



Bancroft's School Newsletter



Insight

www.bancrofts.org

SUMMER TERM 2018

Transforming Bancroft's Into An Eco-School

Aria Bapna, L4N

Newly established this year is Bancroft's very own sustainability team with the aims of helping and directing students and teachers to make Bancroft's an Eco-School. An Eco-School is built on the foundation of educating and empowering young people to make positive decisions and become change-makers for an environmentally sustainable world.

This achievement of becoming an Eco-school will be fully recognised when we obtain the 'Green Flag Award', which we are targeting to achieve within the next twelve months. This involves:

- promoting biodiversity
- reduce usage of electricity and water
- becoming litter free
- managing waste efficiently - reduce, reuse, recycle
- using greener methods to travel
- making the school grounds as green as possible
- promoting healthy choices

In the short amount of the time the team, which is made up of student from all year groups, has existed we have already improved the recycling within Bancroft's by stricter separation of recycling and regular collections of waste and, most importantly, with further educating of the staff. We are proud that Bancroft's has already been awarded the 'Bronze' award, which focuses on getting the Eco-Schools' structure set up so that Bancroft's has everything in place to tackle the eco work we plan.

To maximise biodiversity on school grounds, we have started various projects concerning the plants. Later this year an expert from Brogdale's is coming to do a site survey to advise us on the best plants for different parts of the school. Recently, we have introduced a gardening club which is focusing on clearing away the existing plants to make way for the new plants. From seeing a skipful of plants I can tell you we have been successful doing this. Bird, bat and insect boxes made by the pupils will also be put in our garden to promote the biodiversity.

Next month, the sustainability team will be visiting Audley End House and Gardens to see and understand how sustainable gardening



practices can be used to produce large yields of organic food. We will see how this food is used in the house itself, which will hopefully inspire us when we start work on our own school garden, but on a smaller scale!

We are excited to announce that the biggest thing yet is that from this September onwards we will be starting to go plastic free as a School. In the Prep they are already working towards this by reducing the use of single use plastic water bottles. This is an ongoing project so hopefully by the end of the school year we will be fully plastic free.



Inaugural Universities Fair

At the end of the spring term, we hosted our first ever Universities Fair. Representatives from twenty different universities visited and set up stalls in the Great Hall. Universities included: Nottingham, Bristol, Durham, Warwick, Cardiff, St Andrews, UCL, Birmingham, Southampton, Leeds and Essex. It was especially good to see so many Russell group institutions represented.

Year 12 students from neighbouring Trinity and Woodbridge Schools, as well as the Drapers' Academy in Harold Hill, joined our Fifth and Lower Sixth formers. Pupils got the chance to

talk to the various universities about courses offered, facilities, accommodation, UCAS and student life. They went away armed with prospectuses for perusal. Sophie, a Trinity pupil, said that the afternoon had given her a "broader understanding" of what was on offer while her friend, Jess, said it was great to be able to talk to the universities without travelling up and down the country! Everyone who attended, teachers and students, felt that it was a useful afternoon and a good place to start investigation into life after the Sixth Form. Serena's (L6W) comment was typical of the positive reaction from the pupils, "There was a good spread of universities represented at the Fair; it was a chance to find out about



universities which you might not have considered before."

We hope to run our Universities fair again next year, but make it bigger and better with more visitors from both schools and universities.



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Bancroft's First Anti Bullying Ambassadors

Jamil Haque, L6E (Anti Bullying Leader)

About a month ago the School arranged for thirty pupils in East House (ranging from Thirds to Lower Sixth Formers) to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for the Diana Award. This involved a training day which was run by a representative of the Diana Award Foundation, during which we did various activities from getting to know each other better to learning about the different types of bullying and how to deal with them.

This training was split into three sections: our introduction to what the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors were, learning about what constitutes bullying and, finally, how to deal with various bullying situations. The day began when we all made our way to the Great Hall and were introduced to Eleanor Marsea, our trainer. She explained about the Diana Award Foundation, a group set up to continue Princess Diana's legacy of believing young people have the power to change the world (which the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors seek to do). We were shown videos of Ambassadors from other schools as well as a few minor celebrity Ambassadors, such as Will Poulter. This helped us to get an idea of the type of things we could do as a group, from helping a child who feels excluded, to



hosting large scale charity events to help raise awareness of the problem of bullying. Eleanor went on to talk about her experience of bullying when she was younger and how she was picked on for various reasons. This inspired many of us to share our experiences with the group, a truly heart-warming activity that helped us to understand that we were all united in our distain of such cruel behaviour and its effects. Next we discussed what bullying really was and the three categories it is split into: verbal, physical and indirect bullying. We were each given scenarios to sort into one of these groups and then discussed why we had made our choices. We spoke about the signs of bullying and how to be aware of various physical symptoms in our peers as well as how to signpost our peers to get the support they might need. It was here that, as a group, we all realised that our role in the School was to help support anyone experiencing any form of bullying and make sure that Bancroft's becomes a safer environment where, eventually, a group such as ours will no longer need to exist. Shortly after this our training ended and we officially



all became Anti-Bullying Ambassadors on behalf of the Diana Award.

As a group we meet once every half term to discuss what we can do around School to combat bullying, from putting up student-made posters, to having a charity bake sale to raise both awareness and money for larger, more ambitious projects in the future. We are slowly trying to promote the anti-bullying message throughout the School and we are excited about spreading kindness and compassion.

Primary Science Fair

Our L6 scientists were in action last term at our Primary Science Fair when they entertained over two hundred visiting year 5 and 6 pupils from a wide range of local primary schools. This year the Fair took the theme of "Exploration and Discovery" which was reflected in the stalls organised by the Sixth Formers.

As ever, there was a huge range of interests shown: the Heart, Invisible Ink, Antibiotics and Diseases, Space Travel, Planet Exploration and Rocket Engines. The visitors particularly enjoyed the stalls which gave them the chance for a hands-on experience: the slimier the better. Dr Elizabeth Swinbank, Honorary Fellow in Science Education, University of York, who visited the fair and judged the stalls, was fulsome in her praise, "All the teams are to be commended for the energy and enthusiasm that they put into the event. Throughout



a busy and demanding day, they were clearly keen to engage with the visitors who clustered excitedly around all the stands, eager to see what was going on and to take part. There was a real sense of excitement amongst visitors and Sixth Formers alike."

In addition, the visitors spent time exploring aspects of all three major sciences: a chemistry show gave an introduction to



exploring chemical reactions; in physics they made their own rockets and launched them on the school field; biology gave a chance to discover how we, and other living things, use some of our senses.

Visiting pupils and their teachers were enthusiastic about the day. Mr Paul Bezant said that the children he brought with him from Aldersbrook Primary had been "really looking forward to the day" and had enjoyed all the activities, especially the chemistry and physics. Miss Andrews from Woodford Green Prep School said the Fair "gave the children experience of different levels of science. Most of them will be going to secondary school in September and is gave them a taste of what they have to look forward to."



Blacksmithing At Bancroft's

Anwar Jouhary, L6N



Blacksmithing is an ancient craft, older than most teachers, but one which is absent from our lives outside of popular culture. Whether it be from *Game of Thrones* or *Lord of the Rings*, most of us have heard of giant bearded men heating up a chunk of metal in huge pits of coal and striking it repeatedly with brute force to achieve something beautiful, such as a sword or candlestick. While these products of hard labour are what most associate with blacksmiths, they are the result of many years of work and dedication, taking a handful of basic techniques and refining them as well as producing the tools needed to create a final masterpiece.



Outside of my typically Bancroftian interests, such as mathematics, I wanted to experience the heat which so many have felt before, to know what it feels like to take a simple piece of metal and produce something much more. As a result of this desire, I have endeavoured to establish a Blacksmithing Society within Bancroft's. A small number of my friends and I, as well as Mr Salam who has been instrumental to this process, have built up the knowledge and experience with the craft within the School over the past two years. We have taken the hearth in the DT department and the discarded tools found beside it and utilised them to make very basic items.

One of my first efforts in blacksmithing was to create a handle for my GCSE DT project. At this point, I was inexperienced, to a lesser extent I still am, but through the process of study, emulation and experimentation, I produced something of which I was proud. Through the creation of this handle, I encountered obstacles, such as a severe breakage which, while initially disheartening, gave me that drive to continue and a valuable experience to learn from.

This year, being in L6, I was given a greater degree of freedom to pursue my interest in blacksmithing and I was able to set up the School's first Blacksmithing Society (that I know of) with a grand total of five members. During our meetings, we have been working on a project that we hope to finish by the end of the academic year. This project, while centred on blacksmithing, also utilises a degree of woodworking and may include a bit of leatherwork depending on the direction we decide to take.

The 28 February was an exciting day as Mr Salam arranged for a professional blacksmith to come into School and teach us some blacksmithing. The two extremes of the coal forge and copious amounts of snow outside blended to create an interesting sensation, one which could most aptly be called 'icy hot'. Aside from the valuable experience which we all gained, we also had words of wisdom imparted to us: namely that blacksmithing is the king of crafts, without it the carpenter would have neither his hammer nor chisel and most other crafts would not have the basic tools which facilitate the crafts themselves.

I hope this society continues after I have left as I believe an appreciation for manual crafts is vital to an understanding of where humans have come from. Such an appreciation is fading to near-extinction, especially among the youth of today, with a wasteful and materialistic culture fostering apathy towards unseen craftsmen and the worship of machines without souls.

