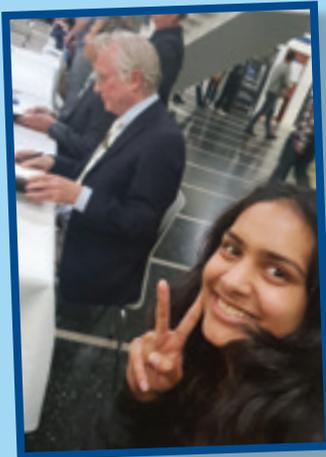


Seeing a Legend in the Flesh... and Alan Lightman

Vidhi Garg, U6E

After a tense build-up of several months, it was finally the day. On 20 September ten Bancroft's pupils were lucky enough to be able to attend a 'How to: Academy talk' between Alan Lightman, a renowned theoretical physicist and author, and the world-famous evolutionary biologist and outspoken atheist, Richard Dawkins, most famous for his book *The God Delusion*.

As someone who has read his book, I was aware of Dawkins' strong opinions on certain aspects of religion and so was incredibly curious to see how he would approach the topic of discussing a numinous experience with someone



who also shares his love for science. Despite Professor Dawkins suffering a stroke recently, he spoke eloquently in order to defend his view that, in spite of the world indeed being wonderful, there is no possibility or need for a higher being in our society. He is famous for his distaste of monotheistic religions in particular, however, he also naturally recoils from the belief of a supernatural being. Comparing Lightman's 'childish' belief in a God due to his experience of looking into a starry night sky on a boat to believing in Santa Claus, he tackles his issues through ridiculing his opponents in debates. Dawkins is humorous when making his points which makes him admirable in an almost ironic way: although you feel it necessary to disagree due to how condescending he can be, you are still inclined to appreciate his wit. Being so close to the man who coined the word "meme" in his book *The Selfish Gene*, I felt nothing but appreciation. As something that has become somewhat of an internet phenomenon, it is hard to believe that "the meme" was created in order to scientifically educate, rather than entertain the masses (including me) online. It was an honour to see Richard Dawkins and Alan Lightman in person. I discovered Dawkins to be as amusing live as he is in his books and I will forever cherish this memory that Bancroft's has allowed me to have.

Removes' Philosophy, Politics and Economics Day

Saffiya Husen, L4W

Philosophy, Politics and Economics day was a fascinating day for all the Removes and particularly relevant at this moment in our academic lives. The day was divided into the three separate topics and we learned about what they are and how they apply to real life.

There were many engaging and thought provoking activities. I particularly enjoyed the group activity in which we were told to 'create' our own island and devise a set of laws under which it would operate in order to achieve a harmonious and guided community. My peers contributed numerous ideas and processes which could benefit us on our island. Assuming such responsibility was a taster for all of us as to what our lives will involve when we begin working. We also considered a variety of careers in detail and had a wider discussion about possible career paths. This helped me understand each occupation more clearly and lead me to contemplate what I, personally, would like to do in the future. PPE day benefitted us all because it introduced to us the range of factors we must recognise when deciding which career to enter into. I found this educational experience highly interactive and enjoyable. Overall, it was a worthwhile experience that my year thoroughly appreciated.



Science v Religion Debate

Aria Bapna, U4N and Fawzan Siddiqui, U4S

Last term some pupils from the L4th came together for an exciting cross-curricular debate. During the preparation stages it was difficult to decipher which team would prove more convincing. The two opposing teams, under structured guidance from Ms Mead, argued as to whether scientific explanations for the universe and life within, have successfully provided proof that there is no need for the idea of God, in order to explain creation.

Team Science argued using extended theories of the Big Bang and theories of evolution whilst Team God drove the idea that whilst science provides a great deal of 'how' humans came to exist, the aspect of 'why' remains unfathomed. "A timeless, supreme being, such as an omnipotent, omnibenevolent and omniscient God is justified to explain our existence in terms of why we are here. Logically, everything must have a cause, even the Big Bang. Since Science has not successfully proved, with evidence, that there is no need for God to explain why we exist, as there is at least some room for such a supreme being in our lives." Students worked hard to prepare and pre-empt the opposition; all ideas were articulated with panache for an entertaining debate for both science and RS teachers alike.



