



Arts Fundraiser

Olivia Hitching, U6W

On a damp and cold evening in mid-November many pupils, along with their parents and special guests, came to the first ever Bancroft's Arts Fundraiser. The evening was a huge success, raising lots of money to fund some amazing drama, art and music trips and facilities which our School community will get to use in the near future.

There was a huge range of activities before the main entertainment started, such as an art exhibition of some of the Fifth and Sixth Form's latest work and paint balloon darts. This was a lot of fun for all involved and created a brilliant piece of art which now hangs in pride of place in the SCR! To begin the dramatic part of the evening there was a beautiful performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Ms Middleton, which involved the audience moving around to different parts of the School to witness various scenes. The fairy lights provided a magical background.

Once everyone had taken their seats in the Great Hall they were treated to a full-on programme of musical entertainment. I was involved in both the Bancroft's Singers and the Barbers and there was a fabulous atmosphere as people got to witness all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes in a relaxed and fun setting. The Prep School choir sang *When I Grow Up* from Mathilda beautifully.



The evening culminated in a rousing version of Aretha Franklin's *Respect* from the Bancroft's Singers and the Soul Band.

In between the acts, Mr Rob Young made his debut as Bancroft's newest stand-up comedian, compering the show as well as running a very popular auction which allowed the guests to take home some really unique prizes. One of the prizes was an acting master class from OB Samantha Spiro, which I was lucky enough to win with my sister. We had an inspirational class with her over the Christmas holidays which neither of us will forget.

Mr Young also interviewed Samantha Spiro about her work in TV and film as well as performing in the West End. She spoke about how her time at Bancroft's had fuelled her enthusiasm for a career in the arts.

The evening was one of the best I have been lucky enough to take part in at my time at Bancroft's and it was a definite highlight of my final year at Bancroft's. It was lovely to see so much talent on display. From speaking to our new Head, Mr Simon Marshall, it's fair to say he was blown away by the wealth of talent within our School community.





Best Ever Oxbridge Year?



This year sees Bancroft's "best ever" crop of Oxbridge offers. A fantastic twenty four offers have been made to members of the current U6, with OB Georgie Atkinson bringing the total to twenty five. A trawl through past records suggests that no year group has ever achieved better.

Seventeen offers have been made from Cambridge Colleges and eight from Oxford. Courses are wide ranging, with offers to read English, Maths, Economics, History, Geography, Sciences. This year, however, Engineering is particularly well represented with seven offers and five students have received offers to read Medicine.

As a year group this is one of the most academically successful we have seen for a long while, achieving stellar results in their GCSEs in 2015. We had hoped for good things from them, but this number of offers exceeds our expectations. Such success is not achieved without a good deal of hard work from the

pupils as well as hours of dedicated support and encouragement from their teachers, who have provided guidance, extra tuition and interview practice over the past months. Members of staff deserve special thanks for all their work and encouragement.

The successful applicants are as follows:

| CAMBRIDGE: | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Fola Amuludin | English | Murray Edwards |
| Nivethan Balakulendran | Engineering | Magdalene |
| Matthew Davies | Economics | Girton |
| Abishek Ghosh | Medicine | Gonville & Caius |
| Sujil James | Medicine | Robinson |
| Amy Kelly | Natural Sciences (Physics) | Sidney Sussex |
| Elliot Krishek | Engineering | St John's |
| William Layzell-Smith | Engineering | Corpus Christi |
| Thuza Naing | Chemical Engineering | Gonville & Caius |
| Ben Norris | Natural Sciences (Biology) | St Catherine's |
| Christina Okafor | Medicine | St John's |
| Ilakya Prabhakar | Engineering | Queen's |
| Rishan Rashid | Medicine | Girton |
| Jay Ruaux | Engineering | Sidney Sussex |
| Aarya Sajilal | Medicine | King's |
| Sayon Uthayakumar | Maths | Christ's |
| Georgie Atkinson (OB) | History | Lucy Cavendish |
| OXFORD: | | |
| Becky Hampson | Geography | Hertford |
| Julia Jones | Geography | St Edmund Hall |
| Oviya Kumanan | Maths | St Edmund Hall |
| Tom Oliver | Engineering | Worcester |
| Alex Pentecost | Biochemisrty | Open |
| Mahidiyah Rahman | History | Oriel |
| Arun Soor | Maths | St John's |
| Matthew Willoughby | Engineering | Exeter |

Top Gcse Geographer

Hoping to join next year's cohort of Oxbridge successes is Lower Sixth pupil Laeticia Junanto who has been awarded a prize for achieving the highest raw mark in the 2016 AQA GCSE Geography A examination taken this summer.

Every year the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) awards prizes to geography students who are the highest scoring candidates in public examinations. Steve Brace, Head of Education and Outdoor learning at the Royal Geographical Society, described Laeticia's award as "an outstanding achievement." Mrs Victoria Talbot, Head of Geography at Bancroft's, said, "I have taught Laeticia every year since the Removes, when she joined the School and am currently teaching her at A Level. She is a talented, hardworking young geographer." Laeticia, who would like to go to Cambridge University after A Levels, said that the award was quite unexpected!





Senior Mathematics

Mrs Pat Morton

Mathematical Olympiad for Girls



In October 2016, 3,000 of the top UK female mathematicians from years 11-13 took part in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls.

This is a very challenging competition where students face three hours of the hardest problems in mathematics. Six students from Bancroft's took part: Daffodil Dhayaa (L6), Soumya Krishna Kumar (5th Form), Oviya Kumanan (U6), Lana Mawlood (L6), Lily Meech (L6), and Himaani Yogendran (5th Form). All of the girls scored well, achieving scores above the average for the competition, with Soumya, Daffodil and Oviya achieving highly sought after Distinctions.

Senior Mathematics Challenge

In November 2016, the annual UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge took place.

Over 100,000 students from all over the UK and beyond did battle with an extremely demanding set of problems. Eighty seven of our students in the top three years chose to take up the challenge and all of them achieved a Gold, Silver or Bronze award, with twenty four of them coming in the top 10% and achieving a Gold award. Special mention must go to Sayon Uthayakumar who scored an impressive full marks. Well done to everyone who took part and who, without exception, came away with a certificate.

Of the 100,000 students who enter the challenge 1,000 are invited to take part in the British Maths Olympiad Round 1. Congratulations to Sayon Uthayakumar, Arun Soor, Ilalya Prabhakar and Matthew Davies (U6), Dharshan Balasirishwaran, (L6) and Himaani Yogendran and Soumya Krishna Kumar (5th Form) who all qualified for this prestigious round. Particular mention must go to Dharshan who scored highly enough to go on to the last and final round of the competition where the top 500 mathematicians in the UK challenge themselves against the most demanding problems.

With our mathematics team still in the Hans Woyda knock out competition it has been a good year so far for senior mathematics at Bancroft's. We wish all the students the best of luck in their coming public examinations.



Bio-Inspired Flying Robots For Future Cities

Simone Luis, 5W

On Thursday 8 December, twenty eight students from the U4 and Fifth Form along with Mrs Graham from the biology department and and Mr Ceeraz and Mr Busch from physics, attended a talk entitled 'Bio-inspired flying robots for future cities' at Imperial College.