In order to facilitate an appreciation that future generations may otherwise miss, I encourage those who may have even a tangential interest in blacksmithing to contact me about joining the society next year, be you teacher or student, you will be welcome; however there are a few rules, mainly: no swords/*pas d'épées/sin espadas*.

L4th Big Bang Fair Trip

Fawzan Siddiqui, L4S

The 16 March saw twenty-three lucky L4s embark on a bus ride to the NEC, Birmingham, to enjoy a few hours of The Big Bang Fair. Without a doubt, the event was more than worth the two-hour journey during which we all to endure Mr Ceeraz's and Mr Raw's science jokes. The gargantuan fair housed a showfloor of several stalls and stages, ranging from topics of solving maths problems to experiencing immersive virtual reality, as well as much more. Primarily, the trip was a chance for us to experience and learn more about physics, chemistry, and biology, however the Bancroftian scientists who went got the opportunity to engage in new areas.

Arriving at 10am meant we had around three hours in a place ten times the size of Bancroft's science fairs. To start with, my group queued to solve maths problems in the hope of unlocking and opening 'The Vault' (a metal box containing sweets). We lived up to the Bancroftian mathematician stereotype and answered each problem before the time ran out, seizing our prize with ease. In addition, some of us also attended the Energy Superhero interactive stand. During this, students took part in a quiz in which 'big questions' regarding energy conservation, fossil fuels and climate change had to be tackled, with the aim of becoming 'Energy Superheroes'. Apart from the free mask and other items that came with it, this particular stand was certainly fun, and was a good way of testing and expanding our knowledge. Finally, a most intriguing stand was STEMtastic's Simple Hovercraft; this taught how a real hovercraft works, making us understand the principles of it. This linked GCSE physics' skills with engineering, which is why it appealed to me, as it delved into concepts such as the effect of friction, air pressure, particles, energy, and forces. In the end, we could choose the materials most suitable for crafting a simple model hovercraft, design and construct it, and take it home.

These are few examples out of the multitude of stands and shows the Big Bang Fair had to offer. Mr Raw and Mr Ceeraz had organised a wonderful day of fun and learning. Upon returning to School from this worthwhile trip, we came to the definitive decision that collecting the numerous freebies we'd brought back was an unequivocal highlight!





Maths Feast Challenge

Mr Martin Flaherty, Head of Maths

On a Wednesday in March, a team of some of our finest U4 mathematicians headed off into Leytonstone to compete in the Further Maths Support Programme Maths Feast Challenge. The team consisted of Sara, Benedict, Jathusan and Max.

The competition consisted of three rounds with winners declared for each round and there were twenty teams in the competition which included stiff opposition from the likes of QE Barnet and KEGS. Nevertheless, the Bancroft's team emerged triumphant, winning two of the three rounds and the overall competition by a margin of ten points with a final score of eighty two. Mr Flaherty, team coach, therefore treated the victors to a well-deserved MacDonalds and the team brought back an autographed maths book for their mentor Mr Taylor.



L4 Go Behind The Scenes Of *Harry Potter*

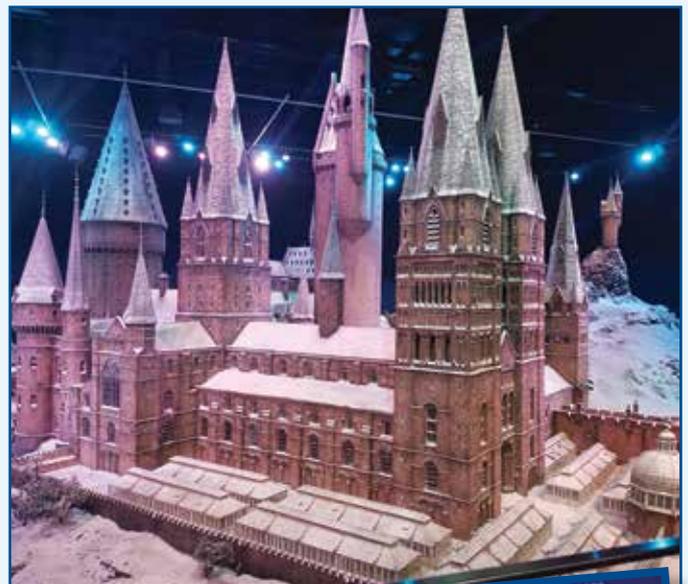
Akhila Natarja, L4S

The L4 art students went on a trip to the Harry Potter Warner Brothers Studios. The atmosphere in the coach was amazing with everyone eager to arrive. When we finally got there, we were greeted by an enormous Christmas tree and we moved into the iconic Great Hall of Hogwarts. The room was set for the Yule Ball with the Gryffindor and Slytherin tables laid out, giving a majestic effect. The doors opened, and we had the chance to have a look at the original props used in the *Harry Potter* films. We saw wigs, portraits, the Gryffindor common room, the wands and many other objects. We then split into two groups, and the first group went to have their workshop lesson first, while the other group completed their tour.

In the lesson, we learnt about the lengthy process it took to create some of the set designs - some taking six weeks - and the large number of people involved in their design. We looked at the props used in different sets and the atmosphere that was created. The most interesting part of the lesson was learning about all the different famous films filmed nearby. These included *Wonderwoman*, *Justice League*, *Fantastic Beasts* and *Where to Find Them* and *Kingsman*. The workshop took an hour, and I was really disappointed when we had to leave so that the second group could have their lesson.

When we were allowed to roam around and look further in the studios, we quickly lost ourselves in the magic of it all. We had to walk through the Forbidden Forest to get through to the next section and it was incredible! Mist and smoke swirled upwards, as we walked into the dark, past the acromantulas and their webs. We had a quick stop for some food and butterbeer, before continuing our way along the tour.

The model of Hogwarts at the end was exquisite, complete with snow, intricate designs and even Dumbledore's telescope. We all took lots of photos and visited the gift shop for souvenirs. The day was an extremely memorable one for all of us. Thanks to Mrs Vetta for organising the trip, and to all the other teachers who came along. We are all grateful for the opportunity to visit the studios, and we learned a lot about art and all the efforts put into the making of *Harry Potter*!





6th Form Spanish Study Trip To The BFI

Sonali Arora, U6N

A year after attending the BFI to watch *Volver*, we were delighted to hear that we would get the opportunity to attend another study day at the venue, and so the L6 and U6 Hispanists travelled to Waterloo, this time to learn about the Spanish Civil War and to watch Guillermo del Toro's famous film *El Laberinto del Fauno*.

The day started with an introduction to the film, conducted by the same two women who had led the day last year; it was great to have previously met the people to whom we would be listening. Working with activity packs, we analysed the origins of the film and the way of life during the Spanish Civil War. We learnt about how the War started and what the roles were for workers and women during that time. The hall was split into two groups, and every time they played a clip from the film, each group was assigned a certain aspect of the scene to analyse (for example sound, colour or facial expressions), and afterwards we shared our opinions.

After a rather hurried lunch break (which everyone spent queuing for Mexican snacks at a nearby Wahaca truck), we watched the film *El Laberinto del Fauno*, and it's fair to say that both the movie and the atmosphere were sensational.

The film is about a little girl called Ofelia, in a period five years after the Spanish Civil War, during the early Francoist period. A parallel is drawn between this real world and a mythical world to which Ofelia finds herself attached. She repeatedly enters an overgrown abandoned labyrinth where she meets a mysterious faun creature. The faun and several other strange and magical creatures become central to her story, leading her through the labyrinth whilst she undertakes challenges that the faun assigns her. Having previously explored the meaning of the film, it was a great opportunity to spot the political and religious references.

The study trip was definitely a success and we were thrilled to have learnt more about the history and the way people felt at that time in Spain, as well as appreciating a masterpiece of Spanish film. We'd like to thank Cristina, Miss Hancock and Mr Urreaga for organising the trip and making it possible, as it really was an invaluable experience.

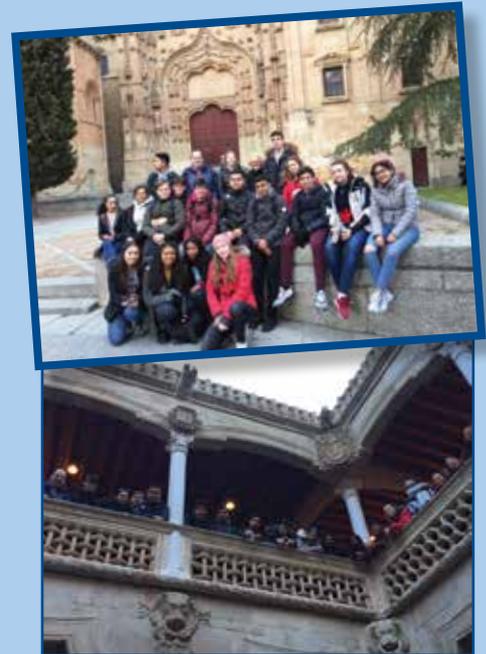
5th And 6th Form Spanish Cultural And Study Trip To Salamanca

Malini Sachdeva-Masson, 5N

During February half-term, a group of thirty three Fifth and Sixth Formers went to Salamanca to improve their Spanish skills, accompanied by Mr Urreaga, Cristina, Mr Gallagher and Mrs Hubbard. Over the course of the week the group had Spanish lessons with Mester, a language school in the city. The lessons were not much like those Bancroftians encounter during term time. They were fun, interactive and relaxed whilst being highly educative and helpful. For the Fifth Form who had their iGCSE oral exams coming up, spending the week immersed in Spanish culture was great preparation.

