



Insight

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SUMMER TERM 2019

Chicago Razzle Dazzles

Our senior musical is a hotly anticipated biennial event. Although it would be fantastic to have a West End calibre show performed by pupils every year, it might just be a step too far for the sanity of the drama department, such is the level of commitment and work required from all involved. Ms Middleton, with Mrs Whitbread as Musical Director and Mr Whitbread as set designer, pulled out all the musical theatre stops to give us a fantastic, energy fuelled senior production of Kander and Ebb's hit musical *Chicago*. The Broadway and West End favourite has only recently become available for performances by schools and youth groups and Bancroft's was naturally very excited to be amongst the first to stage the show which is known for its energetic jazz-age dance numbers, such as "All That Jazz".

The show was driven forward by dynamic and mature performances from its leads. High kicking Emilia Hitching and Emily Christaki dazzled as "jazz babies" Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart respectively. Alex O'Brien was a suitably smooth and oily Billy Flynn. As Mary Sunshine, Gauri Godbole squeezed every drop of comedy from her role, whilst displaying a voice full of operatic potential. Jake Botha's comically downtrodden Amos Hart won the audiences' sympathy with his poignant rendition of "Mr Cellophane". They were more than ably supported by a large, enthusiastic chorus. The company work is something which always sets Bancroft's shows apart and, once again, every single performer was in the moment at all times.

Upper Sixth Former Olivia Welch was responsible for much of the fantastic choreography. She said, "It was a real challenge as you only have a limited range of movements to work with in order to maintain Bob Fosse's unique dance style. It can be difficult to make the choreography



different. My favourite number was "All I Care About is Love" sung by Alex O'Brien as it gave me more scope to personalise the choreography." The fact that most of the cast of 35 pupils had very little or no dance experience added to the challenges faced by Olivia and her assistant choreographers, Hanna Wright and Temi Atanlusi.

Both Olivia and fellow cast member Dan Lockley (Master of Ceremonies) spoke of

the team work involved in creating such a successful show. Dan highlighted the "really good environment during rehearsals" and he added that the production "brought pupils from several year groups together as a team. It was hard work and production week was tiring but it also gave us a break from our A Level studies. Everyone worked together and there was a real feeling of positivity."

Congratulations to all involved in *Chicago* – both on and off stage – this was truly a show which razzle-dazzled!





International Women's Day

Sara El-Khamlichy, 5E, Aurora Strong, 3W and Aria Bapna, U4N

This year, the theme of International Women's Day was 'Balance for Better' with the aims of emphasising the importance of a gender-balanced world and accelerating future change. To celebrate IWD Bancroft's pupils came together to recognise the achievements of women as well as to raise awareness of issues surrounding gender equality by organising various events throughout the week of 8 March.

The week kicked off with a thought-provoking assembly which highlighted several taboos around menstruation, particularly in less developed parts of the world, alongside issues surrounding stereotypes and toxic masculinity. We chose to support "The Red Box Project" which aims to end period poverty by donating boxes of menstrual products to secondary schools. In order to raise money, a bake sale was organised as well as an Own Clothes Day when pupils were encouraged to wear a purple item of clothing (the main colour of the IWD campaign, which picks up on the purple of the Suffragettes) to show their support. Research by Plan International shows that 10% of young girls in the UK cannot afford sanitary products, therefore, it is hoped that our contribution will help to ensure that young women do not miss out on their education because of menstruation.

Alongside fundraising, there were opportunities for pupils to get involved in a variety of activities to mark the week. Events organised by staff and pupils included a book club on *Feminists Don't Wear Pink*, an aerial quad photo with the Prep School, a film night showing *Suffragette*, a talk on Sappho, a mixed football match (which turned



out to be an intense house competition!) and an rehearsed reading of *In the Parlour* by Judy Tate which commemorated the Afro-Caribbean suffrage movement and the historical fight for gender equality. Aria Bapna said, "The most meaningful event to me was the senior chapel when the work of empowering women in their communities and globally was commemorated. It was inspiring to learn about women who used difficult aspects of their lives to start NGOs to help other people in similar situations and how hard they worked, against the odds, to achieve their dreams."

A highlight of the week was a Careers Fair organised by Ms Chana when we had the opportunity to meet women from a range of technical and creative backgrounds, from an earth observation scientist to a senior TV games producer. Since a key focus of this year's IWD campaign was the importance of gender balance in the workplace, it was particularly inspiring to learn about the different paths each of the women had taken to pursue their current careers, some in very male-dominated industries, such as engineering.

In an increasingly progressive and forward-thinking society, gender balance is essential for growth, both economic and social, and we hope that through continued awareness and through the inspiration of the current generation and generations to come that we can begin to create a more equal society, free from bias and prejudice.

Many thanks must go to Ms Chana, Ms Picton and other members of staff and pupils who helped make the week a success.

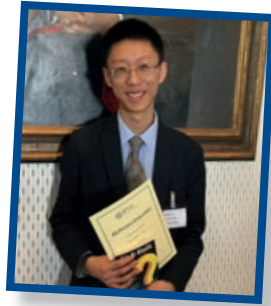




AS British Physics Challenge

Alex Yan, L6W

In the AS Physics Challenge, nine Lower Sixth pupils scored highly enough to gain Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates. The paper, written by the British Physics Olympiad (BPhO) and sat in March this year, tests problem-solving skills and encourages students to apply their understanding of physical concepts to real-world uses and unfamiliar contexts.



As one of the six overall highest-scoring entrants for the Challenge, I was invited to BPhO's Presentation Afternoon at the Royal Society. Being surrounded by so many incredibly bright students and physicists in the building of such a historic society was, admittedly, quite daunting; it was also a real privilege. The event started with a buffet lunch, followed by a prize-giving ceremony recognising students for a range of achievements, including those who went to the International Physics Olympiad representing the UK. Finally there was a lecture about a fascinating new solar cell technology. I enjoyed meeting some of the other students there and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon!

Huge thanks go to Mr Busch, who helped the Lower Sixth to prepare for the Challenge, and Mr Prole, who accompanied me to the Presentation Afternoon.

Intermediate Maths Olympiad Successes

Mathematicians from the L4 to Fifth Form joined in with thousands of other mathematicians in competing in the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (IMC). Nationally, over 200,000 students for each year group (years 9 to 11) take part in the IMC from around 4,000 schools. From this entry, roughly 1,500 of the top scorers (around the top 1%) are entered into the prestigious Olympiad round, and a further 8,000 students are entered into the second-tier Kangaroo round. These follow-on rounds of the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (IMC) took place on 21 March.

In the Kangaroo papers, seven Bancroftians scored highly enough to achieve a merit certificate, representing an effort in the top 25% of all entrants. Congratulations go to Ben Hughes (5S), Aarian Judge (U4W), Avneet Sapal (L4N) for being Bancroft's top scorers in their respective papers.

In the Olympiad papers, Bancroft's students brought record success. In these papers the top 25% of entrants receive a distinction certificate and the next 25% received a merit certificate. Seven Bancroft's students received a merit;

three - Shivan Aggarwal (I4S), Zaki Lodhi (L4S) and Nathan Tan (L4S) - received distinction certificates. All three receive medals for scoring in the top 100 of all Olympians taking the Cayley (year 9) paper, representing a very high level of attainment.

