



# Insight

SPRING TERM 2018

## Harry Potter Week

*Oliver Hughes, 3S*

**A few weeks ago all members of the Thirds enjoyed a fantastic set of days based on Harry Potter.**

The week was full of great activities relating to the famous Harry Potter books and films, these included games of Quidditch held in the Sports Hall (for people who don't know Harry Potter, Quiddich is a game where multiple players fly on broomsticks and attempt to catch a variety of balls and throw them into a set of hoops);

making potions in the science lab; a Harry Potter quiz and the great Snape debate! I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say that these activities were so full of fun and we could not have held this fantastic week if the librarians and teachers hadn't organized the entire thing.

Finally, the week finished with an incredible performance of specialist owls, including one looking exactly like Hedwig! It was an unforgettable week full of excitement and I really hope we can do the same thing again in the future.





# Oxbridge 2018

**Current Sixth Formers have enjoyed another year of success, obtaining a dozen offers from Oxbridge colleges. Eight pupils have been accepted by Cambridge and they are joined by Old Bancroftian, Emman Bhangu, who has been accepted by Magdalene to read Law. Four have offers from Oxford.**

This year the Modern Foreign Languages department has seen a success in applications with three pupils being offers places to read MFL, in addition, three have obtained places for Medicine. Such success is not achieved without a good deal of hard work from the pupils as well as hours of dedicated support and encouragement from their teachers, who have provided guidance, extra tuition and interview practice over the past months. Members of staff deserve special thanks for all their work and encouragement.

Head, Simon Marshall, said, "We are delighted at the success of those who have been awarded offers at Oxford and Cambridge – they have worked tremendously hard and it is great that they earned recognition for this. It is increasingly competitive to gain a place at these universities and we are also mindful of those who worked equally hard and were equally deserving of places, but who have unfortunately missed out. Overall our U6th Form year-group have received offers from an excellent range of the top universities and colleges and, as things stand, most have a good range of offers for their chosen courses."

CAMBRIDGE		
Sonali Arora	Spanish & Portuguese	Robinson
Emman Bhangu (OB)	Law	Magdalene
Jaspal Channar	Economics	Homerton
Nasser Chowdhury	Chemical Engineering	St John's
Ben Margetson-Rushmore	Law	Queen's
Lana Mawlood	Arabic & French	Queen's
George Nishimura	Medicine	Girton
Abdullah Shakeel	Medicine	Corpus Christi
Isma'eel Zia	Medicine	Jesus
OXFORD		
Daffodil Dhayaa	Engineering	Wadham
Jessica Hobbis	Geography	St Edmund Hall
Will Ngassa	French & Italian	Balliol
Caroline Wyatt	Experimental Psychology	Magdalene



## Arkwright Scholarships

*Simone Luis, L6Wb & Hasha Dar, L6N*

**Taking part in the Arkwright Scholarship scheme has enlightened me in the field of engineering and allowed me to broaden my horizons as I get a better insight into the world of engineering and the possible specialities. When I started this journey I was undecided about what field of engineering I wanted to go into, but now, after talking to different scholars and mentors, I'm more confident about what I would like to do in the future.**

Although the process was lengthy, it was an interesting couple of months. It started off with an application form, on which we highlighted our interests from the curriculum. This was followed by a written exam based on problem solving and creating new designs/inventions for different scenarios. Those who did well in the exam were offered an interview at one of the associated universities all around England, I had my interview at Brunel University where I had to display an electronics project. I then had to wait to find out if I had got the scholarship and to find out who my sponsor was. I found out my results towards the end of summer and my sponsor is Arm, a British multinational semiconductor and software design company. On the whole, the Arkwright experience has been eye opening and I recommend possible future engineers to give it a go. *(Simone)*

**The Arkwright Scholarship scheme has allowed me to exhibit my passion for engineering by allowing me to fund projects which enable me to experiment. This award shows that I have a keen interest in engineering. My sponsor is the Utleay Foundation who kindly have provided me with monetary support and an offer of work experience with an automotive firm, which I think is generous.**

Arkwright also offer a vast network of engineering based companies and foundations, which provide many events, university open days and lectures which are exclusively for Arkwright scholars and associates. These have provided me with a valuable source knowledge and information. *(Hasha)*





# A-Level Biology Live at Friend's House

**Yoma Toweh, L6W**

**We started off the day with a lecture from Doctor Adam Hart who explained the diversity of planet Earth. His talk gave us a clearer perspective of the creatures with whom we share this earth, focusing on the smaller animals which tend to be overlooked, such as the 5 million trillion trillion (that's 30 zeros) bacteria that inhabit this planet.**

He was followed by Doctor Jenny Rohn who explained that, before the twentieth century, bacterial infections killed a huge number of people until antibiotics were created as a man-made defence against bacteria. She explained the terrifying dangers of bacterial resistance to antibiotics, such as MRSA, and the new methods being developed to discover new classes of antibiotics by using soil culture.

Doctor Hannah Critchlow enlightened us with her demystifying of the human brain. Our brains consist of 86 billion nerve cells with connections made at 120 mph. This seems quite overwhelming but she used optical illusions and audio aids to show us how effortlessly our brain can process, interpret and prioritise information.

Our penultimate lecture was from Professor Steve Jones who went into depth on Darwinism. Evolution is at the core of biology; with Darwinism comes the idea of natural selection, the key to survival as it saves and passes on our most advantageous genes. Advances in DNA research allow us to see the many similarities and differences between us and the creatures across the earth. Evidence shows that we share 95% of our DNA with chimpanzees and it can be clearly seen where the loss of DNA is. The main difference between us and our ancestors is our brain, arguably the most complex organ in our bodies.



Lastly, Doctor Ben Goldacre went into detail of the MMR hoax that swept the nation and followed this with an exploration of other mass media anti-vaccine stories. It was interesting to see the impact that politics can have on science.

In between the lectures, examiners gave us tips to help us in our exams. Overall, the day proved to be very informative on topics of which we previously may have only had a vague understanding and inspired students to research them further.

## GCSE Science Live

**Adam Agbamu, 5W**

**On 1 December, a generous scoop of U4ths and 5ths journeyed to the Apollo Victoria Theatre to watch a spectacular series of lectures delivered by leading scientists. The day, hosted by Science Live!, was one of a series of annual lectures aimed at GCSE students which takes place across the country. The speakers included Dr Helen Czerski, Prof Jim Al-Khalili, Prof Robert Winston, Prof Alice Roberts and Prof Andrea Sella – all renowned pioneers in their respective fields.**

Each lecture was immensely fascinating and we learned a great deal. From the similarities between dugong flippers and bat wings to the feasibility of time travel, from genetic enhancement to the colour of blueberry jam, every talk went



beyond the GCSE spec whilst still remaining understandable for all. My personal favourite was delivered by physicist Jim Al-Khalili on the nature of wormholes, a path by which two points in space can actually be linked. This is now known to occur at the quantum level on our own planet. Andrea Sella's demonstration with dry ice was the highlight of the trip: he placed a few cubes of frozen carbon dioxide in an empty coke bottle, screwed the lid tightly and waited, until – BANG! The bottle exploded! This was because the dry ice had sublimated to gas, building up pressure in the bottle until it reached crisis point, demolishing both the bottle and our ears.

## A-Level Science Live

**Charlotte Wyatt, L6S**

**On a surprisingly sunny day, a lucky few L6 Bancroftians attended a series of chemistry lectures in Euston. The day started off with an intense yet fascinating lecture on the origins of life inspired by the relatively recent study of hydrothermal vents (vents of seawater that have been heated by magma). This gave insight into the types of life that first emerged on Earth and the possibilities for life to emerge on other planets.**



From what felt like Biology to Geography, this talk was followed with a harrowing talk on the dangers of the air we breathe in cities. There has been a dramatic rise of ground level ozone caused by vehicle emissions with serious health implications. Fortunately, the ocean is doing a thing or two to 'mop up' up this excess. One of our personal favourites was the mathematical demonstration of orbitals (electron shells) showing that they were really a wave function rather than the Saturn like rings most of us imagine.

Even after what seemed like a slight overload of information there were still two more lectures (although thankfully a little more light hearted than the previous ones). The first was based on the book *Elegant Solutions* and presented the ten most beautiful experiments in chemistry. However, these were not experiments with brightly coloured flames that are aesthetically pleasing, but rather the most extraordinary scientific discoveries. All beautiful because of the meticulous work that was done in order for them to happen, such as Watson and Crick discovering that DNA was a double helix and Neil Bartlett successfully reacting a noble gas. This left us with our final lecture - the wonders and dangers of the liquid metal mercury. It left us stunned and amazed at the density and interesting properties of this element. For example, one litre of water weighs 1kg however, a litre bottle filled with mercury weighs 13.5kg!



# Rubik's Cube Championship

*Oliver Sarafin, RS*

During October half term I participated in the UK Rubik's Cube Championship at the Forum in Stevenage. When I first entered the room in which the competition was held, all I could hear was the frantic clicking of Rubik's Cubes! I had already been told before the event by email that I was in group 11 for the 3x3x3 Rubik's Cube. There are different qualifying times for each different type of cube. There are also competitions for solving cubes blindfolded, with your feet, and one-handed!

The organisers of the event assigned judges to the competition. A judge called your name and took you to the nearest available solving space (which has a timer). Then they asked, "Are you ready?" When you say, "yes", the judge reveals the specially scrambled cube to you. You are allowed 15 seconds to look at the cube before you start solving it. The judge times how long you take looking at the cube; if you take too long to look and go over 15 seconds that counts as a DNS – a "Did Not Start".

In order to start solving the cube, I put my hands on the timer and when I took my hands off the timer the clock started to tick. When I finished the cube, putting my hands back on the timer made it stop. The judge wrote down the time which I then verified, and then the judge scrambled the cube again. They did this four more times, and the average of your five times, with the slowest and fastest times removed, is your official time, and you are ranked by that official time.

