

PREP HEADLINES



EDITION: 196

30TH SEPTEMBER 2016

We love the new Alphas! Of course, we say that every year, and we mean it, but our new intake really have shown themselves to be full of charisma, positivity and fun; they are also demonstrating the resilience, hard work and curiosity about the world that are strong features of Bancroft's children. It's not easy coming to a new school at 7+. This place is huge in comparison with most of their previous schools and there are lots of new faces and new routines to get used to. So far they have risen to every challenge they have faced, both individually and collectively. I have the pleasure of working with the Alphas in their Games sessions and it's a great opportunity for me to get to know them better. I hope they are coming home each day with exciting tales of their exploits both inside and outside their classrooms. If there is anything that they are concerned about, please do let us know- an email or a note to their class teacher is usually the best way to start. We really do want them to be happy here; we want them to love learning and their whole school experience. Recently they have been marching around the Alpha area dressed as Roman soldiers and following instructions in Latin. It's not what all seven year olds are doing at school, but then we aim to give our children a very special education.

Joe Layton

L.A.M.D.A SUCCESS

Congratulations to all the L.A.M.D.A. Speech pupils. Everyone who took an exam in July achieved a Merit or Distinction and, for the second year running, we had more Distinctions in Speech and Communication than any other school in the country.

Aliza Yusuf, Gunjita Sengupta, Lara Whalley, Matthew Jackson and Amina Poernomo even managed to achieve a score of 100%!

As most examiners tell us that they have never been awarded 100% in all their years of examining; this really is quite a feat!

Libby Oliver



OUR NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL

This year's School Council has been elected following a vote in each class. The representatives, who will meet each half-term, must be prepared to put forward the suggestions of their peers.

AEN	Caitlin Hancock
ASB	Saffron Lall
ACB	Nandika Mali
BSS	Ben Peters
BLD	Deen Pramanik
BKY	Aryan Kundra
1LL	Bradley Varaden
1CP	Maya Ruwala
1BR	Alex Hancock
2LP	Samah Butt
2LE	Jase Lall
2AA	Danielle Amouzou-Akue



THE RAGGED SCHOOL



On Thursday 29th September the Prep 1s went on a trip to the Ragged School. It was very exciting and we learned lots of new and interesting things. We were split into two groups and one group went to the classroom while the other group went to the Victorian house. In the classroom, we were taught by 'Miss Perkins'; she was strict! We had to write on slate and sit up straight with chins up and our hands on our laps at all times. In the Victorian house, we were given objects, which we had to describe and guess what they were for. This trip was really fun; we really enjoyed it and we think the Betas will when they come next year!

Aleena Vesamia and Gautam Natarajan 1BR



BETA KINGSWOOD TRIP

There is nothing children love more than exploring the great outdoors, learning new skills and overcoming challenges. Kingswood was a great residential trip that brought learning to life for our Betas. The trip built self-confidence and a sense of achievement in our pupils; it was an enjoyable, rewarding experience for all. We stayed at Grosvenor Hall in Ashford, Kent. The children flew through the air on a 3G Swing, zoomed along an Aerial Runway, walked the Nightline and played Aeroball and Fencing amongst other activities. These all involved team work and problem solving. They returned with great self-esteem, a positive attitude, motivated and exhausted!

Here's what they had to say:

'It pushed us all out of our comfort zone' - Sophia

'I wish I could go again!' - Vedant

'I was scared to do things, but I did them!' - Sara

'It was the best experience of my life!' - Marisa

'It was a great team building experience' - Seb

'I loved the aerial runway and overcame my fear of zipwires. My mum said it was very quiet without me. I'm not sure why - maybe she missed me.' - Zubair

'At night we kept planning to have midnight feasts, but we were always too tired.' - Riyann

BETAS GOT TALENT

On Friday 8th July it was the final of 'Betas Got Talent' which is a competition where the Betas show off their hidden talents. The Betas who made it to the final first had to audition in their classes and then their class teacher would choose three acts to go through to the final. The act could either be a solo or a group act. When the day of the final arrived everyone was tense and excited, the finalists were allowed to come in non-uniform.

We started the competition with Frank Williams playing 'Skyfall', then Gunjita Sengupta and Nancy Pierre singing 'Harry Potter in 99 seconds'. The judges of the competition were Mrs Biston, Mr Harrison, Miss Johnston and Miss Adams.