Well done to all our participants this year, and we trust that it was a valuable and enriching experience for everybody who took part.



UKMT Junior Team Maths Challenge

Shanuga Rubaraj, RE

On Tuesday 5 March, the Bancroft's team of Shivan Aggarwal, Zaki Lodhi (both L4), Anika Vijay and me (Removes) took part in the regional heats of the UKMT Junior Team Maths Challenge held at Bancroft's. We faced a large, competitive and strong field of twenty-nine other schools, including King Edward's Grammar School who beat us last year. We were determined to finish in first place and go through to the Nationals.

The Challenge consists of four rounds: the group round where the team works together; the cross-number where the team works in pairs using clues to find the answers; the shuttle where we pass our answers back and forth and finally, the relay where we run across the room to pass on the next question. We had an extremely strong start only losing a couple of points in each round and by lunchtime it was announced that we were in the top five schools.

After lunch, we carried on to take part in the final two rounds. We secured a great score in the shuttle and were preparing ourselves to compete in the relay round. We tirelessly managed to answer thirteen out of fifteen questions which resulted in us standing a good chance of winning. When the results were finally announced, we were elated to find that we were the regional champions and we would go on to compete in the national finals in June. I am really looking forward to the competition which will be held in central London. On behalf of the Bancroft's team, I would like to thank Mr Tse for preparing us for this great opportunity and the UKMT for organising this event.





Primary Science Fair

The Bancroft's Primary Science Fair saw 175 excited year 5 and 6 visitors from seventeen local primary and prep schools join us to mark British Science Week.

This year the theme was "Journeys" and our Lower Sixth were particularly inventive in their interpretation of this theme for their stands in the Great Hall exhibition zone. There were literal journeys looking at transportation, journeys into space, journeys through our body and the journey of pregnancy. The novel approaches of many stands made the job of our visiting judge, Dr Swinbank, formerly of the University of York Science Education Group and BRAGG Medal winner, much harder. Dr Swinbank said, "As in previous years, the Science Fair was excellent and I really enjoyed the day. All involved in organising and taking part are to be congratulated." She named Sonya Kalsi, Jude Panter, Swasthi Surendran and Alex Yan winners of the exhibition with their "Be There or be Square" stand which investigated the ideas of square wheels on vehicles. The pupils nominated "Asteroid Adventures" (Arjun Agarwala, Lottie Grant, Reece Khan and Eesha Raheel Choudhary) as their favourite stand.

In her report Dr Swinbank wrote, "I was delighted to be asked to visit the 2019

Bancroft's Science Fair and judge the displays. This year no fewer than seventeen L6 teams took part and put on an impressive event that clearly appealed to the young visitors.

The display teams responded well to the theme and interpreted it in a variety of different - and some quite imaginative - ways. There were some creative and original displays, and it was good to see - and hear - the enthusiasm of visitors and exhibitors alike.

Deciding on the winning display was not easy! There were several judging criteria, and every display did well according to at least some of them.

When choosing a topic for a display at an event such as this, it can be tempting to 'play safe', so it was good to see several displays that were ambitious and tackled difficult ideas. The challenge here is to choose a topic that both stretches the exhibitors and can be made interesting and accessible to a young audience."

Dr Swinbank picked up on the enthusiasm of Sixth Formers and visitors alike. The Sixth Formers were "keen to engage with the visitors, actively encouraging them to visit the displays and drawing them in to the demonstrations. I was also pleased to see visitors sharing their enthusiasm with one another (grabbing a friend by the hand: 'you must come and see this!')."



The visitors also visited the chemistry, physics and biology zones in turn to collect stamps for their "passports". They were treated to a chemistry display which took them on a whistle-stop journey through the periodic table (which is 150 years old this year). In physics they created their own rockets and launched them on the sports field, seeing which one could journey the furthest. The children followed the journey of Charles Darwin to the Galapagos in the biology zone. There he observed giant tortoises and lots of different finches; the children made tortoise bookmarks and took part in an activity investigating which shape of beak allows finches to feed more successfully.

Visiting children and teachers enthused about the Science Fair. Jodie Enright's (who teaches at Leverton Primary School) response was typical, "Our children really enjoyed their time at your school. They were very enthusiastic on their return and keen to share their experiences from the morning. It was a very enjoyable and educational visit. Please share our thanks with your pupils, who all did a fantastic job."



Robotics Club

Nathaniel Strover, L4E

This year a very new and interesting club has been set up by our new Head of Computer Science and ICT, Mr Shaw, in which he not only teaches us about how to build our own robots from scratch using only the most basic of pieces, but also to program our masterpieces and make them perform our requested tasks. Of course, they are not too complicated, only moving in certain directions, but this has set the foundations for possible work in the future using not too dissimilar technology but with far greater capabilities and sense of achievement at the end. Seeing all your work come

together fills you with the sense of great accomplishment in what you have built.

Not only did it teach us basic robot programming and building, but it also helped in problem solving and team work, if I couldn't work something out, for example or needed a different screw, one of my groupmates would definitely have the answer for me or, if not, Mr Shaw would help me or anyone else who had a problem.

The things I learnt in robotics club also translated over to different subjects, for

example subjects requiring construction (Electronics and DT) or programming (Computer Science) which have helped as I am currently taking Electronics and Computer Science and I am going to take Computer Science for GCSE.

The thing I enjoyed most about this new and fascinating club is the sense of pride after spending weeks building and assembling my robot. Programming it and seeing it work filled me with a huge amount of self-satisfaction: I could eventually see my project work and function. I am very glad that I decided to partake in this new club.





My Lambing Experience

Ellie Larsson-Brown, L6S

Yes, I probably should have been revising. During Easter, however, I was lucky enough to live and work on a farm in Suffolk, primarily gaining lambing experience with their flock of 850 ewes. Being the UK's biggest purebred Wagyu beef farm, with a herd of 450, I was also able to get involved in dehorning cattle which is not for the faint hearted but was worthwhile.

I can definitely say that this is the most hands-on experience any prospective vet student can get. I was able to castrate and ear tag lambs and calves, as well as tail dock lambs and foot trim ewes. The highlight of my placement was helping to deliver numerous lambs and assisting with the birth of two calves. The before and aftercare, however, is just as, if not more, important when trying to reduce the mortality rate of lambs and ewes. Hence, I was able to administer a variety



of drugs and care for the treatment of mastitis, foot rot, watery mouth disease, joint-ill and a ewe suffering from twin lamb disease. Whilst caring for our ICU lambs through tube feeding and various treatments, I had the pleasure of caring for Bob – a lamb born with several deformities, who by the end of my placement would run around the lambing shed following me. Seeing and assisting with two live caesareans and one cull caesarean was another valuable experience.

Whilst lambing is definitely my most enjoyable placement, it has also been the hardest placement so far. I had to deal with the death of animals more so than in a veterinary surgery or hospital and had to work long hours, including a 17 hour shift! With the unexpected death of newborn lambs, we carried out a post-mortem dissection to discover the cause of death. In one case we found a blockage caused by colostrum in the rumen – this gave me a great insight into veterinary pathology.

