



Insight

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Sweeney Todd

Emilia Hitching, U4W

From the 23 to 25 March, a cast of over forty Bancroftians formed the ensemble of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. Sondheim's musicals are renowned for their complexity – different harmonies, eloquent lyrics and time signature changes coming together to make a powerful overall effect. Many members of the cast had never sung or acted on such a grand scale before, so we were nervous but excited to perform such a difficult piece.

Our process started in October with auditions. I remember being especially nervous before going in to sing the love interest, Johanna's, solo *Green Finch and Linnet Bird* (I was even more nervous when I sang it in front of hundreds of people on opening night!) One thing that stands out from the auditions was how the cast already felt like a family. Shows with large companies can sometimes feel busy and crowded, but our size of cast just added to our excitement and enthusiasm.

Our first rehearsals were about exploring our characters and embodying our roles. Murderous barbers, lecherous villains, haggard madwomen and Irish/Italian comen aren't parts you often get to play, so we had loads of



fun delving deeper into our characters. At the same time, we were also working on the music. Many of our cast had never sight read, so the challenge of Sondheim was stepped up further. However, with voice recordings, extra sessions and plain old repetition, we began to get to grips with the score.

What makes *Sweeney Todd* such an interesting production is its insight on the human psyche, with dialogue perfectly complemented by music. Whether it was the quickly-paced (often too quickly), menacing *City on Fire* showing the depravity to which captives in the asylum were reduced; the richly harmonic, lyrical (and impossible to keep in time with) *Kiss Me* or the spectacle of the narrative *Ballads* in which the whole company was involved, there was always something new to try out.

As we got closer to the production, we started to use the incredible set. Constructed by the DT department, the best element was undoubtedly Todd's barber chair, which attached to a slide for victims to travel down as they met their end. The first time the chair is used in the show is in an otherwise quiet, slightly melancholy song, but there was a round of applause and laughter each night as members of the ensemble met their maker!

After countless hours of Sunday rehearsals, prop searching, and copious make up application (such as Tom Dean's famously ginger hair being spray painted black for half an hour each night) we were ready to



perform. Our cast spanned the entire school, from the mini ensemble of Thirds to the Upper Sixth. While some people were performing in their first show ever at Bancroft's, others were performing in their last before leaving in the summer.

However, no show will ever be perfect, and we certainly had a few mishaps each night. My massive curly blonde wig came dangerously close to falling off as I was carried off stage, and, in my supposedly unconscious state, I had to clamp a hand over it to keep it on my head. The fatal gunshot to the asylum owner didn't go off, so Tom Draper bit the non-existent bullet and collapsed without cue. On the first night, Tom Dean, as Sweeney, and Daniela Prickman, as his right-hand-woman Mrs Lovett, created twenty new bars of lyrics when they forgot the original words to Act 1's closing number!

Coming together for our final curtain call was an indescribable experience. We were so glad to be able to thank everyone who had helped us; the tech team and costume department for the stunning overall look of the show; Mrs Foinette and her team for helping us stumble along and eventually run with the music; and Ms Middleton, for all her directorial input and masterminding the whole production.

My first senior musical was definitely my favourite show I've been in at school and I am so glad that I got to share it with such a wonderful cast.





Science Successes for Ben

While many of our pupils looked forward to taking a little rest over the Easter Holidays, Ben Norris (U6W) had a busy programme of work ahead of him. Having performed remarkably well in the first rounds of both the British Biology and Chemistry Olympiads, Ben faced further testing in both sciences for possible UK team selection.



A record number of 7,500 students sat the first round multiple choice paper of the British Biology Olympiad in January. As one of the 144 top Gold medal winners, Ben was invited to take part in the second round, a ninety minute written paper. Following this, just sixteen students were invited to Warwick University for the national finals at Easter. They took part in practical assessments and a written paper. Four of the sixteen were then selected to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad, in July. Mrs Fiona Graham, Head of Biology at Bancroft's, said, "Ben is an exceptional young man. I have never in my teaching career to date got a student this far in the BBO so I am absolutely delighted for him."

Dr Andrew Treharne MBE FRSB, who chairs the group of volunteers which organises the competition, wrote, "The standard of this year's competitors was as high as ever and I look forward to meeting this year's finalists in Warwick. Many congratulations to them for getting to this stage; top sixteen out of 7,500 is an incredible achievement."

Ben also performed incredibly well in the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad Round 1 earlier this year. Together with Sujil James and Sayon Uthayakumar, he was awarded a Gold Medal. His notably impressive performance placed him amongst the top thirty young chemists in the country. Ben took part in the next selection round at Cambridge at Easter, which selected the team for the international competition by assessing both practical skills and theoretical knowledge.

Unfortunately, Ben was not selected as a team member for either team, but just to get to this stage in these competitions is a marvellous achievement. He still has a busy summer ahead as he has been awarded a place by the Weizmann Institute of Science on a month-long research project in Israel during the summer. Ten students from the UK will be joining an international group at the Weizmann Institute, one of the world's leading multidisciplinary basic research institutions in the natural and exact sciences.

Intermediate Maths Olympiad



Dr John Larwood

The follow-on rounds of the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (IMC), the Intermediate Olympiad and Kangaroo (IMOK), took place in March. Nationally, the IMC entry comprises over 200,000 students for each year group, from the Lower Fourth to Fifth Forms. From the IMC entry, roughly 500 of the top scorers in each year group are entered in the prestigious Olympiad round, and a further 10,000 students are entered in the second-tier Kangaroo round.

In the Kangaroo papers, eight Bancroftians scored highly enough to achieve a "Merit" certificate, representing an effort in the top 25% of all entrants. Particular congratulations go to Matthew Dean (L4th), Sonya Kalsi (U4th) and Oscar Saharoy (5th), for being Bancroft's top scorers in their year groups.

In the Olympiad papers Bancroft's students achieved even more success. In these papers the top 25% of entrants receive a "Distinction" certificate and the next 25% receive a "Merit" certificate.

Six Bancroft's students each received a "Merit" and three received "Distinction" certificates. For the latter, special congratulations go to Jathusan Vijayakumar (L4th), Swasthi Surendran and Alex Yan (both U4th). In addition, Jathusan received a medal for scoring in the top 100 of all Olympians taking the paper for his age group.



Well done to all our participants this year. We trust that it was a valuable and enriching experience for everybody taking part, including for those who fell short of their aspirations this time around. Better luck next year!



L4 Big Bang Fair – NEC, Birmingham



Alex Dhayaa, L4E

On Friday 17 March, forty four Bancroftians set out on a long journey to Birmingham and came back with unforgettable memories, extraordinary experiences and, most importantly, an excellent introduction to the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). They roamed through the stalls of the Big Bang Fair, eager to learn and experience the many opportunities of the Fair. From learning about how robots are programmed to understanding the effect smoking has on our lungs, the Fair provided us with a stunning variety of science.

Many exhibits fascinated me. Throughout the course of the day I became more and more interested in engineering and technology, exploring how things worked. Coming face to face with a real working robot was one of my highlights. The robot could be programmed in any language, from Scratch to Python to C++, and moved with agility, consuming the never-ending lines of code. Another exhibit comprised of a forensic crime scene including a dead body, yellow tape surrounding the scene and, of course, blood splattered everywhere! We had to analyse the evidence and come to an evaluative conclusion in the end.

Having never experienced virtual reality glasses, I was amazed that once I wore them, I felt I was somewhere else. I was alone and my senses adapted to the visual scenes I was seeing. Completely forgetting I was in the Big Bang Fair, I looked around admiring what I

could see and I was surprised at how my other senses were unaware of my eyes being deceived! I also looked into the biology behind how an eye works, and how they can become diseased. I became an optician for the day at Specsavers, where I was taught how to properly produce a frame for glasses using technology as well as learning more about contact lenses.