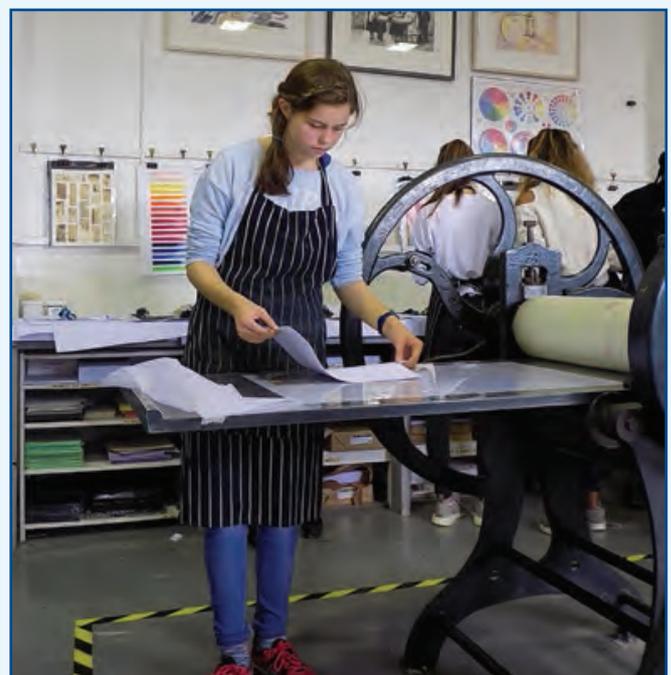
This was my first competition so it was really a good experience. I didn't qualify for the latter stages but my times are improving and my current personal best is 21 seconds...the winning time was 8.56 seconds so I know what I have to aim for! In my second competition I was only one place away from qualifying for the next phase so with more practice I should make the finals one day!



# Curwen Print Studios

In another fascinating trip to the Curwen, all our Art GCSE students explored the wonderful techniques taught in the day long workshops provided by the excellent professional print-makers there.

Students went through some subtle frottage methods for their dry-point etchings and wonderful masking techniques in their lino-printing. The professional printing presses are of the highest standard and students came away with a real boost to their course work portfolios and another set of skills to add to their range. The printmakers were especially impressed with the designs of both Millie Woods and Amy Neal.





# Special Effects Workshop Led By Satinder Chumber

Sahana Sekhon, L4S & Mila Stoilova, L4S

On Monday 9 October, L4 pupils who study art had a special effects talk. The talk was about how special effects are made and what they are used for; we even got to make our own silicone severed finger. Satinder, who has worked on many big movies, for example *Harry Potter*, *Mission Impossible*, led the talk. Our workshop was split into two parts. The first part was making the silicone severed finger. We did this by putting white powder called alginate, which is made out of seaweed, into a cup and mixing it with water. This made a gloopy, squidgy, porridge-like consistency, it also turned bright pink! This part was probably the trickiest part: as soon as the water hit the powder it immediately began to firm up meaning there wasn't much time left to mix it. Many of us failed first time to mix the two substances together in time before we could put it in the tube but after the second attempt we were able to mix it and pour it into the tube then stick our finger in the alginate before it firmed up. It felt like putty mixed with shaving foam and was quite soft and airy. Putting our finger into the mix, made a cast/mould of our finger. It would capture every pore, scratch, hair, of the finger. The mixture fully hardened within five minutes, when we took out our finger from the hardened mixture.

Then we made a silicone mixture, from two parts of liquid, each weighing 30 grams exactly. We mixed them together and then put them into the alginate cast. The cast took approximately twenty minutes to set. While we were waiting, we made fake wounds out of silicone moulds; the sticky substance went on our skin, it was clear so it blended in with our skin. It was incredible how realistic it looked. By the time we put the fake wounds on our skin our severed finger was ready. We simply cut the finger out of the mould and it slipped right out.



The result of the severed finger was satisfactory however I was quite disappointed that the creases towards the start of my fake finger were mushed and the edges of the fake finger had a weird shape. I think this was because I mixed the alginate too slowly so when I stuck my finger in the alginate it didn't cling to the creases on my finger. If I did it again I would definitely try to stir the alginate and water quicker.

I think that it would be great fun to be a SFX artist as you would get to travel and meet many new people whilst you get to put stage makeup on people. I think that in order to be a SFX artist you would have to have an eye for realistic art and detail and be extremely good with all sorts of materials. I think that in the future I would want to pursue special effects as I like changing the appearance of myself or others and not just using art on paper but on living things and I like the concept of realistic 3D SFX makeup.

# Graphics Designer Visit

Josh Beardwell, U6E

On Wednesday 22 December, the Art Department invited me to one of our regular art practitioners' talks, this time given by the graphics designer Steve Wignall who is a senior designer working in the heart of the West End. He manages a small team for the design department and works with a broad range of clients from start-ups to blue chip companies like Electronic Arts for games packaging, working in the team designing the front cover of FIFA 17, to a complete a rebrand for Virgin Racing to name but a few.

Wignall's presentation was thoroughly enjoyable and very appealing to many who attended. We were enlightened on the complexities of the design process behind the development of a brand logo, the time consuming nature and attention to detail of such creations fascinated me, and the relevance of geometry and mathematics throughout this process was something I had not considered. The

Art Department offers a diverse range of talks from a variety of speakers however, the contemporary nature of this particular aspect of art and design was successful in appealing to a wider audience. I would encourage anybody, whether you are studying art or not, to come along and relish these enriching opportunities.





# Art Trip to Japan

*Minnie Life, U6E*

On 29 September, early in the morning, several of us from U4 to U6 along with Mrs Vetta, Miss Stewart and Mr Ford met at Bancroft's ready to head to Japan. After a gruelling eleven hour flight, we landed in Hong Kong. It was a little disheartening knowing we still had a long way to go but we were excited all the same. After a very brief stop off (we had to run to our gate) we boarded the plane to Osaka, the nearest airport to Kyoto. Once we landed in Osaka we were greeted by our tour guide Kaiko who was a lifesaver on our trip. We then had even more travelling, a two hour coach ride into Kyoto, when most of us fell asleep until we reached our destination. After a short break we headed out for dinner which was very traditional. It was so interesting and exciting to experience this, especially on our first evening in Japan. Another exciting moment was on our walk back to the hotel, where we saw two Geishas walking which is a very rare and sought after sight in Kyoto.



On our first day, after a varied breakfast of miso soup, rice and pancakes, we began the day visiting a Shinto shrine. It was fascinating to learn about this unique Japanese religion. We then partook in a calligraphy class, where apparently we were all very fast learners. Day two saw us visit various temples and shrines, including the famous Golden Pavilion. We also all tried some interesting Japanese ice cream, such as Macha which was surprisingly nice. On day three we left Kyoto and travelled by bullet train to Tokyo. The journey was very interesting, and we even saw Mount Fuji out the window! When we arrived in Tokyo the first thing we visited was the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, which had several really amazing permanent exhibitions in small and unusually shaped rooms, such as a toilet covered in mirrors. We then went to the Studio Ghibli Museum, which was one of my highlights of the trip. We were able to watch an exclusive short film and saw several really interesting exhibitions about how the movies are made. The gift shop was also particularly exciting.

The next day was probably my favourite day of the trip. We started going to Harajuku, an area that I would compare to somewhere like Camden. We were given some time to shop before we headed for lunch. After lunch we headed to the cat café, where some of us spent a lot of time playing with and feeding all the different cats. After this, we had an evening of karaoke which was very exciting as Japan is famous for its karaoke; then we made our way to the Tokyo Tower where we had yet more ice cream and admired the view. On our final day we visited a famous Buddhist temple and market. For lunch a few of us had a delicious sushi lunch on the 22nd floor of a building, so we had a really good view whilst we ate. After visiting a traditional Japanese garden we took a boat ride to Minato, an artificial island where we had shopping time and time in an arcade where some of us went on an indoor rollercoaster! The next morning we were awake painfully early (4am) and faced with the prospect of another long journey home. We all loved our trip to Japan and we all said that we want to return some day. I highly recommend that if you get the opportunity to go, take it.

## National Gallery Workshop

*Holly Cohen, U4W*

On Wednesday 8 November, art students in the Upper Fourth and Sixth Form visited the National Gallery. After we arrived by coach, our exciting day commenced with a guided tour of the Gallery, with a focus on



**studying both portraits and self-portraits. We were shown and learnt that the portraits were painted in very different ways and styles, using unique techniques and different angles. One of the paintings we carefully examined was a self-portrait by an artist called Elizabeth Vigee-Lebrun that was created in 1782.**

Next we attended an Art Workshop inside the Gallery. Here, we were given a photocopy of *Portrait of a Young Man* by Bronzino, an Italian Renaissance artist, and set to work on the task of recreating it ourselves. We were shown how to paint our portrait in stages and learnt many new and useful ways to develop our painting technique. We were lucky to receive direction on the day from two experienced portrait artists. Ayesha Hafiz stated that she "found [the experience] really useful and can't wait to apply these techniques to [her] future paintings".

Overall, everybody enjoyed the trip and I personally found it very valuable in developing my painting skills and increasing my knowledge of portrait work at the National Gallery.



