



This year's Sports Day was a shining example of our school community at its very best. Faced with one of the hottest days of the year, we made some practical changes to the programme but children, parents and staff all rose to the occasion and made it one to remember. Whether the children were racing for the finish line or working together in the House events, they demonstrated not only their individual talents but the values of teamwork and resilience that we hold dear. There were plenty of fast times and plenty of smiles. The organisation was seamless. Huge thanks to our brilliant Team PE for their planning and leadership. And of course, a special thank you to the Parents' Association for their support and for providing what may have been the most welcome treat of the day: ice lollies for every child and member of staff. As we head into the summer break, I hope the sunshine continues and that everyone finds time to relax and recharge. To those who are leaving us - farewell and good luck on your next adventure. And to those returning in September - we look forward to another action-packed year together. Enjoy the summer!

*Joe Layton*

## PREP 2 ON TOUR



At last, the day came for the Prep 2s to go on our residential trip to Trafford Hall - on the 2nd of June, right after the half-term holidays! We left Bancroft's in the morning, said goodbye to our families, and hopped onto the coach to begin our exciting adventure. A few hours into the journey, we stopped at a huge service station where we stretched our legs and bought snacks. Then we set off again - and after a long drive, we finally arrived! Trafford Hall was grand and old. The moment I stepped inside, it felt warm and glowing. Our bedrooms were cosy, with everything neatly arranged. We had lunch in a pretty garden and chatted about the activities ahead. The Trafford Hall staff led our evening activities - buggy building, learning to use a compass, and doing art in the forest. The games were fun and quite challenging!

On Day 2 and 3, we did the big adventure activities - the ones that needed more bravery! We went on an adventure walk up a steep, rocky hill, did rock climbing, canoeing, and white water rafting. We were a bit nervous at first, but soon started to enjoy ourselves. On Day 4, we tried fencing, launched egg rockets, and did archery - I found out I'm actually really good at archery! We packed our things that evening, ready for the journey home. The food was amazing. For breakfast we had buttery toast and crispy hash browns, and for dinner we had hot pasta, burgers, and fries. The desserts were the best - waffles with whipped cream and sugary doughnuts! We also had room inspections, which were funny when people got low scores - we all laughed! My favourite activities were the adventure walk, white water rafting (the rapids felt like a rollercoaster!), and buggy building - we even had a race! The Trafford Hall trip was a wonderful, exciting experience. We made so many memories, found new talents, overcame fears, and made new friends. I'll never forget it! Ishta



## FAREWELL PREP 2

The Prep 2 Leavers' Final Assembly and BBQ is always one of the most special evenings in the school calendar - and this year was no exception. It was a chance for the whole community to come together to celebrate the Prep 2 children as they prepare for their next steps. Parents, siblings, and staff gathered in the hall to enjoy a heartfelt assembly filled with laughter, reflections, and joyful songs. The children looked back on their time at the Prep School, remembering the friendships, the fun, and all they have achieved. Afterwards, it was out of uniform and into their own clothes as the celebrations continued outside. With barbecue food, bouncy castles, and a visit from the ice-cream van, the evening was full of energy and excitement. It was a time to reflect, say goodbye, and look ahead. For many, the next chapter lies just across the field at the Senior School. For others, it means moving on to new schools and fresh adventures. Wherever their journey takes them, we know they will carry the spirit of Bancroft's Prep with them. We are incredibly proud of our leavers and wish them all the very best. Alex Adams