I cannot recommend the experience enough to anyone considering applying to veterinary medicine. It was a fantastic way to meet other vet students and to grow in confidence by working and living with people I had never met before. As well as giving me priceless veterinary experience that I cannot gain in any other environments.

My Inspiration For *The Soldier's Civil War*

Lucas Yates, 3E

One of our Thirds, Lucas, was "Highly Commended" in the 11-15 age category of The Young Walter Scott Prize a national historical fiction writing competition. He set his tale against the backdrop of the American Civil War, inspired by a group activity in his English class.



"I always liked history from a young age so when I learnt we were doing a Let's Think lesson in English about history I was ecstatic.

We covered a short story about the American Civil War called *The Bridge*. It was about a woman who cheated on her husband while he was at war. Whilst on the bridge with her lover, a soldier blocked the exit. She had heard the news that her husband was coming back and she was rushing to try and get back home, but the soldier did not let her as he thinks she is a spy. She tries many things, before panicking and rushing at the soldier to try and run past him, ultimately leading to her death. This piece really fascinated me. The level of dismay the woman felt at her husband's imminent return and the level of edginess between everyone as though no one could be trusted. This is shown through the soldier believing she is a spy. We discussed all of this and more. This inspired me to write *The Soldier's Civil War* when I heard about the competition.

When researching information about the Civil War, for my piece, I came across an interesting fact. It turned out that during one of the battles, a luminescent bacteria spread itself on the wounded soldiers. As I looked into this further, I found out that this strange substance acted like some sort of antibacterial remedy, it stopped infection and saved the lives of thousands. After reading this I knew I had to use it in my piece.

Much of my writing was inspired by my favourite author, Michael Grant. His use of language within his books is extraordinary and really keeps you intrigued. For weeks I could not get my head out of books he has written, they are absolute masterpieces. My favourite book series is, of course, one by Michael Grant: *The Gone Series*. It is amazing and I recommend it to anyone who is looking to engage in a series that is really worth the time reading. The character development throughout the different books really makes the storyline amazing. I have never loved a book series as much as this one."

Cryptic Crossword Club

Ted Howden Chalmers, 3S, Lucas Yates, 3E and Mr Rob Young

**Swimmer last in race, might one be broken? (4)
Arrive with leaders of China, Oman, Mali and Eritrea. (4)
Chief English State (5)**

If the above clues might as well be written in another language, then perhaps the new Bancroft's Cryptic Crossword Society is the place to be. Meeting every Monday in the English corridor, the club has introduced us to a fascinating and original hobby.

This is club run by a few members of staff, and it is open for everyone! Crosswording is a way of escaping the world and using your 'detective skills' to figure out answers for sometimes very abstract clues.

"It's one of the most satisfying feelings," says Arjun Randhawa, describing the euphoria of solving a clue. The club is made all the more fun as it is run by some of our most enthusiastic and passionate teachers – certainly, CCS is half an hour well spent at Bancroft's School.

Or should that be half an hour well spent at 'An institution for Bacon's cloths, washed' (9,6)?





World Book Day

Many thanks to our library team headed up by Mrs Squire for organising events recognising World Book Day in the Senior School.

Competitions were arranged throughout the week, including a daily quick fire tutor time quiz which proved so popular that Mrs Squire had to purchase extra prizes to meet demand. On Thursday after school, the Library held a Book Tasting session. This gave pupils the opportunity to dip into some of the latest acquisitions in the Library while enjoying a cake or a book inspired snack (marmalade sandwiches, the favourite of a certain bear from Peru, or cold apple pie on which *The Railway Children* feasted for breakfast). So jealous were the staff of the Book Tasting that the event was replicated for members of staff in their common room.



New Views Playwriting Competition

Emilia Hitching, L6W

This year, eight pupils have been participating in the National Theatre New Views playwriting competition, which encourages the development of young voices within the world of theatre to tell the stories which are relevant to our generation. While all of us are interested in drama and creative writing, we had a variety of motivations to get involved in the competition - some of us had previous experience writing or directing house plays, whereas others wanted to improve characterisation skills and hone their writing craft. Our brief was to write a one-act play, approximately half an hour long, about anything which interested us.

This might immediately seem quite daunting to a group with little to no experience of extended writing. To ameliorate these stresses, our process began with group sessions led by Ms Middleton, when we practised various skills which would come in handy in the next months. In free writing sessions we had to keep on writing based on a prompt, the quality being of far less importance than just getting words on the page, as it is so easy to put off bigger projects for fear of them not being perfect. We played characterisation games, developing backstories and intertwined relationships for characters taken from stock images.

We also had the benefit of two sessions with playwright Martin Murphy, who gave us insider tips on capturing an audience's attention and gave us feedback on our first drafts. From our eight final drafts, one



will be long-listed for consideration in the national competition, with the winner's play being put on at the National Theatre in summer. This was an incredible prize to motivate us; however, on a more personal level, we have all drastically improved our writing skills and enjoyed this creative outlet in the past few months.

Top Girls at the National Theatre

Ms Entwistle, Miss Gartland and the U4 Drama students



On Thursday 2 May, fifteen U4 drama students set out for the National Theatre to see a production of Caryl Churchill's 1982 play *Top Girls*.

The pupils enjoyed the production very much especially the first scene which involves historical characters such as Pope Joan, Lady Nijo, explorer Isabella Bird, Dull Gret from the Breughel painting and Griselda. The women drink lots of frascati with 1980s 'powersuited Thatcherite businesswoman' Marlene and celebrate her promotion. The following scenes jump around in chronology: we meet Kit and Angie hiding at the bottom of the garden and Angie's mother Joyce; we move forward to the 'wilfully shark like women' of the 'Top Girls' employment agency. We look at female ambition in a 'man's world'. The final scene occurs a year earlier and involves Auntie Marlene visiting her niece Angie and sister Joyce. Stand out performances came from Katherine Kingsley as Marlene and Liv Hill as Angie. It was so refreshing to see a stage entirely populated by a female cast! A real piece of history but still relevant to the modern day.



Removes' Spanish Cultural and Study Trip to Salamanca

Martha Beavan, RE

During February half term, there was a Removes' Spanish trip to the city of Salamanca, a beautiful university city two hours west of Madrid. This was a fun trip, which consisted of some grammar lessons, some speaking lessons and many cultural experiences. We had two different teachers for our lessons, one for grammar and one for speaking. We experienced an interesting guided tour of the city, visits to many different churches and cathedrals, a visit to the Casa Lis Art Deco museum and a visit to the well-known Universidad de Salamanca, whose 800th anniversary was celebrated last year. The most popular of the activities were *chocolate con churros* at the Art Deco museum and the Salsa dancing lesson.

On Thursday, we went to see the Calisto and Melibea gardens, the Roman bridge, had a walk around the city and we were treated to an amazing farewell group dinner at *Casa Paca* restaurant. On the last day of the trip, we went to Segovia on the way to the airport and viewed the amazing mountain scape and the towering aqueduct. Each day we had free time to go and look in and around the shops in the *Plaza Mayor de Salamanca* (the main square) and we really enjoyed this.