## 5th Form Spanish Tapas Workshop

Roshni Parmar, 5E

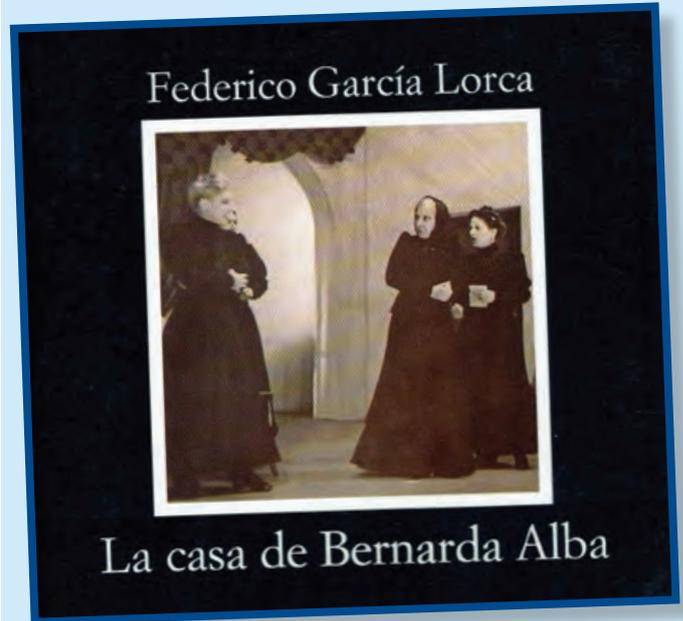
On Tuesday 5 December our year were exceedingly fortunate to participate in a Spanish tapas workshop that Señor Urreaga had organised for us. This workshop had been long anticipated as it involved us cooking and tasting food.

Upon entering the Great Hall we were met by two highly experienced and very friendly Spanish chefs who had laid out an abundance of enticing ingredients. The first tapas dish we prepared was *Molletes*. This consisted of a small round of freshly baked bread sliced in half, covered with tomato pulp and topped with a piece of cheese. Personally this was my favourite dish and it amazed me how something so simple tasted so delicious. As we would say in Spanish '*¡estaba para chuparse los dedos!*' – 'it was finger licking good!' Next, we prepared the famous *gazpacho* which is the equivalent of cold tomato soup. The chefs instructed us to chop tomatoes, dice onions and cut cucumbers which were then blended together with a splash of olive oil and a generous helping of salt. This was a more controversial tapas dish as there was a divide in the group between people who asked for seconds and people who couldn't finish their shot glass of the drink. The final dishes we made were *galletas* (biscuits) called *lenguas de gato* and *garbanzos con espinacas* (chickpeas with spinach). We followed the Spanish tradition of piping the biscuit batter into the shape of a thin cat's tongue. This proved to be a challenging task but nevertheless enjoyable. Overall, the tapas workshop was a great experience and it enhanced everyone's understanding of Spanish cuisine and culture.



## 6th Form Trip to *La Casa De Bernarda Alba*

Sonali Arora, U6N



On Wednesday 29 November, the 6th Form Hispanists, had the opportunity to watch *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* by Federico García Lorca at the Cervantes Theatre in Southwark.

We had been studying the play since September and, luckily, we just about finished the play on the day that we went. The play is about a tyrannical mother, Bernarda, who, whilst rigidly adhering to the "norms" of society, creates a prison in which her family reside. After her husband's death, she strictly demands her five daughters to mourn for eight years (an exaggerated period of mourning which is usually just a year in Spanish culture). Trapped in an environment of control, authority and a lack of freedom, the five daughters want to break free from their imprisonment.

After arriving at Southwark and finding the Cervantes Theatre, we realised that it was not as large as we expected but, if anything, this helped to add an element of mystery and a unique aspect to the play. The stage was surrounded by three sets of seating, and when the play began, I began to understand why. The play was nothing like anything I have seen before; the acting, the sound effects and the impressive lighting really were riveting, and the actors directed the dialogue to the audience, so that we felt as if we were part of the drama. One specific aspect that we were really looking forward to was the use of lighting on the walls. In Lorca's play, the walls gradually change from being sheet white to having a blue tint, and we had spent the entire lesson wondering how they would change this, but they managed to do this successfully, much to our delight.

The play seemed to leave quite an impression on us. Chloe Cox commented that it was "a very good representation of the play with artistic flairs," and Alex Lee affirmed that "it was really good to see the play live as we could see different representations of how people could interpret the play." The acting was spectacular, and it certainly helped us to view the play from a different perspective than we had thought of originally. Whilst studying the play from a script is a valuable way to understand the story, to see it in front of us really allowed us to immerse ourselves.

I would like to thank Mr Urreaga and Mrs Tindall for organising the trip, as it really was unforgettable, and I recommend for anybody to see it in the future.



# U4th Spanish Exchange Trip to San Sebastián

*Benedict Hughes, U4S*

On a cold Sunday morning, fourteen brave students and two even braver teachers headed out to the Basque country, to begin the Spanish Exchange. Our destination was San Sebastián, a coastal city that has been labelled the “cultural capital” of the Basque country. When we arrived we were immediately greeted by our exchange partners (who we had had the opportunity to get to know beforehand by text) and their families who were kind enough to open their homes to us and take us in as part of the family.

Over the course of the week we partook in many trips with the school and our exchange partners: visits to the famous Guggenheim Art Museum in Bilbao; a cider factory; the International Puppet Museum and a theme park, where the only scary thing was the amount of money we collectively spent on ice cream! We also spent days with our exchange families, doing activities ranging from surfing to watching the local football team, Real Sociedad, play in the Europa League (with a satisfying 3-0 win). Everything we did was conducted in Spanish, meaning every moment was a chance to practise and improve our Spanish with native speakers who could also help us out when our Spanish was completely off!

The exchange was an excellent opportunity to develop our language skills but also experience a completely different culture and have fun whilst doing so, and, best of all, become friends with a group of people we would never have had the opportunity to meet if it weren't for the trip. I would like to thank Señor Urreaga and Cristina Obispo for the immeasurable amount of time (and sometimes patience) they invested in organising the trip and coming to Spain with us, I can only imagine the mountains of paperwork they would have had to deal with in the run-up to all this.

To conclude, our trip to Spain was a genuinely unique and memorable experience, the only problem now being that we have to give our partners as good a time in England as we had over there!



## French Debating Competition

*Louise Small, U6E*

**On 16 November, four U6 girls, Laeticia Junanto, Lana Mawlood, Francesca Neagle-Haley and Louise Small, went to North London Collegiate School to compete in a French debating competition.**

We left after lunch and accompanied by Maëlise and Mr Hay, we had an enjoyable drive to the school filled with singing and chattering. The school was very big, complete with a fountain and a roundabout, but we quickly found where we were meant to go and, after a short speech by the Headteacher, we were ready to start the competition. We split ourselves into two teams and went to

separate rooms. For the first round, all of us debated the necessity of obligatory national service, the likelihood of ever achieving absolute equality and whether the concept of borders was obsolete in today's society.

Laeticia and Lana came first out of three schools in the first round and so proceeded to round two. Unfortunately, Fran and Louise narrowly missed out on first place in round one and so could not proceed. In the second round, the teams had fifteen minutes to prepare for an unknown topic on the necessity of grading in schools. Laeticia and Lana bowed out in the quarter final.

Although we did not win the competition, all the girls found the experience interesting and fun. It was definitely worth the trip and a good learning experience.



# A-Level Russian Conference

*Esha Patni, L6N*

**It was a long journey to Oxford and the weather had definitely dampened our spirits, however once we arrived the scenery changed and as did our spirits. At the Russian conference we met other Russian A-Level students which was definitely one of the highlights as it was nice to hear how other students are finding studying this language as there are so few Russian A-Level students.**

A Russian ambassador from the Russian Embassy paid us a visit and answered our many questions about the relationship between Russia and the UK; this helped us to understand how fundamental it is that more people in the UK study Russian in order to improve that relationship and help break the many barriers between the two. Over the course of the day we were shown how to enhance our translating skills and looked at Russian literature in detail in order to improve our understanding. We also tried our hand at Czech for the first time which was interesting to say the least. Overall it was a fun and intriguing day that won't be forgotten.



# Visiting Germany's Christmas Markets

*Mrs Abbott-Imboden, Head of German*

**From December 17-20 we went on a whistle stop trip through the European Christmas markets. Leaving school very early in the morning, we made good progress to Gatwick where we boarded a flight to Basel in Switzerland. The first challenge there was to use the appropriate exit as Basel is on the border of Switzerland, Germany and France and, therefore, it has three exits into three different countries!**

From Basel we travelled by coach to Freiburg im Breisgau, a pretty university town at the foothills of the Black Forest. Our accommodation, the youth hostel in Freiburg, welcomed us and we were soon ready to go out again to explore Freiburg's Christmas markets. There was a multitude of stalls selling different goods ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime. Later that day, we returned to the youth hostel, had dinner and played games.

It was snowing on Monday morning and some students took this opportunity to have a snowball fight before breakfast. After breakfast we travelled by bus to Strasbourg which is known as the 'Capital of Christmas' as it is one of the oldest Christmas markets in France. Although we enjoyed getting submerged in Christmas sounds and smells creating a unique atmosphere. We were all sad that we had to leave before the Christmas illuminations were switched on for the evening as some streets and houses were elaborately decorated and the light would have added that special je ne sais quoi!



Tuesday was Europa-Park Day and it is easy to see why this amusement park is so popular. Being the second largest theme park in Europe after Disney, the park is still owned and run by the same family that founded it some 50 years ago and it still has this personal touch. The rides were, of course, 'awesome', 'spectacular', 'scary', 'the best ever' and many other superlatives but even the less ride-hardy had plenty to do as they were countless shows and other attractions that could be visited. The best, however, was the complete lack of crowds (German pupils were still at school!) and the subsequent peace and calm throughout the park.

Overall, the trip was a fantastic opportunity to sample the Christmas traditions and delights in two different European countries with the added benefit of an adrenaline filled day at the Europa-Park. Although the accommodation was considered basic, we all agreed that it had been clean and warm and that we would not have been able to play football in the corridors at night in a 4 star hotel!