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# SUMMER CONCERTS

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In the penultimate week of term, all of our Bancroft's Prep students took part in the summer concerts. The Lower Phase concert opened with a fun *Cha Cha* performed by the Junior Orchestra, followed by the Betas singing a lively Beatles medley. For many, it was their first time playing an instrument in a concert setting, and our two solo singers, Eden and Anika, performed with true professionalism. Several ensembles also took to the stage: the Brass Ensemble whisked us away to Cuba with a dance number and performed *Midweek Blues*, all under the baton of Mr Rob Landon, our trumpet teacher. The Saxonettes played *Spring* by Vivaldi under the watchful eye of Miss Spaliara, while Raja and Amber-Noor (both Betas) performed a delightful duet of Shostakovich's *Jazz Waltz*. We also enjoyed solos from Arjun and Audrey (Alphas) and Ayla and Ruien (Betas), all of whom played with great musicality. The Junior Choir brought the energy with *Rhythm of Life* and *Get Loud*, complete with lively actions. The Alpha Choir followed with a touching performance of *Colours of the Wind* from *Pocahontas*, almost moving the audience to tears. Soloists Phoebe, Viaan, Daniel, and Eliza sang superbly. It was a truly joyful event! The Senior Concert showcased our full range of musical ensembles. Senior Orchestra opened with a powerful *Star Wars* performance, followed by the Guitar Ensemble, Cello Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, and Toot Group. Soloists Reyansh and Aurelia (both Prep 2) were excellent, before the Bancroft Boys, Prep Singers, and Senior Choir took us through a fantastic variety of songs. The concert finished on a high with our school anthem, *Floreat Bancroftia*, sung through the roof!

Mrs Kinnair thoroughly enjoyed both concerts and thanks all the children for their dedication in lessons and rehearsals. What a fantastic end to a busy musical year!



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## VISITATION DAY

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On Friday 20th June, Bancroft's celebrated Visitation Day. The Prep 1s and 2s delighted our distinguished guests with an afternoon concert in the Prep Hall. All of the choirs performed, including the Prep Singers, who delivered a highly energetic rendition of *This Is Me* from *The Greatest Showman*. The Bancroft's Boys' Choir moved the audience with their heartfelt version of *Fix You* by Coldplay. We were treated to a medley from *Hairspray*, featuring Prep 1 soloists Jessica, Rebecca, Delia, Adam, Teddy and Isabelle, followed by a medley from the recent production of *Oliver!* with Prep 2 soloists Malena, Zara, Imogen, Isabella, Celine, Zach, Abdullah and Lina. Charles (Beta) and Kaitlyn (Prep 2) gave beautiful performances on the grand piano,

while Lina (Prep 2) transported us to Berkeley Square with her stunning vocal solo. Hermann (Prep 2) rocked out on the drums to *Live and Let Die*, and Rebecca-May (Prep 2) impressed us all with her exquisite performance of a Bach Partita on the violin. The concert ended with the Senior Choir leading everyone in a VE Day medley, marking this year's special anniversary. It was a fantastic event – congratulations to all of the performers!



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## SCHOOL OF ROCK

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On Wednesday 11th June 2025, the Betas and Prep 2s had the chance to watch the Senior School's production of *School of Rock* — and what a show it was! There was loads of humour, brilliant singing, and it was a fantastic production overall. The instruments played during the performance sounded excellent, and there was a great mix of different characters. My favourite of them all was probably Dewey Finn. The best part, though, was definitely when Horace Green (the school nicknamed the School of Rock) competed in the Battle of the Bands. It was such an exciting moment! It was also great to see ex-Prep pupils in lead roles — it made me feel so excited about the idea of performing at the Senior School one day.

Arjun BSS



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## CREDIT WINNERS

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On a sunny penultimate Friday of the year, 24 of our fantastic credit winners this term, were treated to a well-deserved reward trip to Leaside, accompanied by Miss Kelly, Mr Hall, Ms Fourie, and Ms Spaliara. The pupils took to iconic London waterways with great enthusiasm, starting with some time to build confidence on the water in their kayaks. Once everyone was feeling steady and sure, the fun really began! The pupils played a variety of lively games that had plenty of splashing, laughter, and teamwork, all making memories that we have no doubt will last! It was a brilliant experience for all involved – a morning full of smiles, new skills, and memorable moments. A huge well done to our credit winners for their hard work this term!