Each pair of students had a host family which looked after them throughout the trip, and I think we can all agree that the breakfast of hot chocolate and muffins was everyone's favourite part of the day. We walked to and from lessons each day so this gave us a lot of freedom but the challenge was that the host families spoke almost no English so all our dialogue had to be in Spanish! This was a fun and educational trip and I have definitely learnt a lot of useful Spanish and now know a lot more about Spanish culture. Our thanks go to Mr Urreaga, Miss Carnell and Mr Martínez for organising the trip.



Spanish Short Film Contest

Angelo Donovan-Maddix, 5N

The short film competition was advertised to us by our Spanish teachers and a small group of six Fifth Form pupils was assembled. All the information we were given by North London Collegiate School was that the short film should be approximately 4-5 minutes long and should be about young people and school life.

At the beginning the creative process was a struggle as we were not entirely sure what we wanted the film to be about. Following much deliberation, we decided to make a 'mockumentary' about day to day life at Bancroft's. We convened once a week, every Tuesday after school, and slowly began to develop the characters and the plot. We had

a cast of five: Olivia Page, Gauri Godbole, Charlie Coleman, Chase Fagan and Angelo Donovan with Lola Angeli as the director. Once we had decided the overall plot and characters, although minor changes were made throughout, we began to write the script. Once the script had been finalised and proof checked, with the help of Mr Urreaga and Pablo Martínez Fernández (our Spanish Assistant), we began to film! Unfortunately, we were not allocated a large enough budget to hire a camera crew and build a set, so we had to make do with filming with our phones and using venues when we could. Despite this, the visual and audio quality were excellent and, thanks to the editing skills of Charlie Coleman, the film turned out better than expected. The film focused on the characters' day to day life and the ironic nature of the characters gave the film its comedic side. For example, Camila (Olivia) and Isabella (Gauri) talk about how they are the best of friends and



then proceed to argue and make snide remarks to each other.

When we went to North London Collegiate School we watched the films of our competitors: Haberdashers, City of London and other schools from around England. The films were then judged by a panel which included a UCL professor and a Spanish actress. We were awarded the prize of best cast, with Gauri Godbole getting a special mention, and some tickets to a Spanish film festival. Despite narrowly missing out on the top prize we were proud of our efforts and remain convinced that our film was really the best!



MFL Leaders in the Prep

Angela Okafor, L6E

Our task ahead as MFL leaders – to teach a German class to Alphas - initially seemed daunting, but turned out to be a one-of-a-kind experience that we were very grateful to have.

In preparation to deliver a class on *der Körper* (the body) to Alphas, we examined various styles of teaching different types of language learners, such as audio or visual ones. From flashcards and crosswords to songs and games, we looked for the most effective way of keeping classes of seven-year olds engaged, whilst also teaching a good lesson which covered reading, speaking, and listening. Despite having fully planned the lesson with Mrs Whalley's guidance, we were still a bit apprehensive about how they would react.

The day arrived. Optimistically we walked down to the Prep School with hands full of activity sheets. We began by introducing the vocab on a PowerPoint. To keep it interactive, the Alphas repeated these words and pointed at the corresponding body parts. We then moved onto a German rendition of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" (*Kopf, Schultern, Knie und Fuß*), which was probably the highlight of the lesson, until everyone was secure with the pronunciation and definitions of the vocab. The Alphas got to work on the activity sheet whilst we went around the class to check the pupils were secure on the content. After some very impressive amateur dramatics about a visit to the doctors for an injured limb, the lesson finished with a game of *Hans Sagt*, the German version of "Simon Says".

We then split up - Nikhita and Ashviny taught a class together and I was alone. Having had feedback from Mrs Whalley about what had gone well and what had not, I was able to deliver a better second lesson. We emerged from our separate lessons exhausted, but with a newfound respect for teachers who do this all day. Being an MFL Leader was very rewarding and I highly recommend it to all language students

Removes Study Trip to the BFI

Sahana Sekhon, U4S

The French department organised for Removes students to grab an amazing opportunity: on the 29 February 2019, we went to the British Film Institute (BFI) on the Southbank.



The cinema had a giant room full of seats, which were filled with pupils from other schools, and a large screen. In the morning, we watched a variety of short films in French, about which we answered questions and completed worksheets. It was very interactive and everyone was involved. Many of our pupils were picked to give answers in French using a microphone so everyone in the cinema could hear. After 2-3 hours of fun and entertaining activities, we had lunch and were able to explore parts of the building. After lunch we watched *Le Petit Nicolas*, a French film with subtitles. We enjoyed it very much and I would recommend it to families and friends to enjoy together.

After we watched the movie, we made our rainy way back to school but, luckily we were able to cast our eyes upon a rainbow, which was like the cherry on the top of a perfect cake. We loved going to the BFI and I think if anyone ever had the opportunity to go, they should seize it.

In addition to the Removes trip, French students of the L6th and the U4th also had the opportunity to attend a film study day at the BFI in January and May.

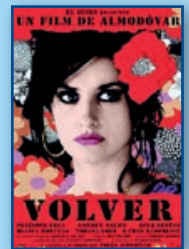
A Level Spanish Film and Literature Study Day

Caroline Crawley-Hubbard, U6W

On 8 March, Bancroft's U6 Spanish students travelled to London for a day of film and literature study. We were all very excited as this was going to provide a 'fine tuning' of our skills to enable us to achieve the top grades in the summer! Fingers crossed!

Our study was structured into two sessions: morning and afternoon. Our first lecture looked at *Volver* by Pedro Almodóvar and, in contrast, *Como Agua Para Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel. We concentrated on essay and structure techniques based around examiners' expectations. We compared and contrasted the plot,

themes and analysis used by Almodóvar, who we are studying, and Esquivel which gave us further insight into the role of the 'traditional' Mexican woman. Half way through the day we broke for lunch which gave us the opportunity to visit the local Itsu! The afternoon session focussed on *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, by Federico García Lorca as well as *El Laberinto del Fauno* by Guillermo del Toro. Again we looked at exam technique and the deeper issues highlighted within the two pieces of work. The day was crammed full of useful strategies and information, which will no doubt help prepare us fully for our examinations.



Our Temple

Daisy Cohen, L4W and Emilia Coupland-Webb, L4S

For our Classics Greek temple project, we made a temple on the 3D printer, with help from the DT department.

First of all, we had to choose the design of the temple that we wanted to make. This was a hard decision as there were many different designs of temples to choose, from Doric style columns to drawings on the entablature. However, two days later it came to our attention that our design of temple would not print on the 3D printer without supports as the columns were too weak. We added supports to the temple, and then it was off to the printer! The printing took around

five hours to complete and it was very exciting seeing the layers of the temple build up whilst being printed. Finally, on Monday morning we went to see if the temple was completed. Then, we broke off the supports to see our brilliant temple. We couldn't have done it without the DT department, so thank you to them!





Sorrento 2019

Mr Anthony Smethurst

In the first week of the Easter holiday, a group of forty Removes and L4ths descended on Sorrento for the Classics tour of the Bay of Naples area. All went smoothly on the day of departure and, aside from a few showers on Capri and in Paestum, we had the benefit of superb weather for the duration of the trip.