The Inter-Year Doubles Championships

Miss Amanda Wainwright, Head of Tennis

In June 2017 history repeated itself at West Grove as Abby McKinley and Harriet Wood, and David Nana and Oliver Mynott were crowned Inter-Year Doubles Champions for the second year in a row. West Grove played host to some wonderful competitive tennis throughout the summer term and these Inter-Year Doubles events really showcase Bancroft's incredible tennis.

We had thirty nine pairs from the Prep 2s all the way up to the L6th participating and it was lovely to see matches being played in such good spirit with the younger and less experienced players being well looked after by the older years both on and off court. Many team players took part but it was encouraging to see so many of those who had been coming along to the beginner club sessions having the confidence to enter the tournament.



Eden Risby and Emilia Parsons (U4th) deserve a special mention, as they made it to the girls' final for the third year in a row and their fun-loving approach to the game sets a wonderful

example to others; they may have lost 4-1 to Abby and Harriet but from the way they were smiling you would not have known that!

The boys' final was the most nail-biting one I have watched. Nikhil Sharma and Gian Lakhan (U4th) had two Championship points when they were 3-1 up but David and Oliver clawed their way back to 3-3 to take it to a deciding tie-break, which they won 7-3. The standard of tennis in this final was exceptional and the younger pupils who were watching were certainly, and rightly, in awe of all four finalists.

I hope that everyone keeps playing over the course of the year, and if anyone would like further information on local tennis clubs and courses do get in touch with me. Once again, I would like to thank Mr Mike Wood of "Freedom" for sponsoring the medals and prizes and I look forward to working with him again next summer.



Rugby: Essex Developing Player Programme

Following their involvement in the Essex Developing Player Programme (DPP) assessments, Nathan and Max (L4) have been invited into the 2018/19 U14s' DPP programme which is run in association with Saracen's RFC.

Around two hundred boys attended the trials and this number was whittled down to forty successful young players from across Essex. The programme is intended to identify talented young players and help them develop, focussing on long term development rather than short term performance. The training sessions with Saracens' coaches aim to challenge the

boys' work rate and encourage them to reach their full potential both as players and as individuals. The Saracens' region incorporates Hertfordshire, Kent and Essex where the DPP programme in each county provides the entry point into the Saracens' Academy pathway. The aim of the Saracens' DPP is "To provide a first opportunity to identify those players with greatest potential to enter the pathway towards the professional game and England."

Rob Faiers, our Head of Rugby, said that this is a "huge opportunity for the boys to develop as individuals and also to develop skills which they can bring back to School and pass on to their peers. As part of the programme they will receive insights into the most up-to-date coaching and



philosophy from Saracens' coaches, which will complement what they already receive at School."

As well as representing Bancroft's, both boys play rugby for Woodford RFC and last season their team won the U13 Essex Cup. Nathan is looking forward to taking part in the training sessions, "I'm really excited about the challenges coming my way after being put forward by Bancroft's and getting through to the next stage of the DPP."



Double Whammy in Essex Championships for Bancroft's

For the first time in twenty five years, the Bancroft's name appears on both the Essex U18 and Essex U16 girls' hockey trophies. Both titles were claimed within a week of each other – a truly great start to the hockey season.

The U16s, led by Captain Harriet Wood, enjoyed a clean sweep of six victories during which they scored a total of 17 goals, and conceded just one! Games played were as follows: v Coopers' Coborn 2-0, v Forest 4-0, v Chigwell 5-1, v New Hall 3-0 and v Brentwood 3-0. Notable performances came from Emilia Nygaard-Parsons, Grace Kumar and Harriet Wood, all of whom were superb. The tournament represented the first outing together for the girls who had little time to practice since returning to school from the summer break. Their delighted Coach, Jo Fryer Green, said, "I've never been to an Essex Championship where a team has totally dominated as we did last Wednesday. The passing of our team was outstanding and we played with great pace and flair. The work ethic of this team is also excellent; they work for each other and respect each other. This is a very exciting team to work with."



