



History Trip To Berlin & Prague

Lana Mawlood, U4E

Last October half term saw a group of U4 to U6 historians embark on a trip through Berlin and Prague, two cities both rich in culture and historical sites. Our first walking tour began with the Deutsche Historical Museum, where we explored Germany in the years leading up to the War. The walk then led us under the Brandenburg Gate, past the Reichstag and into the chilling atmosphere of The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.

Another memorable excursion was to the Wannsee Conference Centre. There we were told about Nazi Eugenics, the legalization of discrimination against Jews in 1933, and the 1935 Nuremberg Laws. What was most poignant for me to learn about was the 'final solution to the Jewish question': that is, the brutal mass murder of all Jews as of January 1942.

The rest of the week included visits to the Pergamon Museum, Jewish Museum, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, a Soviet war memorial at Treptower Park, and a stroll along the Berlin Wall. I particularly enjoyed the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, looking into life before, during and after the existence of the Berlin Wall, including escape stories of GDR inhabitants, and the struggle which families separated by the Wall had to face.

Our guide in Prague took us past the gothic St Vitus Cathedral and iconic Prague Castle, from which we were rewarded with an incredible panoramic view of the entire city. On our second day there we ventured through St Wenceslas Square after a visit to the Museum of Communism. The high point of our last day was having free time to spend around the Old Town Square. Our group spent the time admiring the stunning golden astronomical clock, or 'Orloj,' mounted on the Old Town City Hall, trying traditional Trdelnik (rolled Czech doughnuts) and, of course, shopping.

Alongside the wealth of knowledge we had all acquired was a variety of evening entertainments, from bowling to a quiz night, drinks at the top of the Berlin TV Tower and an evening out to a comical neon dance performance in Prague. My personal favourite was the night of the "opera" (or so they claimed it was) a strange and frankly quite frightening fusion of music, anti-capitalist ideas, attempt at comedy and horror, packed into a three hour long spectacle. We couldn't tell you how it ended, however. The subtle escape of initially only Dr Hunn and Dr Kerr-Boyle around around half way through led to us all making a desperate flee for the exit and proceeding straight into the refuge of a nearby Italian restaurant for pizza and laughs about the evening's amusing turn of events. The final night was a further highlight: the riverboat cruise leading us along the River Vltava gave us a beautiful view of Prague by night.

The trip not only gave us an opportunity to expand our understanding of twentieth century history outside of the classroom, but also to make new friends and experience different cultures – I'd love to explore both vibrant cities again.





Oxbridge Offers

We are pleased to announce that ten of our current U6 students have received offers from either Oxford or Cambridge.

Grades pending, three pupils are off to Oxford in September: Francis Clark-Murray plans to read PPE at Jesus College; Faris Qayyum has a place to read Law at Keble College and Marianne Cain hopes to go to Balliol College to read Maths and Philosophy. A further six hope to take up their places at Cambridge. The successful Cambridge applicants are: Siddharth Chandrasekaran, Economics at Downing College; Thomas Leung hopes to read Architecture at Magdalene College; Alex Ruben also hopes to go to Magdalene but to read Engineering; Edward Davies and Jasraj Panesar have places to read Natural Sciences at Robinson and Emmanuel Colleges respectively; Emmaline Okafor has a place to read Chemical Engineering at Newnham College and Kavin Vijayakumar plans to read Maths at Christ's College. Head, Mary Ireland, said, "We are delighted that the hard work and dedication that these students have shown over a number of years has been so richly rewarded. They have performed exceptionally well as the competition for these prestigious offers



gets tougher every year; they are not just up against the best in this country, but also the best in the world. We wish them all every success for the future."

In addition to our continued success with places at Oxford or Cambridge, we have a strong tradition of pupils attending the top

research universities in the country. Over the past five year period over three-quarters (77%) of Bancroftians who have left the School to go to university have taken up places at Russell Group institutions. Judging from the offers received so far, it would appear that the current Upper Sixth will carry on this tradition.

From The Parents' Association

Jo Hughes, PA Member

On Saturday 31 January parents and teachers enjoyed a Burns Supper together in the Dining Hall with Ceilidh dancing afterwards in the Great Hall.

Following the Selkirk Grace read by Mrs Ireland, guests were treated to a traditional Burns Supper prepared by Head Chef Marc Stephan and his team. The dinner's star attraction was delivered by a procession comprising Marc, two pipers and Mrs Ireland who addressed the Haggis to much applause. As well as being host for the evening, Mr Mikdadi delivered a witty toast *To the Lassies*. The tribute to Robert Burns and the *Reply to the Toast to the Lassies* were performed in great style by Mr Athienitis, a Prep School teacher, and his mother, Mrs Athienitou. After the meal and speeches, everybody moved to the beautifully decorated Great

Hall for dancing until past midnight with a live Ceilidh band. Thank you to Simmi Tohani, Papia Chakraborty, Minal Mody and Deepti Arora plus all their helpers for organising this hugely successful event.

Looking back to the Christmas term, the PA enjoyed putting on plenty of events, particularly for the younger pupils, to celebrate this special time of year. We arranged mulled wine and mince pies at the Prep and Senior Christmas Concerts and paid for the performance of a professional pantomime at the Prep. At the Christmas Fayre there were cake stalls, craft stalls, raffles and face painting, BBQ food, Indian food, beauty stalls and Santa's Grotto.

The money raised at the Christmas Fayre (£4,000) and at the Burns Supper (£3,500) means that the PA has already reached its fundraising target for a makeover of the Prep School library. Thank you so much for the generosity of all parents. Mr Layburn said,



"The library is physically at the centre of our school and that's great because reading is so important to us at the Prep School. But as we've upgraded so many of our facilities, the library itself has begun to look rather tired; it isn't as inviting, modern and fun as I would like it to be. With a new librarian joining us this year, Kathryn Houghton, who's fizzing with ideas, we thought it would be a great time to create the library which we want and which the children deserve. We're delighted the Parents' Association are so enthusiastic about helping us with this project. We are currently looking at a number of exciting proposals to revamp the space and make it truly the heart of our school".

The next big social event in the PA calendar is *The Great Gatsby Ball* in the Head's Garden on Saturday 27 June. Watch out for the email opening the sale of tickets – they always sell out fast!



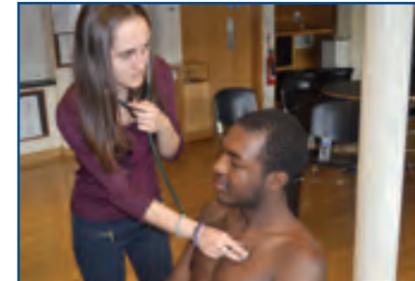
Medicine Matters

A hundred prospective doctors and dentists from schools across Redbridge descended upon Bancroft's in October for a preview into life as a "medic". The year 12 pupils who came from, amongst others, Wanstead County High, Seven Kings Hill, Oaks Park High School, Beal High School, Woodford County High, Ilford County High and Bancroft's, are considering medical careers and the day gave an invaluable insight into different courses and institutions as well as offering lots of practical advice.