# EMPATHY WEEK

How can we help our children develop empathy? Here in the library, our answer is simple: read! During Empathy Week, children explored the power of “jumping into someone else’s story,” inspired by book recommendations from EmpathyLab. Throughout the week, pupils enjoyed story time with staff from across the Prep School, thought-provoking assemblies, and creative activities that sparked meaningful conversations about kindness and understanding. Our “Empathy is my Superpower” sunglasses were a big hit, reminding us that reading helps us see the world through different eyes. It was truly inspiring to see our pupils embrace these values and help foster a more connected, caring school community.

Katie Pett



# CHESS NEWS

On a lovely June Sunday, we took 12 talented chess players to leafy Wimbledon for the EPSCA (English Primary Schools Chess Association) semi-finals. We had an experienced U11 team and a relatively novice U9 team — but whatever their experience, it was a daunting occasion with many teams present, including familiar foes like Eltham College and formidable new opponents such as King’s College School, Wimbledon. It was a wonderful venue for a tournament, and some brilliant matches were played. For our U9 team — Quentin, Leonidas, Arjun, Eashar, Rory, and Arjun — it was an invaluable experience. Now that they have a sense of what to expect, I’m looking forward to many more tournaments with them in the future. For our U11s — Zoe, Ashwin, Mary, Ishta, Aaryan, and Alex — it was bittersweet. They

played fantastically well but faced exceptionally strong competition. Only two teams out of the twenty-four qualified for the finals, and we were narrowly pipped to the post. As five of our U11 players move on to senior schools this summer, our chess team will look quite different next year — but I’m excited for another year of competition and, hopefully, success!

Lisa Life

# HEAD FOR THE DAY

When I was Head for the Day, my class and I came to school in non-uniform, which was a great start! In assembly, I got to stand on Pride Rock from the *Lion King* play, and everyone was cheering me on. I was dressed as Obi-Wan Kenobi while the *Star Wars* theme tune played — it was epic! We all sang *I’m Still Standing* by Elton John, which made it even more special. After that, I asked if there were any staff announcements, and I presented a medal to Mr Layburn for running a charity marathon. At break time, we had the whole interior playground to ourselves. We were given loads of snacks and drinks — and best of all, we were allowed to play on our Nintendos! At lunch, we had our own reserved tables and even squash to drink. We played on our Nintendos again during the lunch break, which made it feel like a party. After lunch, I had a tour of the Prep School with Mr Layburn. IAK were playing rounders at the time, and the first time I batted — I hit a home run! To finish the day, we had the leftover squash during form time. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be Head for the Day — it was so much fun. I really enjoyed being called “Mr Wright” by everyone. It was an amazing day!

Mr Wright



# TFL WORKSHOP

The Prep 2s were visited by James from TfL who talked to them about safety when cycling, as well as being safe, respectful passengers when using buses, trains and the tube. Many of the children in Prep 2 will be travelling to school independently for the first time in September and this is an important part of ensuring they feel confident and ready to do so. If your child doesn’t yet have their Zip Oyster photocard, which grants them free bus travel and reduced fares on all other TfL services, they can sign up here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/11-15-zip-oyster-photocard>

Tim Paramour

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## HYDE HALL TRIP

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Earlier this term, the Alpha pupils enjoyed a fantastic day out at RHS Hyde Hall, deepening their understanding of plants and how they grow. Throughout the day, we planted nasturtium seeds – an edible plant where the leaves, stalk and even the flowers can be eaten! In the Global Garden, the children were fascinated to see vegetables from around the world—potatoes, melons, peppers and corn, for example —making connections between the plants we grow and the food we eat every day. Back in the classroom, we got up close to a variety of weird and wonderful seed pods, then used wax crayons to create rubbings of seeds and bark textures. A highlight was learning about seed dispersal – including making and testing our own spinning seed models. We also explored pollination by creating bright, chalky flower drawings and using cotton wool ‘bees’ to transfer pollen from plant to plant – a brilliant visual demonstration of how nature works. We also ventured into the woods to try nest building, learning how birds play an important role in the plant life cycle. They eat berries that contain seeds — and then, yes, distribute them in a very natural way! The children loved this fact, and it certainly brought the science to life. Hyde Hall is one of the RHS’s beautiful gardens and well worth a visit. Whether you’re looking for a family day out or just a little peace and inspiration, there’s something for everyone — from woodlands and wildflower meadows to vegetable plots and sensory gardens. Ironically, as I write this in the middle of a blazing heatwave, I’m reminded of how it poured down on the day — but the children’s enthusiasm never wavered. A great day was had by all!