Another exhibit measured the speed of our reaction time as well as our strength. I made it onto the leader board and was overly proud with my strength, until my friend did the same experiment and proved to be much stronger than I was! Nevertheless, we both remained on the leader board and received wristbands!

After putting on a surgical mask and latex gloves I really felt like a surgeon! Especially after I dug my hand into the thorax of the body and picked out a lung covered in pink 'goo' – essentially symbolising the blood. I really enjoyed this amusing exhibition which gave us an insight into a surgeon's life.

The Big Bang Fair also offered many talks which took place on several stages. I attended a talk about how robots work and why we have them. I discovered how they are programmed and engineered and which is better: robot technology or human biology! I also saw a robot dance on the stage, this was highly amusing but made me think of all the coding needed to make it dance for such a long time!

The day was truly amazing and I really enjoyed myself. The number of exhibitions and talks really widened my eyes on how much STEM subjects contribute to everyday lives, when we too often overlook the brilliance behind it all. I am now curious to explore more, thanks to the Big Bang.

University of Cambridge's Science Festival

Kanish Rana, L6S

After several weeks of preparation and carrying out multiple experiments, eleven L6th Biology students headed to Cambridge to display our work and findings on seed germination and growth.

We arrived at The Hauser Forum, West Cambridge Site, renowned for the annual Cambridge Science Festival, where academics and students from around the country present their research to the general public. We were split into several groups, each focusing on a different aspect

of seeds such as the germination process, types of seeds and types of growth. Many of the public at the festival were interested in the topic, resulting in some intimidating questions which were well answered by the group. Much to our surprise however, many children also appeared to be interested in our project, particularly the puzzles and microscopes, which were obvious crowd pleasers. Overall, this resulted in a great learning experience for both ourselves and the visitors.

We had time to walk around and see other schools' displays; there were a great range of topics from aerodynamic planes and 3D printed nerf guns to enzymes and digestion.

The science fair turned out to be a great success, with all our hard work paying off. We would like to thank Mr Raw, Mr Poore and Mrs Dawkins, as without them this trip would not have been possible.





Primary Science Fair 2017

Our annual Primary Science Fair is one of the most popular events in the school calendar and this year reached out to twenty two local schools. It gave 212 year 6 visitors, as well as all our own Prep children, an insight into senior school science and, hopefully, inspired them as well.

In the labs the children got to work on various projects. They created necklaces containing a sample of their own DNA which they then proudly wore (biology). Under Mr Prole's supervision, they made and then launched rockets across the field (physics). Mr Choy's Hogwarts inspired Chemistry demonstration introduced them to the world of chemical reactions.



Our L6 scientists had worked hard to produce a variety of entertaining and informative stalls on the theme of "Change" in the Great Hall. The visitors were engrossed as the Bancroftians explained some quite complex ideas. In particular, they enjoyed all stalls which had an interactive element. Our visiting judge, Dr Liz Swinbank of the University of York and formally of the UYSEG (science education group), chose these stalls as top four:



- Viscosity - Chris Brown, Ciara Clarke and Robert Colman (overall winner)
- Evolution or why aren't we monkeys? – Charlotte Manning, Ekaah Sumithran
- Magical Colour Changing Flowers - (natural indicators) – Isobel Lockley, Aabha Patel and Thomas Rendora
- invisibility – Shabah Rahman, George Roberts, Rushab Shah, Neel Tanna

In the visitors' vote, Invisibility was named as the most popular stall.

The children left the Science Fair excited to share their new found scientific knowledge and experiences. At least one visitor was so inspired that she said she wanted to become a science teacher! Teacher Darren Cordes, from Redbridge Primary School, commented, "Well done to your students who were a credit to the school. Their stands were very informative and engaged our pupils throughout. Their knowledge was invaluable and the teaching was tailored to their needs."



Removes' Engineering Day

Mia Malik and Mariam Hashem, RN

Removes' Engineering Day involved many activities which were great fun. We started off the day with a brief introduction about the structure of



bridges from Mr Dickinson. This gave us an idea of what bridges to build for our assignment.

We were split into tutor groups and within those groups into two groups doing a smaller bridge and two groups building a larger, longer bridge. However to construct these bridges we had limited materials, such as card, pieces of wood, string and a glue gun. We had to build two types of bridges of a certain height and width.

At the end of the day, each tutor group submitted one long bridge and one short bridge which were all tested by Mr Dickinson. Weights were hung from them until they broke, or they couldn't take any more weight. It was definitely



an enjoyable afternoon watching various bridges being destroyed! It was an Inter-house competition and so each house was cheering for their amazing bridge creations.

This whole day was really entertaining and gave us an insight to what engineering and architecture would be like. On the behalf of all Removes, we would like to thank Mr Dickinson and the rest of the staff for organising and supervising this great day.



Hold The Front Page – Thirds' Visit to *The Guardian*

Lakshmy Narayanan and Izzy Maddox, 3E

On Tuesday 7 March, a group of lucky Thirds got to visit *The Guardian* newspaper at Kings Place. To qualify for the trip we had to enter a tough competition - the task was to write an article about a local news story.

When we arrived, we were shown to the Education Centre by the amazing Margaret Holborn, Head of Education, where we worked in pairs. After only half an hour we had chosen our stories – based on news

feeds from *The Guardian's* newsroom - finished all our research and were on to writing our main story. There were tight deadlines to meet as the day progressed so we had to be fast. Examples of breaking stories that day were: the Trump travel ban; a French avalanche; North Korean aggression; and Alexis Sanchez's possible move from Arsenal.

We spent the day planning how we were going to write and lay out our front-page newspaper. Like real journalists we dealt with actual reports on news stories coming in by the minute, which made our experience even more realistic. Our peers acted as editors and sub-editors to check for any



errors and improve our style. There were a range of pictures to accompany our articles and we made sure we had short, snappy titles. To finish, Margaret took our photos in pairs, and our front pages were printed out for us to take home, the pupil pair shots inserted as insets so our work was credited.

As we were having lunch, we were shown the different floors that are used by the newspaper; they were brilliantly laid out, but quiet working areas with a lot of busy people. Overall it was an amazing opportunity and we are glad to have entered the competition and gone on the trip.

A Dickens of a Day

Anusha Talukder, U4S

On Tuesday 7 February (which also happened to be Charles Dickens's birthday) two U4th English classes set off for a visit to the Charles Dickens Museum in Holborn. We travelled by coach and, after a longer than anticipated journey, we arrived at 48 Doughty Street. We were split into our two classes as we are studying two different Dickens' novels.



Our class, studying *Great Expectations*, spent the morning going on a walking tour around the local area and seeing the different areas associated with Dickens and his novels. These included Barnard's Inn, which is featured in *Great Expectations* several times as well as where Dickens worked before and during the early stages of his career. After concluding this fascinating tour we ate our lunch at the famous Coram's Fields and headed back to the museum.

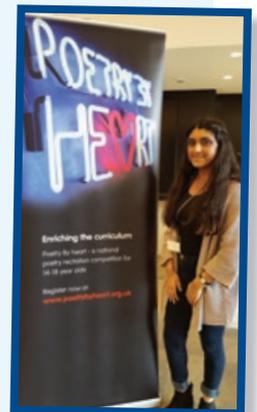
For the second half of our trip we went round the house that Dickens first moved into and saw many of his family's belongings. These included their clothes, his commode, his very small bed and even a strand of his hair. We learnt more about his background and what really inspired him to write his successful novels. One of the highlights for me on the trip was when we went through all of the rooms in the house and saw his items perfectly intact and neatly placed, even his actual bird which is now stuffed and on display in the nursery. Although the house was very small, there was always something new to discover about Dickens and the Victorian era. We would all like to thank Miss Evans, Mr Gallagher, Mrs Rogers and Dr Hunn for taking us on this unforgettable experience.