When we arrived at school in the morning of departure, anticipation and, for some, nerves, were felt. After spending the morning in Heathrow wasting our limited money on Wagamama's and gifts for our host families, we boarded the plane and set off to Spain. After arriving in Madrid, we had to take a coach to Salamanca, driving past Segovia and Avila which we would be visiting the next day. We were surprised to see so much snow and we made the most of the sunset/snow combination (anyone with social media would have caught a glimpse of the scenery!) We arrived in Salamanca at 7.30pm with our host families waiting for us in the cold, ready with their two kisses to welcome us. After being introduced, we all went back to our homes, dragging our luggage behind us, waving the 'I'm a tourist' flag to the city. After a late dinner, which surprised us all, falling asleep was our main priority as the day of travelling had been exhausting.

The next day was Sunday, so we did not have school, however we had to up early in the morning so that we could get to Segovia and spend the day there. After another long, but fun, bus ride, we arrived in Segovia where the main attraction is the enormous aqueduct which runs through the town. This towering Roman aqueduct was constructed with two tiers and 167 arches and has a total length of 2,667 feet! The other important sight was the restored 12th century castle *Alcázar de Segovia*. It is said that Walt Disney based his Disney castle on this medieval one. The Walls of Ávila in central Spain, completed between the 11th and 14th centuries,



are this city's principal historic feature. The fortifications are the most complete in Spain. The sheer size of them was breathtaking and our tour guide made sure we knew all the history behind it which was very interesting, but hard to follow as he spoke in Spanish all the time! The last thing we visited was the Cathedral of Ávila, which is in the Romanesque and Gothic architectural traditions and is incredibly beautiful.

Throughout the rest of the week we followed a routine of waking up, making our way to school, then back home for a late lunch and meeting up again for another hour of lessons in the afternoon. After the afternoon lessons we would have an excursion around Salamanca. For example, *La Plaza Mayor Casa de las Conchas* and the old cathedral. We had salsa lessons, ate *chocolate con churro* and took advantage of the sales in Zara during our free time. I think we all came home with slightly heavier suitcases after enjoying the sales a bit too much.

The trip was a huge success thanks to the organisation of the teachers and the cooperation of the group. Mr Urreaga was gifted a new bobble hat, among other things, by the group as a big thank you.





MFL Fayre

Callum Gandhi, L6E

On a cold snowy afternoon in March, the L6 MFL pupils prepared an afternoon of activities to give Bancroft's Prep School children and those from other local primaries a chance to immerse themselves in Modern Foreign Languages culture. The afternoon kicked off with a magnificent duet of *La Vie en Rose* by Emilia and Maaya from the Fifth Form then an exhilarating salsa starter-class from Caroline Hubbard and Isabella Lock, which gave the entire room French and Spanish vibes. After that each pupil was given a passport which they would get stamped as they visited every stall, 'travelling around Europe' to see what each culture brings about.

The many activities on offer were extremely diverse including flag-making and the building of paper chains on which pupils wrote 'hello' in different languages. There were many food stalls which were very popular, despite the fair being straight after lunch. These included a bread stall that gave the kids a chance to taste various breads from all over Europe, including the French baguette and brioche and the Italian ciabatta. Also, there was a food tasting stall where the children would guess where the food was from after having tried it. Unsurprisingly the most popular stall was the biscuit and cake decorating stall and many pupils instantly showed they had a sweet tooth. Overall, despite the wintry conditions, everyone enjoyed the Fair and it was a success! We learnt so much by planning this event as part of our MFL leaders' course run by Mrs Whalley. This included team-work, presentation skills and organisational skills. This event helped show young pupils why languages are fun as well as important in modern-day society.



Russian Pen-Pal Project



Dr Maria Harrington, Teacher of Russian

At the beginning of this year, the pupils in the Russian Department started a pen-pal project with one of the best schools in Moscow. The purpose of the Moscow school, which is affiliated with Lomonosov Moscow State University, is to bring together the most talented children in various academic subjects from all over Russia. The pen-pal project

was started to give the students of both schools an opportunity to practise their language skills and broaden their horizons regarding their knowledge of each other's countries and cultures.

The students take turns writing their emails; the Bancroftians write theirs in Russian on a topic set by their teachers and the Russian students correct the mistakes in them and send their reply in Russian. The following week is the English week; the Russian students write in English and the

Bancroftians, in their turn, correct their mistakes in English and reply in English on the topic set by the Moscow school. This is a fun way to find out interesting facts about each other's school experiences.

On special occasions students exchange real letters and postcards. Thus, the students from Bancroft's sent some postcards wishing their female pen-pals a happy International Women's Day. The Moscow students sent us all, including the teachers, cards wishing us a happy Easter.

We hope that the project will continue to be exciting and help our students practise their Russian and meet new friends.





Removes Easter Trip To Salamanca

Amber Fisher, RN



During the Easter holidays, fifteen Removes travelled to Salamanca in Spain. When we arrived, after a long and tiring trip, we met up with the families we were going to be staying with, and walked to their homes.

We stayed in groups of two and, luckily, all the houses were very close to the school at which we were going to be learning. We were pleased to be given a lot of independence during this trip, including walking back and forth to the school three times a day by ourselves. Unfortunately my roommate Ishani and I didn't pay enough attention when we were shown the way to the school (as we were enjoying the local culture), so the next day we couldn't remember and unfortunately ended up getting a little bit lost!

Each day we had a couple of hours of lessons, then went back to our host's house for a three hour lunch break, as the Spanish usually like to have their siesta at that time of day. In the afternoons, we appreciated some free time in the local square (in which we all enjoyed many ice-creams and *churros*), followed by a Spanish oriented activity. These activities were great fun, and I particularly enjoyed the salsa and cooking lessons. On the final day we had to wake up very early to visit a small village called Segovia to experience some local Spanish culture. We were given a tour to see the ancient buildings and visited a royal castle, which was actually a museum!

We had a fantastic five days and would all like to thank Miss Gadhvi for organising such a wonderful trip and Miss Hancock and Mr McGuigan for accompanying us and for all of their help too. ¡Muchas gracias!

MFL Society

Alex Dhayaa U4E (MFL French Representative)

Last term was a busy one for the MFL Society! We had a variety of talks, from cultural understanding to taster sessions. MFL was buzzing with new pupils and teachers whose interests were sparked.



We kicked off the term with a talk by Gayle Noah, an OB, who spoke about her experiences of studying a language at University as well as spending two years abroad! Her wisdom really helped us to understand what her experiences would have been like!

Adding to the cultural aspect of MFL, we had an engaging talk by Dr Harrington and the Russian language representatives discussing Russian Festivals. They discussed religious to ancient festivals and how they all came from the very roots of the country. Our tasterbuds were then satisfied by the delicious salad that was offered, which funnily enough Russians call French and the rest of us call Russian!

Putting the cultural element aside, MFL had many taster sessions ranging from Urdu to Dutch! We began the first taster session with Hasha Dar, who resembled an actual teacher, while teaching us all the Urdu alphabet and basic beginner words! With whiteboards, whiteboard pens and the often said phrase "repeat after me", the session proved a successful taster lesson! We then flew along to the Netherlands where Isabella Lock taught us all the skills and techniques in order to master the hard pronunciations of Dutch. She ended the talk with informative and interesting facts about the Netherlands, as well as offering us the country's speciality, sticky toffee waffles, which we all enjoyed greatly!

Other than the talks, the snacks, and the culture, MFL also has a magazine in which students are able to improve their language writing skills and explore new topics which interest them. The club runs every Tuesday from 4:00-4:30pm in Room 119, when students are able to write articles and send them in for editing. Even if you cannot attend, we still take in your articles with open arms!

¡Español En El BFI!

Davissen Thielamay U4E

On May 3, a group of Spanish students were lucky enough to visit the British Film Institute (BFI). The day promised to be exciting, and it was, with several Spanish themed exercises to put us through our paces. The day was split into two parts. The first being a workbook on two *cortometrajes*, *La historia de siempre* and *7:35 de la mañana*. Both films widened our Spanish horizons and improved our perspectives of Spanish culture. The workbook was equally motivating, with activities that tested our listening, reading, writing and other iGCSE skills.

After an interactive morning, we had the chance to view London from the banks of the Thames during our lunch. Following a relaxing and well-needed meal, we returned to the cinema for a *largometraje*, titled *No se aceptan devoluciones*. With the film being fully in Spanish, this provided a great opportunity for us to improve



our understanding of the language and, despite the prospect of a film screened in another language sounding tedious; it was a hilarious comedy that drew laughs from everyone.

The day was una experiencia inolvidable and if we had the chance in the future; we would definitely go back for another great day organised by a great MFL department.



U4 German Exchange

David Nana, U4S & Dami Ogundiya, U4N



On 9 March, nine U4 pupils waited outside the tower anticipating the arrival of our German exchange partners. For many of us, it wasn't the first time conversing with our exchange partners since we had taken the opportunity to get to know them beforehand via text. As soon as they got off the coach, we all determined that the upcoming week would be a week to remember. Instantly, we greeted them and their

excitement shone through their beaming smiles; we could tell they were as buoyant as we were. East House Family Evening was that night and a few of us decided to take our exchanges there, showing them a taste of Bancroft's culture. But for the rest of us, it was an early sleep as we prepared ourselves for what was to be a "wicked weekend".