A week later and it was the turn of the U18s (some of whom had only graduated from being U16s themselves). Led by Captain, Claudia Joarder, and Vice, Millie Woods they remained unbeaten, with wins against Forest, Cooper's Coburn and Brentwood. They needed to draw against Chigwell in their final game to clinch the title, which they did 1-1. Since then both teams have played in the Eastern regional play-offs. Again they emerged victorious and will now face the four top teams in their respective Eastern Regional Finals later this term.



Two superb team performances and massive congratulations to all involved.

Getting Back into the "Swing" of Things!

*Miss Amanda Wainwright,
Head of Tennis*

This summer saw the 122nd Lawn Tennis Association County Cup event take place all over Great Britain. It is an inter-county team event consisting exclusively of doubles in seven divisions with six teams in each. I am proud to say that I was in the winning Essex team in 1993 and 1995 but, having retired from the professional tennis circuit in 1998, since then I have only occasionally dusted off my rackets for competitive match play. My desire to practise regularly waned with each passing year as I grew more passionate about kicking footballs into nets as opposed to hitting tennis balls over nets (old habits clearly die hard though as a few of my strikes on the football pitch do soar spectacularly over the net!)

Followers of *County Week*, as it is affectionately known, know it is about top

quality (Jamie Murray turned out for the North of Scotland!), hard fought tennis with the pride of playing for one's county at stake. Since 1995, Essex Ladies have spent most of their time in Division 1 but recently found themselves down in Division 3. Having fought their way back up to Division 1, the Essex captain gave me a call asking if I would join the team to give them the "benefit of my experience". At first, I thought this meant in a mentor role but fear gripped me when I realised that it was to be in a playing capacity. My mind automatically turned to "the good old days" when I thought nothing of taking on anyone on a tennis court as I was practising every day and competing almost every week.

One can only get away with relying on muscle memory, natural talent and dogged determination for so long before the inevitable truth hits you as hard as a Nadal forehand – you have to get practising. I did not want to let my county down, I did not want to let my partner down and I really did not want to humiliate myself in an arena in which I used to feel so at home. So, motivated by all those things, my rackets had more air time in a month than they had had in 18 years! Even with the intense training, I still felt like I was diving into a terrifying tennis abyss with my prayers ringing out to the goddess Nike for victory to come

my way. Our captain blessed me with a superb partner for the week; she was 16 and so we had the benefit of youthful energy and stonking ground strokes combined with wily strategy and deft old-school volleying!

On the eve of the tournament our captain told us the main aim was to avoid relegation, so we needed to get two wins from the five days. We beat Warwickshire and Herefordshire so our aim had been achieved but we did not stop there. We then beat Kent, last year's champions, and Norfolk to set up the championship play-off match with Surrey. With so much riding on this tie, it was far from an amicable affair. One of our opponents did not take too kindly to having her serve broken as it gave us the first set and, as I turned to high-five my partner, a racket came flying over the net and hit me! Less than robust refereeing resulted not in the disqualification of the Surrey pair and the subsequent loss of all their remaining matches but simply a code violation...I did not go all "Serena" over the lack of justice but instead made sure we won the second set as well – letting one's racket do the talking brings so much more satisfaction! The tie stood at 4-4 and one of our pairs had match points to clinch that 5th win but it was sadly not to be and we had to be content with being 2nd in Great Britain. I know this disappointment was unfounded, if someone had offered us 2nd place before the event began we would have bitten their hand off! But to come so close to being champions was heart-breaking. With some time and space, I am delighted with what we achieved especially when we were favourites to be relegated.

As an "old dog", I would not say that I necessarily learned any new tricks but it definitely made me remember just how much I love chasing down balls and playing "fetch"!





Yoma Takes Powerlifting Title

Dami Ogundiya, U4N

On Sunday 23 September Upper Sixth Former Yoma travelled to Northampton to compete at the Junior British Powerlifting Championships. Having qualified earlier in the year, at her first ever competition, it was unclear how she would fare against the best juniors in the country.