Sessions were led by academics and students from Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, which had organised the day as an outreach event for Redbridge pupils. Bancroft's has hosted Medicine Matters for the past six years and the event has always proved extremely popular.

Professor Kim Piper, Head of Admissions at the School of Medicine and Dentistry, gave first-hand advice on entry requirements and choosing a medical school. There was a session on immunology from the Centre of the Cell at Queen Mary University of London and a question and answer forum with current Medical and Dentistry Students, including a couple of OBs. Bancroft's pupil Emma Jackson said that it was most useful to "get to talk to students who are half way through their course; we don't get that kind of insight from teachers. It's also good to know what to look for in a medical school."

For many, the highlights of the day were the clinical skills workshops which gave opportunities for hands-on experience: including the chance to listen to the heart and lungs of a real "patient", to practice the delicate art of suturing and even to take some blood: thankfully only from a plastic arm! These were thought to be the most useful as they gave a real feel for what being a doctor is about!



Arkwright Scholarship

Peter Andreev has been awarded a sought-after Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. This was presented by Dr Stephen Payne OBE FEng, the designer of the Queen Mary 2 ocean liner, at a ceremony supported by the Institution of Engineering & Technology and the Lloyd's Register Foundation. Peter also met the organisation which is sponsoring his Scholarship for the next two years—ELRIG (European Laboratory Robotics Interest Group).



Arkwright Engineering Scholarships support young people from across the UK who have the potential to be industry's future leaders in engineering and technical design. During their sixth form, Scholars receive a grant to support their studies and have access to a range of opportunities to learn more about engineering, such as mentoring and company visits. Scholars are selected following a rigorous selection process. This year 410 Scholarships were eventually awarded from a pool of 25,000 eligible students.

Dr Martin Thomas, Chief Executive of the Arkwright Scholarships Trust, said, "Numerous reports have shown that the UK's economic prosperity requires hundreds of thousands of new engineers and technical designers. We need some of these to be modern-day Sir Richard Arkwrights or James Dysons – outstanding technical leaders able to guide our country to engineering success. Arkwright Engineering Scholarships help to develop this top talent."

Maths & Chemistry Successes

Very well done to our senior mathematicians who gained a total of sixteen Gold, twenty six Silver and twenty eight Bronze certificates in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. Congratulations to sixth formers Kavin Vijayakumar, Peter Andreev and Francis Clark-Murray who all gained Distinctions in the Senior Maths Olympiad (BMO1). Kavin was also awarded a Bronze Medal and a Book Prize. Both Kavin and Peter have qualified for the follow on round, the elite BMO2 Olympiad

A Bancroft's team of Kavin Vijayakumar, Francis Clark Murray, Peter Andreev and Viraj Shah competed in the East London heat of the Senior Team Maths Challenge at Queen Mary University. They finished in a very respectable third place behind Westminster School and Dulwich College.

In the equivalent of the Maths Champions League for London and South East schools, Bancroft's beat Ilford County High School in their final Hans Woyda group match 49-21. We topped the group having won all three matches (Chigwell, Forest and Ilford County) and advanced to the last sixteen of the competition. The team consisted of Kavin Vijayakumar (Captain) Amar Kalsi, Peter Andreev, Sayon Uthayakumar and Soumya Krishna-Kumar. Progress through the competition was halted by a loss to St Paul's Girls' School.

The Bancroft's team of Jamil Haque, Sarina Ramasamy, Daffodil Dhayaa and Ben Norris reached the Essex final round of the Chemistry Mastermind Competition which was held in Chelmsford in December. They beat Brentwood School in the Semi-Final, on the tiebreaker, 32-all. Then lost to KEGS in the final (40-30). Originally there were twenty five schools in the first postal round. This is the first time for several years that a Bancroft's team progressed this far in the competition.



Inspiration From Award Winning Author

Multiple award winning children's and young adults' author Julia Golding visited us on Tuesday 4 November to lead practical creative writing workshops with the Removes.

Ms Golding is very much a local girl as she grew up in Theydon Bois and was educated at Davenant School. She is best known for her popular historical and fantasy novels and has written thirty books, selling over half a million copies worldwide. The first of her Cat Royal series *The Diamond of Drury Lane* was awarded both the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize and the Nestle Children's Book Prize. Julia also writes under two pen names: Joss Stirling for more romantic young adult fiction and Eve Adams for young adult historical fiction.

During the sessions she gave the children plenty of practice in how to create characters and to develop a story. Sessions were based around writing the opening for a crime story. The room was buzzing as the Removes created pen portraits of the characters, then built up their plots and imagined the crime scene. Finally, they shared their opening paragraph. Millie Woods said, "Learning how to create characters was really interesting. Julia Golding gave us some great ideas, although some of them might take too long in exams!"

At lunchtime, Julia Golding spent time signing copies of her books and also talking about her writing. Mrs Kate Squires, Head Librarian, said, "This is one of the most productive and practical author visits we have had. Julia Golding gave real insight into the developmental process of writing. The Removes were able to produce some really evocative pieces in such a short time."



Bancroft's Inter-School Spelling Bee



Sonya Kalsi, RS

Having hosted a successful spelling bee within our year group, we decided to go one step further and host an Inter-school Spelling Bee. It took place on Thursday 20 November and we competed against four other schools (Chigwell, Haileybury, Brentwood and Christ's Hospital).

The Bee began with a Last-Man-Standing round, where all of the contestants spelled to the best of their abilities. With only two 'lives' there was hardly room for error! This round presented tough competition for us, and we tried our best. This section consisted of three rounds containing easy, medium and hard words respectively. The winners of this were 'Brentwood's Best Bees', who took home the well-deserved Last-Man-Standing prize. The 'Bancroft's Stingers' were close runners up.

Up next was the Quick Fire round, where each team attempted to spell as many words as possible within two minutes, although passes were allowed. We all had a go at spelling words we wouldn't have otherwise thought of trying to spell. The spelling was fast and difficult, and sometimes quite harsh too, with words and letters flying around everywhere. Words which originated from foreign languages, especially French, proved to be particularly challenging. Some light entertainment followed, with comical highlights provided by Joe Oxlade, with his spelling bee trivia, and Thomas Leung in the Dictionary Corner.

After an intense afternoon of spelling, the results were announced. Not only was it a great experience for the contestants but also the teachers and spectators. All teams made a great effort, but victory went to the Bancroft's team (Emilia Hitching, Wardah Thanvi, and Sonya Kalsi) and so too did the much envied shield, which we hope will stay at Bancroft's for many years to come.



Classics Quiz

Lauren Heskey, L4E

On 27 November, around fifty Classics boffins gathered in the Dining Hall, enjoying the refreshments on offer, while we waited to be directed to various teams. There were nine student teams and one team of teachers (Mrs Coyne, Mr Smethurst, Miss Stewart and Miss Wainwright) who everyone wanted to beat!