So where should we all spend our first day with our exchanges? Westfield! On Saturday we met up at Westfield and all had lunch together (a classic British burger). The rest of the afternoon was spent exploring Westfield, as we went for a brisk walk around the Olympic Park, and shopping, of course. Before we left, we all had a game of bowling where some of us scored strikes, and some of us scored nil! It was an enjoyable night when we all got to know each other. West House Family Evening was the final event some of us decided to attend. What amazed us wasn't the performance (although we all had a wonderful time), but rather the fact that our exchanges were laughing at some "very" British jokes indeed. Foreign students laughing at British jokes? It left many of us with our mouths wide open.

On Sunday, although everyone was meant to enjoy time alone with their exchanges and family almost everyone ended up in central London, where we bumped into or narrowly missed each other.

During the week, the exchanges mostly went sightseeing during school time, though their presence was highly sought after by other students, due to their friendly and polite nature. Many parents allowed all eighteen of us to socialise under their roofs after school, and with everyone made spontaneous plans to go to restaurants, trampoline parks, and roller skating.

The week flew by quickly, and everyone dreaded their final day in London, so much that many exchanges promised to hide themselves in luggage or in our houses and to visit us any time they came to England. Their penultimate day in London was eventful to say the least, with many tears, hugs and goodbyes shared in our final moments together.

The whole exchange was an excellent experience, opening up several strong friendships between the people on the exchange and even with other Bancroft's students, so I can say on behalf of the whole exchange that we can't wait to visit them in Germany. Thank you to Ms Abbott and the staff of the German school for arranging this visit.

Lysistrata

Elise Crooks and Katie Challoner, L6S

On Wednesday 7 February, a group of Classics students led by Mrs Baker and Mrs Coyne, travelled to the Shaw Theatre in London to see Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*, performed by the UCL Drama Society and the Department of Greek and Latin. They present a Classical play in English translation each February which is approximately the same time as the *Lenaia*, an ancient Athenian dramatic festival.

This play has become the best known, most read and most staged of Aristophanes' eleven surviving plays, and is arguably the favourite Greek drama. It has also been the foundation of many anti-war movements. Reflecting in a light-hearted manner - albeit with serious undertones - the political situation of the time, more specifically the Peloponnesian war between Sparta and Athens, the play shows how the women from both areas attempt to end the war through the non-violent method of abstinence from intercourse with the men. Overall, it was very entertaining; the jokes were well received, indeed Mrs Baker could be seen (and heard) to be thoroughly enjoying the play! Furthermore, we all enjoyed seeing the strong female leads in contrast to the typical male protagonists which are found in a majority of plays. In the style of many Ancient Greek plays it involved much singing and dancing, adding to the lighthearted atmosphere, without detracting from the seriousness of the underlying message. This performance of *Lysistrata* was almost completely managed by students from UCL with help from staff, which is quite astonishing considering the scale of the task.

The play provided a great opportunity not only to enjoy live acting of a highly acclaimed ancient work, but also to reflect on the relevance of the play to our lives. Although civilisation has vastly changed, we have retained a remarkably similar ability to appreciate the same humour as people living over 2000 years ago, proving we may share more in common with the Ancient Greeks than we care to admit.

Building A Greek Temple

Marisol Rojas, L4N

Last term, I was assigned a task to design my own Greek temple for my Classical Civilisation homework. We had a couple of weeks to complete it, which gave me the idea of doing something quite challenging: a 3D design of a Greek temple for Apollo. I paired up with Constance Ding who drew neat plans of the inside and sketched them into full detail while I made the outside in 3D.



The main structure of the temple was made from packaging from Christmas presents and papier mache. I started off by using a box for the base and I folded cardboard to create stairs, papier mache-ing it all afterwards. For the columns, I stuck corrugated cardboard around cardboard rolls that were left from wrapping paper to represent the engraved 'dips'. I decided to make ionic columns so for the 'scrolls' I used corrugated card, again, rolled on either side of the column. The scene on the pediment is made of purely papier mache. I painted everything white to make it look minimalistic and clean.

This task challenged me but also showed me what you're able to do if you put a lot of effort into something. I impressed myself and learnt more about the architecture of Greek temples.



Drapers' Hall Concert



All the Bancroft's musicians love when the Drapers' Hall concert comes around because it is a good day out from School. Everyone appreciates chilling in a gilded room, eating chicken and chips, but it's only when standing in the corridor, listening to the performances, waiting for your cue that one remembers the gravitas of this annual occasion.

For me, Drapers' has acted as marker of my time in the music department, beginning with my first time in Big Band blasting out *Mambo* on the trombone, or the year after playing *Night on the Bare Mountain*. Drapers' Hall marked my first performance with the Bancroft's Barbers, when we paused too long before the last chord and everyone applauded early, then the following year the Drapers' Hall event was one of the first performances of the newly founded Bancroft's Balladeers. My highlight from all of it has to be this final time, when I had the privilege of singing a solo from *The Marriage of Figaro*. I guess, whilst I joke about missing half a day of lessons, what really makes Drapers' so special is performing beautiful music in such a beautiful space.

Tom Dean, U6E

My first concert at Drapers' Hall was memorable for all the right reasons. The beautiful surroundings were of course a bonus, but I wasn't expecting the wonderful acoustics. It gave me particular pleasure to present such a varied programme of music, with all the age ranges represented across the School from the top of our Preparatory Department right through to U6



Extra special memories were created with solos from Aabha Patel (Flute) and Tom Dean (Baritone) both in their final year at Bancroft's. Special thanks to my departmental colleagues Caroline Foinette and James Kelsall for steering me through, and now my first Drapers' Hall is done I can look forward to creating more memories, in fact I am already planning for next year!

Mrs Julia Whitbread, Director of Music

Redbridge's Got Talent

Jo, RS

On Friday March 16, I took part in Redbridge's Got Talent 2018. Singers, dancers and musicians took part to perform and showcase their talents, and overall it was a really fun experience!

When I arrived at the Hawkey Hall, there was a definite feeling of excitement and tension in the air with the photographer running around to take pictures of all the performers with the Mayor. There were dancers finding random corners in which to practise and enthusiastic parents fighting for the front row. I was feeling nervous as I had never been in a competition like this before.

When it was my turn to perform, it was rather daunting because it was pitch black and the spotlight was on me.

Unfortunately, I was also suffering from a cold but it did not hinder me too much! I played *The Rustle Of Spring* by Christian Singing and *A Children's Song No. 18* by Chick Corea.

At the end of the performances, we were all called out onto the stage to find out who had won the Best Dance Routine, Best Solo and Most Promising Act. As the winners for the categories were announced, I didn't think I would stand a chance of winning anything at all. When they announced my name as the Overall Winning Champion I was stunned!

I am glad that I was encouraged by Miss Wainwright to enter the competition as the experience has boosted my confidence and the belief that success starts with the courage to pursue your dreams. I have since taken the next step to audition for the Junior conservatoires and was surprised to receive offers from the Royal



Academy of Music, Royal College of Music and Guildhall School of Music. It has been an eventful and rewarding year so far, and I am excited to see what comes next!



Taal 2018

Friday 16 and Saturday 17 March saw over 250 pupils from the Thirds to the Upper Sixth take part in the annual *Taal* event. With its fusion of dancing, music and acting, *Taal* is more than just another School production, it brings a touch of Bollywood colour and glamour to Bancroft's. Over sixteen years it has grown to become an integral and much anticipated fixture of our calendar as well as an important part of our cultural life. The event is totally student driven with members of the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Muslim Society (HSBM Society) writing, choreographing and directing the event. Pupils take on full responsibility for everything, from finding sponsorship from local businesses to sourcing costumes.

Taal president and U6 pupil, Daffodil Dhayaa, said how important *Taal* has become to her,



"I've been involved in *Taal* since the Thirds, either through acting or dancing. The most rewarding part of it is seeing the cast grow, the dances develop and the actors gain confidence. The sense of accomplishment that came with seeing the production we had put together is indescribable." Daffodil wrote this year's *Taal* play, which was a loose modern day adaptation of *Aladdin*, complete with Genie, played with exuberance by Thevaguru Swarnaprabna.

Taal is a major fund raiser for charities and this year it supported three charities. United World Schools is transforming the lives of some of the poorest and most vulnerable children in the World through educational opportunities; money raised will support Bancroft's partner school in Cambodia. Pan Asian Women's Association provides education for teenage girls in 32 Asian countries aiming to lift these girls out of poverty. SOS Children's Villages aims to give



orphaned and abandoned children a family, a community and a future. This year *Taal* raised an incredible £27,000 (twenty seven thousand pounds) to support these three very worthwhile causes.

Councillor Linda Huggett, Mayor of Redbridge, attended the Saturday night's performance, which was preceded by an Indian meal prepared by the Bancroft's catering team. She enthused about the evening, "I was so pleased to have been invited to *Taal*. The students showed so much talent and enthusiasm and gave a magical theatrical performance full of wonderful music and dancing. Cultural events like this help bring our communities together and help us celebrate the cultural diversity which is in the Borough." Our Head, Mr Simon Marshall, said that *Taal* was a "wonderful celebration and a tremendous student-led effort. It was also a fantastic achievement to raise so much money for charities."