The first day of the trip saw excursions to the amphitheatre at Pozzuoli (the third largest in Italy), and the house of Poppaea at Oplontis. We also paid our first ever visit to the delightful port of Pozzuoli. The following day was spent in Pompeii, where

the pupils were able to see the pictures in their Latin textbooks brought to life. We visited the amphitheatre, theatres, forum, and various shops and houses. More ruins of houses were explored in Herculaneum, and a clear view across the bay of Naples was enjoyed from the peak of Vesuvius. The temple ruins and museum at Paestum, and the sibyl's cave at Cumae were also on the itinerary, and the group recovered from the hike up to the natural arch with some window shopping on Capri.

The evenings also brought entertainment, in the form of a scavenger hunt, talent show (won by a glorious sendup of the hotel staff), a fiendish quiz, and the obligatory excursion to a local pizza restaurant.

A fantastic time was had by all!

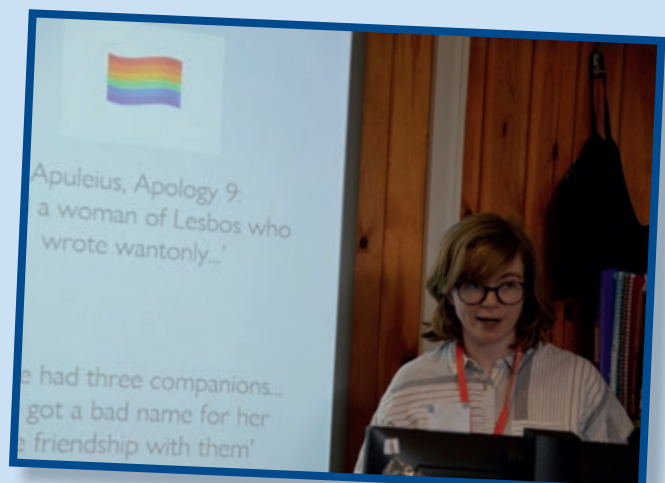
Gender Ambiguity and Erotic Fluidity in Sappho's Fragments.

Isha Elahi, U4N

As part of International Women's Week, a presentation on gender ambiguity and erotic fluidity within Sappho's fragments was held on 7 March. Riognach Sachs (OB), a PhD student in Classics at King's College London, delivered the interesting and detailed lecture. It regarded Sappho, a poet from the Island of Lesbos, whose poetry would be sung and accompanied by music from a lyre. Her work was popular and appreciated. Typically, her poetry would be performed by men to men, with the theme of her poetry being love. They discuss passion and romance with men and significantly women, causing Sappho to become a symbol of female homosexuality.

Sappho's poetry was written in the first person, using 'I' so providing an even more intimate depiction of love. She used neuter nouns which would not disclose the gender of the voice, however towards the end of her poems she might transition the nouns to feminine. This provided a 'reveal', entertaining the audience to whom the poems were performed.

Despite, the loss of approximately 9,350 lines of Sappho's work, in her fragments we can still appreciate the deep and introspections of love. Her work had a simple construction, which lends itself to enabling the listener to focus on the sensations discussed; this is one reason why we can still engage with it and appreciate its messages more than two thousand five hundred years after it was written.





Drapers' Hall Concert

Zoe Webb, U6W

The Drapers' Hall Concert is one of the highlights of the musical calendar at Bancroft's, and this year's high standard was no different from any other.

I remember being very impressed by the music played last year, which was my first year taking part, especially by the wide varieties of groups performing. This year not only did I know a bit more about what to expect, I was lucky enough to perform the first movement of *The Birthday Concerto* written by Peter Hope. This requires not one but three different recorders (although not at



the same time!) and included a newly-written cadenza. I love challenging people's expectations that the recorder can't be played to a high standard and felt incredibly fortunate to be able to do so in such a beautiful setting. Other personal highlights from the evening include singing Sanctus from *The Armed Man* with the Bancroft's Singers, accompanied by Sinfonia, and playing from Sibelius' Karelia Suite with Sinfonia. Of course, Drapers' isn't complete without last-minute panics, searching for misplaced instruments or wondering whether you need a clarinet in A or Bb, but it all went smoothly in the end. Many thanks to all the staff who organised the day and made it possible.



House Music

Alex Yan, L6W

The House Music competition, held in March, saw each house rising to the challenge of the new format. This year the solo categories were replaced with a 'set song' chosen by the music department, to be included in each house's 20-25 minute programme. At first, the changes were met with understandable anxiety but every house showed initiative and put on commendable performances.

This new format gave houses the freedom to choose how they presented their pieces;

in particular East were commended for their creative use of drums to link their pieces together. It was great to see a huge range of styles compared to previous years, including film music, a contemporary adaptation of classical music, a variety of approaches to choir accompaniment and even a dance to go with the set song!

This year I directed the West House Ensemble and we played part of *Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saëns. This is a humorous piece of chamber music which paints distinctive caricatures of each animal. I loved arranging the piece and exploring the playful colours and textures in rehearsals. I was very lucky to be able to work with such a great ensemble, including instrumentalists of all ages in the house, playing everything from xylophone to slide whistle!

Amit Bhat (3W) played a wide variety of percussion for both our ensemble and our choir. He said after the event, "I really enjoyed House Music because it felt really good to be playing a song we worked so hard on with my house, and working with all the older musicians in my house was a great opportunity."

It was rewarding to find out that the judge had given the two highest scores of the evening to our ensemble and the School House Ensemble, who were praised for their 'beautiful ensemble playing' in their performance of *Viva La Vida*. In the end, we – West House – were the ones to lift the trophy. Amit commented, "winning my first ever House Music feels great. Hopefully I'll be in many House Music competitions to come and win as many as possible!"



Taal 2019

This year's *Taal* saw the involvement of 350 Bancroftians and raised a staggering £28,000 for four charities. With its fusion of dancing, music and acting, *Taal* has become a much anticipated fixture in the Bancroft's calendar as well as an important part of the School's cultural life.

Upper Sixth Former Riya Shah, one of the Presidents of the HSBM Society, said how important *Taal* has become for her. "Naomi and I have been dancing in *Taal* since the L4th. Ever since then we have been choreographing dances for our year groups and helped to organise the show. *Taal* is something very special as we are both passionate dancers and it's nice to express our skills to everyone. This year one of our hardest challenges was having to choreograph and teach more than ten dances: we managed to pull it off in the end!"

Samer Ullah wrote this year's *Taal* play, assisted by Riya and Naomi Karunyanesan, which was a loose modern day adaptation of "Cinderella." Samer's involvement also goes back many years. He says, "My highlights have been the rehearsals in which you get to know one another; they really help all the actors/dancers to develop and improve as performers. Rehearsals are great as you meet and work alongside many students of different ages who you would otherwise have little chance of meeting."

This year *Taal* supported four charities including United World Schools, 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 Bancroft's partner school in Cambodia. The other charities were chosen because of personal links for the committee. Maternal Aid Association (Maa) is a charity which aims to improve maternal healthcare in resource-poor settings. Naomi will be visiting the charity Bridge of Love Trust in Sri Lanka this summer. It supports and protects those who have been the victims of civil war, particularly the widows and orphans. The committee chose SwimTayka because *Taal* Treasurer Theva is a keen swimmer and he wanted to support children so they have the skills to swim and survive serious floods.