There were four rounds to the quiz: Gods and Heroes; TV Show and Film Titles in Latin (with some football team mottoes thrown in); a Picture Round and "Who Am I?" We were pleased to welcome Joe Oxlade as quiz master and Mr Mikdadi as scorer.

The questions were fairly hard, but as every team had at least one sixth former and one pupil studying Latin at GCSE or above, everyone managed quite well. Some managed better than others and the scores were wide-ranging. When it came to announcing the winning team, everyone was hoping to have beaten the teachers! My team came first out of the student teams only losing to the staff by four points!

This was a fun event. Thanks to Mrs Baker for setting it up; I am sure that everyone is looking forward to the next one!



Junior Classics Club

Anyah Shah, RS

If you have nothing to do on a Monday lunchtime, why don't you give Junior Classics Club a try?

I guarantee that you will want to come every week. It is fun, educational and a great way to spend your lunchtime. The activities range from learning about Greek gods to hearing about the lives of Roman Emperors. The Club is run by Miss Stewart and Mrs Coyne, with help from William Colman and George Ridley in the U6.

A recent activity was building Greek temples: some of the group worked on a "Nano-block" Parthenon, while others used biscuits. My group used "Jammie Dodgers" for pillars, pink wafers for the base and pediments, and marmalade to glue them together! We all came away with a better idea of how the Greeks made their temples and had fun eating the biscuit temples after!

As they say in Latin *omnes expectatissimi estis* – You are all very welcome!





Spanish Exchange Trip – San Sebastián 2014

Sonali Arora, U4N

On October 26 2014, eighteen pupils and two teachers set off to San Sebastián, a coastal city in the Basque region, located near the French border. After a two hour flight to Bilbao and an hour coach journey to Axular Lizeoa, our exchange school, we were greeted lovingly by our exchange families before spending the evening at the beach with the Spanish students. It certainly wasn't easy for us to eat dinner at around 9pm.

We spent the afternoons on various excursions, such as taking a funicular up the Igeldo Mountain to see the most astonishing views of San Sebastián, spending time each day by the beach, a memorable day trip to Bilbao and learning how to play Basque Pelota. We visited the science museum, Guggenheim Museum, the puppet museum and even a cider factory, where we had the exciting opportunity to make and taste our own cider (having had written permission by our parents of course).

The week was filled with many memorable moments, such as spending Halloween being "egged", learning phrases in Basque (my favourite being 'zuku' meaning juice), continuously singing in the coach, Arjun and Neal teaching the exchange students words such as "banter", Alex Lee's pet sea snails and, for me, singing Enrique Iglesias in the middle of the street!

Omer Cayir said that "it was an enjoyable experience as we got the chance to witness a whole new culture and make some great new friends, who we continue to keep in touch with." According to Alex Lee "it brought all of us together and improved our Spanish, despite the weather being so hot."

All of us may have arrived in Spain incredibly nervous with butterflies in our stomachs, but we left at the end of the week wanting to stay for much longer. Saying goodbye was hard for everyone as the exchange families were exceedingly kind and affectionate and I even shed a few tears on the way back to London. We'd like to thank Mr Urreaga and Mrs Pérez for organising such a memorable trip.

¡Gracias por todo!

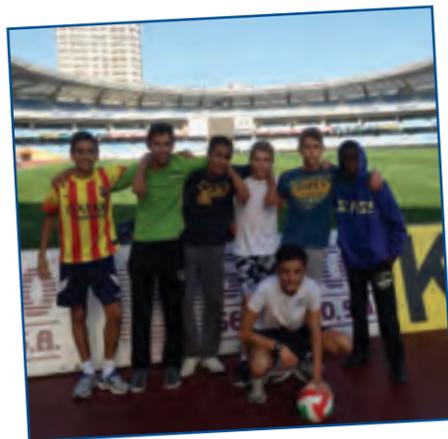


Sixth Form Spanish Theatre Trip

Shivani Sheth U6W

On the 10 October, I, along with twenty other members of the Sixth Form and Mr Urreaga and Mrs Pérez, went to the Baron's Court Theatre, as part of our Spanish A-Level curriculum, to see *Bodas de Sangre* (meaning 'Blood Wedding'), a tragedy by playwright Federico García Lorca.

The play is a tale of love, death and destiny. We see how the bride is preparing to marry the bridegroom, who would give her a safe and stable lifestyle, but is tormented by a powerful desire in the form of her ex-lover, Leonardo, a member of a rival family. Eventually, the bride is tempted enough to escape into the forest with Leonardo. However, the bridegroom quickly catches up with them, ending with the deaths of both Leonardo and the bridegroom, leaving the bride with no one. Although, at times, there was difficulty in understanding the Spanish dialogue we all greatly enjoyed the production.



Erreur D'Identité, Onatti Productions

George Nishimura, U4E

On Wednesday 10 December, members of the lower and middle school who take French were treated to a play. *Erreur d'Identité*, followed the tradition of being an amusing and helpful experience.

Onatti Productions have been performing such plays at Bancroft's for many years now. The cast were very friendly and constantly interacted with the audience, even inviting some onto the stage. This created moments of hilarity as students, such as Amir Sampat, were thrown on stage with the actors. The story, set in the Hotel Marais, which is owned by an odd couple, is about the arrival of a guest who is thought to be a prisoner and the actions which the couple take in order to maintain their safety and alert the police. The play was entertaining and easy to follow, and I would like to thank Onatti Productions on behalf of the school for putting on a wonderful show. *Merci beaucoup!*



MFL Leaders' Award

Sebi Ogunremi, L6S

Twenty sixth formers are working towards the Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Leader Award. This is a nationally recognised award involving learning how to teach, delivering lessons in a primary school and secondary school, running an MFL day and many more transferable skills.

Even though many in the group, including myself, do not study French, the course was still open as long as we had the passion, imagination and drive to commit ourselves. Under the guidance of Mrs Whalley we had to devise ideas for lessons, plan them and, finally, teach them. In addition, the key skills which teachers use to control classes were revealed to us; these strategies definitely came in handy when teaching in the Prep School. We planned two lessons for the Prep, with a lesson for an Alpha class lasting one hour.

Entering a classroom of primary school children and teaching them basic French vocabulary seemed like a relatively easy prospect; however, after teaching the Prep pupils about clothing, our opinions changed quickly. Teaching may look stress-free, but when faced with twenty five boisterous seven and eight year olds on a Friday afternoon with Christmas just around the corner, it's tough. We have learnt some of the struggles which teachers go through, by experiencing them ourselves. We have also experienced the most rewarding part of teaching, when the class understands the French vocabulary, can answer questions easily and can play games using new found knowledge.

Watching a concept 'click' with young children was the best part of this experience. Claudia, who helped me organise and teach the lessons, told me, "There are many aspects to teaching which we don't see, including the level of organisation which takes place and the high level of understanding and communication which needs to be present between teacher and student." There have also been many personal gains. Ryan said, "My skills of communication, organisation and interaction with younger children have greatly improved in a really enjoyable fashion!"