Bancroft's On Broadway

Liv Mayo, L6N



On Friday the 23 February, members of the Sixth Form, with help from some extremely talented members of the lower years, put on Bancroft's first ever Bancroft's on Broadway. The event began with a reunion of some of the cast of last year's *Sweeney Todd*, with a rousing rendition of the opening ballad. That was followed by expertly performed renditions of musical theatre songs from a wide range of different shows. The audience was treated to a performance of *I Just Can't Wait to be King* by three of our very talented thirds, Alex Ngassa, Giaan Menger and Amber Chowdhury, who all performed in the Prep School production of *The*



Lion King last year. Their musical excellence and stage presence left many members of the audience in awe and were undoubtedly the favourites of many!

The kaleidoscope of songs, from a joyful and uplifting rendition of *Mamma Mia!* from our Sixth Formers (clad in fluffy onesies) to heart-rending performances of some of Broadway's most emotional songs (notably Susannah Bramwell's rendition of *Still Hurting* from *The Last 5 Years*) captivated the audience and left them laughing with joy one minute and shedding a tear the next. Mr Young's fabulous compering helped to ensure that the event ran perfectly.

The evening was a great success. The raffle, with prizes from tickets to the West End production of *Dreamgirls* to £1000 worth of travel vouchers, generated over £300 from ticket sales. Including donations to our online fundraiser page, the total amount raised for two incredible charities, Cancer Research UK and Young



Minds, exceeded £800 (way over my £100 target). The money raised will help fund vital work in finding a cure for cancer, and supporting those working with children in need of mental health care and support.

On a personal level, directing and performing in the event was a wonderful and fulfilling experience and most importantly it raised a large sum of money for two charities that are close to my heart. The evening would not have been possible without the support of the very talented Ms Middleton. We are considering putting on another production in the next school year, which I hope will be every bit as successful as the first.



The Winter's Tale – Senior Production



Our Senior production this year was *The Winter's Tale*, possibly best known for containing the most infamous stage direction

in Shakespeare's works, "Exit pursued by a bear", but Miss Gartland's production was so much more, giving a modern twist to this classic tale of love and loss in a world in which miracles can, and do, happen.

Miss Gartland had assembled a talented cast of Sixth, Fifth and Upper Formers and drew out some admirable performances. Suzi Bramwell gave a beautifully nuanced performance as Hermoine, encapsulating all facets of her character: devoted mother, gracious queen, wronged wife. It is difficult to feel much sympathy for her husband King Leontes; in the first half of the play Tom Dean showed him as alternating between callous tyrant and spoilt brat; however, when reunited with his wife and daughter he brought a sense of wonder and tenderness to the role. Emilia Hitching was businesslike and practical as Paulina, calmly manipulating events, and, together with Camillo (Jake Botha), orchestrating the denouement. There were charming cameos from Removes, Josie Grimsell and Zaki Lodhi, who alternated the role of Hermione's and Leontes' ill-fated son, Mamillius.

The contrast between the warmth of Bohemia and the wintery coldness of Sicilia was drawn out by Malini Sachdeva-Masson as Perdita, who was paired charmingly with Luis Black's Florizel. The latter's youthful idealism was, in turn, set against the cold conservatism of his father Polixenes (Jeremy Howard-Grau). The comic characters are not always well served in *The Winter's Tale* but Louis Japaul (the con artist Autolycus), together with Daniel Lockely and Harry Lorrell worked hard, displaying much energy in their roles.

Although individual performances were strong throughout, Bancroft's productions are always notable for the strength of their ensemble work. Congratulations must go to all the cast as well as the ever efficient backstage crew. It was clear that a great deal of hard work had gone into this first class production.

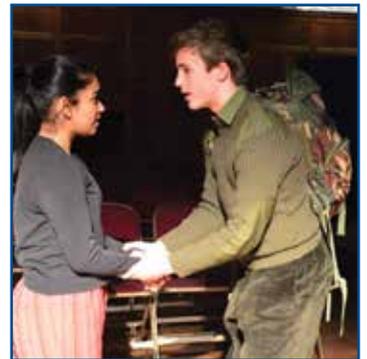


As for that famous bear, it would be safe that the way in which Antigonus met his death brought a novel interpretation to the moment, but in the context, of this production made perfect sense!



Hamlet - Middle School Production

An exceptionally talented group of L4 and U4 students treated us to a fantastic production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. This was the first Middle School Production at Bancroft's for several years. It was led by a tour-de-force performance by Martha Grimsell, as Hamlet, supported by an able cast who gave us mature and considered performances. Centred around the forbidden relationship between Hamlet and Ophelia (played passionately and intelligently by Pasha Parmar) this production was innovative and modern making good use of an industrial soundtrack, featuring the likes of Radiohead and Nine Inch Nails, as well as live music. The stripped back production ran for a mere ninety minutes but lost none of Shakespeare's drama and intensity.



Standout performances included Emily Christaki's fierce interpretation of Gertrude, Gauri Godbole's comic turn as a bumbling gossip Polonius, and Theo Life's guilt-ridden East-End gangster Claudius. Highlights included a ferocious fencing match between Hamlet and Laertes (played by Benedict Hughes), which had been arranged by L6 pupil Hasha Dar and an ensemble physical theatre piece, created in collaboration with Frantic Assembly Theatre Company, as a replacement for *The Mousetrap*. Special mention must go to Hamlet herself, Martha, whose faultless, deeply moving, and highly original interpretation of this complex and challenging character will be remembered at Bancroft's for many years to come.

This was an ambitious and daring interpretation of what many consider to be not only Shakespeare's finest work but also the finest play written. Many congratulations to cast, crew and Mr Sugarman, the Director, for giving us a superb, thought provoking production.





U13 Gresham's Hockey Weekend

Mr Jonathan Prole

Our Removes boys' hockey squad travelled up to Gresham's School, in Norfolk, for an intensive weekend of hockey at the end of last term. They played nineteen matches in three days, placing a predictable last in the indoor section, but achieving a commendable fourth out of sixteen teams in the outdoor tournament. Mr Jonathan Prole, who coaches the team, said, "As you might expect, their hockey improved markedly and it will be a valuable experience for them in the future."

Apart from the busy programme of hockey, the boys enjoyed the sunny weather, playing games of football with the staff and sunbathing like seals around the pitches. The accommodation and catering were pretty impressive, with Mr Prole claiming that he "may have come back a couple of pounds heavier myself!" They also managed to take a trip to Sheringham, a small coastal village where the boys dipped their feet in the sea and ate giant ice-cream cones. They ventured out to the event disco on Sunday night, where loud music and dancing were the order of the day.



Mr Prole, who helps to coach the Redbridge team, said that he hoped that the majority of the team would attend trials for the U14 borough hockey team, that will be competing in the annual London Youth Games at Crystal Palace as "they would prove invaluable to the squad."

Netball Coaching With Sasha Corbin

Tomisin Awoyode 3N

On Friday 9 March, the much-anticipated day arrived as England netball international, and Benecos Mavericks' captain, Sasha Corbin came to Bancroft's to visit and coach the Thirds girls.



We were all very excited to finally meet Sasha as she was meant to come the week before, but she couldn't make it due to adverse weather conditions. Sasha is vastly experienced and plays centre and wing attack for both Mavericks and England. She watched us play, taught us some new tricks, and gave us tips, such as the back drive and how to successfully secure a centre pass, which we all appreciated. After this, she took some of our questions, and then we took photos with her! It was a great, helpful and enjoyable experience. Thanks to Ms Nelson and all our netball teachers for inviting her!



Netball Report

Miss Kandis Nelson, Head of Netball

The netball term this year has been a very busy one. Despite the unpredictable weather, we were able to field fixtures for all teams across all year groups. The level of performance across schools in the area, including our own, has improved this year, bringing us tougher competitions. We had some wins and some losses in our domestic fixtures and competitive tournaments.

Special congratulations to our Senior 1st team who not only played weekly fixtures but also made it to the quarter finals of the Essex Cup and SMILES Independent Schools Netball Plate, as well as being successful in reaching the regional rounds of the National Schools' Tournament. Further congratulations to the U14s who competed in the Essex Cup competition and were sadly beaten by our local rivals Forest in the quarter finals. They too made it through to regional round of National Schools.

We have also had individual achievements from some of our students outside of School. Charlotte Seaton, Lottie Gillet and Neha Pillai were all successful in being part of Benecos Mavericks' youth performance pathway, while Anna Francesca-Hammond and Victoria Morgan-Couch were selected for the Surrey Storm youth performance pathway.



I have really enjoyed being Head of Netball this year and have been very impressed with the pupils' effort, attitude and commitment to the sport. I hope the additional opportunities have inspired them to continue to play netball at their highest level. Although I will not be here next year I look forward to hearing all about the netball success at Bancroft's.



Netball Super League

Miss Kandis Nelson, Head of Netball

Miss Johnston and I took twenty Thirds girls to watch a Netball Super League Match: Surrey Storm vs Benecos Mavericks. For some of the girls it was their first time ever watching an elite netball match live! They were very excited and loved every minute of the game. What was even more exciting was the game going into extra time as it originally ended on a draw. This meant that they had to go into extra time playing 7 minutes each way. Benecos Mavericks took the game away and won 64-62.

It was a very eventful night for our Thirds and they even had the pleasure of meeting some of the Surrey Storm players! I hope this will



give them some inspiration in the future for those who want to take their netball to the highest level.

Lea Valley U14 Karate Championships Samah Shines In The Copper Box!

Samah, 3S

During the Easter holidays I got through to the finals of the U14 Lea Valley Karate Championships which was held at the Copper Box, having been competing for a couple of months in multiple qualifying rounds. I am currently a brown belt with one stripe and I train at the Lea Valley Karate Centre. In this event I had to take part in a one-on-one challenge match which was hard enough but this was then followed by a two-on-one and then a three-on-one challenge!