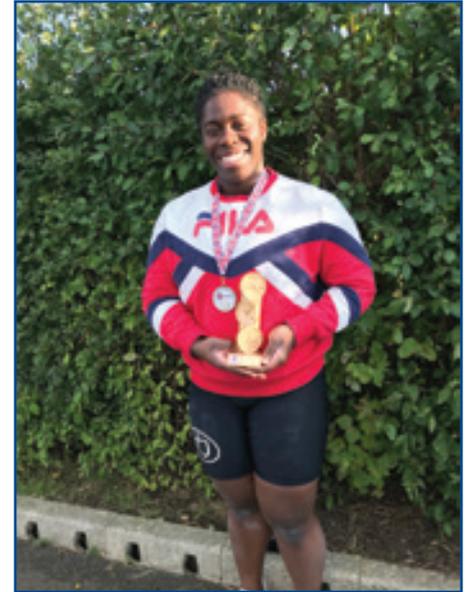
Yoma had built a good base of strength by attending Strength and Conditioning sessions at Bancroft's and she made quick progress under guidance from Arram Eghoyan, our S&C Coach and a former World Champion himself. After a year's regular training, Yoma competed in her first Powerlifting competition in which she qualified for the Junior British Championships. Her build up to the British was not ideal. Without access to the school gym over the summer, Yoma had been out of regular training! Upon returning to school, Yoma had just three weeks to prepare herself. She turned up to every session, did exactly what she was told to do by her coach, and went to the competition as prepared as possible.

It soon became clear that there were two main contenders for the U18 title, and it was going to be close! Yoma had a great

start in the Squat, her best event, breaking the U18 British record on both her 2nd and 3rd attempts, finishing with 142.5kg, the new British record. The Bench Press was the second event, not Yoma's favourite but her confidence was boosted by some fantastic lifts in the warm up area and Arram upped her starting weight from 50kg to 55.5kg (another British record). After this, the lead in the Bench Press went back and forth between the top two contenders, with both of them breaking the record in their 2nd lifts. On her 3rd lift Yoma attempted a massive 65kg, which unfortunately was declared a "No Lift". The Bench Press record had escaped Yoma's grasp.

Going into the Deadlift, Yoma was in the lead and needed to stay within 20kg of her opposition, a proven deadlifter, to take Gold. It was clear that the competition was going to go down to the wire. After watching her opponent break the British record on the Deadlift with 150.5kg, Yoma stepped up and convincingly lifted 145kg, a new personal best, and put Gold out of reach for everyone else.

The high standard of competition was demonstrated by the number of records broken. Yoma's total of 347.5kg is the heaviest ever weight lifted in British Powerlifting by a girl in her age/weight class. Arram Eghoyan believes "we have just scratched the surface of Yoma's



strength potential." With a career in medicine in her sights, her studies will always be Yoma's priority, but she plans to continue Powerlifting throughout school and university; she may even smash a few more records along the way! Yoma said, "I was really excited for the competition and it was a huge achievement to break two GB U18 powerlifting records as well as win the competition overall despite some tough competition."

CCF Review

Cadet CSM Ben Harris, Head of Army Section 2017-2018.

The past year in CCF has been an action-packed one. All year groups from L4 to U6 were very busy in their roles, whether that be learning the basic drills in the classroom or leading platoon attacks in the field.

Our annual Remembrance Day parade went very well, with every cadet playing a part in the School's act of remembrance. This year the occasion was well informed by our trip to northern France to visit World War II sites such as Omaha Beach and Pegasus Bridge, something that proved hard-hitting and poignant for all. Army Camp



in Folkestone was the highlight of the year for many, with all cadets competing in the annual Dan Clack Competition. The eight stands that made up the contest called upon the cadets' leadership, teamwork and individual skills and knowledge. This year it was the mighty RSM-to-be Martin Prusa who led his section to success.

All in all, the year wrapped up what has been a massive and fun-filled part of my Bancroft's career. I was proud to be able to have a leadership role in the Army Section. Although I am sad to leave, I am grateful for the things that being in the CCF has taught me and for the memories that it has given me.



Charity Day 2018



Henry Hitching, P2

Charity Day was amazing! In the morning we all took part in a sponsored steeplechase, including two water jumps! We had to run five times around the course. I did it wearing a plastic horse's head which was rather hot! The more we ran, the more we raised.