For the next part of the course we have been organising a stall for the upcoming MFL day at Bancroft's. Opportunities for teaching in other schools have also been organised. Although the MFL Leaders' Award has tested our aptitude for teaching, it has also motivated us to develop various skills. These will continue to grow as the experience is far from over. Not every teenager gets the opportunity to teach younger children in the classroom and I have really enjoyed it.



Art Trips to the Curwen Print Centre

Last term saw GCSE and A Level art students visit the Curwen Print Centre in Cambridge where they were guided by professional printmaking artists in how to use lino and intaglio printing techniques to achieve different designs.

Emma Barnett (5S) writes about her trip. "The first printing technique we tried was the linocut print. Our tutor explained that this involved cutting an image into a flat surface of lino using sharp tools. We were all able to quickly draw our image onto the lino as we had previously traced sections of our GCSE coursework to use. We then cut the outline of our image but this was easier said than done. Once we had cut our lino, a thin layer of printing ink was applied. It was then time to print the image using one of the large Victorian printing presses. Using the presses was the hardest part of the day as turning them required muscle power! Using this process Arun Soor was able to create some amazing reduction prints, which involved creating multiple prints from one tile to create an image with several successive stages.

Unlike lino print, intaglio print involved pushing the ink into the etched marks. Luckily, the press used in this process was much easier to use. Dafydd Prole particularly enjoyed intaglio printing, as he was able to experiment using Lego and sandpaper to create different textures. Our day was very successful as everyone was able to create lots of fabulous prints, which can be used as coursework for our GCSE topic, 'Wrapped Up'."

Rhianna Saharoy (U6E) also attended a day. "We were split into two groups and each group learnt a different printing technique; we then rotated after lunch. In relief printing on lino, we cut away the lino that we didn't want to print. This was an interesting but quite lengthy process

needing detail if we wanted to achieve the best possible result. Most people had used this technique in School and so were used to the process. The other technique was intaglio. This is done by ink being applied to the surface of an acetate sheet, which acts as a printing plate. This is not so commonly used and so was new to everyone, but we all seemed to get along well and enjoyed the process. To get the ink under the surface, we had to etch into the acetate with a dry point, then apply ink and scrub it off so that the ink is left in the lines that have been 'engraved'. Everyone achieved some really good results which will be used throughout our coursework and a lot was learnt from the day. "



ARTiculation

Thomas Leung, U6S

The ARTiculation Prize is a nationally acclaimed annual event designed to promote the appreciation and discussion of art. The competition aims to engage sixth formers with art and to develop their confidence and ability to express their opinions. Each student is invited to deliver a ten minute presentation to an interested audience about a work of art, artefact or architecture of their choice. Bancroftian Thomas Leung presented at the West Midlands Heat held in Birmingham's Ikon Gallery. As the Heat Winner he will compete in the final which is part of the ARTiculation Conference at the University of Cambridge in March.

ARTiculation is a fantastic chance for young students to offer their opinions and passionately discuss art and architecture. When I went to Birmingham I was thrilled to meet teenagers who, although nervous, were incredibly friendly. At School sometimes we

are confined by grades and the curriculum, so it is refreshing to break away and talk about things about which we are passionate.

There was such a wide range of discussions: the famous works of Giotto; the divisive work in the Ikon Gallery by Imran Qureshi; Cy Twombly's *Leda Swan*. The competitors offered diverse opinions and introduced me to interesting artists and architects who I hadn't known before. My talk was on the Turbine Hall at the Tate Modern Gallery. In the 1950s this space contained turbines in the Bankside Power Station designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott but has now been hollowed out into a cavernous hall which houses intriguing installations within the gallery. It represents one of the greatest things about architecture: to take something abandoned, such as a disused power station, and convert it into a creative space, which

Herzog & de Meuron did as part of the Millennium projects. It has become a cultural hub in London and since 2001, when I first visited and saw *Maman*, the Giant Spider, I have returned again and again. During my presentation the ten minutes flew by; at the end everyone was most encouraging and friendly and even strangers were shaking my hand.

I would like to thank Ms Ward, my teachers, my art class and anyone who listened to my talk and gave me such great advice. I had brilliant day for which I would like to thank ARTiculation! I would encourage anyone, not just art students, to get involved in competitions such as this because you make friends and if you get the chance to talk to like-minded people about something you love, as I do architecture, there's nothing better.



3rds Rugby Wales Tour

Jacob Jayaraj, 3E

On Friday 12 December a team of boys from the Thirds travelled to Wales for a rugby tour.

We had a long but uneventful journey with only one stop for refreshments. We finally arrived, excited to see what Wales was like, at a school called Pen Y Dre. After lunch we chose either swimming or football, with most of us choosing a dip in the warm pool – Wales seemed like a holiday park! We soon changed our minds when we stepped out onto the pitch that afternoon. It was a cold, wet day with a very muddy pitch and strong opposition.

Our first match was against Pen Y Dre U12s. Both sides were fairly even in the first half with the opposition only moving ahead by one try. Strong running by both Theo Life and Angelo Donovan-Maddix kept us in the game. In the second half we struggled to keep up our good form and Pen Y Dre surged ahead with a further two tries eventually winning the game 21-0.

After a team photo we headed off to see a live professional rugby match, Newport Gwent Dragons v Bucuresti Wolves. It was a very exciting match as Newport annihilated Bucuresti Wolves with endless tries and a final score of 69-17. After all the cheering we were starving and were delighted to find out that dinner was McDonald's or KFC. A great end to a great day!

After a slightly noisy night we awoke to another rainy day but that didn't stop the excitement of our planned activities. First up was a river adventure which involved climbing in water rapids and walking through waterfalls. This was amazing but absolutely freezing cold. Once we had dried off we tried wall climbing and abseiling, which were only for the brave.

On Sunday morning, after a much better night's sleep, we were all very excited for our second match. We knew the team, Blackwood, were unbeaten and very good but that wouldn't stop us. We arrived to find another muddy, wet and slippery pitch. Within minutes of the first whistle they scored their first try but we kept our heads high. All of our team showed great sportsmanship and commitment even whilst the opposition continued scoring. Particularly strong performances from Josh Jerrard and Louis Whalley forced Blackwood to up their game, which they did, eventually beating us with a number of tries. Despite our loss, we all had a great game against inspiring opposition which finished with a fabulous homemade lunch made by the Blackwood team's parents.

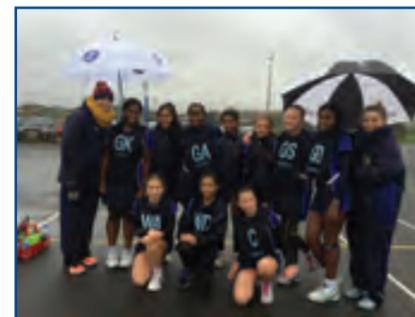
The coach journey home was a bit quieter as many of us slept. It was lovely to see the faces of our excited parents. I would like to thank Mr Greenidge and the team of teachers who organised this unforgettable tour to Wales.



