



SUMMER 2022

Insight

the Bancroft's newsletter

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Community Flourishing: The Bancroft's Summer Festival

Ms Eleanor Burnside, Assistant Head Co-Curriculum

Perhaps the highlight was the gasps from the Lower Fourths on first setting foot into the glorious dining room at Draper's Hall. Perhaps it was the screening of the 10-shot group-made movies in the One Day Film School. Or perhaps the highlight was the sea of hands reaching out for an endorphin-boosting singalong chorus of *Sweet Caroline* in the Quad. Maybe there doesn't need to have been a defining highlight of the first Bancroft's Summer Festival: the wonder of it was that we were able to have one.



The theme of Community Flourishing suggested itself as enabling us to offer as wide a range of activities as possible for as many interest groups as possible, mixing pupils outside their usual cohorts and covers. Every year group had opportunities to expand their horizons on and off their academic timetable. It is our determination that our Bancroftians realise that just as much learning happens outside the classroom as in it, that there are more ways to discover the world than there are days of our lives, that the world, which has opened up to us again, is *fascinating*.

The fabulous spoken word artist, Harry Baker, who came to perform for us hot on the heels of his Glastonbury run encapsulates this approach: a Maths graduate, Harry Baker won the World

Poetry Slam with his rhythmic, witty and precisely controlled verse. He spoke to pupils from across the school about the similarities for him between maths and poetry, particularly in pattern recognition and building. This is a feature he also relishes in language learning; the GCSE Germanists were in stitches in his lunchtime German poetry session.

Especially important in assembling the programme for the Festival was to offer opportunities for pupils of different ages to mix: the woe of year group 'bubbles' during the pandemic meant that orchestras, senior sports teams, school plays, mentoring and so on were horribly quashed. How wonderful, therefore, to see Prep children playing wind instruments

with Fifths, to see A Level pupils workshopping poetry with Upper Fourths, to see the exceptional artwork of all our Art exam groups exhibited together; to see kids who don't study drama shining in a student-directed Play in a Day.

The Festival condensed various opportunities to get out of school – always enjoyable and valuable, but never more so than this year. Thirds undertook a London Challenge, and, as you will read elsewhere in this issue, visited Dover Castle and Canterbury Cathedral. Removes pupils went on a two-night camping adventure (their long overdue residential!) followed by a service learning day. Having had a posh waited lunch at Draper's Hall and workshops with Dragon's Den successes, the Lower Fourth made their Bronze expedition into the wilds of Epping Forest and the Lower Sixth were buzzing around the country visiting the universities upon which they may bestow themselves.





“ Every year group had opportunities to expand their horizon on and off their academic timetable. ”



Key to any festival is celebration. Our Community Flourishing theme saw Bancroftians celebrate the heritage of our Afro-Caribbean pupils as a precursor to a large-scale event in Black History Month. It was also wonderful to see the return of Taal in a new form, with exceptional dance, and food in the Quad; the Sixth Form committee merited especial admiration this year for putting on such a spectacular





without the structures and experience in place from the previous years.

Many of those Upper Sixth dancers and organisers were also amongst those receiving special prizes in our reworked version of the traditional Visitation Day: the Drapers joined us to recognise the achievements of all our end-of-an-era leavers and allow an opportunity for pupils, their parents and their teachers to share in the feeling of accomplishment – and relief. This new format of prize-giving meant that the academic year could culminate

in a final assembly in which awards were presented in recognition of the school's values: for academic excellence, sure – but also, and crucially, for persistence, for curiosity, for kindness, for integrity.

This year's Festival was just the beginning: I know that, like me, many Bancroftians, pupils and staff alike, are keen to expand: to celebrate more of our community, *with* our community, to extend the ways in which we see ourselves flourishing. *Floreat!*



LAMDA

Mrs Libby Oliver, LAMDA Teacher

LAMDA exams have taken place as usual this term with over three hundred pupils taking exams in The Speaking of Verse and Prose.

One of the many wonderful things about being a speech teacher at Bancroft's is getting to know the pupils extremely well over many years. It is so rewarding seeing them develop from bubbly, effervescent Alphas enthusiastically taking the Entry Grade to confident, mature (but still bubbly) teenagers taking Grade 8. This year's Heads of Houses were superb examples of this as all four achieved Distinctions at every Grade and the ease and confidence of their final speeches at Vis Day were joys to see. They are not alone.

One of this year's LAMDA examiners said she is always delighted when she sees she is examining here because she knows how confident and expressive the pupils will be.

For many years now, we have had the accolade of achieving more Distinctions than any other school. This is a huge achievement of the children who have to learn not only two or three challenging poems and pieces of prose but also sight read fluently with expression and eye contact and learn increasing amounts of theory. By Grade 8 they are skilled at talking about figures of speech, phrasing, pausing, the techniques of breathing and speaking, verse forms, rhythm, metre, the themes in their chosen book and the lives

of the authors of all their pieces. All this on top of performing their pieces with expression and clarity of diction. The games and the tongue twisters they learn in the Prep School are often still favourite activities as they move up the Senior School and the playful quality of the lessons help them learn all the necessary skills. There's always an element of 'last minute.com' just before the exam for some of the pupils!

Those outside the school community who think Bancroft's is just an academic school (and even my GP was guilty of asking me if this was true recently) only need to step into a speech lesson to see the creativity, talent and joyful expression of our wonderful pupils.



Poetry By Heart

Ms Nicola Evans, English Teacher

The English department was delighted to have yet another national finalist in this year's Poetry By Heart competition. Huge congratulations go out to Inaya J in RS for being selected from hundreds of competitors nationwide to go through to the finals in London.

It was a huge honour to see her recite her chosen poem, *Remember* by Joy Hargo, on the stage of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the 20 June – and it's really a once in a lifetime opportunity to be able to do something like that. Hats off to you, Inaya. An added bonus at the end was that the current poet laureate Simon Armitage made an appearance, bringing about the perfect ending to a hot summer's day spent celebrating the power of poetry. And, to all of the poetry enthusiasts out there, this national competition runs every year: in 2023 this article could be about you!





Lower School Production: *Oliver!*

Ariya Bhatia, U4W

Oliver! was the highlight of my year, which I enjoyed immensely. I was lucky enough to be cast as Nancy and had the most incredible time.

In January, pupils from 3rds to U4th received an announcement that our Junior Musical was *Oliver!* Auditions started in late January; we had an audition pack, which consisted of a few songs and short segments of the script. I decided to audition for Nancy and so I prepared the song, 'As Long As He Needs Me'. The audition process was quite nerve-wracking as Ms Middleton and Mrs Whitbread sat in the PAC, waiting for pupils to sing and act their chosen material. People went in one at a time and I remember singing and practising the lines with my friends in the corridor. Everyone was rushing around. Outside the PAC it was chaos – but also great fun! When I got into the audition, I felt quite confident. One thing which helped was researching Nancy before the



audition. I watched many renditions of 'As Long As He Needs Me' from different productions on YouTube. Consequently, I copied many of the moves the performers did when they sang, for example, they would often use hand gestures, such as making their hand into a fist or pointing to parts of the audience which I thought was effective in portraying Nancy. Soon enough the cast list was sent out via email. When I found out I had been cast as Nancy, I was ecstatic!