The newly appointed Vice Provost of the University, Simone Buitendijk, welcomed us. He was followed by a very captivating and inspiring talk by Dr Mirko Kovac, Director of the Aerial Robotics Laboratory, about the University's new innovation - the biologically inspired aerial robots. This product needed combined efforts from the fields of biology, physics and engineering. He introduced us to this new found idea, about which not many people had previously had an insight. Then he went on to tell us about some of the new research the University had undertaken. He explained hybrid locomotion for robots. On one type of robot they had mimicked the flight of a bird, then further developed its features to be able to dive underwater. Dr Kovac explained the uses of this drone other than entertainment, although he did admit, they are very useful for entertainment! He showed us how they could be programmed to repair and bind broken structures in areas like at the top of an oil rig and inside a nuclear fusion reactor, which could be useful in the future. Recently Dr Kovac and his team have been working on robots that can "perch" on trees and other objects, enabling drones to become "mobile networks of sensors", this could bring aid to rural areas in Africa, hopefully these bio-inspired flying robots could function harmoniously in cities. We were able to witness one of the Imperial College's pet robots in action as it ran around the stage and followed Dr Kovac's commands, ultimately jumping into his arms, which wowed us all. This was followed by a demonstration of one of the drones.

This lecture definitely inspired some of us to look into the idea of a STEM career. We all really enjoyed the lecture and, at the end of a long day, we also enjoyed the refreshments of juices, chocolate brownies and mince pies afterwards!





A Trip To The Stars

Imdad Kadir, 5W

On Thursday 20 October a group of Fifth Formers went on a physics trip to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich along with Miss Korcz and Mr Ceeraz. We all eagerly anticipated the chance to visit London's only observatory and marvel at the sights of outer space. The building is hundreds of years old and set in beautiful grounds with a magnificent view of London - perfect for taking selfies.



The planetarium was like a tour bus of the universe taking us on an amazing journey to explore and experience the wonders of space accompanied by expert commentary from an astronomer. She talked about her profession and how physics is the most important science as it opens doors for both biology and chemistry. As we were shown vivid images of all types of stars throughout space she gave us a vast amount of information about the constellations and the life cycle of stars, from nebulae where stars are born to stars billions of years old. It was very interesting to have a professional astronomer tell us about things we are currently learning in lessons and incredible to widen our knowledge beyond what we learn from the curriculum.

Afterwards, we got the opportunity to explore the museum filled with fascinating exhibits. We engaged with interactive displays and always found something new to spark our interest. My favourite exhibit was the meteor rock. I was taken aback by sheer age of this rock - over four billion years old - and the fact that you could touch it made it all the more astonishing. There was also an interactive game which challenged us to build the best spaceship possible. It involved calculating the most efficient methods and thinking of ways to observe the planets and stars. This gave an insight to how space organisations, such as NASA, operate and the different careers available.

At the end of the trip we were all left amazed by how big our universe is and how many things there are that scientists have yet to discover about the mysteries of outer space. Maybe one of us could be the next scientist to uncover them.

JET

Laetitia Juanto, L6W

JET, the Joint European Taurus, is currently the world's largest fusion

tokamak; on Tuesday 6

December, fifteen of us were lucky enough to view this feat of engineering. By the end of the century, it is estimated that our population may double whilst our energy usage is forecast to triple, causing a critical demand for a safe and sustainable alternative to fossil fuels. For thirty three years, scientists at JET have been studying nuclear fusion, aiming to design the conditions that will be required for a commercial nuclear fusion power plant.

Fusion is the nuclear reaction in which lighter nuclei join to form a heavier nucleus whilst releasing energy. To inspire JET, the scientists and engineers turned to a nuclear fusion reactor they knew was already in existence – our sun. The sun's core reaches 15,000,000°C and is approximately 150 times denser than water; to mimic these conditions would be an incredible advance in science. At JET they have managed to heat the core of their tokamak to a temperature of 150,000,000°C, ten times that of our sun, thus compensating for not being able to match its extreme density. They have achieved this through a combination of radiofrequency heating and neutral beam injections of tritium (a super heavy isotope of hydrogen) into the tokamak. The extreme heat causes the deuterium-tritium fuel mix to become plasma – the state beyond gas. The plasma is conductive and thus able to be magnetically confined in a torus shape. This combination of features provides the conditions for the fuel to fuse and release energy.

So far the energy required to reach the conditions needed at JET outweighs the energy which is released by the fusion, however, JET remains at the forefront of nuclear fusion research. Currently JET carries out experiments to assist with the construction and design of ITER, a new nuclear fusion tokamak under construction in Provence, France. This is a collaboration and endeavour of thirty five nations, and it is hoped that by 2050 we will be able to efficiently generate nuclear energy in order for it to be available to a consumer market.

We would like to thank the teachers who made this trip possible; it was both eye-opening and enjoyable.





The Peach Child

Benedict Hughes, L4S

On the 29 November a cast of fifteen juniors put on a production of the magical Japanese fairytale *The Peach Child*, directed by OB Katherine Stevens. Our director, Katherine, returned to Bancroft's after three years at university to run the play, showing our amateur cast techniques and styles which she has picked up in many prestigious events and studios. Katherine was assisted by Sixth Formers Fola Amuludun and Aarya Sajjal.

The play is about a child named Momotaro, who was played by Olivia Page. Momotaro goes on a quest to rid the world of evil and is joined along the way by her "spirit animals", voiced by Meera Patel as Lady Pheasant, Georgia Moncur as Lady Monkey and Marisol Rojas as Lady Dog. Many of the characters in the play – from the spirit animals to newborn babies to trolls - were brought to life by puppeteers. The cast was onstage for the entire production which meant we had no time to rest or fall out of character as



we moved through careful choreography to take the audience on a journey from a tiny Japanese village, through forests, mountains and across an ocean to a dangerous island inhabited by monsters. On top of this was overlaid careful sound design, prop work and the addition of what seemed like hundreds of candles to give the production a calm and ethereal atmosphere. We also wrestled with the novel challenge of singing in Japanese!

After numerous weekend rehearsals and repetitions of "aeiou" (to drill our Essex vowels into better shape) the play ran really well, even

with a bout of food poisoning striking on the night of the performance! I would like to give a huge thank you to Katherine, Fola and Aarya, as they enabled us to work at our best and made us feel like a family.



Taal, 2016

Friday 9 and Saturday 10 December saw almost two hundred pupils from the Thirds to the Upper Sixth take part in *Taal*. With its fusion of dancing, music and acting, *Taal* is more than just another School production. It has grown over fourteen years to become an integral, much anticipated fixture in the School calendar as well as an important part of the School's cultural life. The event is totally student driven with members of our Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Muslim Society (HSBM Society) writing, choreographing and directing the event. They assume full responsibility for everything, from finding sponsorship from local businesses to sourcing costumes.

Harleen Sian, one of the Presidents of the HSBM Society, described how important *Taal* has become for her, "*Taal* is an incredibly anticipated event each year and I cannot imagine my school life without it. It has allowed me to showcase my passion for all varieties of dance and learn new styles which I would never have experienced if it weren't

for this amazing production. It brings to the surface so many different cultures from south Asia and creates a sense of pride and community within those who take part."

Taal is a major fund raiser for charities and this year supported three charities. United World Schools, is a charity which is transforming the lives of some of the poorest and most vulnerable children in the World through educational opportunities; money raised will support a school in Cambodia. Friendsline is a relatively new charity connecting, educating and empowering women and girls from all over the world. The third charity, Alzheimer's Research UK, was chosen for personal reasons. Karan Shah, President of the HSBM Society, witnessed the severity of dementia when he saw his grandmother's gradual deterioration as she suffered from the disease. This year's *Taal* was a Bancroft's record breaker: the total amount raised (as at the end of January) was a fantastic £15,612.

The Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr Gurdial Bhamra, attended the Saturday performance and described it as, "one of the best musical event in my calendar year as the Mayor of Redbridge. What pleased more was that pupils from all different faiths and communities took part in producing, directing and taking part in all elements of the show. That is real community cohesion." Head, Mr Simon



Marshall said that *Taal* was a "joyous and wonderful evening's entertainment. All students involved are to be congratulated."



Musical Notes

The autumn term is always a very busy one musically, especially in the lead up to Christmas. This year, one of the highlights was undoubtedly the Arts Fundraiser which showcased the many talents of our choirs and musical ensembles. The Bancroft's Singers travelled to the Drapers' Almshouses in Bruce Grove to entertain the residents. The Christmas Carol Service held at All Saints Church was, as ever, a standing room only event and a fitting end to the term.

Younger instrumentalists had the chance to perform during an informal lunchtime concert given by the Second Orchestra, conducted by Mr James Kelsall. For many of them this was their first chance performing with a Bancroft's ensemble. Their enthusiasm was infectious as they performed three popular pieces: *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, the theme from *Fame* and *New York New York*. There were also solos from Holly Timmis (clarinet)



and Aarav Shah (violin). Two of our Prep musicians - Lucy Fox (recorder) and Matthew Pinto (piano) also had the chance to perform.



Classics' Quiz

Adam Agbamu, U4W

Shortly after School on 25 November, pupils from all year groups, as well as some teachers, assembled in Room A1. Everyone settled down into teams and the 2016

Bancroft's Classics Quiz was underway.

Questions were posed on a range of classics related subjects. From dramatic battles to momentous moments in the history of western civilisation, from Apollo 13's motto (*ex luna, scientia*) to the definition of monophagous (eating only one kind of food), the questions provided all the participants with insights into how the classical world continues to shape and define the world of today. My favourite round required participants to name stills from favourite classical-themed movies, from the much-loved cartoon *Hercules* to Ridley Scott's blockbuster sensation *Gladiator*. After the results of the third round came in, tensions reached fever-pitch when one of the students' teams nosed ahead of the teachers.

Ultimately, the teachers proved too strong and scored the top overall marks.

In the end, everyone delighted in the atmosphere of friendly competition, proving that Classics serves as an excellent medium for both education and entertainment.



Psychoanalysing Odysseus

Lauren Heskey, 5E

On the 10 November, members of the Classical Society were treated to an engaging analysis of *Odysseus*, the main character from Homer's *Odyssey*, by OB and classicist Emma Greensmith.

Emma was a brilliant speaker, providing detailed insight into various passages of *The Odyssey*, while expertly keeping all "scholar speak" to a minimum. The psychoanalysis she offered about Odysseus was intriguing, and attracted those interested in psychology as well as the classical world. We also had many visitors from other schools attending the talk. This was one of the most interesting yet contextually open talks I have been to during my two years as part of Classical Society. I very much hope that Emma can visit again, armed with yet another engaging topic and a beautiful PowerPoint presentation.





Cambridge Greek Plays Trip

Jonathan Amarnath, 5S

One Thursday morning in mid-October, Mrs Baker, Miss Stewart and Mr Ceeraz, along with a bunch of U6 and L6 Classical Civilisation and Greek pupils, six Fifth Form Greek pupils and two U4 Greek pupils set off to Cambridge.

Upon arrival we had a brief snack then headed to Corpus Christi College where I gave a talk about the Corpus Clock or Chronophage. The clock took several years to build and cost £1 million; mostly because the outer face of the clock is made from steel plated with 24-carat gold leaf. It was built by John Taylor and unveiled by Professor Stephen Hawking. If one were to look at it, the creepy grasshopper on top would grab your attention. This is the Chronophage or TimeEater; the clock is named the Chronophage since it represents how quickly we lose time and how time flies past us, especially when we are having a good time.

After free time, when we could go and have lunch at any café or restaurant which took our fancy, we met at the Cambridge Arts Theatre, the main focus of the trip. We took our seats inside and given a talk by Professor Simon Goldhill, who offered some interesting



opinions about the two plays which we were about to see, whilst also giving us an insight of what to expect. The first play - both plays were performed in Greek with surtitles - was *Antigone* Sophocles' tragedy. It tells of King Creon who declares that the state comes before family and so disallows burial rites for Polynices. However, Antigone, Polynices' sister, is caught trying to bury him. A bitter tragedy ensues. The second of the plays was a comedy by Aristophanes: *Lysistrata*. Lysistrata is fed up with the ongoing war and decides that she, along with all the other women,

will abstain from sex until the war ends. This results in the men suffering and so they decide to end the war. The play filled the crowd with raucous laughter and the adaptation made for more comic genius with a chorus of Nigel Farage, Donald Trump and, our favourite, the blubbering Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson.

The plays ended with lots of us still smiling at some of the jokes. It was an intriguing experience and anyone who may have gone thinking that the plays might be boring would have definitely thought differently afterwards.

Fifth Form Battlefields Trip

Jamil Haque, 5E

In November 2016 the Fifth Form went on the Battlefields Trip to France and Belgium to visit various sites connected with the First World War, ranging from graveyards to actual battlefields. The Battle of the Somme was a significant battle fought by the British and French against Germany in order to regain lost territory in France. Here we visited the Beaumont Hamel memorial, erected in memory of the many Canadian troops who were killed during the War. The site of the memorial is one of the few places where you can walk through the trench lines and across No Man's Land. The area was littered with huge craters from the numerous shells dropped during the Battle of Vimy Ridge making the landscape look almost alien. Behind the trenches stands a large statue of a caribou crying out over the battlefield for soldiers who died there.

On the trip, we visited many of the graveyards in which the allied forces and Germans are buried. One such graveyard was Tyne Cot in Belgium. It is the largest British cemetery in the world, containing almost 12,000 graves, many unnamed, and 35,000 inscriptions dedicated to brave soldiers who gave their lives during the First World War but have no known place of burial. The cemetery was huge with



rows of graves extending for as far as the eye could see. It was here, on Remembrance Sunday, that we took part in a minute's silence to commemorate those who had died here.

Finally, one of the most emotional moments of the trip was when we visited the grave of Old Bancroftian Arnold Capel Bathos at Combles Communal Cemetery. Unlike the other sites we visited, here it was just our group in a relatively small cemetery standing over the grave of a 25 year-old man who went to the same school as us. We placed a wreath of poppies over his grave and recited a poem in dedication to him. It was a poignant end to a memorable trip.





History And Drama Tour To New York And Washington



Charlotte Rogers, L6E

During the October half-term, sixty students, ranging from the U4 to the U6, travelled across the Atlantic Ocean to visit New York City and Washington DC. There were two options for trip: Drama, led by Ms Middleton, and History, led by Mr Brennan.

Our trip began in New York City and, before we even had time to unpack, we were whisked away to catch the sights. We started at the Top of the Rock Observatory at the Rockefeller Centre where we managed to view the sunset from one of the highest points in NYC. From there, we travelled to the famous Times Square, where the lights of the many billboards illuminated the October night. Our time in New York was jam-packed, from wandering through Central Park on a warm and bright autumn day, to gazing at the magnificent art in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and to constantly falling over at the famous Rockefeller Centre ice-rink. We took



a boat trip to Ellis Island, which was the first stop for immigrants arriving into New York. Here they had to endure long queues and many medical and educational examinations before being allowed into the USA; however, it was all worth it as only one in fifty people was denied entry. We even had time to stop off at Dr Hunn's favourite place, Katz's Restaurant, made famous by the film *When Harry met Sally*, where we all gaped at the size of the world-famous pastrami on rye sandwiches.

