

# PREP HEADLINES



EDITION: 198

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We've now had the chance to look at the responses to this year's pupil and parent questionnaires. Thank you again to all who took part. Your feedback was overwhelmingly positive but you also took the trouble to make some constructive criticisms of how we can make the school even better.

All of you said that your children were happy and felt safe at Bancroft's Prep School and ultimately that is the most important thing. Yes, there were issues you wanted to raise and we will address them, but all of you who expressed an opinion said the school is well led and managed and you would recommend it to other parents. There were lots of individual compliments for our staff and I'll be sure to pass them on.

The pupil questionnaire has also produced some delightful results: 'I think this school is the best one in the whole world and I am happy with all the teachers'; 'Everyone is safe and happy here, and the school is very good at sorting out problems'; 'I enjoy how people from different faiths and cultures come together and have fun together as one big happy family.'; 'This is actually a good school and I want to send my own children here'; 'I think we should have more charity fundraisers and burgers but apart from that this school is perfect'; 'This school is a great place to learn and have fun and try out new things.'

We're never going to be complacent but we are very pleased indeed that parents and children appreciate what we are trying to achieve here. Bancroft's is a special place, it's a community and we want everyone here to know they have a voice.

*Joe Layton*

## BOOK FAIR

A big thank you to Mrs Bhangal and Ms Schroder who ran the Travelling Book Fair for the Prep children this month. They sold lots of fiction and non-fiction texts, across a range of genres and made £1088! This initiative really encourages the children to take charge of their reading as they can independently choose their own material. Our classroom bookshelves are now stocked with a selection of paperbacks too, due to the profits of the sale.



## POPPY APPEAL



A magnificent total of **£443.64** was raised for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal by the sale of poppies and other poppy merchandise at school organised by Mrs Strong and members of Prep 2. Thank you for your support.

## ARTS FUNDRAISER

The evening of Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> November was a very special one at the senior school. The Arts Fundraiser was an event designed to support our pupils' involvement in the creative arts at Bancroft's.

From the moment we entered the quad, the setting for 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' we were immersed into a magical realm. Sketches from the play were enacted either by moonlight or in the unique setting of the chapel. From there we were treated to an exhibition of GCSE artwork in the dining hall and had the opportunity to buy postcards, anonymously designed by teachers from the senior school. Once in the Great Hall, we were entertained by choirs, dancers and musicians from across the school. Our Prep Senior Choir, led by Adam Baum, gave a powerful and confident performance of 'Power In Me' and 'When I Grow Up'. The talent and enthusiasm of every performer was infectious and made for a fantastic atmosphere. We were fortunate too to have actress and Old Bancroftian, Samantha Spiro, in our company. She spoke about how her opportunities at Bancroft's had sparked her enthusiasm for a career in the Arts.

Profits from an auction of promises on the evening raised £5000 and this will assist in supporting Bancroft's pupils who would like to take part in projects running within the creative arts. These range from the recent A Capella tour to New York City, cultural trips to Madrid, Tokyo and Paris amongst others, the Bancroft's Players' participation at the Edinburgh Fringe and our latest musical venture; Music Junction with the London Chamber Orchestra.

Congratulations to all who were involved in organising such a successful and uplifting evening.

Sarah Strong



## TOWER OF LONDON

On Wednesday, 9th November the Betas went to the Tower of London. First we went to a workshop which was really fun and informative. We were given objects from the Tudor times and we had to guess what they were and what they were used for. Our group was given a feather quill with an ink pot and sand sprinkler, the sand was used on the ink to dry it after writing or if a mistake was made the Tudors could use the sand to soak up the ink and correct their mistake.



We visited The Bloody Tower where the famous Sir Walter Raleigh was held before he was beheaded. A rumour has it that his ghost still haunts the room. I felt a shiver down my spine as I walked past Sir Walter Raleigh's room of doom. The thing I liked the most was the small dusty windows that were really long, narrow and wound up the staircase.

The White Tower is one of the most famous castle keeps in the world and it is in the middle of the Tower of London. There was lots to see inside and we could look at arms and armour on display and cannons, but the best bit was seeing the royal armours of Henry VIII.