Bancroft's U14s Take County Netball Crown

Facing truly appalling conditions, our U14 netballers were crowned the Essex Met Champions for their age group in this year's National School's Netball Tournament.

During the tournament, which was played in consistently heavy rain on Sunday 23 November at Redbridge Sports Centre, the girls played seven matches to win seven, emerging as the clear victors for their age. They faced teams from Robert Clack, Coopers' Coborn, Chingford, Trinity, Forest, Chafford and Barking Abbey Schools. Bancroft's were never seriously threatened in any match and their main competitor on the day was the



weather. The team had faced similarly awful conditions last year during the Regional Round of the National Tournament and on that occasion had been defeated by the conditions; how they dealt with the rain this year and how they maintained their professionalism throughout the day was a measure of how much they have matured as a team. In such conditions the weather can be a great leveller, but throughout the girls showed consistently accurate passing and a real hunger for success.

All the girls played well with a real feeling of camaraderie and superb communications.

In January the girls travelled to Croydon High for the Regional Round of the National Schools where they represented Essex Met. The team played in seven matches against the top netball teams in the South East, winning two, drawing one and losing four overall. There were some fantastic passages of play during the competition and the team were unlucky in two games to lose by one and draw in the other after a brilliant fight back from a deficit at half time. Yoma Toweh and Busola Femi-Gureje were fantastic in defence with some awesome turnovers and great unit work. Unfortunately the team did not qualify for National Finals, finishing in sixth place.

U12 Girls' Rugby

Eleanor Channer, 3S

Last term, the School's first ever girls' rugby team took on some fantastic competition in a tag-rugby tournament. This was our first competitive

fixture and many of us had very little experience. Despite this, everyone played superbly, gaining confidence and skill as the tournament progressed. Mr Butler drove us there on a cold, wet Monday evening; we were wearing every layer we possessed. We won one game, drew one and lost one, getting better and better with every game that passed. We faced tough opposition, many of whom had clearly played before. Unfortunately, we did not make it to the final, but we played very well and, despite the miserable weather, enjoyed ourselves. Just about everyone got a try in here or there! It was a great evening, and congratulations to our first ever girls' rugby team! Thank you also to Mr Faiers and Mr Dickinson for organising the team.

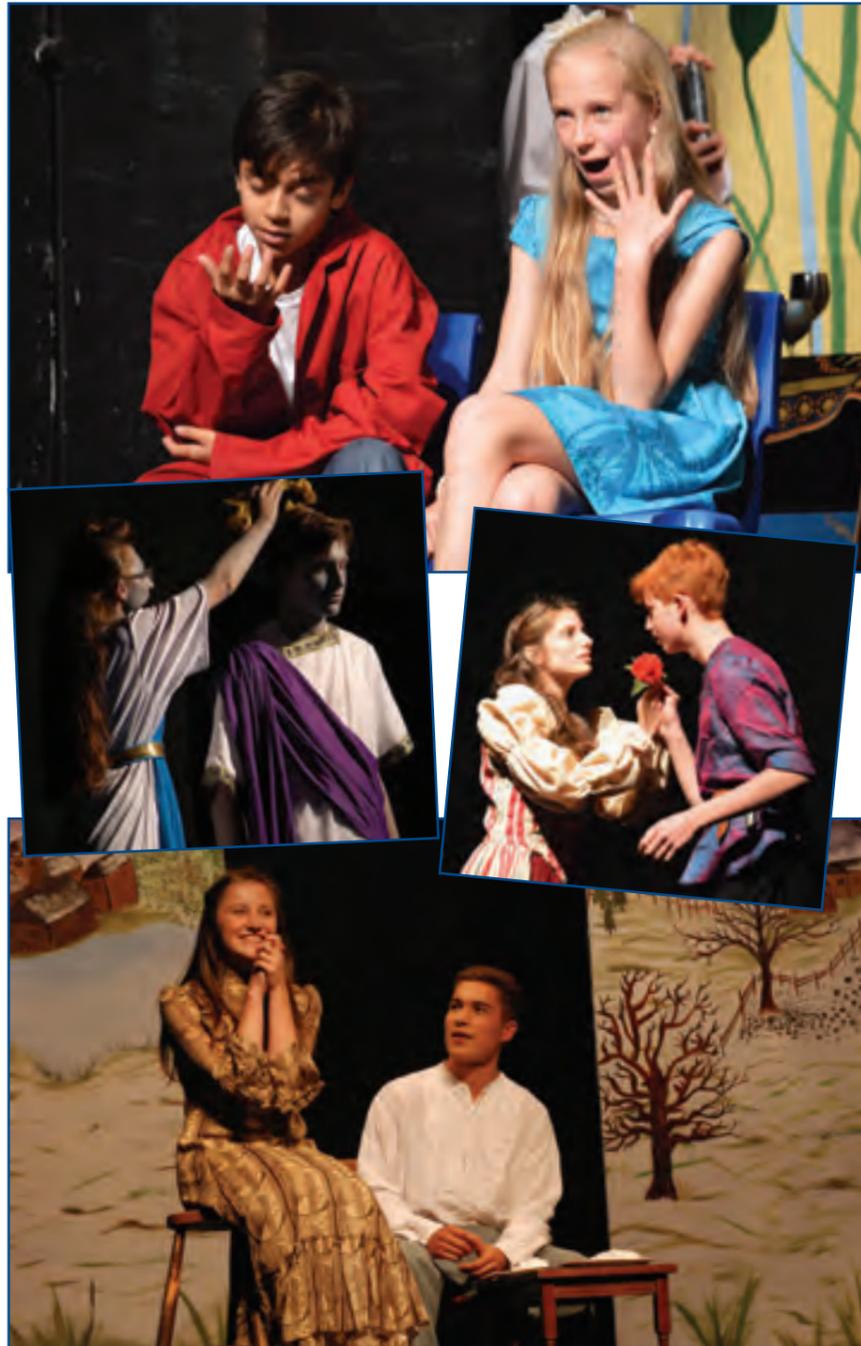


House Drama

House Drama is the first house event of the academic year, exposing our new Thirds to the hot competition which exists between the houses.