A highlight for many of us was the chance to see a Broadway show: *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* (which is based on a section of *War and Peace*). We were enthralled by the unique music and performances, in fact, many of us downloaded the soundtrack in the interval in order to re-live those hours for the rest of the trip. One of the more sobering moments of our time in New York City was the visit to the recently opened 9/11 Memorial Museum and Plaza; the sheer number of names covering the dramatic water memorials made us all realise the huge effect that this disaster had on the world. The museum was filled with many accounts of the day itself and brought many students, including myself, to tears.

After an exhausting 3½ days in New York City, a coach and a mini-bus brimming with students made their way south via Gettysburg towards Washington DC. Gettysburg – 'the High Water Mark of the Confederacy' - is a small town in Pennsylvania and was the location of the defining battle of the American Civil War. Here, the Confederate army went further into Union territory than it had ever gone before. It was also the location of the famous

Gettysburg Address which President Lincoln gave on 19 November 1863 – "Four score and seven years ago". Mr Brennan even persuaded three students to take to the stage in the pouring rain and read out this speech.

From Gettysburg, we continued our six hour journey to Washington DC, where we were greeted by the sights of the White House at dusk. We had a guided tour of the US Capitol and we even managed to look into the Senate Room and the House of Representatives on top of Capitol Hill. One of the evenings in Washington we attended the ballet at The Kennedy Centre, where we watched a stunning performance of *Cinderella* by the San Francisco Ballet Company. While in Washington we also walked the National Mall seeing the memorials that line it, including the Washington Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, and the huge statue of President Lincoln, which was the location of Martin Luther King's famous "I have a dream ..." speech. A highlight of Washington was the recently opened African American Museum, where we viewed exhibits on the lives and struggles of slaves. The icing on the cake of our time in Washington was the Newseum where we managed to see sections of the Berlin Wall as well as an exhibit on Presidents' pets.

Overall, this was a fantastic opportunity for History and Drama students and I implore anyone to go on this trip if they have the opportunity. Thanks to Mr Brennan and Ms Middleton for all their organisation and to the other teachers who came with us, I hope they enjoyed it as much as we did.





Guardian's Young Critic Award

Amala Sangha, RW

On Thursday 17 November I attended *The Guardian's* Young Critic Award Ceremony at *The Guardian's* headquarters in London, thanks to my review of one of the eight long-listed books for *The Guardian's* Fiction Prize. My English teacher Mr Gallagher sent a link to enter this national competition, open to 10 – 18 year olds, to the Thirds and Removes. I reviewed *The Marvels* by Brian Selznick, a story within a story set in both 1766 and present day London, which defies the stereotype that illustrations in books are only for young children. I was hesitant to apply for this competition as I did not expect to hear back from *The Guardian*, but to my amazement they e-mailed back with good news!

Attending the ceremony, I met other likeminded young people who have a thirst for knowledge as big as my own! It was amazing to meet the judges and authors of the long-listed books who inspired and encouraged me to carry on writing and reading because one day perhaps I too could achieve wonderful things

with my own writing. I was even given a tour by one of *The Guardian's* editors around the building just before they were about to publish the next day's newspaper, which was very interesting and I am grateful for the experience. After the prize giving, the room filled with anticipation as everyone waited eagerly to find out which of the authors had won *The Guardian's* Fiction Prize - a prestigious writing award. The winner was Alex Wheatle, who became the fiftieth winner

of the award with his novel *Crongton Knights*. Judging by the other young critics' reviews of his book, he deservedly won his award! The night was wonderful, and has fuelled my passion for reading and writing even more! I encourage everyone to read the eight long listed books that can be found on *The Guardian's* website as these are the faces of teen literature today, and will provoke, inspire, and change the way young people think – making them better-rounded, developed people on the whole.



Cambridge Economics Trip

Will Kumar, L6S

After a seemingly interminable coach journey up to Cambridge, we eventually arrived at Fitzwilliam College. Upon arrival, we were greeted by some Old Bancroftians who now study at the College, and our large group of forty seven, formed a tripartite into smaller groups to be toured round.

After having seen key aspects of the College, namely the library, chapel and dining hall, we were transported to the University's Faculty of Economics. Here, we attended a lecture demonstrating and explaining the construction and function of the monetary national income analogue computer (MONIAC), also known as the Phillips hydraulic computer. This was created in 1949 by the New Zealand economist Bill Phillips. The computer was created to model the national economic processes of the United Kingdom, which occupied Phillips' mind while he studied at the London School of Economics. The wildly talented engineer, Allan McRobie, who works in the soil mechanics and structures division and who painstakingly put the machine back together, gave the lecture, which lasted approximately an hour. As Mr McRobie is not an economist himself, with the help of Mrs Anthony, Mr Mikdadi and Mr Maloney, we were able to see the causes and

impacts of various hypothetical and real economic situations, modelled in front of us. The lecture was interactive and interesting, but more than anything being able to see economic theories, which we had studied and learned, become visually accessible, largely helped our understanding. As a group, we were privileged to have such an opportunity (this is one of only two working machines in the world), and the day was very beneficial.





MFL Leaders At The Prep

Ally Norris, L6W

I was fortunate to be part of a group of Sixth Formers who recently had the opportunity to go down to the Prep School to teach French as part of their MFL Leadership course. It was somewhat strange to return to the Prep and have the role reversal of us being the teachers instead of the pupils we once were.

We were given lessons beforehand with Mrs Whalley, which made us think more about how to teach well, especially in teaching languages. We went through different ideas for activities that would teach the Prep School pupils how to listen, read, and write in the taught language. From what we were told about the scheme, I expected it to be quite difficult to teach a whole class and still have control of them. However, all of the Sixth Formers found it an enjoyable and rewarding experience. We prepared lessons and resources and our aim was to build on what the children were currently learning in their



lessons. We were really impressed by the Prep pupils and how they interacted with us in the class. It was great to see how keen they are to learn languages; perhaps one day they too will return to the Prep as part of the MFL scheme.

This scheme is an excellent experience, so thank you to Mrs Whalley for organising it for us. I think it also proved how hard our teachers work to prepare for all of our lessons and to then teach it all to us.

Spanish Play - *¿Cuántos Me Gusta Tienes?*

Eden Risby, L4E and Eleanor Channer, L4S

On Tuesday 24 January, all Thirds pupils and those Removes and L4th students who take Spanish attended the Onatti Spanish play performed in the Great Hall: *¿Cuántos me gusta tienes?* (How many likes do you have?)

The play was very engaging and entertaining. The cast, consisting of only two people, interacted with the audience to help us feel involved. Several people were invited upon the stage to blow up balloons, lie in a "hospital" bed and hold up "get well soon" signs. From these volunteers you can probably tell that the play was set in a hospital. The lead character was Alejandro who had spent the previous night in hospital, taking selfies to post online. He was hoping to receive sympathy from his friends and the attention of young, beautiful women. However, when he is neglected he begins to exaggerate his illness in an amusing manner.

The actors spoke comprehensibly and slowly enough for all age groups to understand. Using past, present and future tense in their dialogue, we had to listen carefully

in order to keep up. Personally, we thought the play was light-hearted and we hope they come back next year to perform again!





U4 Spanish Exchange Trip To San Sebastián

Emily Manning, U4N

On the morning of Saturday 29 October, fourteen U4 Spanish students set off to Heathrow. Our destination: the cultural city of San Sebastián in northern Spain. From the moment we loaded our luggage onto the coach to our landing in Bilbao we were buzzing with excitement. Finally, we would meet our exchange partners! But when we saw them standing on the side of the road waiting for us, the nerves kicked in. The skills we had picked up during our Spanish conversation lessons were about to be put to the test!