Poetry By Heart Competition 2017

Miss Nicola Evans

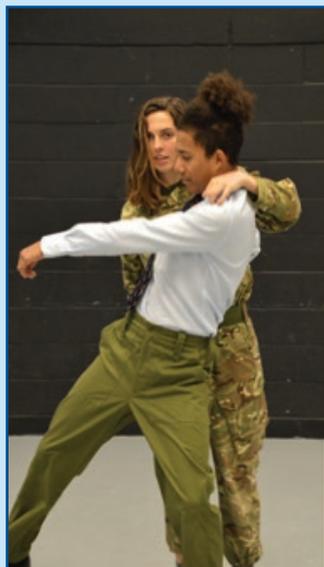
The English Department was delighted to hear Wardah Thanvi (U4W) declared winner of her regional round of the national poetry recital competition *Poetry By Heart*. On the weekend of the 22-23 April, Wardah and I were invited to the prestigious **Winners' Weekend held at the **British Library in London**.**



The event was hosted by the famous poet Jacob Sam-La Rose and, after some professionally led warm-up exercises, Wardah performed her poems to a lecture theatre full of poetry enthusiasts from all over the country, not to mention a panel of attentive judges (including Patience Agbabi and Daljit Nagra whose poetry is currently on our A Level spec!). The performances themselves were gritty, moving, shocking; they were our source of adrenaline as the London Marathon took place outside. Although Wardah was not selected as an outright winner, the judges awarded her a Special Commendation for her arresting rendition of *The Colonel* by Carolyn Forché, as they had noticed that she had "held the room in a disturbing silence throughout the poem, creating one of the most memorable moments of the competition." In addition, Wardah was also able to make a recording for BBC Radio 4's *Poetry Please* programme, which was broadcast on 14 May. Not only were we treated to delicious dinners and lunches, poetry readings by the judges, and a special guest appearance by actor Freddie Fox, we also had the opportunity to chat to other like-minded pupils and teachers for whom poetry is very much alive and celebrated. We are immensely proud of Wardah's achievements despite the fact that she was up against some stiff competition, and we hope to make it to the finals again next year.



Punchdrunk Workshop



Susannah Bramwell, L6N

During the spring term, a group of seventeen Fifth Form and Lower Sixth drama students ventured into London for a workshop with the renowned theatre company: Punchdrunk.

The company is the trailblazer for the increasingly popular style of immersive theatre in which the audience follows the performers around a space. Physical theatre, audience choice, and setting are all important in a Punchdrunk performance; therefore, this style of theatre can be fun for both performers, and audience members. At School, students recently performed extracts from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Arts Fundraiser event in the style of Punchdrunk; if you missed out on that, the current Punchdrunk production is on in New York and Shanghai. Unfortunately, these are too far afield for the Bancroft's drama budget, so we went to Punchdrunk's Fallow Cross location for inspiration instead.

At first glance, the building was daunting; the abandoned looking warehouse was described as "creepy" by some students. However, the inconspicuous exterior hid something bizarre and mysterious, the likes of which none of us had encountered before. Inside the warehouse was an entire village: bars, churches, shops, homes. All of them were finished down to the tiniest aspect, for example while exploring an antique shop I discovered hundreds of love notes, each in a different hand writing. Felix Barrett, the director at Punchdrunk, wants the audience to feel "totally absorbed in the world around them", and I can assure you if all Punchdrunk sets are finished in this level of detail, they will. The village was strange, wonderful, and eerie, and we did not have nearly enough time to thoroughly discover all parts of it.

The workshop was run by a performer at Punchdrunk, and hearing insider's tips from her was an "enlightening, once in a life time experience" as described by Daniel Lockley. We started off by doing some exercises to understand the space; at times this caused some nervousness in us, as our instructor

played some tense music and used smoke machines to make the environment more atmospheric. After this we did stretching, to prepare for the physical work of the session. There were some mixed reviews from us on this; while Jake Botha described it as "time consuming", most others said it was "fun". We then continued with exercises such as pulling and pushing other people, and "running around" (according to Louisa O'Sullivan) among other things to build up a sequence of complex, energetic movements. We then actioned these with dynamic verbs and performed them around the space with feedback from our instructor.

As an A Level theatre studies student, this was particularly useful for me, as the practical I am doing now is in the style of Punchdrunk. This workshop gave me, and the rest of the A Level class, the skills we needed to effectively create our piece. Finally, speaking on behalf of those present, the day was both a thoroughly enjoyable and an informative experience.

Therese Raquin

Abby Rawe, 5S

This year's A Level theatre studies devised performance was *Therese Raquin*. Students Susannah Bramwell (Theresa), Jeremy Haward-Grau (Carl) and Louis Japaul (Larry) created a fully immersive Punchdrunk-style piece for their practical examination.

In this performance Theresa is in an abusive relationship with Carl, and is having an affair with Larry. The two of them plot to kill Carl and succeed, but as a consequence are plagued with guilt and eventually commit suicide. The set was very detailed, and included one main room and two side rooms to allow audience members to follow characters and paths which caught their attention. The different

branches of the play were all perfectly thought out and provided a good insight into the characters and their motives. The use of physical theatre (similar to that of Frantic Assembly) was particularly captivating, and was used effectively to show the passion between Theresa and Larry. There was also elements of audience interaction depending on which path you chose to follow, whether you were simply given an item to hold or asked to dance. Despite the different story-lines, it was always clear what was going on - seeing it more than once was an added bonus. The audience wore masks which not only distinguished between actor and audience, but added a macabre and unsettling element to the performance. Overall Susannah, Louis and Jeremy were able to create not only a wonderfully sad story, but the immersive and chilling atmosphere to go with it, which made *Therese Raquin* a moving and memorable performance.



Music Junction



Siobhan Downey, L4E

This year, a dozen pupils from an array of year groups took part in the Music Junction project. We were all mentors, meaning we were teaching disadvantaged children how to play an instrument. There were several London Chamber Orchestra members present throughout the course who guided and helped us to play the music to the best of our ability and get the most out of the course.

Being a clarinet player, I expected little from the music as the majority of interesting parts are gifted to the strings, however I was pleasantly surprised by the wonderful arrangement which allowed the clarinet to have some limelight too! At various point during the course, we split into sections and focused on making sure the children learning felt comfortable with the music. So although I only played clarinet, I also dabbled in helping to teach the saxophone as well.

With Music Junction, it is easy to feel achievement through another, watching them progress and move towards mastering the basics of the instrument. I thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated this opportunity to play alongside, and be recognised by, professional musicians. We composed short motifs, taught others and a real sense of community was created within the orchestra. The course is ultimately for the benefit of others but I also feel this experience has made me a better and more confident player.



Musical Notes

*Mrs Caroline Foinette,
Director of Music*

The Spring Term saw our musicians preparing for usual events such as the Spring Concert, Commemoration Service and the prestigious Drapers' Hall Concert. There was also the small matter of *Sweeney Todd* to consider! We continued to support the music junction project with the LCO (more on this from Siobhan Downey).

The Drapers' Hall Concert was magnificent with an extremely high standard of performances from all those involved. Three of our Upper Sixth music award holders - Rebecca Leung, Julia Jones and Elliot Krishek - gave their 'final' solo performance in the wonderful surroundings of the Hall. This is always a highlight (for them and us!) and we wish them well as they leave Bancroft's.

Other groups were out in force; the Bancroft's Singers performed three contrasting pieces and the Barbers sang a vibrant version of *Jolene* by Dolly Parton. The Flute and Guitar Orchestra were in fine form and Bancroft's Sinfonia performed a challenging piece of Schubert under the careful baton of Mr Bluff. The Bancroft's Swingers finished the programme this year, performing *Killer Joe* and *Jumpin' Jack*. It was a fitting end to a stunning concert. My thanks go to all performers who put in the hard graft on a weekly basis to create such a successful event.