Laura Dalton



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## CODING COMPETITION

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The Young Coders’ Competition is a nationwide competition that lots of Bancroftians took part in. To enter this year, you needed to create a game on the coding program Scratch around the theme of "Budgeting Better" by Friday 9th May. We each got unique feedback and a certificate for our efforts. Although none of the Bancroftian entries got 1<sup>st</sup> place everyone who entered tried very hard and all did an amazing job. A big thank you to Miss Ellery for encouraging us to apply and submitting our entries.

Izzy IBR

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## VALERIE BLOOM

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We’re positively potty about poetry in Prep 1, so it was a real delight to welcome award-winning author and poet Valerie Bloom for a special visit. She treated us to some classic favourites, including *Granny Is* and *Sandwich*, and introduced us to poems we hadn’t heard before, such as *Pinda Cake* and *Welcome* — blending powerful storytelling with the rich sounds of Jamaican patois. Valerie guided us through a variety of poetic forms, from playful *kennings* to short and punchy *effes*. She challenged us to think like poets, encouraging us to notice the detail, beauty and humour in the world around us. A truly inspirational day!

Aimée Kanolik



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## SENIOR SCIENCE

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The Prep 1s had the exciting opportunity to visit the Senior School, where we used their science labs and were taught by senior school teachers. Each class had their own teacher: IAK were taught by Dr Ahmed, ITB by Mrs Amirthananthar, and IBR by Dr Ismail. We did lots of fun experiments — including making cheese, creating and testing glue, testing for carbon dioxide, hydrogen and oxygen, and investigating which rubber band was the strongest and how its length and width affected it. It was amazing, and I think everyone really enjoyed it! It was a great chance to see what science is like at the Senior School — especially if you love experiments and finding things out. The teachers were all very kind and gave up their time to work with us, so we’re really grateful. And the biggest thank you goes to Miss Ellery for organising such a brilliant event!

Veera IAK



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## SWIMMING SUCCESS

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James from Prep 1 brought pride to Bancroft's with his qualification and impressive performance in the IAPS Swimming Finals. Back in February, Bancroft's selected 16 of our fastest Prep 1 and 2 swimmers to compete in local IAPS swim galas. Isaac, Joshua, James, Viishnu, Katrina, Elliza, Shyla, Noor, Abdullah, Kartar, Arnav, Rory, Ellie, Lucy, Irina and Anya all represented the school in our regional gala at Dulwich College. While all swimmers performed well, it was James who secured a place in the prestigious Finals. The Finals took place at the London Aquatic Centre in the Olympic Park and had a truly professional atmosphere. Rising to the occasion, James delivered a brilliant swim in the 50m breaststroke. Although just short of a personal best, his time of 47.14 seconds was two seconds faster than his performance in the qualifying gala — a fantastic improvement. This is an outstanding time for a 10-year-old and, impressively, faster than many Bancroftians — Prep and Senior alike — can swim the same distance front crawl. James was cheered on by his mum, dad, and sister Maggie, as well as Charlie and his dad, who came to show their support. Ms Brennan praised James' calm focus and professionalism under pressure, describing his performance as "outstanding." Well done, James — a fantastic achievement!