In the afternoon we did activities at lots of fun stalls such as build a Lego tower, Mini Games and ate delicious cakes made by the Betas. There was also a Tombola which the Alphas supplied lots of prizes for. There were some other really cool prizes like a cricket set, sweets and games. Mr Paramour, who was soaked at Sponge-the-Teacher, said, "It's my first year at Bancroft's and I enjoyed my first experience of Charity Day. Although I did get soaked from head to toe and covered with cornflour, I also won a Lego prize, so that was a bonus!" The charities we were supporting were The Chigwell Riding Trust for Special Needs, which helps disabled children and gives them freedom through horse riding, and The Marine Conservation Society a charity to help keep our seas healthy and to reduce plastic in our waters. They received cheques for £5000 and £1000 respectively. Thanks to all who donated prizes and sponsored us – it was a really successful afternoon!



Prep 2 Leavers' Production

Shaanveer Sandhu, 3S and Nathan Adeyemo-Dakoh, 3S

The Prep 2s worked on a fabulous production of *Alice in Wonderland* for several months. The Prep 1s and some parents watched the matinee performance of Cast A on 18 June. We were all nervous and excited as it was the first time we could share our play with an audience.

It was led by the fantastic Nadia and Deeya who shared the lead part of Alice. Mr Pearson described it as 'slick'. The accompanying music, played by Amit, James and Matthew, was timed to perfection. On the Wednesday evening we performed to a larger audience of parents and the atmosphere was electric. On the 19 and 21 June, Cast B performed two incredibly scintillating shows. Leia and Aleena shared the role of Alice and stole the show with their wonderful, engaging performances. On the afternoon of the 19, Cast B performed to the Bancroft's pupils and a few parents, who could not wait to see the much anticipated play. The Mad Trio were hilarious, with Ehsan, who played the March Hare, memorably screaming, 'MOVE DOWN!' We all certainly felt mad, considering our rampant and uncontrollable laughter throughout the entire play. The stage crew did very well, moving the flats and changing the sets swiftly and efficiently. All in all it was a brilliant team effort and everyone involved was amazing. We were sad that it had come to an end but it was a lovely way to end our Prep School years!

Macmillan Cake Sale

Iva Garg, 2BR

On Thursday 27 September Bancroft's Prep School held a cake sale. We raised over £420 for the charity Macmillan Cancer Support. The Prep 2s baked the cakes and sold them.

It was a yummy break time, filled with a variety of cakes – I just could not choose which one to buy! There were chocolate ones, lemon drizzle ones, Victoria sponges and lots more. They were in all sizes – big

ones, small ones and cupcakes. They were so delicious that everybody bought them on that day and finished them. Everybody had a lot of fun and enjoyed it. We all pitched in with helping the charity while filling our tummies with cake! Over all they were all scrumptious and it was a lovely day.





Betas' Marchant Hill Adventure

Mrs Laura Dalton

In the last week of September, the Betas went on their annual residential trip to PGL's Marchant's Hill centre in Surrey. We spent our time there getting up to all sorts of feats, like flying through the air on a giant swing; abseiling down wooden towers; climbing impossible structures or whizzing down huge zip wires.



The principal focus of our two-night stay is, however, to put the Prep's character values into action. It takes courage to take that first step off the abseiling tower, or launch yourself off the zip wire platform; it takes resilience to bounce back when it was that little bit too high when you got to the top and persistence to dust yourself off, pick yourself up and try again. These are not the only challenges that faced the Betas. For many it was the first time away from home without parents, so organising their belongings, making their beds, getting dressed and ready for activities and the sense of independence they gained were all small victories along the way. Our group leaders, Jordan and Nathan, were excellent and built up a real rapport with our children. They organised a traditional campfire, complete with marshmallows, and really got in to the spirit of the disco with their intriguing outfits. It affords the staff who accompany the trip a unique insight into the way the children respond to challenges and work as a team and the Beta teachers, Mrs Life, Mr Layburn and Mrs Wall enjoyed it equally as much. We arrived home exhausted, yet triumphant, with bags full of dirty washing but with many excited tales to tell.