# MFL Leaders

**Caroline Crawley-Hubbard, L6W**

**My MFL Leaders experience was one of a kind! I had never participated in anything like this before and it has really added to my Bancroft's experience.**

As part of the scheme we needed to teach French to students in the Prep School. We were very nervous and the thought of having to control a class of 10 year olds was daunting! We worked in groups and the first important lesson we learnt was the need to prepare thoroughly. The topic we were going to deliver was *Le Transport*, which at first appears to be quite boring. We needed to make the lesson fun but educational. We were quite worried about how we were going to handle any 'naughtiness' but still keep the pupils engaged. We didn't want to make it too formal or overwhelm them with complicated information.

We began with simple vocabulary presented in the form of a Powerpoint, including animations and pictures to make it more

interactive for the students. Following on from this my team-mates, Alice and Lydia, designed some games to allow the students to 'compete' against each other. Crosswords, words searches and *Ou est Pierre?* (the French equivalent of *Where's Wally?*) were all enjoyed by the class. As the lesson progressed, the pupils began to develop their confidence and were willing to contribute, even if they got the wrong answer. We were very aware that in order to keep the class fully engaged our teaching had to be interactive. To prevent all the children screaming out at once we had a soft blow-up ball which could be thrown around (without injury!) from pupil to pupil and whoever had the ball meant that it was their turn to speak. This worked

extremely well. We also wanted to appeal to their passions – chocolate fulfilled this perfectly. It was a great way to hold their attention and motivate them, especially towards the end of the double lesson. We finished the class with a vocabulary game between of two teams, with the winning team being rewarded with their passion – chocolate. However, in hindsight this may not have been such a good idea as we had a few tears from the losing team.

We left the lesson totally exhausted but felt that we had delivered a successful lesson. Being an MFL Leader is extremely rewarding as well as fun and I would highly recommend it to any other students who enjoy languages! *C'est chouette!*



## MFL Society

**Souyma Krishna Kumar, L6E**

**The newly founded Modern Foreign Languages Society had a very successful first term! In its initial meeting, students from a range of year groups contributed ideas and visions for the society which were combined to form its mission statement: "The Modern Languages Society exists for students in all years and has the aim of promoting and spreading the love of languages and interest in their rich and diverse history and culture. In doing so we hope to empower Bancroftian linguists, make links with other subjects and to educate and inspire others who love languages. We also aim to make languages more accessible and involve more students in their study, helping them experience new languages and making them want to learn French, German, Russian and Spanish at GCSE and**

**A-Level and beyond." In addition, language representatives from each year group were recruited in order to promote the society and encourage pupils to come to meetings.**

The first session was a short introduction to Chinese presented by Fraser Graham, who is currently studying Chinese and International Relations at Goldsmith's University. The talk had an excellent turnout, both students and teachers, even with a few native speakers in the room to help! This was a great first talk because it demonstrated how exciting it is to walk out of a room and be able to have a basic conversation in a language that previously seemed completely alien to you. The second session was on Christmas traditions in Germany, France and Spain. The talks were prepared by our language assistants, Gesa Wolter, Cristina Obispo and Maëlise Perquis and presented with help from Jude Dannawi, Alice Bolitho and Lydia Doye. It was very informative and gave a real insight into the differences in traditions in different countries. The talks were also accompanied by delicious Christmas treats of each country, including a *Bûche de Noël* (yule log) from France and *Lebkuchen* (traditional biscuits) from Germany.

## Prêt-À-Parler

**Callum Gandhi, L6E**

**On 21 November, the Sixth Form French pupils had a lovely evening in which we spoke French and had a nice dinner surrounded by friends. We went to the French restaurant, Provender Bistro in Wanstead.**

We were joined by Sixth Form French pupils from Woodbridge High School with whom we were able to have conversations in French. Many members of staff were also present, therefore, we were able to get help from them if needed. The restaurant was amazing as not only was the food French but the restaurant waiters and waitresses were French so we could order our food in French which tested our speaking skills. We started the evening with a game of *Charades* (or *Heads Up*) in French which was great fun as it gradually got our inner French voices out of us. We then conversed whilst we had our French dinner which featured a range of French foods, *crème brulee* included. Overall, we found that this was an amazing occasion for us to speak some French without mentioning A-Level topics! This was great for us as it gave us an example of a 'real-life' situation which we found had improved our fluency. Personally, I believe that speaking a language or hearing a language has as much importance as practising it in class, so this was a very good opportunity to do just that.



# Sixth Form Study Trip To Nice

*Caroline Crawley Hubbard, L6W*

**An early morning start signalled the departure of our trip to Nice. A group of Fifth and Sixth Form linguists were excited to embark on an adventure that would expand our French vocabulary and confidence when speaking – although we were probably not thinking about this at a 4.30am meet!**

We were met at the airport by our host families and there was some apprehension as to what this experience would be like. We stayed with another member of the group so we were not totally alone. It was an opportunity to immerse ourselves in an environment other than a classroom. Staying with my 'host mother' was an opportunity to discuss current topics affecting France, sampling typical French cuisine and learning more 'everyday' vocabulary. She would prepare a packed lunch for us every morning as she sent us off to school!

We arrived for the weekend and our first stop was to the beach, naturally! The sunset was quite amazing and put us all in a good frame of mind for what would be an exciting week.

We attended the France Langue School every morning where we met students from around the world and made new friends. The lessons covered general grammar and vocabulary and the culture of Nice which we could then implement during the rest of our time there. We were exposed to French public transport as we travelled on the Metro, a much cleaner alternative to the Central Line. It was a great experience and we felt quite proud of ourselves as we were able to navigate our way independently.

During the afternoons we went on excursions to different areas on the Cote d'Azur. A guided tour of Nice was particularly interesting. The Place Massena was fascinating and we learnt about the history behind the 'painted on balconies'; in the past Nice wanted to present itself as a wealthy city so balconies were painted onto the walls of buildings to give this impression. Le Chateau de Nice or Castle Hill gave the

most amazing views of the city. However, when faced with a daunting amount of stairs we decided to take the lift!! It was so worth it.

On one afternoon we visit Monaco and immersed ourselves in the lifestyle of the rich and famous! Its immaculate streets and harbour hosted expensive boutiques and luxurious yachts... something to work for maybe? Following visits included Antibes, a quiet town by the seaside with stunning views. We went to Port Vauban the largest yachting harbour in Europe. The yachts that were moored there were owned by royalty (or football managers). We saw the brilliantly-interactive sculpture entitled *Nomade* by the Catalan artist Jaume Plensa which is constructed entirely of letters.

To add to our French experience, we went to the cinema, in French *bien sûr*. Although the film's plot was questionable we gained a great deal of French culture and vocabulary. Unfortunately, there wasn't any popcorn! On our last night we went bowling which was great fun and exposed Mr Hay's competitive side, although he would claim that 'he didn't care'!!

Overall I would highly recommend the Nice trip to any aspiring linguist or anyone who enjoys learning French. The experience of staying with a host family gave a different environment to learning which was most beneficial. I thoroughly enjoyed the trip, making new friends not only from the France Langue School but also within different year groups.





# Classical Society Quiz 2017

*Sonali Arora, U6N*

On Thursday 23 November, the annual Classical Society Quiz was held. Whilst every year is very enjoyable, this particular quiz was special to me: it was my last ever Classical Society Quiz, but also my first opportunity to the Question Master. I have taken part in the quiz for four years now, but it was heart-warming to be the person on the panel reading the questions and answers. I had requested over a year before to be the Question Master, but did not know that Mrs Baker remembered this, and so when I was asked whether I still wanted to do it, I jumped at the opportunity.

The quiz impressively tested students (and staff) on a number of aspects: mythology, Latin language, architecture, cities and, my personal favourite, a Harry Potter round. There were several groups of students from different years, so it was a great way to meet and make friends, as well as putting mythology and Latin knowledge to the test. The first round tested knowledge of mythology; my favourite question requested the name of the god of wine; it just so happened that the U6 Latin class had come across this that very day whilst studying Love Elegy. There was even a round on famous architecture and symbols of gods/goddesses in paintings and photos, as well as the chance to decipher Latin TV shows and songs (e.g. *adamantes* being Rihanna's *Diamonds*).

The ultimate surprise was a round about Latin references in Harry Potter! The students certainly enjoyed and performed highly in this round, ineluctably knowing that *Albus* means "white", *Luna* means "moon", and even that *brachium emendo* means "to repair one's arm". We learnt that Draco's name means "dragon", Remus Lupin's means "wolf", and even that the word 'unknown' can be found in the name of Ignotus Peverell. Unfortunately, the teachers, none of whom had read the books or seen all of the Harry Potter films, did not perform as sensationally as in the previous rounds!

Overall, the quiz was a success, especially given the sheer number of students involved, as well as the fact that North House Family Evening



began only 30 minutes later! The Classical Society Quiz has quickly become an exciting annual event, and, I am very grateful for the students whom I have befriended during the quizzes, as well as the hard work of the Classics department. A particular thank you must go to Mrs Baker, who organises the entire quiz and makes sure that everything runs smoothly, but most importantly, ensures we all had a lot of fun.

Although I won't be there, I recommend anyone to have a go and take part next year. It is an opportunity to make friends, put your Classical knowledge to use and to enjoy yourself, and with the continued efforts of the Classics teachers, I'm sure that there will be many more quizzes to come!

## A Box Of Delights: A Guide to Ancient Art and Music

*Max Kumar, U6S*

**Within my academic subjects Classics has always been something to look forward to. Whether it's the enchanting mythological stories, or the thrilling tragedies, Classics has always filled me with a sense of excitement and enjoyment. However, beyond the classroom, music has always been my passion. I first picked up a guitar at the age of five and have never looked back.**

As I've grown up I have discovered the beauty of song writing. The concept of rhythm and melody always seemed so romantic to me, creating something that fits perfectly together in complete harmony provides an unmatched feeling of pride and joy. Whenever I have been faced with the inevitable emotional situations of adolescence, music has always been the first thing I turn to. Therefore, when

I was approached by Mrs Baker to host a Classical Society presentation I instantly thought it was the perfect opportunity to combine my overriding love for music with my favourite aspect of school academics. It appeared obvious to base my presentation on ancient music as it would be an ideal utilisation of my two interests. I am incredibly lucky to be in the same class as someone who feels exactly the same about art as I do music: Elle Lycett. Elle has always been highly inspirational to me, she is always supportive of my music and is constantly reminding me to do what makes me happy and not what makes others happy. Seeing as art and music are both creative subjects, it made sense for us to combine them together to create "A box of delights – a guide to ancient art and music".