After a well-earned sleep on Saturday night, we spent Sunday touring San Sebastián with our exchange partners. It was very cloudy and misty, which made the view of the mountains and sea quite eerie. Nonetheless, we were extremely lucky during the rest of the week; highs of 20+°C and lots of sunshine. The next day we all visited Mount Igeldo via funicular, and the views were stunning. Tuesday was a bank holiday which was spent with the families. Here my Spanish was really tested, as my partner's family came over and asked lots of questions! On Wednesday we took a day trip to Bilbao, including a visit to the Guggenheim Museum. Its modern architecture was very impressive. On our final day we visited San Sebastián's Cider Museum. As well as learning about how the cider was made, we had the opportunity to taste it, along with some natural apple juice that we made from the produce of the nearby orchard. Then, we drove to Tolosa, where we visited the International Puppet Museum. It was interesting but I, and other members of the group, found some of the puppets quite creepy. The colourful buildings made some lovely photos. Finally, we went to the picturesque town of Hondarribia, near the French border. The buildings reminded me of doll's houses, and we walked down the pier where we could get a good view of France. That evening I had the chance to try some typical food from San Sebastián, all of which was amazing. It was then that I realised the teachers were right about the city's renowned gastronomy!

The journey to the airport the following morning was a sad one; none of us wanted to leave. We had all had a great week, seen some really interesting places, tried great new food, improved our Spanish and made some amazing friends who we can't wait to see again in March! A huge thanks on everyone's behalf to Mr Urreaga, Miss Morales and our partners at Axular Lizeoa for an unforgettable trip.



Almodóvar On The Edge – A Spanish Film Study Day

Umayir Ullah, U6N

A day at the British Film Institute gave the L6 A Level Hispanists a chance to learn all about the films directed by Pedro Almodóvar – best known for his award-winning films such as *Volver* and *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*.

Having known little about Almodóvar before, we were all excited to find out more. The day began with some clip-based presentations of Almodóvar's films. The study day was aimed at A Level Spanish students from all over the country. The focus of the morning presentations was on Almodóvar's style of directing and we learnt about common themes in his films such as his use of intertextuality between his movies and his use of character archetypes, as well as how he cast his characters.

It was interesting to learn about Almodóvar's clever and unusual filming techniques and more about the cinematography used, for example the difference that using a wide angle shot would have compared to a close up. The day was very interactive and the presenters got everybody involved by playing clips from Almodóvar's films and asking us to note the different shots used in certain scenes and how they affected us.

In the next presentation, we were taught about Almodóvar's use of mise-en-scène to represent marginalised groups of people. We learnt that all of Almodóvar's films try to feature strong female characters, as a way of trying to break stereotypes and also send his audience subliminal messages about the problems with modern society.

Finally, we were given a chance to relax and watch one of Almodóvar's most famous films – *Volver*. After having learnt so much about Almodóvar's aims and techniques, it was a great opportunity for us to see all of this in action and watch his films in a new light.





North And Central London Spanish Debating Competition

Sonali Arora, L6N

The Inter School Spanish Debating Competition took place on Thursday 26 January at Westminster School, and a group of Sixth Form Hispanists, including myself, had the opportunity to take part. In fact, the experience was so remarkable that we returned home victorious.

It is fair to say that we did not know what to expect over the few months before the debate took place. An email from Mr Urreaga mentioning the debate, and how thrilling it would be, urged me, Dafyyd Prole, Eloise Montanana and Aarani Balakumar to sign up to represent Bancroft's in this annual competition. Finding out after preparation had started that we would be competing against the likes of Westminster, Haileybury, North London Collegiate School and even Eton, added a load of nerves to our excitement. We met up almost every day for the couple of weeks before and practised debating against each other. We had been sent the three motions of the debate by Westminster School: whether or not Fidel Castro's dictatorship destroyed Cuba; if assisted death is adequate for everyone, and whether technological advancements have given us great happiness. You may think that the debate cannot have been that hard if we knew the topics in advance, but what we did not find out was if we were supporting the motion or not. In other words, we had to be ready for anything. Following a complicated journey from school to Westminster (please bear in mind our misfortune of a tube strike) and witnessing Aarani's somewhat bewildering use of



Google Maps to get us to a local Starbucks, the debate began. After a few rounds of 90 second speeches, "lucha encarnizada" (the intense debating) and inventing summaries, Dafyyd and I were pleased to find out that we were through to the semi-finals, against North London Collegiate School. We were not particularly ready to spend the next twenty minutes in an isolated room by ourselves, without the help of our phones or our teachers, to prepare for a title which we had just been given (in support of competition amongst children). Immediately after we finished writing, the semi-finals began and, although incredibly intense and heated, we made it to the finals. This meant returning to the isolated room to prepare for the final topic (that we should not have complete freedom of

expression) before walking into the final and witnessing who we were up against...Eton! Nevertheless we did the best we could and defeated them to win the overall competition.

It would be an understatement to say that this experience was incredible, it truly was one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I recommend anyone to take part in a debate if possible. You do not need to worry about having the best language or debating skills, it is simply an opportunity to meet new people and have fun. Our greatest thanks go to Elena Morales and Mr Urreaga, not only for letting us compete but also for giving up their time to help us prepare, ensuring that we did the best we could and did not give up. Without their support, I could not imagine us getting this far. ¡Muchas gracias por todo!

Pret À Parler

Fran Neagle-Haley, L6S

On Tuesday 31 January, the Lower and Upper Sixth French students attended a soirée at Provender, a contemporary brasserie in Wanstead, for an event Mrs Whalley had named "Pret à Parler"

We didn't really know what to expect but knew it would be an excellent opportunity

for us to practise our French speaking outside of the classroom in a more relaxed and fun atmosphere. At first it was a little strange speaking French to our friends but this has given all of us much more confidence in speaking without worrying about making mistakes. After having ordered our food with the French speaking waiters, we began the evening by playing 'Who am I?' where we had to guess what celebrity/ character we had

been assigned by answering yes/no questions. We continued speaking French for the rest of what was both an educational and enjoyable event. There was a real buzzy atmosphere and everyone felt at ease. Thank you to Mrs Whalley for organizing such an entertaining and very different evening. Mrs Whalley has suggested joining up with other schools next time and we think this would be a wonderful idea. We cannot wait for the next soirée!



Senior Rugby Season Review Rugby



Alex Pentecost, U6S

The season began undesirably with a loss against Brentwood and, more significantly, the season-ending shoulder injury to our fly half Jonny Bluff in the opening minutes. Jonny had been a cornerstone of our continued development since the Prep school. However, every cloud has a silver lining and the 10 shirt was subsequently offered to Danny Moran who grasped the opportunity with both hands and become a stalwart of the squad.

The First XV played twelve games and secured a final tally of eight wins. The First's results reflected the on-going unity created within the squad with wins against King

Edward Grammar, St Ignatius, St Dunstan's, Saffron Walden, Enfield Grammar, Richard Hale, Hockerill and Verulam. A hard fought draw was achieved against Coopers' Coborn and defeats by only Brentwood, Colchester RGS and UCS.

The Second XV played eight games in total securing four wins and one draw. This was also a positive season for the Second XV which is populated with predominantly 5ths and Lower Sixth. Particularly notable were significant victories against St Dunstan's 58-0 and Brentwood 37-0.

The camaraderie within both teams was outstanding throughout the season, driven by a very open minded and committed group of players. Many of these players have been together since the age of 7.

The season gave us the opportunity to play familiar opposition with a structured and experienced approach, achieving victory

against some for the first time in a number of seasons. Playing these quality opposition teams has expanded the squad's rugby experience and will benefit everyone in the future either at school, university or the club environment. I sincerely hope that in the future Bancroft's squads will take inspiration from this past season which has been the most successful for a number of years, and has been a positive experience for all players involved.