On the day it was really tense and tough as I had to fight in the U14 category even though I am an U12. It was a knock-out format so that only the winner of each bout would progress to the next round. The winner of the bout is decided by the number of points a competitor earns by hitting different areas of the body. After many bouts I emerged as the overall champion which was absolutely amazing! I received a trophy for coming first and an award for being the Most Improved Fighter! It was a terrific opportunity and I would definitely recommend starting karate even if you don't think you are good enough as it is really good fun and you don't actually get hurt! It's also very good for self-defence and makes you feel good about yourself.



Bath Cup 2018

Dora Zhou, L6W

On Friday 9 March, Bancroft's took a team of boys and girls to participate in the Bath Cup, a National Schools Swimming Competition staged at the London Aquatics Centre, Stratford. In reaching the fourth year of our participation in this event, it has officially become a highlight in the school's swimming calendar. The annual competition is fierce, with eighty schools from across the country participating.

This year, the boys' squad, consisting of William Bolitho, Zac Tiller, Thomas Liu, Oscar

Saharoy and Savraj Thethi, competed in the 4x100m Freestyle Relay and the 4x50m Medley Relay. The boys managed to shave off an impressive ten seconds from the previous year, achieving a time of 2:19:97. Their solid performances also led to some new personal bests.

The girls' squad of Dora Zhou, Neha Pillai, Berfin Laursen, Holly Timmis and Kaitlin Lovell also competed in the 4x50m Medley Relay. As well as securing first-place position in their heat with a time of 2:15:09, they also broke the school record for this event. Additionally, the girls obtained PBs multiple times from their performances in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay.

All in all, the Bancrofts' team concluded the day with four excellent swims and left armed with the determination to achieve even quicker times at next year's Bath Cup.





London Swimming League

Kaitlin Lovell, 3E

On the 15 March, the crack U12 and U13 swimming team of nineteen girls and boys journeyed to Latymer Upper School for the finals of the North London Swimming League against five other schools.

We competed in twenty-seven different races, winning four of them. This outstanding team performance meant that we came third overall, securing us a place in the finals where we will compete against the top three schools from the south of London later this year in June.

Particular highlights of the day included Neha Pillai and Kaitlin Lovell winning first place in the 100m Freestyle and 50m Backstroke respectively, setting new school records in the process. Other highlights include Ley Iko coming first in the 50m Breast and the Year 8 Freestyle team won their relay race. Congratulations and commendation must also be given to Daniel Fostiak who swam in the 50m Freestyle race. Although he did not win his race, he achieved a new personal best by 2 seconds.

The part of the day which gave us most fun was the squadron relay which involved sixteen swimmers each swimming one length of the pool because everyone did their best and it was very loud. It was a thoroughly enjoyable, marvellous experience. A great achievement by the dedicated team of swimmers. Here is to more Bancroft's swimming success! Go Bancroft's!

My Swimming Experience At Bancroft's

Kaitlin Lovell, 3E

I started club swimming at the age of ten at the London Aquatics Centre, the home of swimming at the 2012 London Olympic Games. At clubs the focus of training is mainly speed and stamina and there is no substitute for hours spent in the pool. I did many two-hour sessions just swimming up and down as fast as I possibly could. More recently I have been swimming four to five sessions a week. With this amount of training my performance and stamina began to improve, but I also started developing a lot of uncomfortable shoulder and knee pain.

When I joined Bancroft's, I started swimming with Mrs Cheshire, who quickly noticed that although I was fast, my stroke was incorrect, and therefore I wasn't swimming at my full potential. Over several weeks Mrs Cheshire gave me focussed individual tuition to take me through each of the four strokes and correct each thing I was doing wrong. At times it could be really frustrating as I hadn't understood that what I was doing was not correct, and I had to change habits that had been firmly ingrained with all the swimming I do. However, I have noticed a definite improvement in my times, meaning that I am getting a lot faster, and the shoulder and knee pain have both gone. I may have got a bit frustrated at the time with having to go back to basics to correct my stroke, but swimming with Mrs Cheshire and receiving the one-on-one coaching attention has been a brilliant opportunity and is immensely beneficial to my stroke technique, and therefore to my performance in the pool.

Krishan And Tomisin Take A Step Closer To Wimbledon!

Miss Amanda Wainwright, head of Tennis

Forty five Bancroft's tennis players stepped onto the Road To Wimbledon once again this year and competed for the chance to progress to the County Championships. It is an U14 event but we had players from the Prep 2s, 3rds, Removes and L4th playing against each other in a round robin format which was followed by a series of knock-out phases plus several plate events.

The boys' event saw Krishan Parmar, Oliver Kelley, Kieran Petrie and Momin Ali make it through to the semi-finals where Krishan and Kieran overcame their opposition to book a place in the final. The rallies were long with Krishan putting his strong forehand to good use and Kieran using his phenomenal athleticism to cover the court with seeming ease. In the end, Krishan had one shot too many for Kieran and he emerged victorious with a 4-1 win.



The girls' tournament was an incredibly close affair with many of the group and knock-out matches being decided by sudden death points. The semi-final places were booked by Tomisin Awoyode, Maha Dannawi, Letitia Saravanapavananthasivam and Simran Chadda. It was Tomisin and Letitia who progressed to the final and what a roller coaster of a match it was. Tomisin stormed off to a 3-1 lead with her almighty topspin forehand creating difficulties for Letitia. She held 2 match points but Letitia calmly saved them both before going on to level proceedings at 3-3, taking the final to a tie-break. Level pegging for most of it, Tomisin reached match point again at



6-4 but Letitia would not give up! Back she came to 6-5 before Tomisin hit a beautiful inside out forehand winner to claim the trophy.

The events were once again sponsored by Bancroft's parent, Mr Mike Wood, of "Freedom" and I am ever so grateful to him for all his unwavering and enthusiastic support. Tomisin and Krishan now go on to the County Finals where they will compete for the chance to play on the grass at Wimbledon!



Bancroft's RAF Compete In AST Trophy

On a rainy Saturday, twelve of the Bancroft's RAF Contingent cadets and NCOs gathered under the tower, ready for the East of England heat of the Air Squadron Trophy competition.

During the journey to RAF Honington, Cpl Tom Dean went through our drill routine with us, explaining how to do the various sequences we would soon be carrying out

in front of an RAF sergeant. The competition consists of various rounds: drill routine and kit inspection (all twelve members performing a series of commands in sync, whilst also being scored on their uniform); fitness test (a 'bleep test' carried out by four members of the squadron); a command task (a puzzle to solve involving working as a team and communication skills); a first aid test (four squadron members were given scenarios to which they reacted accordingly); a shooting test (in which we were scored upon accuracy of firing), and

written and computer tests on RAF history and aircraft recognition. These aspects of the competition are all highly enjoyable and allowed us to make use of skills that we do not always have an opportunity to demonstrate on a Tuesday after School. I feel that we worked together nicely as a team, and were placed a very respectable fourth overall. I certainly enjoyed myself, and would like to thank Dr Hunn, Miss Stewart and Miss Brand for their help in our preparations leading up to the day.

Top Award For Bancroft's CCF Commander

Rob Hitching, Contingent Commander of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), was one of 43 London Reservists and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers to be recognised by the Lord Lieutenant for Greater London for outstanding service to London's Reserve and Cadet Units. He was named as recipient of the GL RFCA Award to the Most Outstanding Combined Cadet Force Contingent Commander 2017. The award was presented by the Lord Lieutenant of London, Sir Ken Olisa OBE, at the Greater London Reserve Forces' And Cadets' Association Lord Lieutenants' Awards held on 15 March.

Major Hitching, who has served as Bancroft's Contingent Commander for ten years, was given the award on the basis of a glowing citation from SSI Damien Pascal. The citation highlighted his tireless work, commitment, and "determination to

ensure that the Cadets get the very best experience that can be squeezed into a very busy school calendar." Damien Pascal also wrote, "The programme offered is diverse and challenging and much appreciated by the approximately 100 cadets of all ages and experience who attend. The programme is varied and ensures that every level of experience is catered for and plenty of opportunity is given to more senior cadets to develop their skills of leadership. He will always also go that extra mile to ensure the programme is full and exciting."

U6 pupil and Contingent Sergeant Major, Ben Harris, said, "I think it's fair to say that my years in the CCF would not have been half as good without Major Hitching. He has always been fully supportive of all the cadets and helped them to get the most out of the CCF calendar. Major Hitching is the driving force and without him it would not be possible. His award is well deserved."

Not only is Major Hitching the Contingent Commander, but he is also Housemaster of School House as well as teacher of Geography and Politics. "That he seems to manage both equally effectively and impressively is a testament." (Damien



Pascal). The citation concluded, "I would say Bancroft's School is an incredibly lucky school to have such an Officer in charge of their Contingent." Any Bancroft's staff and pupils who have been involved in the School CCF will echo this sentiment.

Major Hitching himself commented, "I am both honoured and genuinely surprised to receive the award. The success of the Contingent lies with the cadets and the staff as a whole and my part in it is just one element. It is always nice to have a pat on the back and I see this as just that both for me but more broadly for the efforts of the cadets and staff who have been involved in the CCF at Bancroft's over many years "

CCF Field Day

Anissa Patel, L6S

Early in the morning of 26 March the CCF contingent met at school to travel to Thetford Forest to undertake a fun day of activities at Viking Laser Sports centre. Being a L6 cadet, this was my second time participating in this trip so I knew what to expect, however the excitable L4 and U4 cadets were looking forward to an enjoyable day off from School!