Rehearsals started after half-term. For acting rehearsals, we would read through the script and then act it out. Every few moments, Ms Middleton would stop us to pencil in movement or if she wanted to change how you said the lines and we would have to write those notes into our script. The singing rehearsals consisted of going through the songs with Mrs Whitbread playing the accompaniment – we covered when to come in and any notes we were unsure of. These were my favourite as I love to sing! 'It's A Fine Life (Reprise)' proved very challenging, as Lucas and Louis (playing Fagin and Bill Sikes) and I had very choppy parts and so it often got confusing. The dance rehearsals were the most interesting for me as I am no dancer but once I mastered all the steps it became much easier. My favourite dances were 'It's A Fine Life' and 'I'd Do Anything'. I also got to know many members of the younger years, specifically Ellora and Caitlin (playing Dodger), Ellie and Imogen (playing



Oliver) and Lara (playing Bet). It was truly amazing practising all the dances and songs we had together!

Soon enough, weeks flew by, and it was show time! We had four performances on the 15, 16, and 17 June. Each one became better and better as we got more confident. I remember being backstage with the crew, listening to the final lines before Nancy's first appearance. I was shaking and so nervous beforehand but as soon as I got onto stage and saw the audience, I automatically felt so much better! My all-time favourite song was 'As Long As He Needs Me'. It was so rewarding to hear everyone's applause at the end because I had worked so hard on it and was determined to depict Nancy's emotions successfully. The whole cast was absolutely incredible in being the biggest support network. It didn't matter if you had one line or fifty, you would come off stage and have a surge of cast members all telling you how good you were. Everyone was so kind throughout all the performances, helping you put on your mic when there were very quick mic changes or helping you go through your lines before you went on.

I never believed other actors when they said that the cast is like a 'family', but it really is true. The whole experience was spectacular and when the final lights came down on the Friday performance, and *Oliver!* was over, it did not sink in. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff and pupils involved and I would recommend getting involved with a Bancroft's production – you will not regret it.



Summer Concert

Mathew Pinto, 5E

For the second time this year, the music department travelled out into the Quad for a musical extravaganza.

With rehearsals occurring throughout the day, the heart of the school was alive with music. The evening was marvellous – it was like a festival, with people standing or sitting to enjoy the glorious weather, and some very enjoyable music.

Starting with the Junior Orchestra featuring two typewriters, the music was engaging and the atmosphere was wonderful. We had a diverse selection of bands playing and it was lovely to be able to showcase a selection of music we normally only ever hear emanating

“ It was like a festival, with people standing or sitting to enjoy the glorious weather, and some very enjoyable music. ”

through the department after school ends. Several choirs performed, including the entire Thirds year group. This was a real highlight – having an entire year group engaged and working with the music department was such a wonderful thing to see and I look forward to seeing and hearing how they continue next year.

The classic Soul Band brought the evening to a close, ensuring that we ended on a real high! Seeing so many people performing in one concert was fantastic – and a lot of fun, both for the audience and the performers.

Thanks go to everybody involved – Mr Aitken who really made the audio the best it could be in what is undoubtedly one of the most difficult acoustic settings to perform in; the peripatetic music staff who run different ensembles and really showcased the achievements of all of the performers and the music department! Hearing performances from the Prep School up to the Sixth Form was a joy. And, of course, thanks to Mrs Whitbread and Mrs Foinette, without whom we would never be able to put on such fantastic concerts.



Day at Verulamium

Julius Miller, L4N

On Wednesday 8 June the classics department organised a visit to Verulamium (St. Albans) for Lower Fourth Latin and Greek pupils.

When we arrived, we went to a workshop which consisted of looking at many different artefacts from the Roman times. We were asked to identify what these items were and who might have used them: elite Romans, craftsman, farmers and slaves. Some were easy to identify, but others were very difficult and certainly unlike anything we have today. Our favourite item was a pair of old and useless tweezers. Even though they couldn't pluck one hair from my arm they were still identical to the ones we use today, which shows how we have taken some of the Romans' amazing ideas and still use them in our everyday lives today.

After this fun and interactive experience, we went on to the museum which had many more dug-up artefacts which were in surprisingly good condition. Amongst these things were amazing mosaics, knives and even skeletons which all gave an insight into life in Roman Britain. After lunch we visited a nearby building which contained a mosaic floor and a hypocaust underneath which was the Roman under-floor heating system.

Finally, we went to see the remains of a Roman theatre which is clearly still used today as actors were rehearsing during our visit. It was a good day out and one to remember!

“Our favourite item was a pair of old and useless tweezers.”



Thirds' Dover Castle Trip

Tara Johal and Malika Khan, 3S

On the 4 July, the Thirds went on their first history trip. We gathered outside the Tower to board the coaches on a day with perfect weather. Buzzing with excitement, we began our drive to Canterbury and Dover. After realising that the drive was much longer than we anticipated we calmed down to conserve our energy for all the fun to come. Once we escaped the coach, with the sun beating down on us and finally regaining feeling in our legs, we could embrace the beautiful sights of Canterbury Cathedral and Dover Castle.

Some groups started with Canterbury Cathedral. It was a spectacular historical sight that showed off medieval architecture. We saw the glistening stained glass windows that depicted important historical moments. The whole building was magical and filled with important happenings from the past. The ceilings were extremely high and beautifully decorated - it was sensational. This year we have learnt about Thomas Becket's death in Canterbury Cathedral and, during our tour, we were shown where it happened and where his tomb used to be before Henry VIII destroyed it during the Reformation. We were also able to see graffiti etched into stone seats where the monks used to sit and the graves of Henry IV and the Black Prince.

We also travelled to Dover to explore the magnificent medieval castle. Before we went in the castle we got to see the White Cliffs of Dover and admire the view. Since it was such a beautiful clear day we even saw all the way to France! We learnt all about the amazing aspects



of Dover Castle and we could see how medieval life was structured. It was fascinating to explore inside and to understand why it was built and learn about all the rich history including its role as a Roman lighthouse, or as a stop on the way for pilgrims to Canterbury. We also learned about the role it played during Dunkirk, with the success of Operation Dynamo. We were able to climb to the top of the castle keep, venturing up a set of steep stone steps, and admire the fantastic view and take in the nature, lush fields and the English Channel stretching out for miles. Then it was back on the coach for a sweltering journey back to Bancroft's after an adventure-packed day.

A massive thank you to Mr Brennand for organising a fantastic day out and all who helped.