The quality of the pitches, facilities and post-match refreshments cannot be underestimated in their roles in our success. Thanks must be extended to Mr Faiers and Mr Pollard who have relentlessly invested time, expertise and faith into this group of players for many years.

The season concluded with a memorable squad dinner the details of which are censored.

U12 Welsh Tour 2016

Max Pollard, 3N

On the 16 December the U12 rugby team arrived, bleary eyed, under the tower at 6am. All suffering from lack of sleep due to over excitement, we met Mr Hitching, Mr Faiers, Mr Greenidge and Mr Dickinson who herded us into two minibuses for our long journey to Wales, our home for the weekend.

Upon arrival, we lugged all our kit out of the buses and hurried into the changing rooms for our first match of the tour against Pendarren, a strong local side. We were extremely lucky to be able to play on a 4G pitch – the first time we've ever done this and it was really cool as we didn't get as muddy as usual! We started the game off strongly, scoring a lot of early tries and continued to dominate the first half. However, they pulled back the score and we ended with an unlucky loss. After a

short presentation when we exchanged gifts, we set off to our accommodation for the next two nights. Upon arrival we were all really pleased with how amazing our hostel was, and looked forward to exploring more.

That evening we went night orienteering which was good fun and we all loved exploring the forest in total darkness and getting startled by the nature - there were loads of owls around! On Saturday we all looked forward to the day ahead. First, we walked to the climbing facilities in the hostel grounds – the climbing was great fun. After a memorable morning we set off to watch Ospreys versus Grenoble. We wrapped up warmly and it was a great way to spend the afternoon all together. The Ospreys won 70 – 3, there was lots of tries. That night we all sat (or laid) in



a room with a screen and watched *Captain America, Civil War* - everyone loved it.

Sunday morning saw us all up by 7:30am having had breakfast and ready to go to our next match against Blackwood. After a gripping first half and some great tries were scored, we won due to great performances from everyone. Thank you to Mr Faiers, Mr Greenidge, Mr Dickinson and Mr Hitching for such an amazing experience.



Lower Fourth's Rugby Tour To Edinburgh 2016



Ben Bagley, L4W

We set off on our long anticipated rugby tour to Scotland with high hopes after a strong start to the season. The journey went without any major problems, until we arrived at Edinburgh International Airport and realised that one of us was missing a passport. Nevertheless, we continued on to our first activity of the day, The Dynamic Earth Exhibition, in good spirits. This was an interesting way of learning about geology and the origins of our planet and by the end of this activity we were ready to head to the hostel.

We stayed in rooms of eight, which meant we didn't sleep as much as we should have, bearing in mind the fact we were facing one of Scotland's leading rugby schools the following day. We woke up very tired, but after a hot shower and a cooked breakfast we were ready for the day's first activity, a tour of Murrayfield Stadium. The tour was very enjoyable and inspired us for the game against Merchiston that afternoon.

Merchiston Castle School was incredible, with pristine cut pitches as far as the eye could see; this was obviously a school that took its rugby seriously. Surprisingly, the game itself was very one sided. We dominated Merchiston from the start, with three quick tries from Josh Jerrard in the first five minutes. They had seriously underestimated us as opposition and

not put out their first team. On the plus side it gave everyone an opportunity to play. Great handling from the backs and hard aggressive work from the forwards meant that we came out comfortably on top, winning 60-12.

Our second game was against George Watson's college, a school with a proud history of rugby and the champions of Scotland. They have produced nine international rugby players and we have produced a grand total of zero. This didn't deter us though. Another aggressive display from the squad meant that we came out on top in both games. Despite the fact that George Watson's brought on most of their elite players to peg back our A team at half time, the full time score was

46-21 in our favour. The B team also won a very close fought game; with a final score of 27-22, there was only one try in it at the end.

Overall, I thought this was a great rugby tour not only because of our success on the field but also because of the social activities. A big thanks to Mr Mikdadi for organising the trip and to Mr Faiers and Mr Hay for making it unforgettable and for coping with the adversity of the trip. They handled the various challenges we threw at them, including three lost passports, vomiting and a few bits of lost equipment, very well. We are all looking forward to our next tour, by which time the staff will, hopefully, have recovered from this one.





Rugby Coaching Awards

Alex Pentecost, U6S

Following on from achieving my rugby league Level 1 coaching qualification in 2015, I wanted to take my depth of understanding of the coaching process to the next stage. I undertook a rugby union Level 2 course designed around the 15-a side game in October 2016.

With this award I will be able to impart my passion for rugby, in either code, to others via the medium of discovery learning so giving the participants the opportunity to maximise their strengths and mitigate their weaknesses in a fun environment. This will not only assist students of rugby but also me, within sport or in life generally. I would whole heartedly recommend anyone keen about their sport to undertake a coaching qualification within that sport to gain from the benefits it provides.

There may also be the opportunity to earn some cash when away at university!

I have been fortunate enough to have been invited to deliver sessions to experienced rugby playing adults and have been received well despite my young age.



U18 Essex Indoor Hockey Champions

An U18 boys' team convincingly took the Essex U18 Indoor Hockey title in a competition played at New Hall School, Chelmsford on Monday 7 November.

Throughout they played a very controlled game and showed the highest skill level and ability to break down the opposition teams, which all employed a very defensive system against the Bancroft's side. Captain, Will Hopkins, scored a hat trick in convincing wins against New Hall (5-0) and Coopers' Coborn (6-1) with Nathan Rose and Zayne Avril adding to the tally overall. It was an outstanding team performance from a team which had not previously played together as a Bancroft's indoor side. Coach Andy MacLeod said, "We have not entered this tournament before and as a school have little experience of indoor hockey; several of the boys have represented Old Loughtonian club at indoor tournaments and this experience was clear in their performances today."

The boys qualified for the East of England round which was played in December at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. This proved to be a very demanding and long day, during which they faced the qualifiers from Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Hertfordshire.



Rio Gold Medallist Visits Bancroft's



We were was lucky enough to have a visit from Olympic Gold Medallist Shona McCallin on Friday 18 November. McCallin, who won Gold in Rio as part of the women's hockey team, was accompanied by her medal, which goes everywhere with her.

Firstly, she spoke to all senior pupils about her career: the highs and lows, the trials and tribulations which culminated in success at Rio in 2016. She focussed on how she juggled her exhausting sporting commitments with her school life, particularly during exam years, and how she recovered from setbacks, such as injury, perceived failure or England's performance in the Champions League before Rio. It was clear as she spoke that there are many parallels between success in sport and success in other areas of life. Certainly her focus on determination, discipline and drive applies not just to sporting achievements.

After this, she met with an invited group of our talented sports players, from across all sporting disciplines. She led a Q&A session answering questions about her career, her aspirations, her influences and her training. Pupils were keen to be photographed with Shona with her medal and she took time to give advice on an individual basis to players who are currently working their way through the England hockey system and hope to follow in her footsteps.

Captain of the girls' 1st hockey XI, Daffodil Dhayaa persuaded Shona to allow her to try on the medal, which weighs in at 500g. Daffodil commented, "Shona is an inspiration to all, on and off the pitch. From a hockey aspect, her journey to Olympic Gold at Rio is both admirable and inspiration. I personally aspire to have the same determination and focus that she does in order to achieve my own goals."



U12 Girls' Hockey

Lottie Gillett, 3E

It's been a mixed season for the Thirds with the team starting off with a defeat to Brentwood. However, with amazing coaching from Miss Mugridge and Mrs Fryer-Green, the team started to get better at working together. In our second match against Haileybury, with everyone settling in to their positions, we drew in a tight game.