When we arrived, we were placed into designated groups, with a range of pupils

from L4 all the way to U6. This was a great experience as it allowed us to get to know other students from different year groups that we would otherwise not mix with.

The first activity my group took part in was by far the best of the day: the laser tag ambush. This consisted of the group being divided into two and playing a laser tag battle amongst abandoned buildings and caravans. This always proves the most popular with the cadets using simulated kills and hits to win the ambush! After this we were whisked away to learn how to battle with lightsabres with a Jedi and then with swords and horned Viking helmets which was a new experience for everyone but very entertaining.

Following on from this, we were taken to the airsoft area where we practiced our room clearance skills with spherical plastic BBs launched from replica weapons, proving to be a very energetic and fast-moving

activity. This imitated the pressures in a real-life situation. Finally, to end an amazing day out, our group concluded with a practice patrol activity with laser guns which was a useful insight into the patrols carried out at army camp in the summer.

After an action-packed day exhausted and tired, we all boarded the coach back to School and most of us fell asleep. It was a fun day and I for one will be sad not to be able to attend the next field day here.





Adventurous Training 2018

Holly Cohen, U4W

During the 2018 Easter break, Bancroft's CCF set off to the Lake District. After a tiring six hour coach journey, we arrived and excitedly unpacked our bags at the Thurston Outdoor Centre in Coniston. This would be our base for the next week.

Our first full day commenced with a delicious breakfast, followed by our choice of activity which included rock climbing and abseiling, potholing, gorge walking, canoeing, caving and mountain biking. I chose gorge walking, which I thoroughly enjoyed. However, jumping into a pool of freezing cold water at the end and managing to lose both my wellies was an experience I will never forget. Thankfully our instructor Pete dived down and retrieved the lost wellies from the bottom of the pool!

The next two days were filled with further new and exciting activities of our choice. I personally was lucky to experience caving and my favourite highlight was crawling through "the cheese press", a narrow crack in the rock. I will also never forget the thrill of abseiling down a 50m rock face or almost falling off the giant paddleboard! After very full days, our evenings were more relaxed. After dinner back at the centre we had time to chill, play table tennis or pool in the barn or watch the sunset down by the lake.

On our fifth, sixth and seventh days, we left the centre to embark on a two night camping trip with our rations and supplies. The days were spent walking mountainous routes using our navigation skills, exploring the breath taking scenery and taking in memorable views. The whole trip was an opportunity to experience different and challenging activities, gain useful skills, make new friends and take home memories to treasure.



DofE Gold Expedition

As part of every Duke of Edinburgh award expedition, the groups have to set themselves an aim. Rather than just walking, they have to spend part of their time working on fulfilling this aim. This year Group 7, one of our girls' groups, set themselves the task of writing as poem to catalogue their experiences in Snowdonia on their Gold qualifying expedition. This is what Maisie, Laeticia, Charlotte M, Lily, Elise, Charlotte R and Lizzie came up with.

We spent half term climbing mountains in Wales,
At first were worried about forecasted gales.
Storm Brian was set to last,
As we had two days to practice using map and compass.
The practice days were a bit of a drag,
And we weren't looking forward to walking with our real bag.
But it was useful to experience boggy terrain
Which was nothing like we'd see before, or ever again.

Day one we were off! Couldn't say we were excited,
It was our last expedition though, and in that we delighted
But soon the rain came and hard it fell
Getting under our waterproofs - we were cold as hell.
So grumpy and wet only ten minutes in
The rest of the journey was looking grim
We continued onwards through fog
But our route soon changed from track to bog
The first Charlotte fell, which was a usual thing
Quickly Lily came to help as Lizzie stood by laughing
We wished we were on real paths, ha! In our dreams!
When in reality we were walking up streams
There were swamps under our feet and in our shoes
But we sung *Shrek* to lighten the mood
Here Lily went over the mud with ease
But Choggers fell in, up to her knees
To the rest of us all this was all very funny
As Charlotte tried to get herself up in a hurry
Elise tried to help pull her out of the mud
But didn't want to fall in herself with a thud
We were all laughing too much to be of much aid
But we carried on to where our next tagpoint laid.
The weight of our bags was the least of our worries
As we waded through streams and scaled down quarries.

Slate cracked under our feet like broken glass
Soon we'd be back on the grass... nope, a marsh.
The wind whipped round, slashing our faces
As we struggled to see or tie our shoelaces.
We had to keep going, as our feet were sinking
And it was hard for us to keep up positive thinking
But team spirit was strong and morale remained high
And soon the wind blew the clouds from the sky
Finally, we saw our path ahead, nice and clear
This meant day one was almost over, camp was so near!
We arrived and sat round the Trangia with wet feet
Wondering what it was we had prepared to eat.
We were missing warmth and comparatively fine dining
As it's no fun when there's holes in your waterproof lining.
Soon we were in our tents - bedtime at 7!
But the storm raging outside meant we were up again by 11.
"I didn't like the shadows on the tent"
Comfort came and quickly went!
We thought the wind would blow away our tents
Or that the rain would come through and we'd wake up drenched
But in reality, next morning we were just a bit damp
Feeling sorry for those who'd completed wild camp.
7:45 they'd come, they said
But Brand, Goalby and Jones couldn't get out of bed.
Instead Mr Poore was our knight in shining armour
As he shortened our route, saving us some walking drama.

The weather was dry on our day two
Shame the same couldn't be said for the ground: soaked through
It was so boggy!
And our feet were so soggy!
On our way to camp, we passed some sheep
And at first it wasn't that deep.
But very soon the sheep in fact
Made us all feel extremely trapped.
But not to fear
Maisy was here!
With her head held high
She walked on by
And she kept the sheep at bay
As we climbed the stile and continued on our way.
As we approached camp, out came the sun,
Just a few minutes more and day two would be done.
Or that's the thought we had in mind
But in reality, our camp proved hard to find.



We got there but were greeted by an angry Welsh lady
Who was strict and rude and seemed pretty crazy.
She wouldn't unlock the toilets but we all needed to pee
So we quickly put up our tents and started making tea.
After dinner we got into bed and were glad
That the forecast for tonight wasn't going to be as bad.
But Laeticia didn't like the passing lights
Or the creepy noises of the nights.
"Lily said the noise would go
But it didn't disappear though.
There was something rustling in the corner
Don't say I didn't warn her.
I don't know if it was a sheep or something from which we ought to hide
Either way I was much happier that it stayed outside."

We started day three with lots of singing,
Full of energy at the beginning.
Then we stopped and Maisy did a wee
In order to mark her territory.
10k in and our feet were failing
And the rest of the day was looking draining.
We ate lunch, though it wasn't yet noon
But we kept spirits high, we'd be at camp soon.
It was the last night and we were quite tired
And weren't looking forward to camping wild.
We wrote this line when we reached final camp
And yes, our feet were still very damp.
"I didn't like the bitter cold.
Sleeping outside was getting old"
But we woke in the morning and despite the cold weather
The beautiful landscape made it all so much better.
We came out of our tents and were pleasantly surprised
By the beauty of the gleaming stars before our very eyes.

Day four: and finally we had reason to hurry
Craving Burger King, fries and Oreo McFlurry.
We started the day with a slight wrong turn
But that didn't cause us much concern
As we had Tim Bird just behind
Who walked with us up the mountainside.
And so, we began the steep ascent
Up and up the hill we went
But little did we know
The hills made us slow.

Soon we felt the burn in our calves
So, we stopped for a break between the two paths.
Finally, we reached the peak
Water and snacks we did seek.
The first mountain we roamed and nobody moaned
The second was longer, but our spirit was stronger.
At the top there was a hut where we stopped to eat
And have a breather, rest our tired feet
Before we continued down the other side fast
Where we met G2 and walked on past.
We then met the teachers, who foiled our plan
To shortcut the last 2k to the van.
But now at least the end was near
And soon we'd all be outta here.
We'd almost finished and so we were calmer
Until we got shouted at by an angry Welsh farmer.
We saw the van come into sight
So, we paced down the road- we'd finished alright!

And here's the line that will always sound cliché
But we're now all closer friends at the end of the day
And yes, it was definitely a long hard week
And at times our moods were a little bleak
But with feet now dry and expedition through
We can look back on our experience with a much lighter point of view.



Sicily 2018

Dami Ogundiya, U4N

What better way to while away the Easter holidays than parading the streets of Sicily, exploring three of the seven Aeolian Islands, and exhausting our blood-orange fuelled energy climbing 924m high Stromboli volcano? On the 16 April a pack of twenty-one students, accompanied by Mr Foley, Miss Jones, and Mr Lee, embarked on a once in a lifetime trip, ready to witness some of the most unique things that Italy had to offer.

After we had settled down in our first hotel, the day had a hydrofoil trip to Vulcano Harbour in store for us. Once there we left for a guided hike to the top of a volcano crater where we saw its spectacular inside, got choked by sulphur fumes, and slid down the sandy sides of the crater.

As good as the whole experience was, I conclude that the most rewarding part of it was seeing magma erupting from live volcano



Stromboli, which we visited the next day. Being elevated at almost 950m high and in the middle of the night the group could see a perfect sky full of stars, as well as frequent and vivid eruptions from the volcano. I'm still coming to terms with how we witnessed one of the earth's wonders, considering that most people only ever experience this through old folk tales and the internet. Granted, it did take around six hours of climbing precarious stones and sand to reach the summit, though with incredibly knowledgeable tour guide Francesco, and enthusiastic pupils willing to

take the treacherous hike, the whole journey went smoothly.