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## SING-4-STROKE

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Although we've sung a great deal this term — from the Visitation Day Concert to the Lower and Upper Phase Concerts — all that practice prepared us to raise our voices one more time, this time in support of the Stroke Association. To show solidarity with stroke survivors, we joined the national *Sing4Stroke Challenge*, singing from 9.00am to 3.30pm in school. Miss Kinnair visited lessons throughout the day so that every class had a chance to sing their favourite songs with karaoke lyrics. Singing continued into break and lunchtime too, with the Prep Hall filled with joyful voices. Over 240 people each day wake up to the life-changing effects of stroke. Many stroke survivors experience aphasia — a condition that affects the ability to speak — which can be incredibly challenging. However, recovery is possible. Singing is a powerful tool in stroke recovery, as music is processed in a different part of the brain to spoken language. Remarkably, some people with aphasia can sing fluently, even when speech is difficult. Thank you for supporting our final charity event of the year. And an extra thank you for your generosity across *all* our fundraising efforts this year — together, we've made a real difference to many people beyond our school community.

Sarah Strong

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## PADEL

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On Tuesday Prep 1 pupils who usually take part in Tennis during their Games lessons had an exciting opportunity to visit the local Padel centre. Padel is a fast-growing racket sport that combines elements of tennis and squash, and this trip allowed the pupils to apply their existing racket skills in a new and engaging context. We had a brilliant afternoon with lots of skills learnt by their own coach along with Miss Kelly, Miss Dack and Miss Bird. It was a hot one but all involved had a brilliant time and showed a real promise in Padel!



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## DRESSED FOR SUCCESS!

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We are delighted to officially introduce Bancroft's new football kit, which has been made possible thanks to the generous support of Mr and Mrs Mace. Their contribution has played a crucial role in helping us provide high-quality sportswear for our girls' football team. Moving forward, these kits will be proudly worn by the girls' football team, helping to create a strong sense of unity and school spirit on the field. Additionally, we have purchased extra kits for the boys, ensuring that both teams have access to this kit for their matches.



# CRICKET FESTIVAL

Team PE department proudly hosted an Under-11 festival, inviting both boys and girls to take part in an exciting hardball cricket event. Despite the warm weather conditions, every player demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm and gave their absolute best throughout the day. The festival provided a fantastic opportunity for young cricketers to develop their skills, enjoy friendly competition, and experience the spirit of the game in a supportive and encouraging environment. It was fantastic to see a dedicated hardball league for the girls, featuring six teams competing in a round-robin format where every team played against each other. For many of the girls, this was their first-time using hardball equipment and experiencing this style of competition against other schools. The festival was highly competitive and closely contested throughout. St Aubyn's emerged as the clear winners, winning all their matches, while Bancroft's put in a strong performance to finish a close second. Bancroft's girls got off to a slow start, losing their opening game against St Aubyn's, but after that initial setback, they found their rhythm and went on an impressive winning streak for the remainder of the day. On the boys' side of the competition, the teams were initially divided into three separate groups for the morning matches. Each group competed fiercely, with the top team from each group advancing to the next stage of the festival. These group winners then entered into a knockout-style cup competition held throughout the rest of the day. Bancroft's team showcased exceptional skill and determination, winning every game they played and ultimately emerging as the overall champions of the event. We are so proud of every individual that took part in this competition. We cannot wait for the remainder of the cricket season and next year's festival.



## IAPS CRICKET

The Boys' U11 IAPS cricket team travelled to Merchant Taylors' School for a full day of competitive cricket. The day began with the group stages, where the boys played with great determination and skill, finishing joint top of their group. Unfortunately, they narrowly missed out on progressing to the Cup competition, losing out on wickets taken. Instead, they advanced to the Vase competition and made the most of the opportunity. After a tense semi-final, which was won in dramatic

fashion with a last-ball four, the boys carried their momentum into the final, where they delivered a commanding performance to secure the win. It was a brilliant way to round off the season, with the boys showcasing some excellent cricket, team spirit, and composure under pressure throughout the day.