With more training and team bonding the team became stronger, improving massively in every match we played. With our incredible goalie, Sarah Dean, and strong defence at the back by Neha Pillai and Lottie Gillett, strikers struggled to get past us. Excellent play in the midfield from Ellie Joyce, Sienna Bhumbra and Aimee Bromfield-Brown meant the team put up a great fight, Sarah Sayid was brilliant upfront, getting the ball into the D within seconds of the centre pass. In our last match it certainly paid off with a whopping 10-0 win, a great way to end the season! Prizes went to Aimee Bromfield-Brown who was Most Improved Player, Lottie Gillett, Top Goal Scorer and Neha Pillai, Players' Player. Player of the Year went to Lottie Gillett.

I would just like to say a huge thank you to our incredible coaches Miss Mugridge and Mrs Fryer-Green.

U14 Girls' Hockey

Harriet Wood, U4S

We started off the season a bit slowly as most of the girls hadn't played since last year and the 11-a-side format was new to most of the team. As we started training more, we started to get a grip on the stick and ball.

Our first couple of matches were OK but we knew we could perform much better. As the season went on, players became more developed in hitting the ball and passing it long distances, therefore, we were able to start transferring the ball especially round the back. Eden Risby (Coach's Player of the Season) was a strong defender and took the ball from right defence up the line out pacing whoever came across her. Katharine Buckley (Most Improved Player) has grown in hockey strength and flourished in the last couple of matches. Eleanor De-Renzy Channer (Players' Player) was always on the post and her skill came in handy when getting past her opponents. There were a couple of matches that will go down in history, such as the one against Queenswood. This was a very close game and they had some really strong players but we were able to keep them back and win 2-1. We worked as a team and that's what led us to victory.

U13 Girls' Hockey

Grace Kumar, RN

This year has been an outstanding season for U13 Girls Hockey. We won every game and have displayed many team qualities.

A strong defence made up of Anja Schumacher, Mia Malik, and Clementine Jamieson, a supportive midfield of Kiera Murphy, Emily Harris, Amber Bufther and Grace Kumar with a threatening attack of Charlotte Peters and Katie Vallance were the main components in our most convincing games. Games were often won by a considerable goal difference and we proved to be too a strong side for our opposition every time. There was consistent goal scoring from Katie Vallance, Emily Harris, Kiera Murphy, Grace Kumar and Charlotte Peters. The Player's Award was won jointly by Charlotte Peters and Mia Malik; Most Improved Player was Clementine Jamieson and Player of the Season was jointly won by Grace Kumar and Kiera Murphy. Grace Kumar was the highest goal scorer with twenty four goals; Emily Harris came in as second highest scorer with thirteen goals. Altogether, we scored sixty goals, only conceding eight. We are very grateful to all our coaches who sacrificed

their Saturday mornings to come out in the wind and rain to help us achieve our best. We are also grateful to our parents who came to cheer us on.

We are all so delighted to have represented the School for hockey, a sport that saw Team GB do us all so proud with a gold medal at the Rio Olympics.





Bronze And Silver DofE Awards Evening

On Monday 21 November, 165 members of the Fifth and Lower Sixth were presented with their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Awards by Head, Simon Marshall. Seventy seven L6 pupils received their Silver Award and eighty eighth Fifth Formers their Bronze. In addition, twenty members of the U6 achieved the top award of Gold this summer; they will be invited to a special ceremony at St James's Palace in the presence of either HRH, the Duke of Edinburgh or Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex.

Firstly, Mr Argyle, our DofE Manager, spoke to parents and pupils on the success of the programme at Bancroft's. We regularly have the highest number of awards for a co-educational day school within the London region. 2016 was no exception with an overall pass rate for all awards at an impressive 82%.

Old Bancroftian and Gold Award holder, Vaclav Prusa, spoke of the challenges he had faced and the "unique skill set" he gained while working towards his Gold Award: from



his residential to the physical and mental demands of the expedition to Snowdonia, "The numerous skills I learnt throughout my award complemented me when I finished my path at School and went onto University; they have also continued to benefit me into my working life."

After presenting the successful pupils with their badges, Head, Simon Marshall, also spoke about the long term benefits of the Award to pupils and his interaction with the Gold groups on their expedition in Snowdonia this October.

Lower Sixth pupil Caroline Wyatt said, "I finished my Silver expedition in the Black Mountains exhausted but happy; I am now looking forward to new challenges as I embark upon my Gold Award. I hope that, I too, will be able to attend a presentation at St James's."

The evening was a fitting celebration of the dedication and work put in by these pupils over the past year and also a tribute to the support given by their parents and members of staff at the School.

Bancroft's Remembers

Remembrance Sunday was marked with a moving chapel service led by our Chaplain, the Rev Ivan Moore. Parents, staff, pupils and Old Bancroftians joined the two hundred members of the School Combined Cadet Force, as well as representative from the Sea Scouts and Cubs, as they remembered those who have given their lives in conflict.

Before the service, the CCF marched along Whitehall Road and the High Road, before processing into the School grounds. Following the ceremony, a wreath was laid on the School War Memorial in the Quad by Head of Contingent RSM, Tom Walton while Cpl Ben Harris played the Last Post. The traditional silence was marked by all those present. Flag bearers were Cpl Archie Woods and Head of RAF Robert Sharp while the colours of the School's Sea Scout troop were carried by Tamsyn Hancock and Orla Joyce. A second wreath was laid on



the memorial tablet in honour of the more recent loss in Afghanistan of those associated with Bancroft's.





From The PA

Sally Fisher, PA Secretary

Christmas seems so far away now and I'm sure the majority of your New Year's resolutions are also a distant memory, but for some of us, the memories of the past few PA events are ones that we'll remember for quite some time. This year sees both our Chair and Vice-Chair in their final year, so the festive events in December were particularly special.




On Saturday 3 December we had the Prep School Christmas Fayre, which is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the PA calendar. It was as successful as ever this year, with some fantastic prizes up for grabs in the auction and a special visit from Santa Claus to help get everyone in the Christmas spirit. This year we had a great 'Bancroft's Bake-Off', with some beautifully creative cakes, which looked far too delicious to devour. Huge thanks to everyone who helped, contributed and attended, for making it such a special and successful event. Almost £5,000 has been raised since the last Insight update, which is a testament to everyone's continued generosity. Thank you for your ongoing support at these organised events.

The Prep School pupils enjoyed their annual PA-funded Pantomime on the 14 December, which, this year, was the hilarious *Aladdin*. A fun time was had by all, including the teachers, and the pupils very much enjoyed their "scrummy" biscuits as well as an amazing performance.

Our final event of the year was the captivating Christmas Carol Service, held at All Saints Church, on the 15 December. Members of the PA team were on hand to serve festive refreshments such as mulled wine and mince pies, to the congregation after the service.

Our next big event is also one of the highlights of the year – The Summer Ball; this has been scheduled for Saturday 1 July and will be themed "Diamonds are Forever". Please put this date in your diary and hopefully we'll see lots of you there. Another date is the ever-popular Quiz Night, on Saturday October 14. Further details will be available over the next couple of months.

The PA is represented on Facebook and Twitter so please "Like" us and "Follow" us, so you can stay up to date!

 Facebook Bancroft's School Parents' Association

 Twitter@PABancrofts

Display Of Strength From Bancroft's Gym Coach

Any pupil who trains in the School fitness suite or attends one of the lunchtime or early morning strength and conditioning sessions, which he organises for our sports' squads, will know Arram Eghoyan. But how many of them know that Arram is officially the fifth strongest man in the world in the U90kg category?