For the art section we already had a decent amount of knowledge of ancient art as this is an integral part of the Classics A level. Elle also used her creativity to direct a short video whereby we pretended Bancroft's



School was an ancient Roman house (The House of Menander); the video was a guided tour explaining the underlying art that is imbedded in architecture. As for the music half, it seemed natural to deliver the talk in the form of a song. I wrote a song to summarise ancient Greek music. In this song I discussed the instruments used as well as those who were synonymous with them, for example, Orpheus with the Lyre. I also explained how the instruments worked and in what context they would be used. Also, Elle and I compiled a short PowerPoint lecture on both ancient art and music. Participating in this Classical Society taught me to be proud of my interests and to use them to my advantage. Many thanks to Elle and Mrs Baker for catalysing such a wonderful opportunity.



# Trip to Rome

*Kian Patel, U6N*

Last December a group of students from the U4 through to the U6 went on a cultural trip to Rome. This city is one of the most historically significant in the world, having been the capital of the Roman Empire for around a thousand years and we were lucky enough to see some of its most iconic monuments that have survived to this day, such as the Roman Forum. Most notable of these was the Colosseum which we found truly awe-inspiring and its huge size gave us a true appreciation of the glory of the Roman Empire. Following on from this we visited the Pantheon which has the largest unsupported dome in the world; this was made even more spectacular when we saw the rain pouring through the hole at the top of the dome, creating a pool of water in the middle of the repurposed Roman temple.

Another interesting site that we visited were the ruins of Ostia, the old coastal port at the end of the Tiber that once supplied Ancient Rome. This lesser known Roman site exceeded all our expectations and we were able to roam freely amongst the vast area of ruins.



During this trip we also had a brief visit to another country, the Vatican City. The artworks in the Vatican Museum and in the Sistine Chapel were spectacular, and they, along with the impressive sculptures and paintings of the Borghese Gallery, left us feeling immersed in the culture of Renaissance Europe. After this we visited the Capuchin Crypt where we saw patterns and sculptures made from the bones of several thousand dead monks, which was an intriguing, if somewhat disturbing, experience. This concluded our stay in Rome and we all thoroughly enjoyed a unique and informative trip.

# Bancroft's Bees Reclaim Spelling Shield

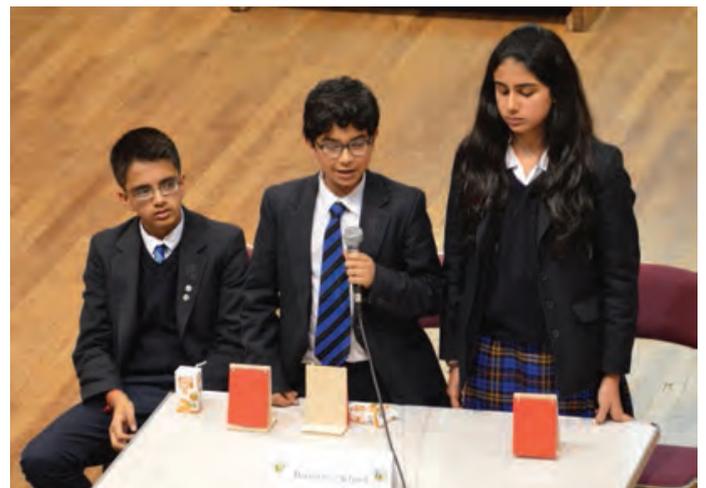
*Nimran Dhaliwal, RSa*

On Thursday 9 November, our team, consisting of myself, Karam Khanna and Krishan Parmar, along with the support of Nathan Tan (our substitute), represented Bancroft's in the Inter-School Spelling Bee, competing against St Aubyn's, City of London, Davenant Foundation School and Trinity. After enjoying the doughnuts provided, the atmosphere in the Great Hall suddenly changed. We took our seats and the competition began.

The first section of the competition required each member of the teams to spell a word individually, with the difficulty of these words increasing in each round. In the first round, we were asked to spell words such as "wheat", however, by the final round, we were asked to spell more challenging words, such as "nonagenarian" and "lepidopteran". Spelling a word incorrectly twice meant elimination from this section. After all the other teams were eliminated, Bancroft's and City of London were left to face each other to see who would win this round. The tension mounted with each word spelt and, eventually, City of London lost all their representatives, leaving Bancroft's as the round's winners.

In the final round each team had to spell as many words correctly between their three members. This round was exceedingly pressuring as we only had two minutes to do so! Afterwards, we waited anxiously for the final results, as there was some fierce competition. Finally, the wait was over. The results were revealed and, to our delight, our team had come in first place, closely followed by City of London, our strong competitors!

We proudly collected our prizes and (most importantly!) the shining shield, retrieving it from the previous year's winners, City of London. The event was an amazing experience and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. On behalf of our team, I would like to thank Miss Evans for such an enjoyable event.





# The Charles Dickens Museum

**Maheen Chowdhury, U4**

**On 1 December, two U4th English classes went on a trip to the Charles Dickens Museum and took part in a Charles Dickens themed walking tour throughout the streets of London.**

Our classes split into two groups, and my class started our cold morning tour of the streets of London, learning more and more about the life of Dickens as we went on. We learnt about the enormous pollution and smog in London, the "Rockstar life" of Charles Dickens, and even about the tragic story of Dickens' love life. Did you know that

Charles Dickens originally wrote his stories under the pseudonym of Boz?

Following this rollercoaster of education, we took a break in a local park, enjoying our lunches and trying not to get attacked by the pigeons eyeing up our sandwiches. We reunited with the other half of the trip's students, who had just had a tour of Dickens' former house. Now it was our turn to explore his living space.

Once we arrived back at the Charles Dickens Museum, our group split again into two groups and my group had a look at the inspirations for Dickens' characters and themes of his stories. We learnt about the history between Charles, his lovers and his family, the expectations for Victorian

marriage and the possible inspirations for Miss Havisham, a character in *Great Expectations*. We made our way through the house that once belonged to Dickens, learning about how he wrote his stories and crafted his characters. We even bumped into a filming crew for the BBC's documentary of the film *The Man Who Made Christmas*, which prompted a few attempts to make national television!

After a long day of walking through London's cold streets and learning about the life of Dickens, we thanked our tour guides and made for the coach with truly valuable knowledge on Victorian society in our possession. It was a great day for everyone, and that we would happily go on the trip again.

## Inspiration From Everest Author For Removes

**Would you be prepared to climb Mount Everest knowing that there is a 4% chance of death? This was a question posed to the Removes by climber, film maker and author Matt Dickinson. An overwhelming majority of them were up for the challenge, and a fair number would tackle K2 with its 29% chance of fatality!**

The author of young adult series *The Everest Files*, gave an engaging, stimulating and, at times, quite brutal, talk about his career and his attempts on some of the toughest peaks in the world. Matt kept his young audience enthralled with tales of mountain rescues and daring climbs, warning them never to take a Toffee Crisp onto Everest – they explode! Dickinson's exciting novels are based on his own experiences on Everest; he made a successful ascent of the notorious North Face in 1996 amid the worst weather conditions ever recorded: hurricane-force winds and temperatures of minus 70 degrees Celsius.

During his visit he awarded prizes to Daisy Cohen and Haseeb Irshad who were the winners of a competition based on *The Everest Files* organised by the Library.

Dickinson left the pupils with an important question "what's your personal Everest?" encouraging them to set their own goals and re-evaluate their life objectives. Bancroft's Librarian, Mrs Kate Squire, described his visit as "awe-inspiring.



## Sixth Form Open Mic Night

**Suzi Bramwell, U6N & Alex Lee, U6S**

**On 13 October the Sixth Form common room hosted the first Open Mic Night of the year. This is a night where students and staff come together and can perform anything they want- speaking, acting or (mostly) singing. Alex Lee, Arjun Kalsi, and I organised the event with help from Mr Kelsall (thank you, Sir!) and so we were very excited for all the amazing acts lined up as we rearranged the common room before the crowds came in.**

While some people were nervous, the atmosphere of the night was one of support and appreciation with every act being screamed and cheered for. It is wonderful to see people step out into the light and put themselves out there, especially considering some may have never performed publicly before. All the acts were amazing, with Louis Japaul introducing the performances. Some highlights of the night were Mr Sugarman's *I Love Betsy*, and the debut of the smash hit band "Paddy and the Common Denominators". Teachers performing is one of the most special aspects of the night! At the end of the evening some brave students even performed without rehearsing. The fact that only the Sixth Form and teachers attend makes the night a unique experience (although we're aware some Fifth Formers are not pleased about this- your turn will come). It was a truly enjoyable evening and we are excited for the next one!





# Music Junction

*Kaitlin Lovell, 3E & Mathew Pinto, 3E*

On Thursday 25 January a group of musicians went to Draper's Academy to take part in some group sessions with musicians from the London Chamber Orchestra and students from other schools who we will be helping to learn their instruments. The whole project will culminate in a Concert at Bancroft's in May.

I really enjoyed having the opportunity to take part. It was a great opportunity to meet new like-minded people and play music with them. The new pieces were really good. Learning how to do "bumping" with everybody was really fun. I'm very much looking forward to the next session. *(Kaitlin)*

Music Junction has so far been a truly eye-opening experience for me. Everything from the flash mob to the recent practice at Drapers' Academy has been amazing. A small group of Thirds and Removes did a flash mob late last year where we showed the students of Walthamstow Academy some of our instruments and participated in a small demonstration. Since then we have had a few rehearsals.