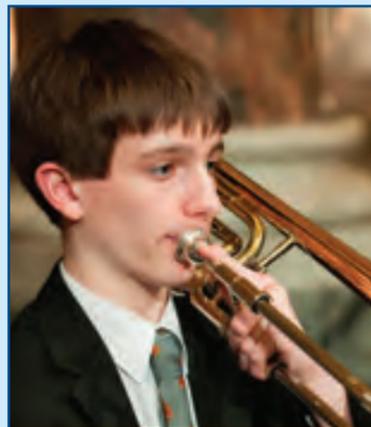
Each house is asked to produce a short play within a very condensed and intensive rehearsal period. After performing these to the School, they have the chance to tweak them a little before the Final which takes place in front of friends, family and an invited adjudicator. This year was unusual in that each house produced a home written piece. Thus allowing them to play to their strengths a little; for example classicist Etienne Caswell wrote *Romulus and Remus* for North, adapting the Roman legend, so allowing North to exploit their classical knowledge and acting talents. West House's piece, *Love and Death*, was set in nineteenth century Russia but with some very contemporary references; this reflected writers' Francis Clark-Murray and Joe Oxlade's off beat and idiosyncratic sense of humour. Thomas Leung adapted the School House production *The Beauty Inside* from a short film; this was a charming and quirky piece examining the nature of identity, which gave opportunities to pupils from all year groups. East House's production, written by Charlie Layburn, *Never Mind the Actors, Here's the Stage Hands* was the most ambitious in many ways: a cast of forty, a verse speaking chorus, broad visual humour, even a pantomime cow all set against the backdrop of a performance of *Romeo and Juliet*. Four very different productions.

This year the adjudicator was TV and West End casting director Ri McDaid-Wren who has worked extensively in musical theatre as well as on TV shows such as *Doctor Who* and *Atlantis*. She praised all houses for an "absolutely fantastic" evening. Awards were as follows: Best Newcomer - Theo Life (East); Best Supporting Actor Male - Charlie Layburn (East); Best Supporting Actor Female - Pria Kalsi (West); Best Actor Male - Louis Japaul (North); Best Actor Female - Zara Meyers (West); Best Set - School House; Best Ensemble - East House; Best Production - East House (directed by Charlie Layburn, Katie Rogers and Charlotte Curness).



Brass

James Bluff, U6N



Last Summer I played trombone in the National Youth Music Theatre production of *Brass*. As a musician, this was a two-week course.

The first week was rehearsals at Sevenoaks School. The rehearsal schedule was very full, but the musicians were all very good, so the rehearsals weren't too long. We enjoyed excellent food and the opportunity to socialise. The second week was show week, during which we stayed in Leeds University self-catering accommodation. We rehearsed in the City Varieties theatre and performed the show six times: two matinees and four evening performances. The reviews were all positive and the show won the UK Theatre Award for Best Musical Production.

It was good to work with actors and other musicians to achieve excellent performances and I learnt a lot about how theatre productions are put together. I had previously played in musical ensembles with conductors demanding high standards, so was used to aiming for perfect performances, but waiting for technical issues to be resolved and listening to discussions on interpretation between the director and the writer was new.

We had to be at the theatre all day, from 9am until after the evening performances. The City Varieties theatre is in the centre of Leeds, which was convenient for getting lunch and dinner. It was also good to stay in student accommodation with the friends I made on the course, and to have some insight into living as a student.

Taal – The Beat of Life

Around 150 pupils from all year groups took part in Taal on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 December. Taal, which means "the beat of life", is an exciting fusion of Asian dance, music and acting.

Now in its thirteenth year, Taal has become a much anticipated fixture in the School calendar as well as an important part of the School's cultural life. The event is totally student driven with members of the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Muslim Society (HSBM Society) writing, choreographing and directing the event. The script this year was written by Aqib Ahmed with Avantika Sood (both U6) overseeing the choreography. The students assume full responsibility: everything from finding sponsorship from local businesses to sourcing costumes. President of the HSBM Society, Aisha Chowdhury, said that for her "Taal has been a great way of making friends from all year groups. I've been involved since the Lower Fourth and it has become a massive part of my school life, I'm really sad that this will be my last one. It's a lot of work, but so worthwhile."

Taal is also a major fund raiser for charities and this year supported Smile Train and Charity Right. Charity Right provides vital food aid to starving people in the most underprivileged places in the world. Their work has served 1.4 million meals in six countries worldwide. Smile Train is a charity providing free cleft palate repair to those in need, while helping to train local doctors. The repair makes it possible for a child born with a cleft to eat, breath, speak properly and smile. Representatives of both charities enjoyed the performances. It is hoped that this year's Taal will have raised in excess of seven thousand pounds to be divided equally between the two charities.

Marwan Mikdadi, Deputy Head, said, "Taal truly was the 'beat of life' this year; a wonderful exposition of multicultural life at Bancroft's and a great way to raise money for some worthwhile causes."



Music

Mr R Bluff

The first concert of the year was given by Bancroft's music award holders who put on some very high quality performances in a wide range of musical styles.

The department contributed to the diverse presentations in morning chapel with music in the style of the Taizé community, plainsong *Compline* and settings of the *Nunc Dimittis* in Latin, English and Greek for the festival of Candlemas.

As we approached the Christmas season, the Bancroft's Swingers played to the whole school in morning assembly and the Second Orchestra gave a festive lunchtime concert in the Great Hall to the Prep School and visiting parents. A Senior Chamber Concert included some piano duets and a song specially written by some of our DoFE Gold participants. The Bancroft's Singers entertained the residents of the Drapers' Alms House in Tottenham and were in top form for the annual Carol Service in All Saints Church.

This term has so far seen frantic activity in preparing for the Spring Concert, Inter-House Music Competition, the Drapers' Hall Concert, the CCF Biennial Review, the Francis Bancroft Commemoration Service and the forthcoming production of *Les Misérables*, when we hope to perform to packed houses.



Three North Annual Walk for Charity

Sophia Weedon, 3N

The annual 3 North walk is a very good experience; it helps to develop friendships whilst raising some money for charity.

This year it took place on Sunday October 12 and both tutor groups raised £667 for the NSPCC and Cancer Research. For our group of 3Na, the navigation was working well with Mr Jaques guiding us until he lost his way, resulting in us having to ask cyclists for directions! We encountered many animals en route this year: dogs, ducks, swans and even horses! Some parents also came along and they all seemed to be engrossed in

conversation with other parents, which is partly what the walk is all about. As usual, Mrs Hunter and Ms Edwards' group of 3Nb and Mr Jaques's group of 3Na were in a race to see which group could get back to school first with Mr Jaques's group emerging victorious surprisingly! We were incredibly lucky with the weather which was sunny and dry. Last year it rained almost continually as the Removes will tell you. We enjoyed a welcome

break at the halfway point, King's Head in High Beech where Mr Jaques had ordered our refreshments beforehand. Starting at 9am we managed to complete the walk by 12.30pm, which meant we set a cracking pace but, at the time, it didn't feel like it. We all felt that we had bonded as a tutor group; our parents got to know the teachers and each other and we all had an amazing time. Let's keep up the North House Tradition!



Wild West Disco

Francis Clark-Murray, U6W

On November 14, West put the 'Wild' into 'Wild West', with our Western-themed disco.