ARTiculation Speaking Competition

Vicky Morgan-Couch, L6E

I had the unexpected privilege to compete in this year's ARTiculation competition, a feat I would have never even considered sitting in assembly in the lower school listening to the likes of Ben Harris and Thomas Leung's presentations on concepts I had never before considered.

ARTiculation for me was about combining two lesser known interests of mine, postcards and art, with something that I rather enjoy: presenting my ideas to others in a constructive and argumentative fashion. As the only speaker I came across who studied neither art nor art history I was in a state of shock when I was chosen to go through not just the Internal Heats at Bancroft's, but also the London Regional

Heats at the Whitechapel Gallery in January, ending up at the London Finals at the National Gallery. Being awarded third place when I hadn't even expected to be picked from the Bancroft's pool still feels like a huge achievement considering all I felt I was speaking about was myself: I guess sticking with what you know really does work! As a highly analytical and ambitious individual I took great pride in creating my presentation, attempting to make it both sophisticated in its interpretation but also audience friendly (I couldn't bear the thought of someone turning off halfway through) and from the



feedback I gained I can safely say my goals were achieved.

This experience has given me even greater confidence in public speaking and communications and partaking in this competition means I am now part of a wide network of ARTiculation alumni, a 'family' as they called it, and I cannot wait to see what opportunities these new connections will bring me.

I highly recommend any student with an interest in art, art history, communications, public speaking or even social politics and history to enter the 2019 competition and speak about what you love in relation to a piece you can't stop thinking about. You never know what may arise from speaking your mind and sharing with others: a place at the Cambridge final may even be waiting for you.

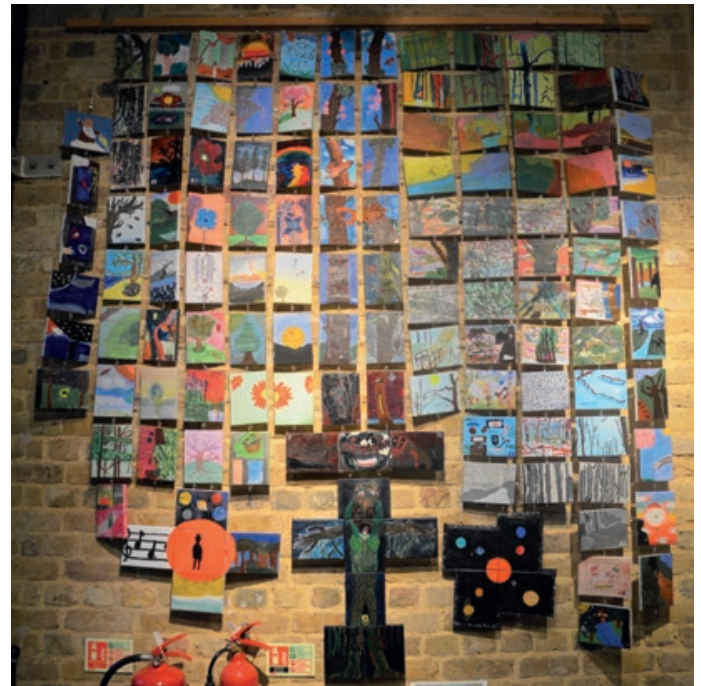


The View Exhibition

Praise Olawanle, L6N

For the fifth year, The View Gallery in Chingford was the home for the Sixth Form and Removes art exhibition. The work was displayed from Friday 15 March until Friday 29 March and pupils, staff, governors, family and friends were invited to celebrate at the private show on Thursday 21 March. Not only did the visitors get a chance to admire the wide range of artwork produced by our talented students, but they were also entertained by fantastic musical performances from Maaya Karuppiah.

Everyone had chosen an individual theme which was unique to them, this meant that there were a wide variety of styles and art in different mediums on display- even nails hammered into a canvas! The viewing gave us as artists a feeling of accomplishment through being able to see our work on which we had spent so much time displayed to our family and friends. The evening was thoroughly enjoyable; many thanks to the art department for organising the exhibition and making it such a success.





Netball Season 2019

Mrs Hannah Merchant, Head of Netball

After a very busy season of fixtures including friendlies, tournaments and cup matches I can safely say our pupils have had an all-encompassing season. Participation has been high with plenty of fixtures spanning A-E teams and even a 4th team senior fixture took place against Chigwell.

Despite a rough start to the season, with what felt like a burden of defeats, the girls dug deep, trained hard and their commitment and resilience paid off and all teams can boast success. Many of our girls have played across two age groups: testament to their abilities and this brings excitement for next season.

Special highlights include the U14 squad reaching the semi-finals of the Essex Cup when, despite a valiant effort, they were defeated by a very capable FitzWimarc squad. Our U16s bought home some silverware in the Essex Plate competition beating Colchester in the Finals. As did the U14s winning the Redbridge Borough Tournament held at Trinity School.

The Senior 1st team should be proud of their performance in the Kellsall tournament narrowly coming 2nd in their pool and therefore just missing out on a place in the finals. They also progressed through to the semi-finals of the Essex Plate Cup but were defeated and denied a place in the finals by Southend High School.

I think I write on behalf of all the pupils in thanking all the staff who have helped to make this such a successful season. I would also like to thank all the girls for their continued commitment and I look forward to what will be a very exciting season next year.



U16s – Essex Hockey Champions

Eleanor De Renzy Channer, 55

On Monday 25 March, the U16 Hockey team travelled to Chelmsford Hockey Club for the Essex Cup final to take on Saffron

Walden, to whom we lost in the final last year.

Fuelled by the prospect of a very swanky, glass-backed trophy and a McDonald's en route home afterwards, we set out. In true Bancroftian style, we soon proved that we

would need more than the promise of a few medals and some chicken nuggets to really get ourselves stuck into the game; by this I mean we needed to go a goal down, let the half time whistle go and have a reality check from Mrs Fryer-Green. Her half-time team talk worked and we were a different side in the second half, transferring the ball around the back and up the wings with confidence. We knew it was going well when we all felt headaches coming on from the relentless screaming of the opposition's coach at her own team- to the extent that Mrs Fryer-Green actually needed a paracetamol at the end of the match! We pulled it back to be 3-1 up at the full time whistle, with Kiera Murphy scoring two goals and Charlotte Peters scoring the third

Having collected our well-deserved medals and belted out deafening renditions of *We are the Champions* at the top of our lungs in the minibus, we arrived at Maccy Ds for the true highlight of the evening. Then, laden with wraps, nuggets, fries, Mcflurries (and a carton of milk for Mrs Fryer-Green), we headed home, revelling in our glory.





Junior Ski Trip 2019

Mrs Astrid Abbott-Imboden

On March 30, fifty four pupils from Thirds and Removes set off with six members of staff to travel to Les Deux Alpes for the annual Junior Ski Trip. The journey was smooth and uneventful even though one pupil decided that one large suitcase was not enough and brought two! At the airport, we met some familiar faces as the Sorrento trip was also travelling from Luton. One hour (and two missing boarding passes) later, we boarded the plane to take us to Lyon.