We went to visit the Jewel House where the Crown Jewels are kept. When we saw them we had to walk along a traveller as they were kept securely behind a huge glass cabinet. On the crown of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, there are 2,800 diamonds, including the most famous diamond in the Jewel House, the Koh-i-Nûr diamond. This Indian diamond has been set many times in the Crown. The Imperial State Crown is one of the youngest Crowns in the collection and it holds a number of much older gems.

The Crown Jewels at the Tower of London are regularly used by the Queen in important national ceremonies, such as the State Opening of Parliament. At the Tower, if they are being used, there will be a sign saying, 'Jewels in use'.

You'll find the Crown Jewels under armed guard in the Jewel House at the Tower of London. I learnt that the Crown Jewels played an important part of the Monarchy today - such a shame we could not try them on!

Carys Biston, Lois Dawney and Amelia Shapland BSS

## SCIENCE QUIZ

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of November, 12 Prep 1s and Prep 2s went to Avon House Prep School for an annual Science Quiz, organised by Quiz Club. It was a cold, windy day but we arrived full of confidence. There were 12 teams and 5 other schools. Myself and a few other people had already been to previous quizzes, so we had some experience.

The science questions were in three rounds. Categories of questions varied from dinosaurs to space, Chemistry to Physics to Biology and the periodic table.

From the beginning, Woodford Green Prep raced into a lead but we were not far behind. There was a time where we were consistently 5 points behind Woodford Green Prep. Eventually, to our relief but their disappointment, we overtook them. We were cruising along when, suddenly, Bancroft's 2 took the lead! The Quiz will be remembered as 'The Battle of Bancroft's', as the quiz host put it. It looked like we were falling behind, as we had 5 questions where we didn't get any points at all. Then came the last question and we pipped Bancroft's 2 to take home the trophy. Overall, it was a fantastic achievement, as we came 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you very much to Miss Ellery for organising it and supporting us. The semi-finals will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Elliot Watson 2LP

## DOGS TRUST

On Wednesday, 23rd November, a lady from the Dogs Trust came to visit our school. She was called Ruth and she brought a dog with her called Fudge.

Ruth showed us some pictures of dogs who weren't taken care of properly. She showed us pictures of food that we can eat but dogs cannot. Ruth said they looked after 17,000 dogs a year. She talked to us about how to



behave around dogs. She said we have to be very quiet around them because they can hear ten times better than we can.

In some of the pictures the dogs had really long hair and were very fat. Ruth told us that grooming and exercise was very important for dogs. Grooming is brushing, washing hair and cutting hair.

At the end we stroked Fudge; he was cute and soft. We all got a certificate.

Dhiya Venkateswaran and Lara Williams ASB

# SPOTACULAR!

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November was no ordinary Friday...it was 'Children In Need' day! The school was flooded with colour as a range of spotted accessories poured inside. From leopard print pyjama onesies to cool Pudsey picture changing t-shirts; everyone was wearing something awesome and it was enjoyed by all. The theme this year was to adorn yourself in spots and there were some great efforts made with outfits. The day was renamed 'Spotacular' this year.

Children In Need is a charity that provides grants to projects in the UK which focus on children and young people who are disadvantaged. We all gave £2.00 each, adding to the grand total the charity raised this year of £46,624,259. We are very proud to have contributed **£445.20** to this charity and glad we are giving the help to children who need it the most.

Sia Kalia 1CP



## MUSIC AND MUNCH

*Music and Munch* took place on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> November. What a delightful lunchtime concert this was, attended by a proud audience of thirty parents, grandparents and friends. Nineteen of our pupils played amazingly well, on a dizzying array of instruments, starting with Aurora Strong on the saxophone and finishing with a sensational Grade 6 drum solo from Nishant Ganesh, who played a piece by *The Who*. Their wild drummer Keith Moon would have been very impressed! Beginners played, thanks to Mrs Tarrant putting some pianists forward and Mrs Thompson accompanied her singers. The whole concert was delightful and the children were a credit to their teachers and parents. Please look out for the date of the next *Music and Munch* in the New Year.

Adam Baum

## NEW LOCAL DRAMA

### GEMINI PERFORMING ARTS

"Come and enjoy a trio of artistic disciplines. Singing, Dancing and Drama, all delivered by experienced, professional and dedicated staff. We aim to provide your child with a deep understanding of performance technique and the confidence to reach their fullest potential."