Fortunately, the final two days of the trip were much more relaxed, consisting of admiring black sand beaches, visiting the ice-cold Alcantara gorge, and enjoying gelato in the sun. This trip was incredibly educative, challenging yet breath taking throughout, and I would recommend that anyone who has the opportunity to go on this tour should do it. A huge thank you on behalf of all the travellers to the staff who helped this trip to be such a success



Junior Ski Trip



Mrs Astrid Abbott-Imboden

On 3 March, 69 children and seven members of staff travelled to Sestriere for the Junior Ski Trip.

After a very early start we had a smooth journey to the resort via Turin, and arrived early afternoon – welcomed to the mountains by an alpine blizzard. An extremely efficient ski fit later in the afternoon, allowed everyone some time to chill out, unpack and get ready for our first day of skiing. After an excellent dinner, we all soon made our way to bed.

The next morning was sunny, with wonderful snow conditions. Everyone was keen to get onto the slopes and get the skiing underway. Students were grouped according to ability and met their skiing instructors who would look after them for the week. The complete beginners experienced the moving carpet and the first delight (or terror!) of coming down a slope with two long boards strapped to their feet. Our more experienced skiers explored the extensive skiing area, discovering the array of slopes the resort has to offer. Upon everyone's return, our lunch was full of tales of adventure before we set off for our afternoon skiing.

After skiing, students were allowed to explore the resort and its shops and came back with the delights of unsupervised shopping – I am sure that shares in the 'Pringle' brand rocketed during our time there. After dinner we sat together in the spacious dining room and had a general knowledge quiz, which the Removes girls won expertly. Further evening activities included a visit to the best pizzeria in town, a fabulous crêpe and ice cream parlour and snow tubing which had its own challenges.

Over the next few days, the weather started to deteriorate and day three and four were 'white outs' as a blizzard swept through the Italian resort. However, despite the abject visibility, student's spirits were not dampened and they all continued to make excellent progress.

On our last two days, we had the best conditions ever experienced on a ski trip – the snow was fresh, the powder was deep, and the sunshine brilliant. The entire area looked like a winter wonderland. Unfortunately, our last evening came far too quickly and we were packing and clearing up as we had another early start to fly back home.

Everyone had an unforgettable experience and our students were praised by hotel staff and tour representative as one of 'the most friendly, helpful and polite group they had ever had the pleasure to work with'.



Prep 2 Trip To Outward Bound Snowdonia

Mr Nick Thomas

Outward Bound describe their approach as, 'high adventure, high learning,' and the Prep 2s certainly experienced this during our recent week away at the Aberdovey Centre on the edge of the stunning Snowdonia National Park. The children were challenged to go beyond their comfort zones, which resulted in some anxious moments, but the results were enormously rewarding. James from 2AA commented, 'It was a challenge learning how to be 'comfortable' outside my comfort zone!'

From the first activity, 'jog and dip,' which involved running down to the estuary and being fully submerged in the refreshing north Wales water, to an epic hiking expedition and spending the night in a remote mountain cabin, the children returned with new definitions of teamwork, determination and resilience. Other activities included scrambling and rock climbing at Barmouth Slabs, gorge walking, canoeing the spectacular Dovey estuary, powerboating and jetty jumping. Alongside the adrenaline there was a strong environmental theme to our week through the John Muir award and the children learnt a lot about conservation, local nature and the impact of plastic on our oceans. We were generally lucky with the weather and the children returned home exhausted, but happy, and with a greater appreciation of the beautiful British countryside. Above all the children enjoyed the independence of being away and building friendships that will last into the Senior School and beyond. Imaan from 2BR summed it up perfectly, 'I learnt to trust my friends and realised how much I needed them.'





Prep 2018 Ski Trip



Bright and early on Saturday 31 March, while most of our pupils were enjoying a relaxing start to their Easter holiday, thirty nine Bancroft's Prep pupils and five teachers headed to Heathrow for our annual ski trip to Passo Tonale. The children struggled to contain their excitement levels as we headed up the mountain road to Tonale and the snow began falling. We woke the next morning to glorious sunshine and fresh powder on the slopes, which set the scene for the rest of the trip. With half the pupils new to

skiing, not to mention Mr Hall, Miss Alchin and Mrs Clark who had not skied before, having soft powder to land on whilst they got to grips with their snowploughs and turns was very welcome. Mrs Clark particularly liked testing how soft the snow was and Mr Hall turned out to be a natural at skiing backwards down the mountain. We are not altogether sure we believe him when he said he did it on purpose.

We had some amazing ski instructors on the trip, and everyone made fabulous progress with their skiing. The staff were particularly impressed with how organised the children were this year with getting ready for their ski lessons, and how quickly they learnt how to keep their rooms tidy when they learnt that chocolate was on offer!

Highlights of the week for the children were skiing on the Presena Glacier, skiing down to the husky dogs, going to the snow park, racing, snow tubing, night skiing and hot chocolates in the mountain cafes. Of course, we had plenty of fun off the slopes too, with movie nights, a disco, a trip to a pizzeria, and quiz and game nights. By the time we arrived back at School the following Saturday, the children were exhausted (the

teachers too!), but brimming with stories to tell their parents. Post skiing blues hit some of the children hard, but looking back at all the photos and watching the ski videos on the VLE is sure to help everyone cope until next year's trip!



From The Parents' Association

Mrs Sally Fisher, PA Secretary



As summer of 2018 approaches, Bancroft's PA is busy planning one of our busiest years ever, as we add some new and exciting events to our calendar.

We kicked off 2018 with a friendly Football Tournament between the teachers and parents, when over one hundred parents braved the chill to enjoy some sporting rivalry and cheer on from the side lines. Next year we aim to expand this event and include hot food, and some sport and entertainment for the pupils too, so do look out for more information on this. The next event scheduled is the Cricket Match between parents and teachers, which is being held on the school field in June.

Our big event of the year is the all-new Summer Ball, which, incredibly, sold out within two weeks this year. Planning is currently well under way for the extravaganza with a professional bar, three-course menu, casino and live music from Hertfordshire's most "raucous" rock and pop band - Fully Funktional. We look forward to seeing many of you there. (If you didn't manage to get a ticket, remember to book early next year to avoid any disappointment.)

Further dates for your diary include: A new Alpha & Beta Magic Show, to warmly welcome in the new Alphas, on Friday 21 September. Our very popular Quiz Night is scheduled for Saturday October 13 and the Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 1 December. We look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

The purpose of the Parents' Association is to enhance the already outstanding environment of Bancroft's, which we do by organising events to provide funds. These are then used for equipment, activities and additional provisions, to complement the academic aspect of the School. So far this year, the Parents' Association has raised over £18,000, of which some will be donated towards a new outside shelter for the Prep School. This is being constructed over the summer and will help protect children from the wet and windy weather.

Hopefully, we'll have some sunshine to look forward to very soon, as we welcome in the warmer months and we wish all of you a very wonderful summer. The PA is represented on Facebook and Twitter so please "Like" and "Follow" us, so you can stay up to date with our events.



OBA News

Mrs Susan Day, OBA Administrator

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

Bancroft's Business Breakfast

On 7 March we welcomed more than eighty Old Bancroftians, parents, Sixth Form pupils and friends of the School to latest Business Breakfast at the Reform Club in Pall Mall London. We were treated to a real gem, held in the Reform Club Library, a most wonderful, beautiful location, thanks to Bancroft's School Chair of Governors, Professor Philip Ogden who kindly hosted the breakfast.

It was a fantastic and interesting open discussion with our panel guests who generously gave up their time: Old Bancroftian Nick Percy, Executive VP for Western Europe, BBC Worldwide; Old Bancroftian, Tess Atkins, Industry Manager of the Creative Agency Team, Google and Lizzie Wingham, School Governor and Deputy Editor, BBC Three. Nick Bowman, immediate OBA Past President, kindly moderated the discussions.

All proceeds, after costs, were donated to the Bancroft's Foundation which provides Means Tested Awards at the School to provide life-changing opportunities to talented young people, regardless of their financial means.

The next Business Breakfast will be on the 15 November 2018 and will be a legal themed discussion. Full details will be sent after the summer break.

Past Presidents' Dinner

The 65th Past Presidents' Dinner was held in the Warner Room on Friday 27 April. Seventeen past presidents from 1979 to 2016 and their guest, Ed Sautter, current OBA President, former parent and School Governor, visited the School for pre-dinner drinks hosted by the Head, Simon Marshall in the Glass Courtyard Building. This was followed by a three-course meal prepared by our excellent School catering team.



Five and ten years on reunion

On Friday 4 May, more than one hundred Old Bancroftians from the leavers of 2007 and 2012 revisited the school for the five and ten years on reunion.

The event took place in the Dining Hall and OBs heard from Ed Sautter, our new OBA President (OB, parent of OB and School Governor) and the Head, Simon Marshall, who both encouraged everyone to stay in contact with the School and explained how to become involved with the OBA. This was followed by food and drinks, giving everyone the opportunity to catch up with their contemporaries and senior teaching staff. A great time was had by all!

The rest of 2018 is going to be another busy year for the OBA committee and the OBA Office. There are a lot of varied events to plan for our OBA community, including OBs' Day in July, Ladies Evening, OBA Annual Dinner, Business Breakfast, City Drinks and Northern Dinner to name a few.



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