When we arrived in Lyon, we thought that our journey had taken us to the wrong destination as the weather was unseasonably sunny and hot! What would the snow conditions be like? Would there be enough snow on the lower slopes for our beginners? However, after a 2.5 hour bus journey we finally arrived in resort and saw that there was enough snow (although a bit slushy) and were ready to move into our rooms.

The hotel was warm, spacious and clean and we were pleased to be near the slopes. Although everyone was very excited, we managed to get some sleep to be ready for the slopes the next day. Ski fit was the first high-octane activity of the day before we went to meet our team of local skiing instructors. Once all groups were organised, the advanced groups headed off up the mountain



whereas the beginners had their first experience of standing on skis. These first few hours are always hard but all pupils seemed to have fun and made progress. Lunch was, as every day, back at the hotel where the kitchen crew offered us some of their fantastic food. After a short rest, we all returned to the slopes and enjoyed some good weather and more skiing.

This was to be our daily pattern for the rest of the week although the weather changed mid-week and we had nearly one metre of snow in 24 hours which led to exciting snow ball fights and made interesting conditions for skiing, ice skating and swimming! Other evening activities included a pizza night and a disco which were both very popular and proved a great success for pupils and staff alike. On the last day our skiing instructors presented every student with a pin to congratulate them on their achievement. They also commented on the achievement of every pupil and what a pleasure it had been to work with our young people.

Soon it was time to pack, which proved to be challenging for some, but, eventually, all rooms were tidy, bags packed and we were ready for departure. Our return journey went smoothly despite being delayed and one of our drivers back home deciding to take the scenic route via Heathrow. Eventually we all arrived back safely and I trust that some children have caught the skiing bug!

As a post script, everyone commented on how lovely the children were and how friendly and polite the group as a whole was – the hotel staff even commented that they had never had a nicer group of children staying. What a fantastic accolade to our pupils, their parents and our school!

My School Swimming Journey

Dora Zhou, U6W

From the Alphas to the Upper Sixth, swimming has been a huge part of my life here at Bancroft's.

It was during my Prep School swimming lessons that everything took off. I swam my first lengths in the school pool; I remember the moment as if it were yesterday, the feel of the water between my fingers, and the waves that rippled beneath as I took my first breath from water into air.

By the age of nine, with encouragement from Mrs Whitehead, I joined Epping Forest District Swimming Club. Soon enough, I was training for up to 14 hours each week and competing in a gala every other week. The

training was tough and the hours were long, but my determination to become faster was my biggest motivation.

As a sprinter, I had the strength and stamina to drive me through a race, but Mrs Cheshire was the first to really help me improve my technique and enhance the efficiency of my swimming. Her approach to swimming has not only helped me, but also encouraged many more students to participate in this sport at Bancroft's. Upon entering the Senior School, I had the opportunity to compete at County and Regional competitions, both of which were great experiences. I also enjoyed participating in the Bath Cup and the National Schools Biathlon Championships.

With over a decade's worth of swimming at Bancroft's under my belt, I consider this to be the foundation of my swimming career and I look forward to many more years of swimming to come.





Senior Ski Trip

Alex O'Brien, L6W

On Saturday 30 March, members of the L6 set off for La Plagne, France, for an action-packed week skiing in the Alps. At 8am, fifteen yawning faces and three newly shaved heads (helmet hair can be a terrible affliction) left Bancroft's for London Luton. We landed in Lyon at roughly 3pm, glad to have finally arrived at our destination, only to be informed of the three-hour bus journey necessary to make it to the hotel.

We stayed at the Hotel Rohdedendrons, a scenic location based right next to the slopes; this quickly eliminated what would ordinarily be the worst part of a skiing holiday: carrying the skis. It dawned upon us that to ski, one must be in possession of a pair of skis, and so on the first morning we headed to the rental shop where the language barrier immediately proved a difficulty and it became obvious that speaking English in a French accent is of little use to a native French speaker. Nevertheless, we all left the shop with adequate equipment and were ready to hit the slopes. The sun was shining and



the skiing conditions were terrific and it became clear within the first hour of the day that we were in for a brilliant week.

We skied for roughly six hours every day and then enjoyed our rest time at the hotel before dinner, the only downside was that the Wi-Fi only worked at reception (to a group of young millennials this can be a bigger issue than it might seem at face value). The lack of Wi-Fi meant we were forced to endure each other's company, and the trip really allowed us to form some close friendships that ordinarily may not have occurred. We enjoyed a whole host of activities throughout the week, such as sledding, and we went out for a meal at the end of the week with the teachers. With only one minor injury (nothing fatal), the trip proved a great success: a lovely week skiing with our pals. I'd strongly recommend the senior ski trip to anyone who has the opportunity to go, it's definitely worth it.

Table Tennis

Mr Ray Tse

Table tennis is a gentle sport which can be played up to an old age. It requires focus and coordination of body and mind. There is a piece of scientific research, documented by the BBC, which suggests that playing table tennis regularly helps to stimulate brain activity and has a long term benefit in slowing down the process of ageing and fending off dementia.

We hosted the first ever table tennis competition against Forest School on Tuesday 26 February. Each school had six representatives, across various age groups, and we played a total of 30 matches. The Bancroft's players were Matteo Mariano, Oliver Mynott, Mustafa Lodhi, Alex Yan, Jude Dannawi and Yuvraj Singh. Bancroft's comfortably won 23-7 and the team was presented with the aptly named "Bancroft's Forest Table Tennis Cup". We hope this will be the start of an annual sporting event between our schools.



Déjà Vu on the Road to Wimbledon!

Miss Amanda Wainwright, Head of Tennis

The Championships at Wimbledon have had more than their fair share of horrendous weather (and Cliff Richard's singing interludes) over the years and this year it was the turn of the Bancroft's Road To Wimbledon events to share in the SW19 rain, hail storms and biting wind. Nonetheless, these conditions did not deter the competitors and 56 boys and girls, ranging from the Prep 2s to the L4th, battled it out for the chance to progress to the County Championships.

The boys' event saw Krishan Parmar, Charlie Day, Nathan Adeyemo-Dakoh and Kiran Parmar make it through to the semi-finals where Krishan and Nathan overcame their opponents to book a place in the final. Krishan was the reigning 2018 champion and he put his experience to good use against the much younger Nathan who fought valiantly but in the end Krishan had too much power and emerged victorious with a 4-1 win.

Lightning also struck twice in the girls' tournament (thankfully only metaphorically) with Tomisin Awoyode reclaiming the title she won last year when she was in the Thirds. Maanvii Arya and Suna Shakir were semi-finalists but it was Simran Chadda who went one round better this year to take on Tomisin in the final. We were treated to a nail-biting thriller with Tomisin sprinting off in the lead only to be pegged back by a tenacious Simran. At 3-3, the final went into a tie-break and the wind whipped up some awful serving conditions just when neither player wanted them. Tomisin made the most of her chances and claimed a 7-5 win with some lovely deep top-spun forehands which pinned Simran behind the baseline.