Removes' Residential

Ms Louisa Jones, Removes' Tutor

The Removes went on a residential trip in early June, in part to compensate for the missed opportunities during their first year at the Senior School due to Covid. Initial scepticism about the trip being very local was soon dispelled when everyone arrived at the sunny campsite in Debden to find an exceptional set-up.

The first afternoon was spent putting up tents, an activity judged by our school's most committed camping enthusiast and Duke of Edinburgh Award expert, Mr Argyle. Pupils then had the chance to unleash their inner Gordon Ramsay, as they barbecued their burgers for dinner, supplemented by delicious chips from the local fish and chip shop. We were lucky to be helped by Mr Barnard from our school kitchen, who volunteered to come and help guide everyone on how to avoid cross-contamination and food poisoning. A giant bonfire and a Mr Smith-organised scavenger hunt concluded our first day and everyone went to bed with every intention of a restful night's sleep.

Bleary-eyed and not so bushy-tailed, Thursday promised to be another sunny day. The Removes were treated to team-building games and activities with an external organisation. Thursday evening was pizza night, generously funded by the Parents' Association and then pupils were inducted into the rules and regulations of tug-of-war. Tutor groups competed to see who could withstand for the longest and prevail over everyone else, and soon some members of staff were roped in too. After an exhausting day, everyone collapsed into bed after hot chocolate and time around the bonfire.

Friday morning came and the plan was for each tutor group to navigate back to school through Epping Forest once the clear-up operation was complete. It was a great opportunity to reflect on the past couple of days and to share highlights (and lowlights!). Everyone looked pleased when the school building came into view and there were several relieved Removes assembled in the Head's Garden by the time everyone had returned. All-in-all, huge thanks go to Mr Smith, Miss Stone and Mr Dickinson, along with other members of staff for organising such an enriching and enjoyable trip.





L4 Cairngorms Trip

Ms Grace McIlfratrick, Geography Teacher

Lower Fourth pupils thoroughly enjoyed the energetic end of term water sports activities on the Cairngorms trip, based in the village of Newtonmore in the Cairngorms National Park. Over the five days, pupils experienced water rafting, gorge scrambling, abseiling, rock climbing, paddle boarding, kayaking and canoeing, all topped off with evenings indulging in Scottish culture, dance and food. Furthermore, pupils experienced the excitement of the overnight sleeper, feeding reindeers and embracing the scenery at Loch Murlock. This is the first time the geography department have run this excursion and we look forward to possibly providing this again in the future.

Devesh M summarised his time. "Splash! That was the sound of me crashing into the water for the *fifteenth* time whilst floating on a paddleboard in the middle of the Scottish Highlands. How did it come to this you may ask?" This was just one part of the Lower Fourth Geography Trip to the magnificent Cairngorm Mountains.

This trip of sixteen students and four teachers started and ended with the Caledonian Sleeper. We travelled in the Standard Rooms comprising of two

bunkbeds, a washbasin, and a welcome pack. Immediately after arriving at the hostel, we launched into a string of activities that left us exhausted, yet satisfied. Our days were filled with some petrifying (yet immensely rewarding) activities such as climbing, abseiling, and more water-based sports such as kayaking and canoeing.

One of the many highlights of the trip was the gorge-scrambling, which pushed us out of our comfort zones as we had to (as the name aptly suggests) scramble up the sides of a gorge, swim to the other side and finally 'cannon-ball' from a cliff into the water!

Our evenings were spent in a more leisurely fashion, with team-building challenges after dinner. One particular challenge stood out and included getting a friend (aka unsuspecting victim) and 'mummifying' them – head-to-toe – in toilet paper. The competition was fierce, and the scoring was tight; everybody had done a decent job of it. However, it was the girls who bagged the win by their neat toilet paper-wrapping skills!

For me, the best part of the trip was the white-water rafting. This was because it really brought the whole group together



in a way that no other activity had. Everyone had a part to play - no one could shirk responsibility. It was all hands on deck, from paddling in solidarity to escape the treacherous rapids or frantically trying to board each other's boats to gain a specific piece of 'treasure' (one of which was a vibrantly pink, plastic flamingo called Gloria).

The last day involved visiting the Cairngorm reindeers, idling our time on the beach, and celebrating Zana's birthday at a local restaurant with a famous Colin the Caterpillar cake. Back on the Caledonian Sleeper, I reflected on what my time in Scotland had given me. Five days away from home, multiple white-knuckle experiences, new friendships made, cemented, and a lifetime of amazing memories. And, to my parents' dismay, a new-found love of white-water rafting!



Biology Field Trip 2022 – One to Remember

Faith Cunningham, L6S

Battling against the wind, the Lower Sixth biologists made their way across the coastal sand dunes that stretch from Great Yarmouth round to The Wash. Removed at an early hour from the warmth of Sheringham Youth Hostel, equipped with vegan sandwiches and a burning enthusiasm to learn, we were in for an enriching day ahead.

In groups of four, we got to work on examining and studying the landscape presented to us. Don't be fooled by the reefs and reefs of marram grass into thinking that these dunes are a monoculture – they are home to a large range of plants and insects. Soil pH testing kits, wind anemometers and quadrats in hand, there was a chance to thoroughly understand, as well as enjoy, Norfolk.

Holkham Forest is home to over 2000 acres of woodland which is partially managed through thinning, planting, fencing work and controlling the deer population. For over three hundred years the Earls of Leicester have overseen the forest and coast, from the first Earl who packaged Mediterranean acorns from Italy to be planted in Norfolk to the second Earl who planted a coastal belt to separate land and sea. There was also a peaceful but informative tractor-trailer tour around the property demonstrating the sustainable hunting of game and the cropping of spring and winter barleys.

And, of course, even now lingers the memory of the stunning resident herd of fallow deer that peppered the landscape.

As a sign of gratitude for our trip, the Lower Sixth and the biology teachers got to work at pulling the baby pines from their roots to avoid them getting too big, and decreasing the biodiversity of the area. It quickly became a competition on who could pull the largest, furriest pine. It seemed the rugged landscape amplified the Bancroftian desire to compete and, by the end of the pulling, everyone had outdone themselves. The sensation when we pulled a pine finally from the ground proved to be hugely satisfying, especially as we were doing our bit to protect the forest going forward.

On the trip a lot of time was spent on the pebbly coasts of Norfolk where limpets and barnacles cling to the rocks. Considering the constant impact of waves on this area, it was incredible to still see



habitats alive with species such as crabs, periwinkles and anemone which had adapted to survive in the salty, harsh intertidal zones. And who knew there were so many types of seaweed? Bladder wrack, landlady's wig, coral weed as well as my personal favourite, *Fucus serratus*. The Lower Sixth made good use of keys to work our way across the beach, identifying and listing everything we found.