Westminster GCSE Study Day

Lauren Walker, 5E

During the morning of 10 February, Mrs Baker and Miss Stewart attended a series of lectures at Westminster School with their fifth form Greek and Latin classes. There were two lectures each on the Greek and Latin set texts, and the teachers hoped that the event would provide additional insight, enrichment and entertainment for their pupils.

It was certainly a success. After assembling at the tube station, the party was met at the school and led through Westminster's illustrious Little Dean Courtyard, where their pupils lodge. The event's hall was richly decorated with tiered seating marking the remains of a school play. However the topics we were there to hear about far overshadowed the facilities in might and splendour. First, Professor Gregory Hutchinson from Oxford discussed the 'Plots and Perspectives from *Iliad 1*' – a Greek extract of Homer. It was insightful and thorough, however it did not mention any points which we had not uncovered in class. Next, Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos compared 'Catullus and Ovid: In pursuit of love', discussing Latin love poetry in a way that held everyone's interest. She showed great depth of knowledge, as expected, seeing that her book *Catullus, a Roman Poet* is soon to be published. She engaged her audience impressively, even those studying Greek, but not Latin, were able to connect. This was followed by an equally stunning lecture by Professor Tom Harrison on 'Herodotus and the birth of History'. He has been studying Herodotus for most of his life, and his talk gave much more context and insight into the Greek text and the great historian. Finally, the morning was finished by a discussion from Professor Peter Kruschwitz on Messalina and Ummidia from the Latin texts. While not as high quality as its predecessors, the talk provided much food for thought as to the motives of the characters, and certainly gave a smooth finish to such an interesting morning. Many thanks to Mrs Baker and Miss Stewart for organising the trip and providing this opportunity.

Removes Spanish Trip to Salamanca

Jemima Strong, RW

What nicer way to spend an Easter break than visiting stunning Salamanca, one of the most important university cities in Spain attracting thousands of international students every year to learn Spanish. Salamanca is situated 120 miles from the capital Madrid in north-western Spain. I was fortunate to be one of thirteen Removes who experienced a memorable home-stay trip for six days accompanied by Mr Urreaga and Miss Williams.



We flew to Madrid on Easter Sunday, leaving a very moderate climate for high temperatures and sunny skies. After an 'interminable' coach ride, we were grateful to meet our host families, have a bite to eat and get a good night's sleep.

Every morning we attended Spanish lessons at *Mester Language School*, which consisted of challenging vocabulary building and communication activities. They were quite advanced classes but enjoyable and we really loved the Spanish music videos they played at the end of the sessions which threw us into continental popular culture.

Every afternoon we participated in cultural events, one of which was a Mediterranean cooking course where I learned to make '*tortilla de patata*'. We visited the Cathedrals, the Calisto and Melibea Garden which was extremely pretty and the Art Deco Museum, the latter of which culminated in a cup of hot chocolate with a delicious, sugary churro. ¡Qué rico!

I particularly enjoyed the salsa class and having free time around Plaza Mayor. We enjoyed some delicious ice-cream and shopped till we dropped! I also loved the interesting day trip to Segovia, famous for its ancient Roman Aqueduct and the Alcázar, except this was on our way back to Madrid airport so we were sad that the trip was coming to an end.

Muchas gracias to Mr Urreaga for arranging the trip. He actually went to university in Salamanca and was so knowledgeable about the area. Thanks to Miss Williams who was great fun and kept encouraging us to practise our Spanish. If you enjoy Spanish, hot weather, a taste of culture and beautiful views, Salamanca is most certainly a trip you should consider.





U4 Spanish Film Approaches Study Day, BFI Southbank

Sukhraj Oppal, U4W

On Thursday 4 May, fifteen U4 students participated in the Spanish iGCSE Study Day at the British Film Institute. We were given a pack filled with interesting activities to help us participate with the slide shows, new vocabulary and also some activities to do on our own. We first saw a trailer for a horror/fantasy film that we had translated together beforehand.

We then saw two short films. The first was about a man talking to his wife on the phone on a bus filled with couples in different situations. The emotional chat to his wife catches the attention of the entire bus, but it turns out that he was acting in an attempt to entertain the bus for some money and his wife had actually left him. Although this movie was quite sad, many couples on the bus were closer to their companions as a result of listening in to the conversation. The next film was far more peculiar. A woman goes to a café where everyone is silent. This is because they seem to be being forced to participate

in some sort of music video with a man carrying a bomb. The woman eventually became the hero after secretly calling the police. Although this film was much darker than the previous one, it was still entertaining. During both films, we were given opportunities to answer questions about them.

After a lunch break, we saw a longer film, *No Se Aceptan Devoluciones*, about a Mexican man who fears almost anything remotely dangerous. He is forced to raise his daughter alone after her mother leaves them. After attempting, and failing, to find her, the man decides to raise his daughter alone, taking the job of a highly-paid stunt man in the process. He lies to his daughter about the mother's whereabouts, saying she was saving the world in various wild adventures. When the mother returns seven years later, she attempts to take her daughter back. She tells the young girl that her father was lying to her the whole time. At first the daughter is angry, but after realising she has to leave her father, they escape back to Mexico. When the mother finds them, the mother realises the love the two have for each other, and father and daughter end up together. The movie ends on a rather sad note, as the daughter later dies. The movie was thoroughly entertaining, filled with hilarious and emotional moments.

The day was not only fun and interactive, but it was also a great opportunity for to expand our Spanish vocabulary, work on grammar and improve our Spanish speaking. I would like to thank our Spanish teachers, Mr Urreaga and Miss Morales, for taking us.



German Spelling Bee

Zaki Lodhi, 3S, Nimran Dhaliwal, 3S, Sejal Odedra, 3N

On Thursday 4 May, we proudly represented Bancroft's at the regional final of the German Spelling Bee, hosted at the Coopers' Company and Coborn School. We had previously gone through two internal rounds in order to reach the regional finals.

It was a very exciting experience for all of us, as this was our first time competing externally. After competing against Year 7s from various schools in the south-east region,

the results were announced, informing us that all three of us with another participant had successfully spelt our way into the National Final. This will be held on the 30 June 2017 at Cambridge University. After securing our places in the National Final, we participated in a second round to determine the rankings. The results were as follows: Zaki 2nd, Nimran 3rd and Sejal 4th place

We are exceedingly proud to be representing Bancroft's at the National Finals and we would like to thank our German teachers (Mrs Abbot-Imboden and Miss Gaskell) for all their support. Furthermore, we would like to specially thank Miss Williams for all her continued support and help with weekly practice sessions, *wir sind sehr dankbar!*





Biarritz Trip

Vicky Veselichka, 5N

Even though every Bancroftian knows the first rule of signing up for a school trip is to first check who is going, I decided not to for this trip because I really wanted to go and didn't want who else was going affect me. For this trip you are paired up with another pupil and are allocated a family with whom you both stay. Much like an exchange, you spend time with that family, you have dinner together and stay in one of their rooms. The trip took place in Biarritz, which is a very small town - so small in fact that within the first two days I had already learned the bus routes and stops, something that would be impossible here in London.

Every morning, we went to the *France Langue School*, where students from all over the world come to improve their linguistic skills: some stay for a week, some for three months. The lessons were interesting; as much fun as you could have while being in a classroom! We analysed interesting videos, played games as well as learnt French. The process was unlike anything you get at regular school; you were on holiday so there was no stress to do well. It was all about enjoying yourself, and maybe even learning some French.

In the afternoons we would do fun activities, such as going to neighbouring towns, going on walks, having tours or even watching a



movie. Biarritz is a popular surf location and staying only a ten minute bus ride away meant that Safa and I spent the majority of our time there, meaning a lot of ice cream and Nutella paninis were eaten but that can be forgiven. There is something very calming about watching someone battle the waves, struggling to stay on their board, as you sit on a bench with the sun shining on your back while eating your third ball of strawberry and passion fruit ice cream.