Governors' Report



*Professor Peter Kopelman,
Chair of the Governing Board*

This summer two governors retired from the Governing Board having completed their terms of office; Bancroft's will be forever grateful to Philip Ogden and Peter Southern

for the wide-ranging contributions they have individually made to the School. Philip has chaired the Governing Board for the past five years. His commitment and enthusiastic support for the School have been outstanding, as has his engagement with pupils, staff and parents. Philip has been an exceptional Chair and I am conscious that he is an extremely hard act to follow. He has become Master of the Drapers' Livery Company and so we shall be welcoming him back to the School in the summer in a different role on Visitation Day.

We are additionally sad to bid farewell from the Board to Peter Southern. Peter,

as many of you will know, was Head of the School from 1985 to 1996 and was instrumental in establishing the Prep School. The Governors have benefitted considerably from his knowledge, experience, wisdom and wit - Peter will be much missed.

The Governors share the School's pride in the success of pupils at A Level and GCSE this summer and we congratulate pupils and staff. As a parent of three former pupils, I know well the anxiety felt by families waiting for results and the enormous relief from such good outcomes.

The Board appreciates the importance of engaging with pupils and staff not only to learn about their academic studies but also to be familiar with the many extra-curricular activities provided by the School. We plan to spend a day in School early next year in addition to attending as many of the School events in the coming months. The latter provides valuable and enjoyable opportunities for meeting parents.



From the Parents' Association

Sally Fisher, PA Secretary

We hope you're all settled into the new school year and that your children are fully embracing everything that Bancroft's has to offer. In addition to the outstanding education they receive, Mr Marshall is also keen to promote the community aspect of the School and encourage you to be involved in as many of the fun, social, extra-curricular events that are on offer, many of which the PA organise.

Right now, we're very busy planning the festive calendar of events, as those Christmas holidays will soon be upon us. This period is always one of our favourite seasons as we organise a number of warming, very popular events, including the magical Christmas

Fayre which is being held in the Prep School on Saturday 1 December. The Prep children love this event as they enter into the spirit of Christmas, meeting Santa, craft making, winning prizes and playing lots of festive games. Do join us in the Prep School if you can - there's always lots of delicious food and hot drinks to keep you warm, whilst the children enjoy the stalls.

We're extremely excited to announce that we're planning a new addition to the calendar this academic year, with a spring-themed event, which is sure to involve dancing and glamour. The exact details are in planning phase but do keep an eye on your emails and Facebook in the New Year.

Since we last wrote, the PA has raised almost £10,000 in profit, with most of it raised at our record-breaking, all-new Summer Ball, held in June. All funds are raised to enhance and complement our children's experiences at Bancroft's School and it's your generosity at these events,



which help us to achieve this. Thank you for your continued support.

We're always looking for new members – so do get in touch if you're interested in helping your School's Parents' Association or being on the Committee to help plan and organise the events. The PA Officers include: Chair Person (Simmi Tohani); Vice-Chair (Mina Patel); Treasurer (Samia Dar) and myself (Sally Fisher).

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at some forthcoming PA events.

The PA is represented on Facebook and Twitter so please "Like" and "Follow" us, so you can stay up to date with our events.

OBA News

Susan Day, OBA Administrator

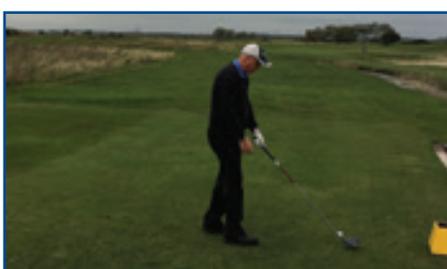
The Old Bancroftians' Association continues in its aims to maintain links between its members, the School and the Bancroft's Foundation. Over the last few months we have run a series of very successful events.

Old Bancroftians' Golfing Society



Fifteen OBs, Bancroft's parents and pupils played our third and final 9-hole competition held at Wanstead Golf Club in August. The winners were Malcolm Fleet, Hitesh Mody and Lucy Fox.

Instead of the usual trip through the Eurotunnel to Northern France, eight OBs and guests ventured along the A12 and A14 to play at Felixstowe Ferry, Thorpeness and Ufford Park in Suffolk for our Annual Meeting. We stayed and dined at Ufford Park, consuming adequate amounts of beverages! We experienced windy conditions on the first day at Felixstowe Ferry with the President's team beating the Captain's team. On the second day at Thorpeness, Adam



Kodish won the Woodford Bowl and Tony Burgess won the guest prize. John Seabrook, Paul Clarke and Lionel Smith were the third day winners at Ufford Park.