Memorable moments of the trip included tough statistics-testing in the evenings, when the air filled with the sound of rapid calculator tapping, all to discover that our hard-earned data wasn't significant enough to reject a null hypothesis. Marriages between work partners were, for the most part, harmonious and it was excellent in terms of companionship and ability to work as a team. The large Tesco, a stone's throw from the hostel, was a place to indulge in lattes and extra toothbrushes.

A big thank you goes out to the Holkham team for shedding some light onto the true importance of forestry in biodiversity and conservation of these beautiful landscapes, as well as the teachers - Mr Smith, Mr Jaques, Miss Grimwood, Miss Carter and Miss Hampson who organised this trip, as well as Sheringham Youth Hostel which made our stay a comfortable and easy one in Norfolk.

Boys' Cricket

Mr Carl Greenidge, Head of Cricket

Overall, it was a fairly successful year for U12 cricket, and we regularly fielded consistent A & B teams on Saturdays. We also played the Essex Cup Semi-Final on the 1 July at KEGS and frustratingly just came up short. We had KEGS on the ropes at 29-4 off 12 overs. Hashim Q and George W were particularly impressive taking three wickets each. However, we chose not to go in for the kill but to use a selection of bowlers to make up our fifth bowler. KEGS used this opportunity to regroup and reached 87-8, with 58 runs coming from the last 8 overs. Our chase started well and we reached 36-2 off 10 overs with opener Jayan scoring 28. It then became a very tight contest with a regular clatter of wickets whilst we kept up with the run rate. Unfortunately, in the penultimate over we lost our way, I4 needed off the last and despite a lusty 4 from Gus off the final ball, we ended up 3 runs short. Well done on a great cup run and better luck next year.

The Removes had a solid summer of cricket. They were unfortunately knocked out of the Essex Cup by a strong Brentwood team, but then continued to play some very good cricket in the

County Plate. The team are currently in the finals of that competition looking as strong as they have done all summer; I think Brentwood just caught us a bit cold! Good luck to the Removes players for the final in September.

The U14A team are in the Essex County Cup Final. They went on a fine cup run surviving a scare against Mayfield School in the first round and producing a great fielding display against Brentwood in the semis, which meant we ended up chasing 99 to win the match in a tense finish. They are rewarded with an afternoon off on the first day back to school in September where they will play at Brentwood Cricket Club against one of three teams yet to play. Good luck to the team - well done on a great summer of cricket and we look forward to supporting you all in the final. One U14 performance deserves a mention. In the Quarter Final of the Essex Cup, we had one pupil take a hat trick against Southend Boys ending with final figures of 3.5 overs, 1 maiden 6 runs and 6 wickets. Well done Aryan A!

The U4 had a good summer of cricket, playing with a small squad but consistent numbers and players. There were a

number of good performances but two in particular stand out. On the 14 May we had a player bat all the way through the innings in a T20 match and scored 102 not out. An amazing achievement for any cricketer and one to not only be celebrated, but also rewarded, as it doesn't happen very often. Usually awards are given for achievements in 1st XI cricket but as mentioned before, this is so rare that we feel that it warrants similar recognition - congratulations to Louis C.

It has been an interesting season for senior cricket with some highs and lows but, as it was the first season in three years that we've been able to play senior cricket as we would like, it is understandable.

The season was capped off with a fine cricket week. The final game of the year ended with Aarav S scoring 102 not out against Colfe's in his last game as a Bancroft's pupil. Sundeep S, who has been the player of the season for the past two years, also scored 91 in that game. Nav V ended up with 25 wickets this season and has led the bowling attack well all year, we look forward to his contributions with bat and ball next summer.

In summary, it was a great season had by all with lots of students, both male and female, playing cricket.





Girls' Cricket

Ms Louise Poulter, Games Teacher

The girls have had a fabulous season this year. The U12s' highlight was the very close win against Brentwood during the summer. A shout out to Bea K who had a fantastic summer and who, therefore, received player of the season.

The U13 girls have not only had a tremendous season but have finished all of their games unbeaten! To top the fantastic

season off, they became county champions. Well done to all girls involved this year and for all of your commitment throughout the term. Well done to Caitlin H who showed persistence and excellence throughout the year and received the U13 player of the season award.

The U14 girls also had a fantastic great season. The team worked so well together,

showing empathy, resilience and all-round quality. The U14 player of the season was been awarded to Sabby S who captained the team so well, whilst keeping wicket and batting high up the order.

I thoroughly enjoyed taking the girls for cricket this year. Thank you to all for being so committed and full of energy whilst also being a pleasure to coach.

Athletics

Miss Jemma Cresswell, Games Teacher

This year has been a very successful term for Athletics at Bancroft's. We had over 70 pupils sign up for Athletics Club and were lucky enough to use Ashton Athletics Stadium this year to practice all matter of events.

Over the course of the year we entered lots of different competitions to give our pupils the opportunity and experience of an athletics meet. These included: English Schools' Track and Field Cup, Essex Schools' Championships,

District Championships and Lee Valley competitions. A highlight of the year was our Junior Girls' team making it through to the Regional Final of the English Schools' Track and Field Cup in Chelmsford.

We saw fantastic individual performances from Natasha W, Caitlin H and Olivia E who were all crowned Essex Schools' Champions in their respective events. Also, Natasha was selected by Essex for the English Schools' Championships – what an amazing achievement!



Sports Day

Miss Jemma Cresswell, Games Teacher

Sports Day 2022 was one to remember; with all restrictions lifted we were back to having a 'normal' sports day and, despite it being the hottest day of the year, it was a very successful day.

This year's events took place at school with the field events taking place throughout the morning and the track events being watched by the whole school in the afternoon. All staff and pupils were involved, cheers were heard from all over the field, house flags were waved and records were broken! House cups were presented at the end: massive congratulations to East House who won overall.



Making the Dream a Reality – Looking

Rugby

Max Pollard, L6N

I started playing rugby when I was four years old at Woodford Rugby Club. Both my dad and his dad had played there from a very young age, so it was only right that I did so too. Our Woodford team has been incredibly successful over the past ten years winning the Essex Cup four times and coming second once.

At the age of thirteen, I trialled for the Saracens U14 Development Player Pathway (DPP). It is made up of about 100 players and out of these 100 players; they then pick twenty who become the Player Development Group (PDG). The PDG then represents Essex, playing in fixtures against Kent and Hertfordshire which are the other two counties in the Saracens' catchment area. Through these inter-county fixtures, the Saracens' academy coaches select who they want in their team. This is the stage where I am lucky enough to be at the moment.

As a Saracens' team we train every Monday together at the Stone X stadium in north London. On Thursdays we



train at our performance centres if we are available to do so. The performance centres are gyms in which we complete our programmes under the watch of the Strength and Conditioning Team, who help us to perfect our technique allowing us to lift heavier weights to become stronger. Additionally, there is the expectation that we will go to the gym in our own time too. During the holidays, we train far more regularly, sometimes even every two days, from about 12:00 – 4:00; however, this varies hugely. We also have game blocks where we play teams such as Northampton Saints, Harlequins and other Premiership teams. During these blocks, the exercises which we undertake in the gym change from strength and power to being more speed-focused. We also compete in RFU festivals, most recently being a festival

at Warwick University where we played Leicester Tigers, Newcastle Falcons and Gloucester.