It was a good way to spend a week; I'd otherwise have spent it procrastinating, doing revision and watching a multitude of movies. If you're considering going, I would recommend it!



Onatti French Play

Jude Dannawi, L4S

On the 10 February, all students from the Removes and Lower Fourth studying French were treated to the annual French play performed by the Onatti theatre company. The group which performed *Le Café*, produced a highly enjoyable play whilst keeping at a moderate speed of speech so allowing the audience to easily keep track of the conversation.

Le Café had a comical sense of humour keeping pupils at the edge of their seats; a young woman is left in charge of a café but unable to control the frantic situation, when alarms went off and the WC is flooded. The inclusion of students on stage and the wide variety of vocabulary used by the characters was a great way of enhancing our French dictionary. We hope to see such performances in the future. *C'était tres amusant!*



Top Essex Swimmer

Congratulations to Third Form pupil Neha Pillai (3W) who has recently been awarded the title of Top Girl at Essex County Swimming Championship.

In the 2017 Essex County Swimming Championships, held at the London Aquatics Centre and Basildon, Neha won ten Golds, two Silvers and three Bronzes in various disciplines over three demanding weekends. She broke the Essex county record for both 50m and 100m breaststroke (her strongest stroke). This impressive medal tally and race times won her the Top Girl award in the 12 year old category. This was only her second championship, which makes the award even more of an achievement. She is currently preparing for the Regional Championships, which pit the best swimmers from the South East counties against each other. In a recent junior gala against Coopers' Coborn, Forest and Brentwood Schools, Neha set a new school record in the 100m Individual Medley.

Neha, who has only been swimming seriously for the past two years and has swam for Waltham Forest, says that winning the "Top Girl" title was a dream come true for her. It made the training sessions of early morning swims as well as evening sessions over the past years worthwhile. She trains four or five days a week, for a total of up to twelve hours. Surprisingly for someone who is in the water regularly for training, Neha says, "I hate getting my hair wet and yet manage to do that twice every day when I am at training."



Girls' Hockey Tour to Rotterdam

*Mrs Jo Fryer-Green,
Head of Girls' Hockey*

A select group of Hockey players met bright and early on Easter Monday to travel to Rotterdam with the task of facing club sides from one of the world's leading Hockey nations. On arrival in Rotterdam we were whisked off to the National Stadium for a training session lead by one of the men's 1st XI players from Rotterdam H.C, currently placed 3rd in the Dutch Premier League. The girls seemed very happy with Thomas, their coach, and, aside from his hockey expertise, they seemed very willing to hang on his every word!

The next morning there was a fun trip to Rotterdam Zoo and a shopping opportunity at one of Holland's Hockey Superstores where the girls were able to relax a little in preparation for their first match against Rotterdam H.C girls. The Bancroft's girls got off to a flying start and were impressive from the outset. Claudia Joarder impressive in defence as always led the way for the girls. Fine performances also came from Alex Seddon-Giust, Emilia Nygaard-Parsons and Grace Kumar who looked unstoppable up front. The game ended up an 8-0 win for Bancroft's, a rather flattering score line but one that shows how Bancroft's dominated the game and how clinical they were in the attacking circle.

On Wednesday morning, the team travelled to Duinrell Theme Park and spent the morning seeing who could stomach the most rides, not ideal preparation for their second fixture against De Keveiten H.C, but confidence was high after the previous night's result. This game was tougher than anticipated and the opposition, who are fighting for survival in their domestic league, were proficient in defence. It took some time to break them down but in the second half the breakthrough eventually came. Anika



Mayor, in goal, was busier than usual keeping the opposition at bay and Jessie Giles-Brown, Malini Sachdeva-Masson, Eden Risby and Praise Olanwe looked on fine form.

On our final morning, we walked into Rotterdam to experience this undiscovered cultural gem of a city. A guided tour of the Museum Boijmans introduced the team to works by Dali, Picasso, Magrit and Rothko, it was a real experience to be given an insight to these works and we all left the Museum more informed. Our final game was against HCC Rijnmond, a typical Dutch side with amazing hospitality and who made the team and their merry band of supporters very welcome. There was a pre-match meal with our opposition, national anthems before the game and a post-match cheer, despite us completing a tour Grand Slam and beating them 6-0 with a superb performance again from the Bancroft's team. Kiera Murphy and Mia Malik looked quality in defence this time and Saskia Murphy scored at the other end. A fantastic trip was had by all, and the Mrs Fryer-Greens were proud of the girls and how they performed both on and off the pitch.



Netball Season 2016-2017



Mrs Hannah Marchant, Head of Netball

My first term and netball season at Bancroft's School has certainly been an adventure. I have been amazed by the participation, commitment and dedication of all athletes across all years. Fielding A to E teams at fixtures shows just how much our girls love netball and want to play, even in the cold and dark evenings.

All teams have secured wins and loses but a special mention to the Senior 3rd team who did not concede any loses this season, with six wins and one draw, and also to the Senior 1st team who came 2nd at the Kelsall tournament held at Brentwood which hosts all of our local rivals.

Further afield, a huge congratulations to the U16 Netball squad who made it through to the second round of the King John Essex Cup. The level of performance in this competition is fierce and, although the girls gave it their all, they were unable to progress further. The Senior 1st team should also be praised for their outstanding performance in the Essex Met County round of the National Schools' Championships, winning the runners up trophy. This secured their place in the regional finals at Redbridge. Again, this is one of the top schools' competitions and the squad gained a huge amount of experience playing at this level.

To finish off the season, all girls were invited to the Copper Box in Stratford to watch the Superleague match Surrey Storm vs Hertfordshire Mavericks. Below is a report from Serena Bassi (L4) of the event:

'Before the match started there was an exhilarating atmosphere in the arena. Going to the match was a really good experience as I could see how my position in the match played and this gave me new tactics for when I play. I think it's really good that netball is being promoted in schools and I think we should go to more matches as many people will appreciate it. In the first quarter the score was 15-11 to Surrey Storm but Hertfordshire Mavericks were keen to quickly turn the tables in quarter two. Even though Hertfordshire Mavericks played fiercely in the second quarter Surrey Storm got the score to 31-23. In the third quarter the score was 52-34 to Surrey Storm but the contest was tight and physical throughout. The overall score was 67-45. Surrey Storm won but Hertfordshire Mavericks played brilliantly.'

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first season as Head of Netball and look forward to many more inspiring and promising seasons.

Road to Wimbledon

**Miss Amanda Wainwright,
Head of Tennis**

The "Road to Wimbledon" is a unique U14 Challenge competition providing an opportunity for schools and clubs to inspire their tennis playing pupils. It is a fun, sociable competition for unrated players, or those rated from a 7.1-10.2. By entering the tournament we gave Bancroftians the chance to qualify to compete in the National Finals on the grass courts at Wimbledon in August.

I have Mike Wood, the tennis-loving father of Amelia and Harriet Wood, to thank for telling me about this competition last year, as Amelia was competing in a qualifying event at The Avenue Tennis Club. Thanks to his enthusiastic description of it, I thought it would be lovely to stage a girls' and boys' event at West Grove. Twenty eight girls and twenty six boys signed up to play on two consecutive Friday evenings, and, after many hours of round-robins and knock-out stages, two champions emerged and took their first steps on the road to the beautiful grass at SW19.