Upon arrival, members of the Thirds, Removes and L4th were met with a PAC transformed into a Western saloon, complete with decorative barn doors, hoopla, a shooting range and anachronistic balloons and bunting. It proved surprisingly difficult to compile a playlist of Western-related songs for the disco, meaning the evening was bookended by repeat performances of *Cotton-Eyed Joe* and 5,6,7,8, but this only made room for more contemporary music, and gave Mr Ceeraz a chance to display his fabled breakdancing skills. All years, from the Thirds attending their first house event to the U6th organising stalls and selling cowboy hats, had a great time, and we managed to raise some money for charity as well. Yee-haw!



East House Olympiad

Harris Nagaswaran, U6E

In November East House's biennial Olympiad rolled into the quiet suburb of Woodford Green, causing controversy, jubilation and widespread chaos.

With an array of new events such as the hilarious "chubby bunny", which involves cramming as many marshmallows as possible into your mouth and still retaining the ability to articulate the words "chubby bunny" or the gruelling "plank challenge", this year's event promised to be remembered for years to come. Of course, there were old favourites too such as the Tug of War and Wheelbarrow Race.

Mr Flaherty was as ruthless as ever in dooming those brave enough to take on his maths challenges (including the famous "I Luv Maffs") to eternal shame. The spelling competition, presided over by a team of increasingly disappointed teachers, was

once again, appalling with only a few managing to spell such challenging words as "onomatopoeia" and "subtle."

Our efforts were not in vain, however, with over £2200 raised for charity: a fantastic effort by all involved. Special thanks goes to all the teachers who helped out, especially Mrs A Fryer-Green, who ensured that this was the most organised Olympiad so far! The money raised will be going towards a number of worthy causes, including Because I'm a Girl and our long running Magical Taxi Tour sponsorship, when disabled children are given the amazing trip of a lifetime to Disneyland, Paris courtesy of London black cab drivers.



School House Family Evening

Ashley Agedah, U6S

Disney was the theme of choice for this year's School House Family Evening, much to the delight of both pupils and teachers alike. The evening started off in the Dining Hall with a range of food and Disney-themed stalls from "Frozen" blue ice slush puppies, to face painting for princes and princesses, although it was the samosa stall which raised the most money!

Then everyone congregated outside for the traditional School House fireworks display (courtesy of Angela & Raj Patel of Newsbox Fireworks, Loughton) before the performance started in the Great Hall. We centred the various musical and dramatic acts around a play this year- *Disney Therapy*. Various caricatures of Disney princes and princess attended therapy sessions with a "Dr Phil" type counsellor lending an ear to their problems. The performance opened with an orchestral mash-up composed by Martha Grimsell of the main scores from *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Star Wars*, with a dynamic on-stage fight between the pirates and Jedi warriors of the Thirds, however neither side won a glittering victory. Other highlights included David Nana's spellbinding gymnastics routine; a *High School Musical* cheerleading extravaganza; Tom O'Brien's acoustic rendition of the *Jungle Book's* *Be Like You*; short theatrical adaptations of Disney classics, and the main event (in their opinion) the U6th video. This was *Take Me Out: Disney*, featuring the Disney princes and princesses being set up on dates together.

The evening ended on a high note both figuratively and literally, with Faith Kargbo delighting the audience with her cover of Elsa's swan song, *Let It Go*, and School House managing to raise a spectacular total of £3480 split evenly between Haven House and The Befriending Scheme.



CCF: Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday was marked with a moving chapel service led by the School's Chaplain, the Rev Ivan Moore.

Parents, staff, pupils and Old Bancroftians joined the two hundred members of the School Combined Cadet Force, as well as representative from the Sea Scouts and Cubs, as they remembered those who have given their lives in conflict. Before the service, the CCF marched along Whitehall Road and the High Road, before processing into the School grounds. Following the ceremony, a wreath was laid on the School War Memorial in the Quad by RSM Annabel Smith, while Provhat Rahman played the Last Post. The traditional silence was marked by all those present. Flag bearers were Lucas Bainbridge and Finlay Ferguson while the colours of the School's Sea Scout troop were carried by Oscar Saharoy and Juliette Balchin. A second wreath was laid on the School's memorial gates which commemorate the fallen of World War II and a third was laid on the memorial tablet in honour of the loss of those associated with the School in Afghanistan.

To mark the centenary of the start of the Great War, 170 crosses were laid out in the Quad. Each one marked the death of a pupil or teacher during the First World War. Before the laying of the wreath each name was read out in a roll of honour. The Head called out the names of staff who had died in the conflict and the four Heads of Houses read the names of the students. The names included Lieutenant Francis C S Frost who has only just been named as one of the Bancroftians killed in action.

Old Bancroftian Simon Coxshall has been researching Bancroft's pupils and staff who were killed in the conflict. He discovered a correspondence from Mrs Frost in the School's archives, which led him to make further enquiries. F C S Frost was killed in action on 21 March 1918 at the start of the last great German offensive. He was one of eight OBs killed that week. His body was never recovered and we are not sure where he was killed save it was around the St Quentin area on the Somme. His widow found it exceptionally hard to accept



the loss of her husband and, for a considerable time, searched in vain for him, never accepting his death and so his name was not added to the School's Memorial Boards. His body was never recovered and her efforts were to nought. A very sad footnote to Frost's story was that his wife and daughter were both later to take their own lives.

Later on in November, seventy nine Fifth Form historians went on the annual Battlefields trip to visit British and Commonwealth sites from the First World War. It has become a tradition to mark an Old Bancroftian during the trip and a wreath was laid on the grave of Corporal William Dice, OB 1905-1907, who was killed in action in 1917 aged only 21. He is buried in the Croisilles Railway Cemetery close to Arras in France. This is always a most memorable trip, with visits to the cemeteries really driving home the magnitude of numbers killed in the war, while the time spent on the battlefields themselves highlights the conditions in the trenches.



Sea Scouts Trip to HMS Excellent

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

One of the privileges of Royal Navy Recognition is the right to use of accommodation at selected RN Training bases, including HMS Excellent. This is located on Whale Island in Portsmouth Harbour. The overnight accommodation is quite special, as it comes in the form of HMS Bristol, a type 82 destroyer, which is moored at Whale Island and provides accommodation and training facilities. As the RN website puts it, "she provides the closest thing to a sea-going experience without leaving port."

So four leaders and a minibus of excited Sea Scouts headed down to Portsmouth for the weekend. On arrival on the Friday evening, the Troop discovered some of the more interesting aspects of life on board, such as a rucksack on your back means you get stuck in the hatch between decks, corridors are divided by bulkheads that trip the unwary, and bunks are three high without ladders.

After a good night's sleep, and a good breakfast, we spent Saturday in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Following a quick visit to the Nelson Gallery in the National Museum, we had a full tour of his flagship HMS Victory, giving a chance to learn how harsh life aboard was in Nelson's day. Then it was on to "Action Stations", where the Troop tried a variety of activities including climbing walls and helicopter simulator. After lunch, a waterbus took us

across Portsmouth harbour to "Explosion!" The Museum of Naval Firepower. Here the troop learnt about the development of Naval Armoury. Then it was back to HMS Bristol for a second night on board.