At the age of 15, I was lucky enough to get picked for the Ealing Trailfinders U18, the Elite Player Pathway (EPP), as well as Saracens. Due to Covid, training hadn't fully recommenced, but I wanted to get in as much training as I could, which is why I trekked down to Ealing every Monday after school. In the EPP we are lucky enough to be coached by the EPP coaches and two of the first team players. Playing for The Ealing Trailfinders EPP has enabled me to secure a scholarship to Brunel University for when I attend University in 2023. The rugby scholarship allows the recipient to train to become a professional rugby player whilst gaining a degree, which is an incredible honour.

Currently, I have just been reselected for the Saracens U18 pre-season squad. This squad trains throughout the summer to prepare us for the U18 Academy League. Playing for Saracens has been a childhood dream and is a massive honour.

“Playing for Saracens has been a childhood dream.”



to a Professional Sports Career

Tennis

Anthony Wright, L6W

My love of tennis started at just three years old when watching my older sister's tennis lessons from the sidelines. After trying the sport for myself, I did not want to put my racket down. I trained hard nearly every day and travelled to tournaments for years. Becoming a professional tennis player has always been a dream and now I am determined to make it my reality.

I am currently ranked 20th in Great Britain for U18 boys, and represent Essex U18 at number one. I have also earned myself an U18 international ranking while competing in some ITF (international) tournaments. I have recently been competing in Men's British Tour (national) tournaments, playing against university and US College players, semi-pros, as well as other highly ranked juniors. On two occasions, I have reached the quarterfinals – recently narrowly losing to the winner-to-be in a 3-setter.

I have decided to move to Warsaw in Poland to train full-time, as I have the opportunity to work with a high-level coach (a former pro player who reached a top 300 ATP ranking) alongside a small

number of other full time players. I believe I will progress significantly in this new environment and over time level-up my game to where I want it to be.

I will be on the court as well as undertaking physical and mental training 6-8 hours a day, and this is the sort of daily programme that is required in tennis to reach a professional level. Of course, this wouldn't be possible while continuing to attend school, which is why I have decided to finish my A-levels remotely or online.

My best result in an international tournament came in June in Michałowek, Poland, when I took the title, winning five rounds of matches. This success boosted my world ranking from 1400 to 890. I will be competing in further ITF competitions over the summer to try to lift my ranking even further. Earlier this year I took part in a higher level ITF (J2) in which I competed alongside players who are ranked in the top 200 in the world for juniors. I believe this is the level I will be able to compete at by moving to a more intensive training programme in Warsaw.

I would like to thank the School and its teachers for their support in allowing me to take time off for training and competing, and also in helping with the transition to next year.





Tennis Season 2022

Olivia Gauvin, U4N, and Jasmine Kliszat, U4W

The summer term at Bancroft's never fails to deliver an action-packed tennis season.

We have been playing doubles together right from the Thirds, so when we were asked to be the Girls' Tennis Captains it was an honour. Miss Wainwright, who has been our greatest support and mentor has contributed endless hours to organising and running a multitude of brilliant tennis tournaments and fixtures for us.

We hit the season off with the annual 'Road to Wimbledon' event where doubles and single players from across the school compete for a chance to progress through the local and county stages - with the ultimate prize being playing at Wimbledon. Miss Wainwright has always supplied, thanks to our generous sponsor, Freedom Ltd, a bountiful and well-presented prize table festooned with Sports Direct's finest merchandise – who doesn't want a giant tennis ball to live in their shed?



Congratulations to Ayushi (RN) and Varun (RS) for winning the singles events and to Jess (U4W) and Agnes (U4N) on their doubles victory. As well as challenging our own teammates, the boys' and girls' teams (U12-Seniors) have also had the chance to play against other schools in fixtures (Queenswood, St Edmund's, Forest, West Hatch, Coopers' Coborn, Highgate, Haileybury and Chigwell) and at tournaments such as the Essex Independent Schools' Tournament at Brentwood and the East Region Championships... although Miss Wainwright's tournaments are unmatched.

The pinnacle of the term though, for us, has to be the Inter-Year Doubles Tournament held at West Grove in which we won the girls' category. We played against Jess and Agnes, our closest friends (and rivals) in the final, emerging with a 4-2 win. Finally, after four years of trying, it was our first final and trophy - we were ecstatic! Aryaan (L4N) and Krishan (L4E) won the boys' event after a great final against Xav (L4E) and Julius (L4N).

Tennis has not only aided our physical development but also played a crucial role in developing and strengthening friendships and we have learnt the invaluable skills of resilience, communication and teamwork as well. Thank you, Miss Wainwright and Josh (our school coach) – we are so grateful for yet another fabulous term of tennis.



FUNbledon 2022!

Tara Johal, 3S

On Wednesday 25 May FUNbledon took place at West Grove. It was a wonderful experience for the Thirds and Removes and was brilliantly organised by the amazing Miss Wainwright. We went to West Grove after our period six lesson on the bus, buzzing with excitement for an afternoon of tennis – what a great way to end the day!

FUNbledon is a very friendly competition and gave us an opportunity to get to know the Removes and, as it says in the name, have FUN! It was an excellent way to learn new skills and demonstrate everything we have learned in our games afternoons and at Tennis Club through playing matches with people at similar levels. I enjoyed playing with, and against, my friends. We experienced playing doubles and being part of a team. I liked the social non-competitive nature, as it didn't matter if we won or lost because everyone had an awesome experience. A huge well done to Violet and Arya (Thirds) who were the Champions and to Mia and Niamh (Removes) who played brilliantly in a very close final that was decided on a sudden death point. As a result of the competition, we all left with prizes; for my participation I got a new grip and a shock absorber for the strings and, since my pair came 7th, I got a new water bottle. I feel privileged to have been a part of it and can't wait for another opportunity like this.

Removes' Community and Partnership Day

Mr Mark Willingham, RS Teacher

On 30 June our Removes' year group had a day off timetable to take part in a Community and Partnerships day. This was the first time a whole year group has been involved in such a day where the intention was to work for, and alongside, those in our community and celebrate that these relationships can now fully flourish again after the pandemic.

The Removes took part in a variety of tasks on and off-site during the course of the day, undertaking a range of maintenance, environmental, sustainability and craft challenges. The pupils painted some sheds and planters at ELHAP playground; litter-picked in Epping Forest; read to children at local primary schools and planted a range of plants at Copped Hall. At school, they made cushions (also for ELHAP); constructed hedgehog houses; planted in our gardens and decorated pots which were then filled with lovely flowers and taken to a local residential home. Selen H and Mia P, who were on the team helping at ELHAP, said, "We are so thankful for the opportunity we got to have. Helping out at ELHAP was a great experience and we were lucky enough to see all the children having fun and see that what we did will help brighten their playground."