On a bitterly cold and windy evening, Aimee Bromfield-Brown (3rds) was victorious in the girls' competition, defeating Anna-Francesca Hammond (L4) in a high quality final, with Abby McKinlay (L4) and Katharine Buckley (L4) coming 3rd and 4th respectively. The weather was significantly warmer for the boys and it brought plenty of parents out to watch with their strawberries and cream in hand. Both semi-finals were decided by a tie-break, such was the closeness of the matches. Jude Dannawi (L4) beat Oliver Masson (Rem) 7-5 and if anyone thought it could not get any closer than that then they were wrong, as Gian Lakhani (L4) beat Aarav Shah (Rem) 7-6 on a sudden death point! Gian and Jude then engaged in a titanic struggle, with Gian using his height and strength to good effect and Jude using his speed, agility and tenacity to neutralise Gian's firepower. Unsurprisingly, the final went right down to the wire and at 6-6 in the tie-break the tension was palpable. Gian emerged as the victor after a deep forehand forced an error from Jude. Both Aimee and Gian now advance to the County Finals in July and I wish them the best of luck.

The events were played in the most sportsmanlike of atmospheres and it was a pleasure to referee such a lovely group of children. I would like to say a huge and heart-felt thank you to the U4th umpires who gave up hours of their time to officiate the matches; the events could not have run so efficiently without them or Miss Grimwood, Mrs O'Sullivan, Miss Nelson and Mr Pollard. Finally, I would like to thank Mike Wood and his company, "Freedom", for all his support and for sponsoring the trophies which were the icing on the cake...or should I say the cream on the strawberries!





My Junior Tennis Career

Phoebe Collins, L6S

I have spent the last six years juggling my studies with a junior tennis career and I am now hoping to continue to combine the two after I leave Bancroft's. When choosing my A-Level options, I looked into the possibility of including a more vocational qualification in my academic education. I achieved a scholarship place through the UEL to complete the AASE Scheme (Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence) funded by the Lawn Tennis Association. About three months into this scheme, I was lucky enough to be selected to go on a fully funded trip to Barcelona for two weeks to train at the Barcelona Total Tennis Academy, where Nadal once trained, along with twenty three other top national players. Being only one of twelve girls chosen in the country, this was a very prestigious honour and I was determined to make the most of all the coaching on offer.

Each day was intense, with three hours of tennis and three hours of fitness with only one day off a week. Lessons in Spanish, nutrition and culture were also included. The intensity of each day forced us into a tight knit group for support and this really helped on the days when we wanted to give up as we were pushed to our physical and psychological limits. When we were not on court, time was spent fending for ourselves, like we will be doing at university, (and doing schoolwork to keep Mr Hitching happy!)

Saturday mornings saw us up early and on court for work experience helping to coach young aspiring Spanish players. My Spanish was limited which was a struggle as I was a team leader but, thanks to Miss Mardell and Mr Urreaga in the 3rds and Removes, I think I got away with it! A highlight of the trip was when we finally put our rackets away and had a cultural day trip to Barcelona to see the many works of Gaudi and the beach. This was topped off by a Spanish Masterchef evening in which my group came third!

With my physique honed on my return, my success in tournaments escalated. The first weekend I reached the final of a ladies' British Tour event (Tier 3) followed swiftly by a first round win at a national U18 event against a seeded player. The next week was equally as good with regional titles in U18 and ladies' events coming my way. All of these successes enabled me to gain entry to the qualification rounds of my first ITF



international tournament at the national tennis centre in Nottingham. Here I won the two qualifying rounds but, unfortunately, went out in the main draw second round to a strong Irish player. Doubles at my next national tournament was equally successful where I reached the quarter final with a girl with whom I forged a friendship in Barcelona.

Not only did I use the skills gained from Barcelona, but the environment I was fortunate to be in has inspired me so much that I now would like to try for a scholarship at an American University where I can both study and further my tennis.

Senior Tennis Success

Miss Amanda Wainwright, Head of Tennis



The Senior Girls Tennis Team have been excelling this term and, in the absence of actual sunshine early on in this summer term, they have been the ones shining on the courts at West Grove and beyond.

Phoebe Collins and Tanisha Schumacher are our top two senior players and have been so since they were in the 3rds, such is their tennis talent. Now in their sixth and seventh senior tennis seasons, they reached the final of the prestigious U19 National Schools Doubles Competition in Harpenden in May beating schools such as St Albans and North London Collegiate en route to the final. The event has been running for over 100 years and it was lovely to be part of that historic tennis tradition and take away some silverware.

Phoebe and Tanisha have been joined by Raya Uzunova and Alina Schumacher in the Aberdare Cup this season, which is a National Schools Team competition involving singles and doubles play. In the regional knock-out phase the girls have overcome several schools including Northwood College and Godolphin & Latymer; at the time of writing, they have made it to the Regional Final where they will take on Berkhamsted. This is the furthest a Bancroft's team has progressed so, at only three weeks into the summer term, it has already been an "ace" season!



Bancroft's Secures Place in National Final of British Schools Karting Championship 2017

Amir Sampat, L6S, and Lewis Shine, U4N

The Bancroft's Karting team secured a place in the National Final of the British Schools Karting Championship 2017, when they will compete against the best schools across the country at Whilton Mill on Saturday 1 July. Amir Sampat, Max Wieteska (both L6th) and Lewis Shine (U4), earned their places in the National Final after achieving 4th place in the London and the South East Regional Final, one of the most competitive regions in the competition at Buckmore park on 6 May.



Adrienne Watson, Championship Administrator of the BSKC said, "Congratulations to the team from Bancroft's School. It is a great achievement to qualify for the National Final of the British Schools Karting Championship. The preliminary events in this year's championship have been fiercely competitive so just getting to the National Final is to be applauded."

The journey began in early January where seventeen contenders battled it out for a place in the Bancroft's team. After some excellent performances from hidden talents, the two teams were decided. Following the trials came the first round at Teamsport Acton. Competing against twelve other teams, the 1st team breezed into the next round following two race wins and two 2nd place finishes. After

excellent performances from Adam Ugradar taking a race win, George Roberts with a 2nd place finish and Abdul-Raouf Irshad with a 3rd place finish, the 2nd team narrowly missed out on a qualification place by just four points. Next followed the London and South-East of England Regional Final where the 1st team competed against the top eighteen schools in the Region. Max Wieteska's stunning performance from 8th to 2nd and following it with a 3rd place, Amir Sampat's race win and 2nd place finish and Lewis Shine's excellent performances going into the races without any practice meant a 4th place finish to earn the team qualification into the National Final at Whilton Mill on the 1 July.

We would like to thank the School for funding our entry, Mr Flaherty and Mrs Abbott for supporting us and a special thanks to Mr Foley for his passionate input helping us to the National Final. The team goes into the National Final with high hopes of a top place finish against some of the best racers in the country and looks forward to competing next year and entering a potential five teams. The team are open to any sponsorship opportunities before this year's National Final and next year's competition where we hope for a repeat of success.



Gresham's Hockey Weekend

Emre Muzzamal, RE

After a gentle drive through the English country side and a brief stop at Fakenham we arrived at the Gresham's campus for an 11am registration. We were then shown to our boarding house "Woodlands" where there was a room of five and a room of six. We speedily unpacked and went to have our lunch with the top hockey schools in the country. After a



satisfying beans and chips, we went to warm up on the pitches. We also managed to get a look around the campus which was filled with old church-like structures and endless cricket and rugby fields.

We managed to absolutely destroy our first two opponents, LPTH and Edgebrough 4-0 and 5-0 respectively after an astounding five goals from the skipper Oscar King in the second match. We then went on to play Gresham's School, the hosts; we put up a good fight but unfortunately we conceded late in the game meaning we suffered a 1-0 defeat. After an indoor performance not worthy of mention we headed to the dorms. Following a football match we went to dinner to have the least spicy curry in existence.

A quick breakfast the next day, then we headed to the pitches to play Ipswich. After six open goals, all of which were missed, we conceded a 1-0 defeat. We then lost again to a very strong Perse team (regional champions) 3-0. We then proceeded to beat Bilton Grange and Town Close 2-0 and 3-0 respectively. Later that evening we put on our "roadman" outfits



and headed to the disco where, even though he is a goalkeeper, Hari scored!