In the end joint third place was a boy band, 'Rock Our Souls': Nathan Dakoh, James Kumar, Henry Knight and David Duodu and the Amazing Acrobats: Aurora Strong, Maia Fisher and Fareedha Aminu. Joint second place was Abisola Daodu, singing 'Hello' by Adele and Lakshmi Kumar, singing 'Salute' by Little Mix; and first place was me dancing to an Indian song called 'Nagada Song Dhol'. It was a great competition and I thank the Beta teachers for organising it.

Shriya Datta 1BR

ELY CATHEDRAL



On Tuesday the 20th the Chapel Choir went to visit Kings School Ely. It was a long trip, but it was worth it! When we first got there we practised some warm up exercises using our hands, our feet and of course our voice. They were a bit funny but they were lots of fun! After that we began to start learning some songs which we were going to perform in the beautiful Cathedral, for example a song called 'Well Faring Stranger'.

It was great but singing so much made us hungry! We had lunch and then we practised some more and then learnt a song from the Cathedral about Jesus and sang that. Then we began to walk up to the Cathedral and as soon as we got in we sang a song about Jesus as we walked to another gorgeous room where we were going to sing the songs we had been practising. We learnt the order of which songs we were going to sing, learnt one new song and then it was show time! We first saw the other groups and they were really good. Then we performed and the adults joined in on the last song! It was a memorable experience which we won't forget.

Trisha Sharma 1LL

MACMILLAN CAKE SALE



On Thursday, 29th September the Prep 2s ran a cake sale to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Support. Every Prep 2 brought in some lovely cakes, Ms Moor even brought in a huge Smarties cake to see if anyone could guess how many Smarties there were! Lots of children wanted to buy cakes. The Alphas were really excited as it was their first cake sale. The current total raised stands at £328.13 for this very worthy cause.

Lewis Chui 2AA



U11 RUGBY

On Sunday, 18th September, we took part in the 7th Brentwood Schools Under 11 Rugby tournament. The conditions were excellent for some great rugby. The teams were divided up into two groups of four: Bancroft's group consisted of Haberdasher's, Brentwood A and Perse with the latter being our opponents for the first game.

Perse won the toss and kicked first. The boys dug deep, but Perse ran out 2 tries to 0 and were deserved victors. It was our first game, after only couple of training sessions and the boys performed well, tackling and rucking, with Joseph Ding being especially strong. The second game was against Brentwood A. After a quick team talk the boys went out positively. After five minutes were 2-0 up with Kiran and Olly going over the line with well constructed tries. Brentwood hit back to make it 2-1 but Bancroft's eventually found holes in the defence of Brentwood to run out 4-1 victors. The tries went to Kiran and Alex who both dived for the corners. The final game was against the eventual winners, Haberdasher's, which proved a hard test. They were formidable opponents and the boys gave it their all, but came away 0-4 tries down. This meant that Bancroft's sealed a place in the bowl final against Barnadiston Hall. So, after a quick lunch break, the boys got geared up for their final. Kiran dashed over in the corner, then Olly powerfully drove over the line at the centre. At half-time we had a commanding lead of 2-0. In second half Barnadiston scored and more great play followed. Tries came from Bancroft's captain, Will, followed by Alex. All the boys played an excellent part and, most of all, had a lot of fun participating. They came away with the bowl trophy. Well done to the team and the supporters – the teachers were very proud of the effort put in by everyone that played.

Chris Hall



VICTORY AT HIGHGATE

As Highgate is a new competitor for Bancroft's we were really excited to swim against them for the first time. We were off to a good start, taking gold in our first few races. We kept consistent and only missed out on 1st place in one event, but Highgate didn't shrink away. They kept up a strong fight so there were some really close races! We finished with a win in the squadron relay which involved most of the team. Overall we had a great time and it was another victory for Bancroft's.

Nishant Ganesh 2LE and William Packer 2LP

RUN FOREST RUN!



On Sunday 18th September Mr Layburn and I took part in The Forest Run. This is an event organised to support local charities who work to tackle poverty in Sri Lanka, Kenya and Tanzania. The 5k run takes place in Wanstead Park and has been an annual event since 2005.

Lucy Joyce, an ex-Prep pupil, is involved with the charity working in Tanzania and first introduced the school to the event. Lucy and her family have been raising money to build the Mugoma Health Centre for many years now and the funds they have raised so far have enabled the hospital's walls and roof to be completed. If you would like to find out more about this charity you can visit their website - <http://www.mugomatrust.org/>

It was a lovely day and many people turned out to support the runners. I matched my previous time for the run, but unfortunately could not keep up with Mr Layburn who flew round the course! This was good training for us as, along with several other Prep teachers, we have just signed up to do a 10k run in February to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

We will advertise The Forest Run next September and hope to get lots of pupils and staff taking part.

Laura Ellery