This brought to an end a busy year of partnership work, where once again we have been able to celebrate working alongside our various partners in the

community. Highlights included our weekly community swimming alongside Pool Schools, where our pupils have been able to assist the swimmers; an art history enrichment project with local schools; many careers events, such as the University Fair to which local Sixth Forms are invited;



academic enrichment on site, such as our Primary Science Fair, and continued our involvement and hosting of the Haven House Schools Enterprise Project.



Primary Teaching at Wells Primary School – Duke of Edinburgh Volunteering

Tara Gabhari, U4E

Three groups of us went to Woodford Wells Primary School to teach Year 5 pupils a geography lesson on Alaska's plate boundary and the 1964 earthquake. The pupils were very enthusiastic and enjoyed having Bancroftians teach them. It was a good experience as we learnt how to teach lessons, plan and maximise learning opportunities. Together, this improved our collaborative, public speaking and communication skills. Overall, it was a very enjoyable and valuable experience to help us log more time towards our Duke of Edinburgh volunteering.

It was lovely to receive the following comment from a teacher; "I just wanted to drop you a quick message to say that the Year 5 teachers said the children really enjoyed the lessons that your students planned. It would be great to continue this next year, if it's possible."

Tennis Festival

One of the triumphs of the season was the 'Tennis Festival' run in collaboration with Bancroft's Outreach and Partnership Programme where we got to play St Paul's Way Trust (from Tower Hamlets) and Lister Community School (from Newham).

We really enjoyed meeting people from new schools and it allowed other pupils to also use our West Grove facilities and win trophies and prizes. Our highlight



of the day was playing fun team games with the other schools in between our matches: "Zombie Catch", "Elimination" and "Face Smash" (which sounds scary,

but it wasn't). Well done to Johnny (L4N) and Luca (L4S) on their win against Freddy (U4W) and Alex (U4E) in a nail-biting tie-break final.



Pride Week

Ms Gill Entwistle, Drama Teacher

Well, what a fabulous Pride week it was! In the mornings we were graced with a Pride Playlist in the Quad thanks to Mr Aitken and to staff for suggestions for the playlist. We enjoyed seeing the School decorated in Pride Flags and the Rainbow Pride Flag flying from the mast pole again. At lunch we have enjoyed rainbow foods thanks to the catering department and the library has had a display of Pride books.

We had a Pride Whole School Assembly; Reverend Moore in the Chapel hosted the sharing of a film made by three of our LGBT Old Bancroftians talking about their experiences at school, coming out and in their later lives. This has given rise to conversations about inclusivity. Mr Ceeraz had us 'Just Dancing' to Pride tunes. We had a Pride Club Heartstopper Special and an own clothes day in which pupils and teachers were invited to wear rainbow colours and at break Mr Caira took a series of photographs with his drone.

We held a very special EqualiTEA Society/ Pride Club event where we invited four friends from the Asian community to speak about being "brown and queer": Ritu Khurana, ex-student of Woodford County High, current Club Kali DJ, Manju Patel Nair (@_ChangeNow @ManjuPatel_Nair), Rakhi Patel Nair and Amandeep Singh, representing @SarbatSikhs.

Tea and Chat sessions were a huge success at lunchtimes, so much so that the pupils have asked that it continue. It was a very special Pride week and I hope everyone found something to interest them. Thank you to every last person who bought a badge, sold a badge, helped us make the rainbow heart at break time, made bunting, put bunting up and so on!

Lower Sixth Student Societies

Our L6th have the chance to run their own societies; we have had eight this year. Two of these are Current Affairs Society and the Law Society.

The Current Affairs Society's name is self-explanatory: we bring people together, fortnightly, to discuss the latest news events. The meetings are organised with a speaker who introduces these events. The meetings have been hubs for interesting discussions across an eclectic variety of topics some of which have included: Emma Raducanu's win at the US Open following her amazing progress through the tournament; the Pandora Papers – the extraordinary leak of thousands of documents; the rapid escalation of events in the conflict between Ukraine and Russia as well as the weekly developments of Coronavirus. Further highlights of the Society included our festive Christmas quiz with many tutor groups participating before the deserved winners were rewarded generously with... chocolate biscuits! We have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hope that the Society will be carried forward by the next set of pupils.

Nimran D (Chair), Joseph O (Deputy) and Emilia C-W (Secretary) explain about the Law Society. "This year we ran the Sixth Form Law Society, meeting fortnightly to discuss and debate a wide range of legal topics. We found the society particularly enjoyed discussions regarding landmark legal cases in the entertainment and media industry both past (such as O J Simpson's murder trial) and more current (such as Britney Spears' conservatorship and the Depp-Heard trial).

Whilst we focused on the more entertaining aspects of law, we also analysed it from an academic approach, including discussing the legal system and its format, whilst considering in great depth its usefulness and amendments we would perhaps propose (including

a heated debate about whether the death penalty should be legal). Moreover, we analysed the law in the context of current affairs, most topically, Priti Patel's Nationality and Borders Bill, which was dissected over multiple sessions.

Our concluding session focused on the ethicality of the proposed Rwanda scheme, considering the UK's international obligations in line with the treaties it has signed.

“ We have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hope that the Society will be carried forward by the next set of pupils. ”

In one of our most popular sessions, we were most fortunate to be visited by Gemma Willingham, a partner at Baker McKenzie who specialises in cases on the matter of Private Wealth. The talk was particularly fascinating, providing many attendees with an explicit insight into the justice system and the opportunity to ask any questions that arose. Over the course of our sessions, we came to appreciate the subjective nature and complexities of the law; these sessions presented law as an extremely stimulating discipline that many members of the Society now wish to educate themselves on further, either by means of a university degree or by personal study."



Sea Scouts

Mr Matthew Balchin,
Scout Section Leader

We started our water term with a mini regatta between ourselves, the 36th Epping Forest Scouts and 1st Leytonstone Sea Scouts. Whilst it quickly became clear that all three groups were going to need some more practice sailing, there were some close calls in the dragon boat races and in the Katakana relays and we declared a friendly draw at the end of the day.

For scouts, the main term started early, during the Easter break with twelve weeks of sailing, canoeing and kayaking at our Fairlop Waters base. The cubs also took to the water for the second half of the term, paddling and sailing. Starting with less experience than normal, the cubs and scouts all reached a good level of confidence in each of the water activities, particularly the paddling, with one of our sailors earning a Bronze Medal whilst representing Redbridge in the London Youth Games. One of the important early lessons is how to get back into the boat or back to safety after falling out. In one session, our older scouts were so thrilled at having mastered the art of both capsizing without getting wet, and

It quickly became clear that all three groups were going to need some more practice...

also at scooping their crew-mate out of the water in a two-handed recovery, that it was a tough job getting them back in the boats at all.