On the final day we headed to breakfast then played in a friendly tournament. We played Perse again and only lost 1-0. We then played Ipswich who we beat on penalty flicks. Then we put out a team which was far from our strongest against Town Close and lost 1-0.

It was a busy, fun weekend which gave us all a fresh perspective on the game.



CCF Adventurous Training

Cpl Charlotte Rogers, L6E

Adventurous Training is one of the best school trips you can go on. Sure the fear of it being too much like Army Camp (rifles all day, marching everywhere) may scare some cadets away, but that is because they do not realise just how much fun Adventurous Training is. It is a highlight in the CCF calendar and a week with absolutely nothing to do with our usual CCF activities, apart from the people. I thoroughly recommend it to any young cadets.

On the journey to the Lake District one experiences many wonderful views, whether these be across Windermere or the inside of a Burger King on the M6. Our centre is based right next to Coniston Water which offers fantastic views at sunset, that's if you wish to brave the chilly night air. The week itself is filled with challenging, fun activities, which you may never have experienced before, such as caving and rock climbing. These activities are an enjoyable way to start the week and help push you to the limit and take you out of your comfort zone. My personal favourite is caving; the submergence into freezing water as you wade through the dark tunnels creates an experience you cannot repeat. This year's caving was particularly memorable as I undertook the "Dragon Challenge" involving crawling through an incredibly narrow tunnel, resulting in the loss of one of my wellington boots.

Following an action packed first few days, we spent three days and two nights walking in the beautiful Lake District and camping overnight, but do not let any previous experiences of DofE scare you away. We do not have to walk with our huge bags, just small backpacks carrying the essentials. We stayed at a campsite which even had showers, bacon sandwiches and croissants. The teachers undertake the same experiences as you do, so guaranteeing a fun week. This year found Mrs Coyne, Mrs Graham, Mr Lee and Mr Hitching all camping (glamping rather!) with us, albeit they were in luxury cabins with proper roofs rather than tents, about which they took joy in teasing us. If it is the threat of exams and revision that has stopped you from attending Adventurous Training in the past, think again. We are usually back at the centre by 4.00pm offering many hours to slave over maths papers (or relax with your friends!).



Sea Scouts Biennial Review



The Sea Scouts troop and Cub pack were inspected on 11 May by Lt Stephen Dodds, of the Royal Navy. The review, which takes place every two years, is to check whether the Bancroft's scouts retain their Royal Navy recognition.

The evening gave a chance for the group to show off the unit as well as engaging with the Reviewing Officer. After the inspection of the Sea Scouts, during which Lt Dodds spoke to all the scouts, he joined the unit at their activity centre on Fairlop Waters where the scouts were split into three groups: kayaking, sailing and gigging. He described the unit as being well run by impressive volunteers and a proactive committee "who are keen to provide the scouts with opportunities to develop and new experiences". He also described facilities as "excellent". Excitingly, Lt Dodds has promised to look into potential visits for the unit on board HMS Puncher and he also offered the opportunity for the unit to engage with the Regional Youth Engagement Team.

As part of the evening, Robert Youd, our Group Scout Leader was presented with a Wood Badge certificate. Robert is an Old Bancroftian (1975–1982) and a former Scout at Bancroft's.





CCF Biennial Review

*RSM Tom Walton,
Head of Contingent, U6E*

Early on Tuesday 28 March the Contingent headed up to Epping Forest to signal the start of 2017's Biennial Review. This is a chance for the Contingent to be reviewed and assessed by a senior military officer, and this year we were lucky to have Group Captain Tait from RAF Honington.

The first part of the day in Epping Forest saw cadets split up into eight sections competing in an inter-section Biennial Tournament, similar to the Dan Clack competition held later in the year at Army Camp. Moving around the area the sections, led by L6th NCOs, were able to compete in eight stands run by NCOs in the L6th and U6th. Stands included CASEVAC (casualty evacuation), laser tag, sniper stalk, observation, navigation, military knowledge and command tasks. All stands were designed to test the leadership and teamwork abilities of the sections and the skills of the NCOs running them.



As the day progressed, Group Captain Tait, along with other guests, arrived at the area to see the sections competing as they navigated from stand to stand. It was nice to see how interested the Inspecting Officer and guests were in the dynamics of the day as the cadets competed to win the

Biennial Tournament. The Group Captain himself even got to try out the Military Knowledge stand run by CSM Josh Sekhon, on which he performed very well!. Once all sections had competed successfully we returned to school for the afternoon's parade and presentation.



Upon arriving back at School we were greeted by the unusual sight of a Royal Navy Merlin helicopter on the cricket pitch, courtesy of Old Bancroftian Lieutenant Nick Teece Royal Navy and 845 Naval Air Squadron, RNAS Yeovilton. After scrubbing mud off our kit we got the opportunity to have a look round and go inside the Merlin as well as speak to the crew. With most of the School gathered round the cricket pitch, the Merlin took off and, with the roof of the science block just about intact, we formed up in the Quad to demonstrate our drill before filing into the Great Hall. Once seated, senior cadets and staff gave a presentation on the Contingent's activities over the past two years. Following this and the prize giving, Group Captain Tait said a few words praising the efforts of the Contingent in representing the CCF both earlier that day and during the past two years.





Whitefield School Community Service

Sonali Arora L6N

Every Wednesday afternoon, a group of Sixth Form Bancroftians, including myself, assist at Whitefield School in Walthamstow, a school for special needs children, and I can confidently say that it has been a very rewarding experience.

I was fortunate enough to have volunteered at Whitefield last year, so when I heard that it was possible to return during L6, I was more than happy to accept. My initial reason for undertaking community service was to support and help the children, but the adults and children have in fact helped me. I had never worked at a special needs school before Fifth Form, so I was nervous about what the experience entailed. However, the wide variety of activities and lessons that I have assisted in, have enabled me to understand more about the education system and most

importantly, about how the children learn. Last year, I worked in a class with children around 8 years old, who could speak and hear, and so they participated in lessons similar to ours: maths, writing, art, music etc. However, this year I wanted to make a difference and help the children who cannot learn in this way. My class this year are aged 17-19, and unfortunately, are only mobile via wheelchairs, and have epilepsy and only partial vision.

On my first day, I was amazed by how friendly and happy both the staff and children were, so I didn't find it hard to adjust to the lessons and participate. They take part in sensory lessons, for example, watching films such as *Finding Nemo*, listening to music, finger painting, baking cookies and even wheelchair dancing! Every few months, there are also incredible events set up by the school, such as a Halloween party, an Easter market and tap-dancing performances. All of these help the children to learn, communicate, have fun

and smile. My personal highlight was making macaroni and cheese with the class, which helped me to see how exciting it is for them to cook and work together (but it also made me realise how bad my own cooking skills were!)

I have learnt a lot from my time at Whitefield School, both about teaching lessons and working with staff, as well as interacting and having fun with the children. It's not every day that you get the opportunity to make a difference in peoples' lives, so I strongly recommend for people to get involved as soon as they can! They are a group of motivated, cheerful, enthusiastic and extremely loving children, and the staff are also welcoming and happy to offer advice. I'd like to thank Miss Gadhvi for guiding us and allowing us to be part of such a rewarding experience, and I encourage all younger years to consider taking part in the Community Service programme, as I thoroughly enjoy what I do every Wednesday afternoon, and I'm sure you will too!

Cooking Up A Storm

Profile of John Barnard, Deputy Catering Manager

It was a coconut pyramid which shaped John Barnard's life! The Bancroft's Deputy Catering manager realised that his destiny was to cook when, at the age of 8, he arrived home from school having proudly made this sticky concoction of coconut, sugar and condensed milk.

John has held a varied roles in catering, including working at some very prestigious venues, such as The Savoy or under celebrity chef Gary Rhodes at City Rhodes; owning a fast food concession in a Romford night club and working for a patisserie which produced GÜ deserts, as well as deserts for airlines. John's arrival at Bancroft's was one of those happy accidents. His landscape gardening business (an interest in gardening had led him to obtain RHS qualifications) was a little quiet over the winter months so John took on temp roles in catering – one of which was at Bancroft's. The rest, as they say, is history.