On Sunday morning, we drove to the Submarine Museum. As well as seeing various exhibits, showing how submarines have developed, the Troop had a tour of HMS Alliance, a WW2 submarine. Their guide was a retired submariner who could explain what life below the waves was like.

From the numerous requests for a return visit I have received, it seems that the Troop enjoyed the visit. If we can pass our next RN Inspection on the 26 March, we hope to go back soon.



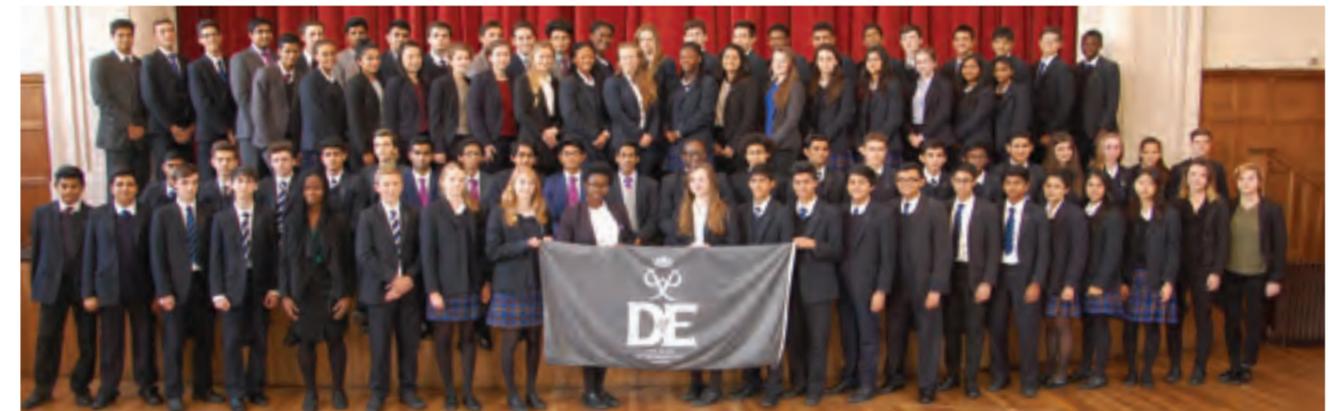
Celebration of Success in Duke of Edinburgh Award

Once again we have seen a fantastic year for the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme with a total of 148 pupils from the Fifth Form upwards achieving success in the Award.

Ninety six Bronze Awards and thirty one Silver Awards were presented at School to pupils by Peter Fleet, the London Regional Director for DofE in November. In addition, a further twenty one pupils will be presented with their Gold Awards at special ceremonies held at St James' Palace in the presence of either the HRH The Duke of Edinburgh or HRH The Earl of Wessex. Bancroft's regularly sees high number of awards and 2014 was no exception, with the overall pass rate for all awards at an impressive 84%. These pupils have successfully combined the demands of the DofE with study for public exams and, in the process, they will have gained many transferable skills which they will find invaluable in their academic careers and also beyond school and university. Old Bancroftian and Gold Award holder Matthew Tembey spoke of the challenges he had faced and skills he had gained while working towards his Gold Award.

After presenting the students with their badges, Peter Fleet spoke about the long term benefits of the Award, "Bancroft's understand the value of DofE to its students and how it perfectly complements academic attainment and raises level of achievement. As a charity we often see the impact DofE participation has on students' progress and prospects in terms of accessing university, apprenticeships, a job and career."

During the October half term, thirty members of the Upper Sixth spent a week in Snowdonia on their Gold expedition. Although the expedition section, which includes a night of wild camping, is meant to be tough this year's cohort faced another challenge: the conditions presented by Hurricane Gonzalo. The students were forced to reconsider their routes to allow for the tough conditions, so that some were not allowed to go up Mount Snowdon as conditions were deemed as too dangerous. However, all students successfully met the demands of the expedition section.





Visit from the African Children's Choir

On Tuesday 25 November, pupils at Bancroft's Prep were delighted to be entertained by the visiting African Children's Choir, a touring group of Ugandan children, many of whom have lost one or both parents through the devastation of war, famine and disease. The members are drawn from a school in Uganda which is funded by the registered Christian charity 'Music for Life'. The aim is to fund-raise but also to present the Choir as ambassadors for the talent and potential of African children.

The Choir consists of eighteen children aged between 9 and 11. When touring they stay with host families and continue their schooling on the road; when the tour comes to an end, the children return to Uganda where they continue to be supported throughout their education. The Choir's stated aim is "Helping Africa's most vulnerable children today, so they can help Africa tomorrow."

Over the past twenty nine years, the African Children's Choir has educated over 52,000 children in seven African countries and

currently supports fifty schools.

The Choirs have performed for the Queen, Presidents - including Barack Obama and Nelson Mandela - and many

other celebrities and dignitaries.

They have appeared on many TV shows, including *GMTV* and *Blue Peter* in the UK. One of the Choirs sang with Gary Barlow in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert. The Prep School presentation came after eleven months touring in the USA and Canada.

Prep teacher Sarah Strong described the visit as "a ray of light" and said, "The children melted the hearts of Prep children and teachers alike, with their charming smiles and delightful tunes. The children were radiant with hope, musically gifted and wonderfully entertaining." During the presentation some of the Prep boys were invited to play the drums alongside the choir and some girls to dance along.

The assembly culminated in both schools coming together and singing two of the Prep's favourite songs. Prep Music Director, Adam Baum, played the trumpet, whilst the African



Children's Choir accompanied him on the drums. He said, "Our children were inspired, transfixed and excited by the rhythm and energy of the visiting Choir. They showed us what we can bring to our music." The children spent the rest of the morning visiting classes, joining in a dance lesson and playing with the children at break time. We were so privileged to have them at Bancroft's.

The Bard at Bancroft's Prep

Who said Shakespeare is boring? Certainly not our Prep 1 and 2s.

They sat transfixed throughout a performance of *Hamlet* by the Young Shakespeare Company on Monday 2 February. This company specialises in visiting schools and making the works of Shakespeare accessible to children from KS2 upwards. In previous years Bancroft's has hosted productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Macbeth*, both of which might be considered easier for a young audience. However, with its focus on the narrative and the involvement of the children - whether supplying sound effects, acting the roles of the minor characters or being asked to speculate on what happens next - the cast of five succeeding in entertaining the children who were totally absorbed. For many of the audience this was their first taste of Shakespeare; hopefully it won't be their last. Always clear and never patronizing, this production provided the perfect introduction to one of Shakespeare's most complex plays. Prep 2 pupil Jemima Strong was in the audience and her thoughts summed up all the pupils' experiences, "I really enjoyed this. Some parts were very dramatic and even scary at times; however, it was great the way in which the actors got us all involved and made it feel like fun."



Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2015

Tuesday 6 January -
Friday 27 March

Half term

Monday 16 February -
Friday 20 February

SUMMER TERM 2015

Monday 20 April -
Friday 3 July

Half term

Monday 25 May -
Friday 29 May

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

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