For us to get to share our knowledge of music and also work with the London Chamber Orchestra has been a fascinating experience. Music can convey a range of emotions, from great happiness to sadness or it can be rousing or peaceful. A person may get so much more from music than just listening. Music Junction's aim is to give children, who otherwise would not have music in their lives, the opportunity to experience it, and hopefully encourage them to make it themselves.

Later in the term, we will have the opportunity to mentor some children in the very basics of playing an instrument. They will then get to join us and the



LCO to play a selection of pieces in a small concert. For these children, we hope it will be extremely memorable. *(Mathew)*



# Music at Christmas

Last term ended with two fantastic musical events at Bancroft's, which displayed the range of talents throughout the School. We were delighted to present the first performance of composer Chris Brummel's new work *Winter*, which was written especially for the School. Director of Music, Mrs Julia Whitbread, conducted the joint choirs and instrumentalists in the piece, which was based around Walter de la Mare's poem of the

same name. Special mention must go to Oscar Beed (RE) who played the harp for the piece.

The staff choir made its debut, so providing the second premiere of the evening. Other pieces in the concert showed off the talents of Bancroft's pupils as well as the wide range of vocal groups and ensembles at the School. Pieces varied from toe-tapping pop of *I Wish It Could be Christmas Every Day* performed by the Soul Band to classical pieces from Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky from the Bancroft's Sinfonia and



Second Orchestra respectively. Traditional Christmas music was represented with *Oh Holy Night* from the Bancroft's Singers and *A Midnight Clear* sung by the Junior Choir.

The annual carol service saw All Saints' Church packed with parents, staff, friends and OBs. The service was led by the Rev Ivan Moore; although the congregation got a chance to exercise their voices, the musical highlights of the event were provided by the Bancroft's Singers, the Prep School Choir and the Junior Choir with the Boys' Voices.





# Dance Workshops

Last term we were fortunate enough to have two dance masterclasses in School led by expert practitioners. Firstly, Kate Hartley of the English National Ballet led an intensive three hour ballet workshop as the inaugural session of our new Dance Society. A few days later and ex *Strictly Come Dancing* professional dancer Robin Windsor came along to lead pupils and some staff in a Ballroom and Latin workshop. Sadly there were no fake tans or sequins on display.

To start with, Kate led the girls in an hour of 'BalletFit', an exercise class based on strengthening the muscles used in dance. Some warm up games followed to encourage awareness of the importance of focus, eye contact and also of others whilst performing. Kate then spent a short time working on some basic ballet steps with the group.

They then moved onto the more challenging and exciting part of the afternoon: a two hour *Romeo and Juliet* workshop. During this they learned the key steps to the "Dance of the Knights" (the ballroom scene) in Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* based on Rudolf Nureyev's choreography. Following this, the students worked on their own choreography focused around the main themes of *Romeo and Juliet*: love and war. Students had to create key positions with their partner and were given the freedom to use their creativity in this part of the workshop.

The students were fantastic- all of them threw themselves into it and every minute.

Kate was a great teacher and, hopefully, she has inspired our students. Jemima Strong's enthusiasm was typical, "I thoroughly enjoyed the English National Ballet Workshop. Even though I have been performing Classical Ballet for over ten years, I felt privileged to have the opportunity to be taught by a professional member of the English National Ballet. I found the dance we learnt from *Romeo and Juliet* exhilarating. I am so glad I joined the Dance Society and I am looking forward to many more workshops and events in the near future."

Robin Windsor began his workshop by teaching the basic moves to the cha-cha, which is the first dance the "Strictly" celebs learn. The pace slowed down when they moved onto and the waltz. By now it was evident that some of the group weren't over confident with telling their left from their right foot but all progressed well enough when moving in a straight line. However, when they were asked to move round the room in a circle, things became a little more confusing and the scene started to resemble pier-end Dodgems! The final dance for the afternoon was the most complex and athletic: the Charleston. The routine taught was based on one Robin Windsor had choreographed for "Strictly"; it was fast and furious and included moves such as the interestingly named "scuff".

After an hour or so of dancing, even at this basic level, it was easy to see why the celebrities all seem to drop the kilos, especially when some are rehearsing twelve hours a day. Dances learnt and it was time



by



for a little competition. In pairs our dancers were asked first to cha-cha and then waltz with Robin Windsor judging the winners.

Before our guest teacher left us, we had time for a quick Q&A. After learning that Robin Windsor has been dancing since he was three years old and that, despite the antipodean sounding accent, he hails from Ipswich, questions turned to matters "Strictly". We found out that Lisa Riley was his favourite partner and they are now "best mates" but Mr Windsor was too gallant to say who he least enjoyed as a partner. This was an incredibly entertaining and laughter filled session. Everyone had a go at learning a new skill and agreed that they would do it again given the opportunity.

## Improvisation with Showstoppers

*Emilia Hitching, 5W*

In November, twenty theatrical enthusiasts took part in a *Showstopper: The Improvised Musical* workshop. This Olivier-award winning group frequents the Edinburgh Festival and West End venues, taking audience suggestions for everything from location to the twists and turns of the plot. We started off with some bonding games to get in sync with each other and start thinking rhythmically, led by Jordan, an actor in the company, and Jonathan, the group's improvisational pianist. This led into us having a go at rapping lyrics about a given theme, with varying success!

The second half of the workshop consisted of groups of five coming up with opening

numbers for different shows, for example, a skiing musical or one that took place in a haunted house. The most important skill we learned from this exercise was engaging with each other; since no one knew the next line that was coming, it was even more important to maintain eye contact and direct lines clearly to each other. This was especially helpful for some of us who were less experienced with musical theatre.

We produced four full length opening numbers by the end of the evening, involving the entire group. We even started to incorporate choreography in the last few numbers, although it was much harder to make everyone do the same thing here! We were especially aided by Jonathan's incredible piano-playing and he managed to keep us all sounding in tune with each other and elevated our five-minute makeshift songs to full-blown numbers.

We were all really grateful to Jonathan and Jordan for their leadership and development of our skills and to the teachers for organising the workshop. We really hope to make this

an annual thing, as it is especially helpful for GCSE Drama and Music students.





# Thirds' Welsh Rugby Tour

Stephen Lee, 3W

At the end of the autumn term, Mr Faiers organised a tour for the Thirds Rugby teams. Our destination was Wales and we stayed at Pendarren House Outdoor Education Centre.

We met at the school front gate at 6:00am on the last day of the term.

There were around 30 of us going and we travelled in two school mini buses. We stopped on the way at a service station to have breakfast; we carried on our journey to Pen-Y-Dre High School. Both of our teams played and won the matches. Alex Ngassa, the captain of Thirds Rugby A-team, and his teammates

were presented medals by the Pen-Y-Dre coach. After having a great rugby match and lunch, we went to watch the European Rugby Challenge Cup, with Dragons versus Newcastle Falcons. The atmosphere at the Rodney Parade was tense and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. We finally arrived at Pendarren House late at night and everyone fell asleep almost instantly!

Despite a late night on Friday, we woke up early the next morning for another day's challenge. Straight after breakfast, we started off with mountain climbing. We all geared up with proper walking boots and warm jackets before getting to the bottom of Sugarloaf Mountain by minibuses. The teachers told us to take the 'hard' way to the meeting point, which involved coming down a valley and going back up again. We saw a lot of sheep and rabbits on the way and it felt funny to be so close to them in a vast open area! Also, the higher we got, the windier and chillier it became. At the top of the mountain we could see lots of mountain peaks and sheep, the view was scenic although it was too windy for me to even open my eyes fully. After taking some photos, we headed down by taking the easy route; I think everyone slipped at least once or twice, although it was supposed to be 'easy'!

After warming up back at Pendarren House, we did wall climbing and crate stacking. These two activities required teamwork and everyone was allowed to try different positions to have a taste of it. We then learned how to start a fire with flint and steel. Some of us got a spark on their first try while some others needed help. After everyone on one side managed to light a cotton ball, we moved on to roast marshmallows. Unfortunately, the marshmallows were halal but not vegetarian so I couldn't enjoy them! We were allowed to watch *Spiderman Homecoming* before bedtime, but a lot of us were way too tired and went straight to bed.

The next morning, after packing and having our last breakfast at Pendarren, we left for the Dragon's Club to play against a local club. Sadly, we lost. The local club invited us to their clubhouse for some chips and sauce, which brought an end to our awesome Welsh tour.



# Emilia Striking Out For Hammers

Emilia Nygard-Parsons, U4E

Playing football has been a big part of my life since I was five, I started off playing football for a local boys' team. I was the only girl in the football club for many years. I then moved to Colebrook Royals girls' team as they had a good reputation. During my time there, we placed well in many tournaments and won the league cup twice. We also reached the national finals of Futsal (indoor football) in 2015. We came 2nd in Great Britain which was a great achievement and a moment to remember. Whilst playing for Colebrook, I won several individual awards and was top scorer in South East England for three years consecutively.

This led to West Ham approaching me for a trial for their U16s girls' team last summer. The trial was of a higher intensity than I was used to. However, trying my hardest paid off and I was asked to join West Ham straight away and bypassed the two final trials – this was a very exciting moment. Although it was hard to leave my previous team, I knew it was necessary to be in a more professional environment to improve my game. My central midfield position has enabled me to captain many games this season and with years of experience I feel I am able to organise the team well.

Whilst playing for Colebrook and West Ham I have also been playing for Essex County. Due to performing well in a number of matches they asked me to trial for England. Trials were held at Chigwell School for the South East of England region. The trial consisted of playing three long matches in which I had to play in many different positions, but luckily not goal keeper. Although I did not get accepted I'm still proud I made it that far.