Romford, New Vibe Studios

Ages 2-4 (Baby Dance):  
Friday 10am-11am

Ages 5-12:  
Friday 4pm-6.30pm

Ages 13-18:  
Thursday 4.15pm-6.45pm



Woodford, Prospect Hall

Ages 5-12:  
Saturday 9am-11.30am

Ages 13-18:  
Saturday 11.30am-2pm



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## ALL ROADS LEAD TO...

...the Christmas Concert! This year it takes place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm and, as I write, rehearsals are in full swing. All of our choirs are busy preparing their big numbers and the many ensembles are polishing their carefully chosen pieces. The concert promises to be a highlight of the school year and for 1LL, who are taking the lead in 'Nobody Wants To Be A Donkey', I am sure that nerves are jangling, but no need. They are already looking ahead; especially with the script dancing off the page with jokes and comedy. Every child in the school takes part in this concert, so please put the date in your diaries and come and enjoy the evening.



Adam Baum

## BETA RUGBY



On Thursday, 20th October Beta boys went to Bishop Stortford College to play rugby. It was an A, B and C team fixture so everyone could join in. Everyone played very well. Our C team and their C team split into two groups. Group 1 lost 12-8 and Group 2 lost 6-5.

The first half was dominated by Bishop Stortford. They scored astonishing tries. Ilias Larwood-Agapitos scored all four tries in the first half. In the second half, I scored the first tries, followed by Uthman Rahman, which made it 12-6. We started tackling more viciously and we began to rip the ball. We became fearless. There was lots of encouragement from Aashay Rao and Eddie Jiang on and off the pitch.

Edward Dalton made many terrific tackles and scored the last two tries. Sebastian Knuckey made many runs and tackles. Everyone played well on the pitch. It was a great game of rugby and everyone took part on or off pitch enjoyed it. Beware Bishop Stortford College: 'We'll be back!'

Tristan Law BKY

## IMAAAN'S STARRING ROLE



Last week I went to the ATP Tennis Tournament in London. This was not to watch a match, but to be a mascot. I was chosen to walk out with Kei Nishikori, who is one of the top male singles players in the world. I had known for a few days that I was going and I was extremely excited. On the day, I was given a kit to wear and a big, blue tennis ball. I came out from a tunnel and waited for the players to arrive. My heart was pounding as the lights dimmed and the music blared loudly. Nishikori came out and the cameras gathered around us. I held his hand and escorted him on to the court. After leaving him on the bench, I had my photograph taken. There were almost 20,000 people in the arena and millions more watching on television. It felt amazing to be a star...if only for a few moments!

Imaan Ali BSS

## U11 HOCKEY V ST CEDD'S

On Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November we played a match against St Cedd's at Ashton playing fields. We were all really excited but nervous at the same time. When the whistle blew, St Cedd's started with the ball. They were fast and got their first goal in the first few seconds of the game. We tried and tried our hardest to score goals, until at last we scored one! Five people passed the ball so fast, St Cedd's couldn't catch up and then they hit it into me and we scored. By the end of the match we were all tired but really pleased with our performance. Hopefully, next time, we can score more goals. In the end the score was 5-1 to St Cedd's. Although we didn't win we tried our hardest and all played really well as a team.

Olivia Moncur 2LP

## NEW HALL TOURNAMENT

On Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> of October some Prep 2 girls travelled to New Hall for a hockey tournament. The girls were all really excited and raring to go. The girls played 5 games in total, their first match was against New Hall A team. The girls put up a great fight and only conceded one goal. This was their only loss of the day, which helped to inspire them to succeed in the rest of the games. Their following matches were against St Cedd's, King's Ely and Forest School. With fantastic determination and defending, all matches ended in 0-0 draws, however there were a number of fantastic shots taken at goal from the Bancroft's girls. In the last match of the day, the girls came up against New Hall B team, the team got off to a great start with a goal from Anya Pitt and continued to play well throughout the game. New Hall managed to come back in the last moments of the game to make the final score 1-1. The overall results were then announced; thanks to fantastic play and defending from the girls throughout the day and great goal keeping from Milen John, the girls secured 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the tournament. It was a brilliant way to end the first half term!

Sophie Alchin