Unfortunately we weren't able to field our strongest team for the Essex Scratch Foursomes held at Thorndon Park and, as a result, finished last.

Old Bancroftians' Day Sunday 1 July



We were very fortunate to have a glorious sunny Sunday on the 1 July when the School opened its doors to welcome many Old Bancroftians and their families from both the UK and overseas. Traditional reunion groups for the 40/50/60 and 70 years+ came together to enjoy the Founders' Fizz in the Quad followed by the Chapel Service and unveiling of a memorial plaque for former head Dr Peter Scott (1996-2007). After the wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial, over two hundred guests were treated to a superb lunch prepared by our talented Bancroft's catering team in the Great Hall whilst the "40 Years On" group chose to have a picnic on the field enjoying the afternoon cricket and the bar!



Throughout the day, over four hundred OBs and their families were able to: have guided tours of the school by our L6 pupils; play crazy golf on the Quad; cool down in the swimming pool; watch the OBs vs School netball and cricket and a mini football tournament, as well as feast on afternoon teas in the Dining Hall. The Prep School had a very special afternoon event in the Prep Hall, celebrating the life of its founding Head Tony Duncan (1989-1999) and a plaque dedication. The afternoon brought together many former pupils, staff and their families to share their fond memories.

Leavers' Evening 2018



On the evening of 16 May the School held an informal drinks evening in the Quad for the U6 leavers of 2018 and their parents/guardians. The evening was a great success and very well attended. The Head Simon Marshall encouraged all pupils to remain in touch with the Old Bancroftians' Association and to join [bancroftconnect.org](https://www.bancroftconnect.org) a new engagement platform.



Northern Dinner

The Annual Northern Dinner 2018 was a great success although attendance was a little lower than hoped. Those that did make the trip to Llyndir Hall Hotel in Rossett were not disappointed. There was great conversation all evening, anecdotes of memories past and, prompted perhaps by the closeness of Chester, a touch of Monty Python’s “what did the Romans ever do for us?” A wonderful conversation followed at breakfast the next morning when Keith Perch wondered why the doctor to whom he had spoken (Mary Boulas’s husband) couldn’t help his knee problem: perhaps it was because he was a

Gynaecologist! A great evening was had by all and when asked who had been good over the last twelve months all the former School House boarders raised their hands – always the ones to claim innocence. Ed Sautter (OBA President) closed the evening with a great resume of what the OBA and the wider Bancroft’s community are doing and we finished by looking forward to next year. This is great OBA event for those based in the region and a good excuse for us southerners to travel north.

Looking ahead, the Association continues with its programme with the 112th OBA Annual Dinner in October, London City Drink in November as well and the Bancroft’s Business Breakfast kindly hosted by



Bancroft’s Parents Amanda Thomas and Joanna Hughes at Allen and Overy, London.

New Faces For Autumn 2018



Rachel Adams, Biology



Thomas Bigglestone, RS



Rebecca Burridge, Head of Geography



Gurdip Chana, Maths



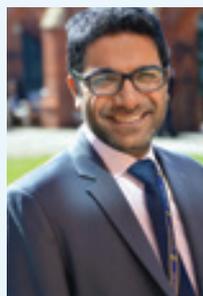
James Chapman, Economics & Business Studies



Niall Doherty, Director of Sport



Gillian Entwistle, Drama



Aniket Gocoldas, Economics & Business Studies



Aileen Hancock, Matron



Valentina Howell, Russian Assistant



Paulo Martinez-Fernandez, Spanish Assistant



Eleanor Mitchell, Prep Graduate Sports Assistant



Marc Rogers, Head of DT



Marine Rondel, French Assistant



Chrisop Schulze, German Assistant



Andrew Shaw, Head of Computer Science & IT



Joe Silvester, Assistant Head Academic



Alex Smiler, Counsellor



Mila Sparkes, History



Frances Yonish, Counsellor



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