Playing four or five times a week for West Ham and Essex has its downsides too. It is a huge commitment especially with all the driving up and down the country (sorry mum) but it is all worth it as I enjoy it very much, have made many friends and learnt skills that can be transferred to other sports and aspects of life in general.





# U14 And U19 Netballers To Regional Finals

**Bancroft's girls performed well at the County (Essex Met) round of the National Schools' Netball Tournament, when they were representing Redbridge.**

U19s had a superb tournament. They came 2nd in their group to top school and Bancroft's old netballing adversaries Barking Abbey. Both Bancroft's and Barking Abbey won five of their six games and drew to each other in a thrilling game (6-6), meaning they finished on level points. Barking Abbey took the top spot on goal difference. Bancroft's claimed victories against Robert Clack (18-2), Champion (13-

5), Cooper's Coborn (10-6), Trinity (8-3) and Forest (15-8). The Players' Player of the Tournament was Caroline Hubbard. Bancroft's Coach Kandis Nelson said, "All the girls received my Coach's Player Award as they played exceedingly well and really impressed!"

The U14s won four out of their five matches. They won 8-5 against Robert Clack, 10-1 against Sydney Russell, 6-3 against Harris Academy and 9-2 against Redden Court. They unfortunately lost to Forest (5-3), but this proved to be a very tough match for them. Nonetheless, they made it through as runners up to the next round of National Schools. The U16s had a tougher day finishing third in their age group.



## British Modern Biathlon Championships

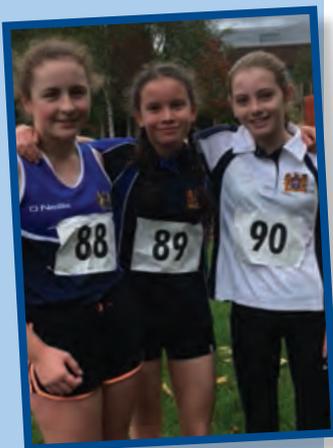
*Mrs Susan Cheshire, Swimming Coach*

**Following on from their success at the Eastern Region Biathlon, U14 girls Holly Timmis, Alex Dawson and Maddie Busfield-Payne competed in the British Modern Biathlon Championships at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, Solihull on 27 November.**

The competition consists of a 100m swim and 1600m run. Scoring is based on run and swim times being converted to points. The girls had to achieve a target time to gain 1000 points, for the 100m swim the target was 1 minute 14 seconds. Times faster or slower than the target time result in an increase or decrease in points.

The standard of competition was very high and the competition is a great opportunity for young athletes to gain valuable competition experience and improve their run and swim times for the British Schools' Modern Biathlon Championships rankings.

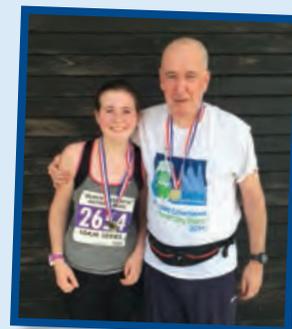
The girls were nervous before both the running and swimming events and once the races got started they gave everything to record their best times. They were all happy with how they performed. After they had finished the swim, their last event they waited anxiously for the results. The girls came third in the team event and were ecstatic. They all improved on their performances from the Eastern Region qualifier, competing in a 100m swim and 1600m run, increasing their team points to 5731.



## Half Marathon Mania!

*Charlotte Wyatt, L6W*

**All those years ago as a Third, I hated running. The thought of a ten minute warm-up run or the cross-country competition would fill me with dread which is why my younger self would have been shocked at the activity I now call a 'hobby'.**



It was during the 2017 October half term that this became apparent as I took part in a half marathon in Richmond, raising money for Crohn's and Colitis UK. The charity helps those suffering from common forms of Irritable Bowel Syndrome, which is currently an incurable disease. They work hard to raise awareness and help those who suffer live as normally as possible. So when it came to raising money for them I jumped at the chance to help such a worthy cause. The half marathon took place on 5 November and was the toughest challenge I had faced, mainly due to the fact I had to get up at 5:30am the day before we went back to school. Once I had got over that *slight* annoyance I headed off along with my Dad to run the race.

Despite having trained for two and a half months, both my Dad and I felt a little daunted when the day actually arrived. It was, admittedly, a bitter morning and the path we were meant to run on was covered in frost, but the atmosphere was amazing, as people got ready for what we all hoped would be a good run. It was a picturesque route for the most part (although after ten miles nobody really cared about this!) and eventually after two hours and two minutes I had finally finished. It was slightly disappointing not to achieve my goal of under two hours but the fact I had managed to finish was an amazing feeling, especially after all the hard work (*and early mornings*) that had gone into my preparation for the event. Overall I had an amazing experience and will now be working to achieve my main goal- to complete a full marathon!



# Bancroft's Remembers

Remembrance Sunday was marked at School with a moving chapel service led by our Chaplain, the Rev Ivan Moore. Parents, staff, pupils and Old Bancroftians packed the Chapel to join the two hundred members of the Combined Cadet Force, as well as representatives from the Sea Scouts and Cubs, as they remembered those Bancroftians who have given their lives in conflict. The Bancroftian community was represented by Nick Bowman, President of the Old Bancroftians' Association, who did one of the readings whilst four members of Bancroft's Prep School led the congregation in prayer.

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 War Memorial in the Quad by RSM Ciaran Simpkins, while CSM Ben Harris played the Last Post. A second wreath was laid by Cpl Isobel Lockley to remember the fallen of WW2 and later conflicts, including OB Lt Dan Clack who was killed whilst on service in Afghanistan in 2011. The traditional two minute silence was marked by all those present. Flag bearers were Oscar Saharoy and Jake Botha while the colours of the School's Sea Scout troop were carried by Sarah Dean and Aarian Judge.



# Sea Scouts

*Mr Stephen Young,  
Leader, 4th Epping  
Forest South  
Sea Scouts*

**Bancroft's Sea Scout Troop continues to be very active and is currently filled to capacity with enthusiastic Scouts and led by a dedicated and expanding team of volunteers. As a team of leaders we have been working to ensure that we that we use all the resources at our disposal so that the Scouts get the best balanced programme and that we also have a positive impact on the wider community. Recent events have included examples of both these sides of this development.**

We took members of the Troop to Chatham Historic Dockyards for the day for the first time. This was a great opportunity for the Scouts, who not only had a fun day out, but also learned about some of the nautical history of this country, and came home with rope they had made themselves.

Many of our Scouts also got to take part in some community service by volunteering with the Redbridge Food Bank. They helped both loading vans to transport food from the collection point to the sorting centre and then helped to sort the food ready for dispatch. The food bank staff were impressed with the level of effort they put in as were we as leadership team.

This term also saw us say goodbye to Blyth the Troop's 4.5m Tornado RIB. We have been unable to use Blyth (named after the first Scout Master at Bancroft's) in recent years as she is too powerful for our local waters. So we have transferred her to the Lord Admiral Nelson Active Support Unit who will operate her from HMS Excellent in the waters of Portsmouth Harbour and the Solent. She will be used as a training vessel for Scouts and Scout Leaders from around the country who are involved in the RN Recognition programme. I did my own power boat training at Portsmouth, as have other members of the leadership team and also several of our Scouts. So hopefully future members of the Troop will train in Blyth and appreciate not only the adventure but also the fact that they are in a vessel that is tied into the long history of the 4th.



# CCF – My First Term as an Army Recruit

*Charlotte Hitching, L4W*

**In September the Lower Fourth were given the opportunity to join the CCF, in the Army or RAF section. I decided that I would join the Army section alongside many others.**

After a few weeks of learning all about the rifle, we had a field weekend in which we had to pass our Weapons Handling Test in order

to participate in the field day on the Monday. I failed the first time but I tried again, determined to pass, and I did, much to my delight! On the Monday after that weekend we headed out to Colchester, to a jam packed day. My favourite thing was definitely the laser shoot and it was great fun running around, hiding in the bushes, trying to get your friends out.

All in all I have really enjoyed being part of the CCF this term and I am looking forward to the field day at the end of this term and the Army Camp in the summer.



## Macmillan Cake Sale

One of the first House events in the School year is the Macmillan Cake Sale, which is organised as part of Macmillan's annual World's Biggest Coffee Morning Fund Raiser. Each year the houses in the Senior School try to out bake (and out eat) each other! This year, the Prep School, with its increased focus on House events, organised its cake sale with each of the four houses running its own stall.

There is always a fantastic array of cakes, muffins, brownies and cookies for sale and our pupils need little persuading to buy something. We aren't sure whether it is the "Bake Off" effect, but every year the range of cakes seems to become wider and there were certainly some very adventurous looking bakes for sale. Thank you to all parents, staff and children who provided cakes and, of course, a big thank you to all those who bought them! In total we raised over £1,400 in support of the important work done by Macmillan. Well done to School House whose stall (narrowly) raised the most!



## Roll Up, Roll Up – North House Family Evening

*Elle Lycett, U6N & Ekaahh Sumithran, U6N*

This year's North House Family evening was a spectacular event on the theme of 'Circus' and led to a thoroughly enjoyable evening for everyone.

After weeks of stress and busy planning, the day finally arrived. The Great Hall overflowed with clowns, mime artists and fortune tellers and the Hall was transformed to

resemble a red and white circus tent, with balloons decorating the stage. There was a delicious BBQ, fun stalls run by the younger years, and a great show put on by talented members of the House.

The event was a huge success. Pupils and their families came together and, showcasing true North House spirit, helped us to host an awe-inspiring, action packed night. Although the build-up was very stressful, we are truly very grateful for the support given by pupils of North House, teachers and Miss Prescott-Morrin and thank them for all their help.

The evening was held in memory of OB Oliver Sim and all funds raised were donated to 'Young Minds' charity, whose main aim is in preventing mental illness before it develops. The night was such an incredible success that we managed to raise an amazing £6,000.