It was the girls' turn to take to the field, and what a hot day it was! Undeterred by the heat, the girls arrived full of determination and enthusiasm, which shone through in their performances. In their opening match, they bowled brilliantly, taking multiple wickets and holding the opposition to under 200, before chasing it down comfortably with an impressive number of runs. Their next game was against a strong Brentwood side, but the girls rose to the challenge once again, working cohesively in the field, taking crucial wickets, and securing the runs they needed for another well-earned victory. The afternoon brought tougher competition, with two very close losses. However, the team took on feedback positively and used it to regroup for their final match in the 5th/6th place playoff. Showing incredible resilience and teamwork, they gave their all in the last game of the day—securing a thrilling win with a boundary on the final ball. Miss Dack and Miss Kelly were extremely proud of the squad, which included a mix of Prep 1 and Prep 2 players. Finishing 5th in the region is a fantastic achievement, and we're excited to see what's ahead for this talented group of girls.



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# TENNIS

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This term, it has been an absolute delight to witness the Prep 1 and Prep 2 pupils participate in their very first tennis fixtures. These matches provided a fantastic opportunity for our young players to compete against another school in a series of friendly yet competitive games. Brentwood brought a strong team with some talented tennis players who are on their way to Wimbledon. Our Bancroft's pupils rose to the occasion admirably. Throughout every game, they demonstrated resilience, determination, and persistence, showcasing their development across the board. It was brilliant to see how they embraced the challenge and gave their best effort on the court.

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# AQUATHLON

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Over the last fortnight, heads have turned as children sprinted out of the pool doors at great speed. It wasn't a tidal wave — it was time for our annual Aquathlon competitions! From Alpha to Prep 2, every pupil put their swimming, running, and shoe-tying skills to the test as they represented their Houses in this exciting event. Depending on whether they were aiming for gold, silver, or bronze, children swam a set distance in the pool. Quickly converting from horizontal to vertical, they then faced the most technical part of the race: the transition. There was much wiggling into trainers and House vests — with some edging ahead of faster swimmers, and others still trying to find the armholes! Once on the field, it was time for the running leg — a set distance around the school grounds. The atmosphere was electric. Cheers echoed from the poolside and the field as everyone gave it their all. Some students dashed like rockets, while others paced themselves with grit and determination. Regardless of speed, every competitor crossed the finish line to applause and high-fives. What made this year's Aquathlon particularly special was the sportsmanship on display. Children waited for friends at the finish line and celebrated not just the winners, but everyone's effort.

The final results were close across all four Houses:

**Hereford** won both the Alpha and Beta series.

**Knighton** took 1st place in Prep 1.

**Monkhams** led the way in Prep 2.

**Manor** were consistent across all age groups and finished 2nd overall.

**Hereford** were crowned overall champions.

Well done to everyone who took part — and next year, whether you're aiming for gold or just hoping your shoes stay on, we'll be ready to cheer you on again!

Patricia Brennan

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# SPORTS DAY

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We kicked off the final week of term with a warm and exciting start to Stage 1 of Sports Day. This stage featured a variety of skill-based challenges drawn from across the year's sporting activities, culminating in the main 80m sprint event. Teachers, pupils, and parents were all geared up for a fun and competitive morning. The day began with the Bancroft's runners taking on the 600m race, which proved to be a tightly contested event. The runners demonstrated everything they'd learned with Miss Bird

throughout the year, putting on a fantastic display for the crowd. Every child took part in their 80m sprint, and it was wonderful to see so many smiles as they gave it their all. The competition was fierce, with each house stepping up to the challenge. The skills challenges including netball shooting, football shooting, tennis ground shots, and hockey dribbling, highlighted just how far the children have come in their sporting abilities. Points were awarded across events, and everyone performed brilliantly, despite the heat. The ice-lollies provided by the Parents' Association were a very welcome treat!



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# HOUSE COMPETITION

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We've enjoyed a wide variety of House events throughout the year, especially during Sports Day. From *The Masked Teacher* and the Aquathlon to Tag Rugby, Football, Netball, Hockey, and even Tug of War — it's been a fun and action-packed calendar of competitions. And now, the moment we've all been waiting for... **the winner is HEREFORD!** With the inter-house matches wrapping things up on the final day of term, it's been a brilliant display of teamwork, House spirit, and friendly rivalry all year long. Congratulations to all the Houses — and especially to our champions!

404	HEREFORD
396	KNIGHTON
372	MANOR
328	MONKHAMS