As with all outdoor activities, the weather does what it chooses and we have to adapt to too little wind or too much wind (the difference being one of perspective depending on whether you are a sailor or a paddler). One solution to sailing with no wind at all is to take the masts on your dinghies down and paddle furiously in a relay race which involves picking up members of your team one by one until you have as many scouts as possible balanced in the boat, sitting just above the waterline in the final race for the pontoons. Still not having quite mastered balancing, needless to say, both cubs and scouts took a dunking that evening.



This term also saw our first ever family camp. Over one hundred and fifty parents, cubs, scouts and siblings taking part in parent v scout challenges in the big arena, trying their hand at axe-work and all manner of activities involving ropes, knots and poles of various sizes, as well as some chilled croquet and families hanging out making new friends.

The evening finished with a full barbeque, expertly cooked by some of our parent chefs and a roaring camp fire with traditional, and less traditional, camp songs. Those staying overnight were treated to our special Navy wake-up call in the morning and breakfast cooked by the leaders and some of our older scouts before packing up and heading home, for some actual sleep for some of the younger participants.



CCF Adventurous Training

Ellie Joyce, L6S, and Sarah Dean, L6N

One of the highlights of the CCF calendar each year is Adventurous Training in the Lake District, and this Easter the trip was able to take place again after a two-year gap due to Covid. This did, therefore, mean that there were no cadets on the trip who had been before, so that the experiences shared that week were new to all.

Based at Thurston Outdoor Education Centre, our accommodation sat right by Coniston Water and was surrounded by picturesque views of the Lake District. For the first three days of the trip we were given the opportunity to take part in three of activities which included: rock-climbing, caving, mountain-biking, gorge-walking and canoeing. All of these activities offered amazing opportunities not only to try something new but also to overcome personal challenges and fears. Whether it was climbing to a new height on the rock face (or even doing it blindfolded!) or crawling through the infamous 'cheese grater' at caving, the supportive nature of the CCF staff and the encouragement from cadets younger or older meant that everyone was able to achieve something new with these activities. Despite these endeavours being tiring for us all, our energy levels remained high, to the credit of Chef Barnard

who prepared delicious hot breakfasts and dinner, including fish and chips as well as a roast, which was very popular.

Even though the weather conditions were not as we had hoped, we still managed to complete a three-day expedition at the end of the week. This certainly helped the Sixth Form cadets to develop their leadership skills further and it also encouraged the U4s and 5ths to gain more navigation experience. But most importantly, it created a greater sense of collaboration and friendship within the CCF and between all three year groups.

The opportunity to take part in the exciting activities and expedition and to develop friendships as well as appreciate the beautiful scenery of the Lake District would not have been possible without all of the teachers involved, most notably Mr Hitching who led the way in organising such a brilliant trip.



Going for Gold – Duke of Edinburgh Award

Jemima Strong, U6W

The most important lessons I've taken away from Bancroft's are to always challenge myself, never underestimate my ability and to take risks. Although these have been accomplished through academia and extracurricular activities during my eleven years at school, the independence, confidence and skills I gained from completing my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award will undoubtedly prepare me for life beyond.

Under the expert guidance of Mr Argyle, I completed a twelve-month programme involving volunteering, physical and skills sections, a five-day residential section and four-day expedition. I volunteered to do a weekly shop for an elderly couple over the course of a year. Doing good for others provides a natural sense of accomplishment; I felt I was making a difference. To complete the physical section, I chose to run long distance regularly and, over time my stamina, fitness levels and general sense of well-being improved. I learned to touch type with 'Typing Club' for my skills section. I thought this would be an advantageous skill both later at university and in the workplace. It improved my focus and helped build my professional skill set.

What sets the Gold Award apart from other awards is the undertaking of an activity in a residential setting away from home for five days and four nights. I embarked on the Uni Survival Course at The Foodworks Cookery School in the Cotswolds last summer. I learned how to cook, gained transferable skills and made two lifelong friends!

The final expedition found us in Snowdonia National Park in October 2021 and undoubtedly this was the most gruelling and taxing part of the course. Never let the beautiful, breathtaking, mountainous scenery fool you. Snowdonia is treacherous, cruel and unforgiving. The five members of our team overcame rocks, sheer drops and wild camps in the most ferocious weather conditions Mr Argyle admitted to have ever known. We climbed in heavy fog, trudged through thick muddy paths our legs caked in mud, set up tents in incessant rain and slept in sodden clothes in drenched sleeping bags. There were fleeting moments of laughter, but also there were tears; we were tired, depressed, emotional and group morale was rock bottom at times. I was carrying four days of food and apparatus on my back and my only intention was to survive.

So what did I gain from this? It taught me resilience, to be a team player, it motivated me, I found inner strength and now appreciate all the luxuries we take for granted like food, water and shelter. Above all, I learned that when you surround yourself with people who motivate and encourage you and make you feel you can achieve, anything is possible.

Recently I received my Duke of Edinburgh Gold brooch – a special reminder of personal discovery, self-reliance and dedication. I can now I look forward to next year when I will be presented with my certificate at the Palace. Thanks to the late Duke of Edinburgh, you too can attain standards of endeavour, serve your local community and participate in a real adventure. I highly recommend everyone to embark on this life-changing experience.





Matilda – Prep 2 Production

Elise, 2TP

All the Prep 2s worked around the clock to put on our play: *Matilda the Musical*. We rehearsed from January all the way to the final show. It began with auditions for most characters; everyone really tried their best to impress the judges. We were filled with anticipation asking each other who they hoped to be and, although the announcement kept getting delayed, it only built hype for the cast lists. Lots of people were nervous (I certainly was) but the judges took their time to sort out the best roles carefully and fairly for each of us.

After the auditions, everyone was getting into character, learning lines and practising hilarious accents, plus all the many songs some had to sing. It was long and arduous but it was also fun and we got to see our friends in a new light. We had pupils who helped build props and then paint them too. Finally, the show opened on Monday 23 May with Cast A and closed on Thursday 26 with Cast B. After the opening we all gained more confidence and it almost seemed natural. After all these weeks and months, we were finally performing it! It really helped seeing the audience smiling and laughing even though we were trying desperately to do the opposite in some scenes. It truly was a fantastic experience for all of us; none of us will forget this play and it will hold a special place in our hearts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing teachers and choreographer, Mr John Hebden, who helped to bring this altogether.



Prep 2s in the Peak District

Arielle, 2TP and Lucy, 2AA

After the excitement of our production of *Matilda*, we set out on our five-day trip to the beautiful Peak District. We arrived at about 2pm, quickly had lunch and then swiftly moved on to two planned activities: shelter building and bread making. Both were great fun.