# 3 North Walk

*Bunty Stanton, 3N*

The Three North Walk was when all the Thirds in North House came together and met on a Sunday at school and did an eight-mile walk-through Epping Forest to raise money for charity.

Each class picked the charity for which they wanted to raise money; North A chose the UCH Cancer Fund and North B chose Water Aid. In total we raised more than £1000. Half way we stopped at a pub to have hotdogs and chicken nuggets; on the way back we even stopped to look for newts. It was a great chance for us to all get to know each other and become closer friends. When we got back to school we were all so tired! We had a fun time with our friends, prefects, dogs, family and teachers.



# School House Open Mic Night

*Kiran Sharma & Anissa Patel, L6S*

On a crisp Thursday night in November, pupils, friends, family members and staff all filled the Great Hall for the School House Open Mic Night. Tremendous talent coupled with an immense amount of support ensured an amazing evening in which £1,335 was raised for both charities linked closely to our House. The first being 'The Befriending Scheme', a charity for which School House has fundraised for many years, and the second, Great Ormond Street's 'Heart to Heart' appeal. A particularly potent response was generated due to a member of our House, Joe Ormsby (RS), being treated at GOSH for a heart condition when he was born.

Despite the deviation from a typical School House Family Evening, the night still proved to be a success! Presenters, Joe Ormsby and Dharun Venkateswaran (U4), provided humorous introductions and smooth transitions between musical, theatrical and dancing acts. The lively event featured Sonia Sagoo's (U4) amazing take



on a classic - Michael Jackson's *Who's Lovin' You?* - and Juliette Balchin (L6) and Hanna Wright's (U4) stunning dancing. A group of Removes treated us to a scene from *The Big Friendly Giant* and lastly, the wonderfully loud and uplifting 3S choir sung *Sun Comes Up* by James Arthur and Rudimental in keeping with the tradition of the Thirds' annual performance after our own highly impressive Gangnam Style dance as Thirds back in 2012. Overall, acts were met with smiles, applause and probable relief on behalf of all performers. We would like to thank Mr Hitching and Miss Wainwright for their hard work which went into arranging the evening as well as with Mr Connington, (who was the only teacher to perform), Miss Grimwood and Mr Sugarman for their assistance in coordinating the acts. Furthermore, many thanks to the Head of House, Alex Lee, and the deputies, Tamika Quartey and Aabha Patel, as well as Gareth and his tech team without all of whom this evening would not have been possible.



# SWAT – Helping London’s Homeless

*Aurora Strong, 2BR*

London accounts for 25% of the total number of rough sleepers in the UK. According to statistics over 8,000 people slept rough at some point in London last year. There are also those who are homeless even if they are not sleeping on the streets; they may



be squatting or in unsecured accommodation and are known as the ‘hidden homeless’. The family of Sahibdeep Sandhu 1LE, regularly helps the Sikh Welfare Awareness Team (SWAT). This is a charity supporting homeless people and serve the homeless community every Tuesday evening in Charing Cross. They are dedicated to ending homelessness by delivering support and campaigning for change and supporting those sleeping rough with physical and mental health care. I decided to go along and help them feed the homeless on 12 December and I was joined by several other Prep 1s and 2s, their parents and some teachers.

It was a bitterly cold evening. The SWAT van arrived and in a military like operation unloaded tables, huge pots full of pasta and sauce, massive trays of spring rolls and large dishes of salad. As it was Christmas time, there were also boxes of mince pies and chocolates and vats of coffee ready to be served.

I was put in charge of giving out goody bags to the many homeless people who were already starting to queue around the block. The bag contained luxuries like crisps and chocolate bars; items they would never be able to treat themselves to. Under no circumstances were we allowed to give money. I spoke to many of the homeless, some did not reply; others were pleased to have someone take an interest in them. They then went forward to receive a hot meal; all food was provided by the charity through donations from the general public. I was amazed at the generosity of this charity and thought how wonderful they were to do this every week, whatever the weather.

That evening we helped 240 people in three hours. They were grateful but desperate. They took their food and wandered off to find a doorway for the night. I was told by Sahibdeep’s mum that there were fewer people than normal as many had been welcomed to stay in larger shelters over the Christmas period. I came away sad that this was the way people lived their lives, but also grateful for the lovely life I have. I am planning to do more for the homeless in the future as many are not on the streets by choice. I would like to thank SWAT for the wonderful work they continue to do and to Ms Ellery for organising the event and allowing us to respect how other peoples’ lives are so very different from our own.

# Netball Coaching From Samantha May

*Sara Aslam, 1TP*



**We were fortunate to have a visit from Samantha May on 18 January. Samantha May is from the netball team The Wasps in Australia, where she plays goal defence and goal keeper. We were all lucky to meet her.**

Samantha taught us some techniques. We began with a few exercises. My favourite one was when you had to get a partner and I paired up with Lois. One of us had to jump up and the other player had to push us and we had to land steadily. We practised a few strategies with her and she explained to us what to do and how to improve. We enjoyed our time with Samantha May and she inspired us to be great netball players.





## Science Quiz Finals

*Sebastian Knuckey, 1TP*

**On Friday 26 January Tristan Law, Leo Senthana, Sia Kalia and I went to the Oxford Museum of Natural History for the National Science Quiz Finals.**

When we arrived at the Museum, we had a look around. They had everything, from a dodo to the jaw of a sperm whale! When we got to lecture theatre, we took our places at the front of the hall. At 2pm, the quizmaster gave a talk, then the quiz began. There were questions on all areas of science. It was a nail-biting race and for most of the quiz we were in third place, then at the last few questions Westminster School took over and we finished fourth. It was a great day. We were pleased to beat Felsted who had overtaken us in the semi-finals.



## Book Launch at The Goethe Institut

*Hsien Yang Tan, BKY*

**In January, ten members of the Prep School German Club, along with Mrs Yelverton and Mr Layburn, were lucky**

**enough to visit the Goethe Institut in central London. This is a worldwide cultural centre to promote the learning of German, and is named after a very famous German author.**



Friday was the launch of a series of books and videos, aimed at helping Key Stage 2 children learn the language. Obviously, as we are in the German Club, we are already very keen. The stories revolve around a frog named Felix Frosch and a duck called Franzi Ente who go on some exciting adventures together. I think the episodes we saw while we were there were very funny, and sometimes a little bizarre. For children in years five and six, the animals changed to a may-beetle and a cockroach, who set off to visit the world.

Together with three groups from other schools we went to eat a delicious lunch after an enjoyable sing-a-long in German, led by musicians on his guitar. Afterwards we got autographs from the people who had designed the new books. Overall I thought it was an amazing day.



## From The Parents' Association

*Sally Fisher, PA Secretary*

**Welcome back from your half term break and we hope that new parents have now settled into life at Bancroft's as much as the children have. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the two main reasons that Bancroft's PA exists. The first is to provide opportunities for parents to connect with the School and each other. The second is to help raise funds for resources that enhance and enrich the academic offering of Bancroft's.**

In 2018, the focus of the PA fundraising is for *sustainable and environmental projects*, with two key purchases in the pipeline. For the Senior School garden, there are plans to create an allotment

to plant fruit trees, flora and vegetables, allowing the pupils to take responsibility for growing and harvesting. In the Prep School, we would like to reduce traffic in the turning circle, so we're investigating an outdoor Prep School shelter, to help ease the congestion and encourage more parents to approach the school on foot. In addition to these key projects, the PA is also proud to help fund a new kit for the fencing team and also the ongoing development of a Bancroft's art collection; representing local heritage and celebrating local artists.

Since the previous *Insight*, the PA have been very busy - hosting Bollywood Night, the Christmas Fayre, the Prep Pantomime and the Christmas Carol Service, all of which were very successful in terms of attendance and funds.

In total, over £8,000 has been raised since October 2017, which is a testament to everyone's continued generosity and we thank you for your ongoing support. Our next big event will be The Summer Ball, scheduled for Saturday 30 June and is themed "From Russia with Love". Please put this date in your diary. Further details, of this and other events, will be made available on Facebook and Parent Mail over the next couple of months.





# OBA News

**Stephen Dodd, OB (1972-79)**

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

## OBA Annual Dinner

On 20 October, the School welcomed back over 100 Old Bancroftians, staff and the four current Heads of House to the 111th Annual Dinner held in the Dining Hall. During pre-dinner drinks, we were entertained by some very talented young Upper Sixth musicians (Tom Dean and Ved Patwardhan). This was followed by an excellent three course meal provided by the Bancroft's catering team. Post dinner speeches were both entertaining and informative from the OBA President, Nick Bowman, and the Head, Simon Marshall.



## Northern Dinner

The annual Northern Dinner was held at the Llyndir Hall & Spa Hotel, Rossett, Chester on Saturday 7 October. Well attended as always by OBs and their guests, the dinner was an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends old and new over a lovely three course meal and receive an update of the School by our Head Simon Marshall.



## London City Drinks

On 5 December the OBA hosted an informal drinks evening at the Walrus and Carpenter Pub in Monument Street. This was well attended and was the perfect opportunity to catch up with old friends and network with other Old Bancroftians, OBA committee members and the Head. A good time was had by all and similar events will take place throughout the country in 2018.



2018 is going to be another busy year for the OBA committee and the OBA Office. Following on from the last Business Breakfast held at the 'Gherkin Building' in London last year, our next Business Breakfast will be held at The Reform Club on Wednesday 7 March. There are a lot of other varied events to plan for our OBA community including the 5 and 10 years on reunion in May and OBs' Day in July, to name a few.

Congratulations were made at the OBA Annual Dinner to OBs Sophie Higgins (1998-2005) and Jordan Rowland (1994-2005) who got married in 2017 and OBs Angus Abbot (1993-2004) and Laura Abbot (1998-2005) whose son Arthur was born on 24 November.



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