He says that the best things about working here include being in such a beautiful building and dealing with the pupils who are "invariably polite and helpful". The worst? Last minute requests for packed lunches!

John sees his role as being partly to educate the pupils about food and the choices they make. Every year the Alphas descend on the kitchen when Marc, John, and the rest of the team explain what goes on behind the scenes and what is involved in lunch service at Bancroft's. Doesn't he get frustrated at fussy eaters? Not really, "I try to suggest other foods which they might try and aim to broaden their horizons." He wants Bancroftians to enjoy food, "The children here travel all around the world and they have the chance to try some amazing foods." John has acted as Judge for recent cookery competitions in School – Bancroft's Bake Off and Bancroft's Masterchef. His profile in School extends beyond the kitchen. A few years ago the CCF were off to Gibraltar for Army Camp and, due to the TA being deployed in Afghanistan, had to take their own cook with them. John rose to the challenge. Since then he has been rising to very different challenges on Adventurous Training when he swaps his chef's whites for boots, waterproofs and hard hat to join with the Cadets in caving, climbing or canoeing.



John has experienced working with top chefs in prestigious venues. How does the madness of School lunches – which involves serving almost 1500 covers daily in under an hour and a half - compare? He said that the Bancroft's team are still challenged, and are always striving to do better. He gave Taal as an example: the team have worked hard to make the curries served at Taal as authentic as possible knowing that there will be some real experts in the audience; "It was a great compliment to be told that our curry was better than that served by many Indian caterers. We now use the same recipe – toned down a little – for School lunches."

The Bancroft's team doesn't just provide lunches every day: the demand for function work has increased 36% and they get a chance to be a little more haute in their cuisine on events such as Visitation Day or the OBs' Annual Dinner.



From The PA – June 2017

Sally Fisher, PA Secretary



The PA is getting into the spirit of summer by hosting a 'Parents versus Teachers' Cricket match on Tuesday 13 June. Teams will have already been selected at the time of print, but you're very welcome to come and watch and enjoy a Pimms or two, whilst cheering on the teams. Drinks will be served from 5.30pm, with the match starting at 6pm.

Since we last wrote, the Parents' Association has raised another £500, primarily from the Scottish Dancing (Ceilidh) Night, which was held on a cold night in February. However, the feedback from the evening was overwhelmingly warm and positive, with many complimenting the live band, who had everyone on their feet all night. The only complaints were of very sore feet (and a few sore heads) the next day!

Planning is currently well under way for what is undoubtedly the most popular PA event of the Bancroft's calendar: the Summer Ball. Scheduled for Saturday July 1, this year's theme is *Diamonds are Forever*, with the dress code being sophisticated and glamorous. Drinks and canapés will be served in the Quad followed by dinner, a casino and live music from Hertfordshire's most "raucous" rock & pop Band - Fully Funktional. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

We're also very pleased to announce that our Bollywood Night is back again in November, so be sure to add Saturday 25 November to your diary, as well as Saturday 14 October for the ever-popular Quiz Night. Further details of both

events will be sent out at the beginning of next term.

As we approach the end of another busy academic term, there are also, sadly, a couple of terms coming to an end for two key members of the PA. Our Chair (Deepti Arora) and Vice-Chair (David Hough) have both served their three years as Officers and step down from their positions in the autumn. We will be welcoming new faces as Chair and Vice-Chair at the AGM in October. In the meantime, everyone on the PA would like to say a huge "Thank You" to both Deepti and David for their hard work and dedication to the PA over the past few years, and we wish them all the very best in their future plans.

And we wish all of you, a very wonderful summer.

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East House Olympiad

Sami Bashir, U6E

Thursday 27 May had its afternoon entertained by the East House Olympiad, a biennial charity event. Each pupil in East was organised into one of four teams characterised by a colour and an animal. The 226 participants took part in a plethora of events.

The relay events were the first activities and students hula hooped, three legged raced and wheel barrowed across the sports hall in order to secure their teams valuable points. There was also the



return of the famous tug of war, where Thirds could face the "World's Strongest Sixth Formers". The basketball challenge saw some eager contestants amassing as many hoops as possible within two minutes. The events extended past the physical into the mentally enduring with the maths, spelling, and paper tower building challenges. But perhaps the most interesting occasions of the afternoon were the Chubby Bunny Challenge (involving Thirds stuffing their mouths full of marshmallows) and Arram, England's strongest man (quite literally), shoulder pressing Mr Channer, East's Housemaster, for twenty reps.

The fifth East House Olympiad was a great success, largely due to the East House staff and students. Pupils were sponsored to compete in the Olympiad, and all the money raised will be going to Magical Taxi Tour which sends children with life threatening illnesses to Disneyland Paris for a three-day adventure.

I attended the "Big Breakfast" launch of the Magical Taxi Tour in the Winter Gardens in Canary Wharf in September when I had the delight of seeing terminally ill children enjoy a superb breakfast with their families, after which they departed in a long assembly of black cabs to Disneyland. The East House Olympiad greatly succeeded in both helping people and hosting an afternoon of fun.



Bancroft's and Avon House Ski Trip

Aurora Strong, 1LL

We teamed up with pupils from Avon House over the Easter holidays and skied for six days in Tonale, north-east Italy, arranged through PGL. On 1 April, we flew to Milan airport and embarked on a three and a half hour coach journey up the Dolomites. Tonale is one of Italy's highest resorts offering some 80km of high-altitude skiing. The Presena Glacier has a good variety of runs for both beginners and intermediates. I learnt in the nursery area which had wide beautiful open pistes as I was a beginner. We skied every morning and every afternoon and I grew more and more confident as the week went on.

We stayed at the traditional Savoia Hotel, which was a short walk from the town centre and 200m from the slopes. We shared rooms with our friends which was so much fun. There was also lots of apres-ski. We visited our neighbouring hotel the Miramonti for a Pizza Night and a disco. We also took part in a talent



show on another evening, a treasure hunt and a Quiz Night. There was always plenty to keep us entertained as well as movies and games to play.

The weather was fine but the snowfall had not been as good as predicted. Nevertheless, it was good enough for us and we did not hesitate to make the most of our time there. The teachers really looked after us and got

involved in the skiing as well as the evening entertainment. A big thank you to Miss Ellery for organising the trip and Miss Sylvester, Mrs Hewitt, Ms Moor and Mr Harrison for accompanying us.

It was my first trip abroad with the school and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The time flew by and I loved skiing so much, I am going back to Tonale next year.





Primary Maths Challenge

Half of our Prep 2 year group were entered for this year's Primary Maths National Challenge; 63,000 children participated across the UK.

This year's results are our best since the Prep School opened: four children gained gold medals, six silver and two bronze. Although our Prep 2s have always performed impressively in this demanding problem-solving competition, regularly reaching the later stages, we have never before had more than one gold medal per year. Congratulations to them all.



Prep 2s Go Outward Bound

Miss Laura Ellery

We decided to take the Prep 2s on a new adventure this year. Having already visited PGL in the Betas, we thought it was time for them to experience something new in the Prep 2s. We went to stay at the Outward Bound centre located in the stunning surroundings of Snowdonia National Park.

The children were able to take part in a number of challenges: gorge walking, rock climbing, scrambling, canoeing, mountain hiking, outdoor cook outs, conservation projects, picking and cooking mussels from the beach... The focus was on improving team work skills and strengthening their sense of independence and their resilience. They learnt loads about the environment they were in and explored waterfalls, mines, beaches, mountains, forests etc. A fantastic time was had by all! Nikhil in 2AA summed it up, "I loved the Outward Bound trip, it was an amazing experience and every moment was incredible."



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