On Tuesday, we had an adventurous day including crossing a rope bridge, abseiling and climbing. These were great fun, however, the walks in between were the most challenging things we did during the whole week! On Wednesday, we did canoeing and caving. In the caves you sometimes had to squeeze through very small gaps, but we all made it through. During the canoeing we raced with the other canoes, tying the two canoes together so we could all fit in, jumping in the water and splashing the teachers. Everyone was dreading Thursday because it was time for the big walk up Mam Tor. It was hot and steep (even though Mr Paramour said it would be a gradual climb) but luckily, we stopped for ice cream on the way back.

When it got to Friday no-one wanted to go home, but it was time to return to our beloved pets and families and tell them all about the trip. We did many activities, including some tasks that some of us had never tried before, but our experiences weren't just all about the activities, the trip was also about learning about each other, getting along with our roommates and learning to persevere and be resilient during activities that were outside of our comfort zones. On the topic of rooms, we had room inspections every day. Some people tried to bribe the teachers with sweets to give them a better score! The scores were announced every evening and sometimes certain rooms were 'named and shamed' – it was very funny. It was an amazing trip and we did not want it to end. Thank you to all the teachers who came with us and made it such a memorable experience.





Prep Sports Day

Ms Sasha Kelly, Prep Head of Girls' Games

Sports Day is one day of the school year when we come together as a community. Every year, new stars emerge and remind us of what hard work and dedication can achieve. Pupils, staff and spectators all play their part in what is one of the highlights of the school calendar. Spirits just could not be dampened, despite the clouds above, for this year's Sports Day.

It started with the gruelling 600m races – well done to those Prep 1 and 2 pupils who showed great resilience to take on the challenge and try their best to run around our track as fast as they could – twice! This was followed by a carousel of various sporting challenges, in which pupils took part, in a bid to earn points for their respective houses. From rugby ball shuttles to bean bag target throwing and football dribbles, there really was something for everyone to take part and excel in. With the pupils' energy levels revitalised with muffins at the break, it was time to welcome the spectators (en masse, it must be said) for the track races in the afternoon. It was louder than a Saturday afternoon at the Emirates! The track races are always a spectacle and, yet again, they did not disappoint this year. Every single pupil in the Prep School had the opportunity to grace the track in front of a crowd and there were so many close races that we had to refer to our very own VAR at the finish line on multiple occasions. As we all know, it is the taking part that counts the most, as is the fun and memories made. However, there was a winning House on the day and that was Manor, so a huge congratulations to all of the pupils in Manor. And well done to all of the pupils in the other houses that made it a very competitive day!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the pupils who showed their true sporting potential during Sports Day, as well as the parents who were great spectators. A special mention must also go to the Parents' Association – their stalls created a real family environment and it really was great to see parents, pupils and staff stay behind after Sports Day to socialise over pizza and Pimms.



Old Bancroftians' Association 5, 10, 15 Years On Reunion



In May we welcomed back over 100 OBs for their reunions. It was a great turnout and a treat to be able to hold this event outside in the Quad to meet up with teachers and some former staff.

OBA President, Steve Dodd, and Bancroft's Head, Simon Marshall, shared news on the Association and the School. Huge thanks to our excellent catering and maintenance teams for all their assistance.



Old Bancroftians' Day

It was a brilliant sunny day to welcome back many Old Bancroftians and their families from both the UK and overseas.

The President's Fun Run started off the day. There were reunions for the 50, 60, 56ers and 70 years on groups when they, and other OBs, came together to enjoy the Founders' Fizz in the Quad. A big thank you to the OBs who had travelled from Malaysia, Canada and the USA to support this event. We were also overjoyed that Harry (90) and Clifford (91) came along and met up again after so many years. Guests were treated to a fantastic hot lunch in the Dining Hall prepared by our talented catering team. Throughout the afternoon OBs and their families were able to have guided tours by our L6 pupils; play crazy golf and giant games on the Quad; cool down in the swimming pool; watch the OBs beat the School at netball and cricket as well as feast on a scrumptious afternoon tea in the Quad marquee or have a Pimms. Infinity the children's' entertainer, was well received as was the bar!





Parents' Association

Mrs Samia Dar, Chair Bancroft's PA

The PA had a busy and fun filled summer term with four events.

On 6 May Bancroft's PA hosted its first wine tasting event. We partnered with a local wine expert, who owns '8 Rocks Deli & Wine' and is the former Head Barman at The Ivy, Covent Garden. The attendees had the opportunity to taste six carefully selected wines from all over the world. A highlight of the evening was the quiz which saw the winner go home with a lovely wine hamper. It was a great opportunity to catch up in-person after two years of on-and-off lockdowns and an opportunity to learn about the wines.

The Prep School saw a large turnout of parents for their Sports Day on 6 June. As in previous years, the school organised this event and the PA supported. We sponsored the ice-lollies for the Prep School children. The PA also held various food and refreshment stalls for the attendees, serving a variety of snacks and treats. The candy floss stall saw the longest queues and a special thank you to Mrs Dalton for her support in running the stall. We were pleased to host the parent teacher cricket match on 21 June back after the Covid break. On a beautiful summer's day, we saw the cricket enthusiasts among the parents and staff battle it out on the pitch. There were great performances from both sides, with

players making sure it was an exciting event for the participants as well as the spectators. An exciting match ended with a fabulous outcome for the parents. We managed our first win since 1995. As usual the PA supported the event with a food and refreshments stall.

Another first for the PA was our camping event and what an event to end the academic year! This took place in Lambourne End from Friday 24 – Sunday 26 June. On offer was staying in glamping tents, bringing your own tent or just coming to spend the day at camp. Evenings were spent around the campfire with the little ones roasting marshmallows and running around with friends. There was a variety of foods and drinks from outside vendors, such as

pizzas, crepes, barista coffee, pastries and a BBQ. The PA sold Pimms, prosecco, bubble tea and G&Ts, as well as snacks. On Saturday evening, attendees enjoyed music from our very own campers, big and small, with the Bandeoke Experience. We were also treated to a rendition of "Revoltin' Children" from the West End musical Matilda, performed by Prep 2 campers. Day activities included kayaking, zip-lining, a ropes assault course and pond-dipping. Parents enjoyed football, cricket, and other sports. The joy, friendliness and camaraderie amongst our families and children during this weekend was incredible.

The PA has an exciting line up of events once we are back for the next term. Upcoming events include: Alpha Beta Welcome to Bancroft's Magic Show, the Annual General Meeting (AGM), a Tango Evening as well as the annual PA Fireworks event. We look forward to welcoming you to these events.

OB Golf Captain's Meeting



Ten OBs and five guests played in Malcolm Fleet's Captain's Meeting at Chigwell GC on 29 June.

We were pleased to welcome some new old faces who came to support Malcolm and we hope to see them at some future meetings. The OBs were competing for the Arnold Cup, first played for in 1938. Ken Perch was the winner with a score of 38 Stableford points. To find out more about OB Golf please contact our Secretary, Adam Kodish at golf@oldbancroftians.com

Bancroft's

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