In October half term, Arram travelled to the US to compete in the World's Strongest Man Under 90kg Competition. He faced a very hard field of over twenty contestants. For seven hours Arram was pushed to his limits: lifting heavy object and moving around with them, for example running with a 360kg frame on his back, and lifting an 83kg dumbbell overhead with one arm. He commented that his final placing of fifth was a fair result after a tough year with injuries, "A few minor mistakes cost me a spot on the podium, but all in all it was a good performance. I managed to hit a personal best in the deadlift at 318kg." A bonus was that he got through the competition injury free! He is currently taking a break from competing but hopes to come back stronger later this year.

Before competing in strongman, Arram competed in powerlifting (different to weightlifting), and won eleven world titles in powerlifting, and broke two world records. He has worked at Bancroft's for several years, progressively developing strength and conditioning coaching for the pupils.

Recently Arram has been training a couple of our Upper Sixth Formers and on Saturday 10 December, Matt Roberts and Tolu Abisogun travelled to Crystal Palace Sports Centre to represent Bancroft's in their first senior weightlifting competition. Up against some of the best lifters in London and the south east, they were tested in the snatch and the clean and jerk. With the pressure of being amongst the youngest lifters there, and in front of a big crowd, both Matt and Tolu hit personal best lifts. Matt totalled 180kg and Tolu finished on 103kg, earning herself a bronze medal.

Another one of Arram's protégées is OB Regan Phillips (who began lifting weights in the Bancroft's gym after suffering a serious knee injury); Regan finished second to Arram's first in the South of England's Strongest Man competition in 2016!

Arram says that preparing for a competition is hard work with three to four months of training in the lead up focussing specifically on the events, which vary each competition. He has to ensure he works on any weak areas and programmes in exercises to help prevent injury. He also pays attention to nutrition, making sure he has the necessary energy to train. He uses plenty of recovery protocols, such as stretching, foam rolling massage, ice baths, and of course he has to lift a lot of heavy weights!





SHINE

*Ekaahh Sumithran, L6N and
Rahul Goel, L6S*

The Serious Fun on Saturdays programme, funded by SHINE Trust, ran again once during the autumn term. The purpose of the programme is to give primary school children from local state schools the opportunity to use the facilities we are fortunate enough to have to enrich their knowledge.

Each Saturday morning year 5 children from Coppermill, Edinburgh, Sybourn and Broadford Primary Schools attended these sessions. Initially they were quiet and shy, however, over time, we saw their confidence grow as they became more familiar with us and the School.

During sessions the children participated in various lessons including science, catering, maths, music, classics, PE, Spanish,

photography, philosophy, German and English. They were exposed to many new subjects and facilities and their excitement for these opportunities shone through. Not only were they learning new skills, but clearly having so much fun at the same time, which made it all the more enjoyable for us volunteers. It was a pleasure to work with them and watch friendships between them grow.

We had a great time with the children in the science sessions and they had an excellent time too. They all really enjoyed making their DNA necklaces and learning what an important role DNA has within the human body and all other living organisms, as they saw when they unravelled the DNA of a strawberry with the expert help of Mrs Dawkins and Mrs Graham. They also learnt the importance of washing their hands (as did the student volunteers) as they looked at the bacterial cultures from their hands, as well as using UV light to look at the amount of bacteria on their hands before and after washing.

In classics they read and went over the story of Theseus and the Minotaur; this was also fun for the student volunteers as it reminded us of Greek mythology, which most of us hadn't read in years! Then they learnt the meaning of Latin words with Mrs Baker's expertise in order to construct their own monsters. It was great fun to see the children's imagination at work in the creatures they created as well as the good artistic talent of a few.

We feel privileged to have had this experience, and working with the SHINE children has allowed us to appreciate the amazing facilities we have at Bancroft's. By sharing stories, experiences, and knowledge with the children, we feel as though we have positively impacted them in a way in which we may not have done before.

This programme would not have been run without the diligent work of Mrs Hague and Mrs Dawkins and the photography and video skills of Mr Munch-Petersen.



Prep 2 at Young Voices

*Mr Adam Baum, Musical Director –
Prep School*

Young Voices 2017 was an extraordinary experience for pupils and parents alike. There were 7400 children singing their hearts out and raising the roof of The O2 building: a feat in itself! Little dots of light from a million torches gave a totally magical atmosphere and reminded us of Christmas not too far gone. We had the best seats in the house and were blessed with views of conductor and the band. We were so lucky.

But the music! The Beatbox Collective are three extraordinarily talented voice artists who, with only voices sound like a rock band and rap artists rolled in to one. The children were

mesmerised. They were hooked too by the dancing of Urban Strides and their director, Andy. How brilliant that parents and children together could strut out to Justin Timberlake. It doesn't get any better! Our guest star singers, and in particular, Tabby Callaghan, former *X Factor* finalist were incredible. Tabby led rock anthem after rock anthem and to hear 10000 people sing *I Love Rock and Roll* was truly memorable.

There are too many highlights to mention, although The Mexican Wave stands out for a lot of Bancroft's students. They say they started it! Did they?

I think though that final words and thoughts should go to our pupils and parents. "It was a truly exhilarating experience for children and parents alike," said one parent. "It was the best thing ever," said a pupil. "Also to thank you Mr Layburn and the staff for getting sixty six kids to The O2 and getting them back to us safe and



sound. It takes a lot of planning and organising and is a big undertaking," commented a parent. And "I really want to do it all again", said an enthusiastic Prep 2 student.

In short, one of the best nights ever. And, as the song goes, there was magic in the air.



Cancer Research London Winter Run



Mrs Sarah Strong

On 5th February, teachers from Bancroft's Prep School joined 16,500 other runners to take part in Cancer Research UK's London Winter Run.

Mr Layburn, Mrs Life, Miss Ellery, Miss Phelps, Mrs Moore, Mrs Hewitt, Mr Hall, Mrs Sylvester and myself battled the cold, early morning start to join in what is hailed as the capital's largest 10km run. To keep our spirits up we were treated to a snow blast off, 'Penguin Party', a Swiss themed water station and live music along the course. As we crossed the finish line we were greeted by a team of polar bears who awarded us with our fabulous winter medals. We are proud that we raised £1627 for Cancer Research, thanks to donations from teachers, parents, family and friends. This team effort meant that we could embark on a new challenge, whilst raising money to beat cancer sooner. Well done everyone!



Prep Christmas Concert

Mr Adam Baum, Musical Director – Prep School

“The Greatest Story Ever Told”....so rang out 266 voices in one accord. As the children gestured a hand of hope to the heavens, applause rained down on them from an appreciative audience. What an evening it was in celebration of Christmas and how music plays such an important part at this special time of year.

Members of 1LL staged *Nobody Wants To Be A Donkey* beautifully and there were some magical solos and singing from the assembled cast. Miss Moore's imaginative staging really allowed the drama to breathe and all actors were able to learn stage craft; well done 1LL!

The first half of the concert demonstrated what an astonishing variety of talent our children possess. From the opening bars of *Balderdash Blues* by the Wind Band to the closing bars of *When I Grow Up* from the Senior Choir, during which you couldn't hear a pin drop as our



audience remained spellbound by the children's performance. I am hugely proud of all the pupils in the Prep School and I am honoured to be their music teacher. Their focus and enthusiasm on the night made all the hours of sweat, blood and tears worth it.



Prep Head, Joe Layburn, said, "I know how much parents, grandparents and family friends enjoyed our Christmas Concert; it certainly got all of us in a festive mood."



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