The events were once again sponsored by Bancroft's parent, Mr Mike Wood, of "Freedom Ltd" and I am grateful to him for all his unwavering and enthusiastic support. Tomisin, Simran, Krishan and Nathan now go on to the County Finals where they will compete for the chance to play on the grass at Wimbledon!





Bath Cup 2019

Mrs Susan Cheshire, Head of Swimming

Bancroft's was represented at this year's National Public School Swimming Relays. With 65 Girls teams and 76 Boys teams competing and with schools travelling from Northern Ireland, Scotland and England to compete, there were many of the countries' young talents in the pool.

The boys' team of Thomas Liu, Oscar Saharoy, Zac Tiller, George Whalley and William Bolitho put in excellent performances in their heats, improving on their times from last year.

The girls' team, Dora Zhou, Berfin Laursen, Holly Timmis, Neha Pillai and Kaitlin Lovell, all swam personal bests in their heat of the 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay finishing in a time of 1.56.98 They broke the school record, which had been set at the same event four years ago by nearly three seconds. The girls progressed through to the final, which at this level of competition is a fantastic achievement; they looked



great finishing 9th. Dora has represented the school since she was an Alpha and making the final in her final year at Bancroft's was very well deserved. The girls also set a new school record in the Medley Relay but missed out on the finals.

CCF Adventurous Training

Cadet Karam Khanna, L4

As one of the first L4th to go on Adventurous Training, it was initially daunting. It turned out to be one of the best school trips I have ever been on. I would, without a doubt, recommend it to anyone who loves the outdoors, but also to those who might not as it is a chance to challenge yourself and do new things.

We stayed next to Conistone Water, in the Lake District and, miraculously, it didn't rain all week. For the first three days we were split into groups for the activities we had previously chosen. We could choose any three from caving, canoeing and gorge-walking, rock-climbing and abseiling and mountain biking. The activity I enjoyed the most was caving, as it was unlike anything I had ever done before; although it was quite challenging it was thoroughly enjoyable. Canoeing and gorge-walking were also fun, especially when the bravest



members of our group jumped into a bitterly cold pool of water. In rock-climbing and abseiling I had to face my fear of heights, but I managed to abseil down the cliff face.

During the last three days we camped, something I had never done before, and although it wasn't the highlight of the trip it was something new. We also navigated around the breath-taking scenery. It was amazing seeing Scafell Pike, the tallest mountain in England, and the many small lakes dotted around the peaks. Although it was a tiring trip, it was rewarding.



Sustainability - Active Travel Competition

Anika Vijay, RS

On Wednesday 6 March, the Youth Travel Ambassadors of Bancroft's school and Mr Foley went to Churchfields School to participate in the Dragon's Den competition run by Redbridge Council to bid for £250 to run an active travel competition for four weeks in the summer term.

We are running this competition to encourage pupils to get their recommended one hour of exercise in a day by walking or cycling for a few minutes and also to keep the pollution levels around the school low by parking a little further from the school or not coming by car at all if you live nearby. We will be giving out prizes to those who walk, cycle, or park and stride the most to school. Some of the prizes are a day off school to go Top Golf and Amazon vouchers. We presented our pitch in front of seven schools, including Woodford County High School, and four members of the Redbridge council, who gave us excellent advice as to how we should run the competition and presented us with a cheque of £250. We were successful in acquiring the money, but more importantly, we enjoyed the experience and look forward to taking part in the competition next year as well.

We would also like to add a note to parents asking you please not to park on the gravel or pull up on the dual carriageway because it causes congestion on the main road if one lane is blocked. Thank you.



CCF Biennial Review

**Major Robert Hitching,
Contingent Commander**

On Tuesday 26 March the CCF welcomed Old Bancroftian Lieutenant-Colonel Graham Goodey MBE as its Reviewing Officer.

As a pupil (1993-2000) Graham was a keen rugby and hockey player and member of the CCF. After Bancroft's he moved to St John's College, Cambridge, where he completed a Master's degree in Theoretical Physics. From the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst he commissioned into 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and has served as a Platoon Commander, Reconnaissance Platoon Commander, Adjutant and Company Commander. He has also been the Aide-de-Camp for NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe and is currently the Military Assistant to one of the Assistant Chiefs of the Defence Staff in the MOD. He is due to take command of 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in 2020.

Graham has been a great supporter of the CCF, coming back as an OB to help out at camp and to take part in Remembrance Day. The pupils took great pride in demonstrating their skills to him as they took part in the Inter-Section Competition in Epping Forest,

followed by an Apache helicopter 'fly by' courtesy of the Reviewing Officer, parade and prize giving. The Biennial Review is an opportunity to showcase the activities of the CCF, to demonstrate the benefits cadets derive from membership and to celebrate their successes. My thanks to the Officers, Senior NCOs and Cadets of the Contingent for ensuring the day was a success and particular congratulations to those listed below.

The Winner of the Biennial Tournament 2019: 1 Section, led by Cpl Adam Agbamu

Baker Cup for the best cadet in the RAF Section: L/Cpl Ashviny Ramanathan

Gray Cup for the best cadets in the Army Section: Cpl Manav Arora & L/Cpl Ben Hughes

Greenwood Cup for leadership: CSM Anissa Patel

Bromfield Cup for the Senior NCO in the Contingent: RSM Martin Prusa



Sea Scouts

Mr Matthew Balchin, Scout Section Leader

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Royal Navy Recognised Sea Scouts and our Sea Scouts are celebrating this with a number of traditional RN activities. The 4th EFS (Bancroft's) group is one of only 104 Scout groups in the UK to hold this special RN Recognised status and, in fact, is one of the oldest. This summer term we will be holding our biennial inspection with the Navy where we will be demonstrating our capabilities to our Royal Navy Inspecting officer Lt Milligan.

In February, we ran a field gun race on the tennis courts using Scout sized replicas of the Navy's traditional heavy field guns in a



race made famous by the Royal Tournament. Inspired by troops manoeuvring these guns during conflict, the race involves two competing teams running gun units down each side of a stadium and manoeuvring the guns back up the central course, navigating through small gaps, over walls and other obstacles requiring the teams to dismantle and re-assemble the units several times. Our recreation of this famous event saw our six patrols racing head to head in two relay teams. It was a close-run race with each team taking the lead, lost only at the last moment by a misplaced wheel pin but was nonetheless great fun to watch and take part.

The Cubs and Scouts also held their annual winter camp at the end of February at the home of scouting at Gilwell Park. The indoor camp was attended by over fifty Cubs, Scouts and young leaders. This year's activities included a cub hike, grass sledding, geo-caching and woodwork with axes and saws (happily no fingers were lost). Friday night saw all the Cubs and Scouts tearing round Gilwell Park at 10pm in the dark, hunting adult and young leaders who were trying their hardest not to be found despite being covered in giant glow-sticks. As always, the Scouts got to build their own fires, using the same fires to cook lunch on the Saturday. After a day full of activities and some welcome chill-out time, we kept the neighbouring camps awake while sat around a blazing camp fire with more outdoor activities on the Sunday morning.





World Book Day

World Book Day is always marked in a big way in the Prep School and this year was no exception. The theme was "Celebrate stories. Love reading." The corridors were decorated with book themes: so much work and thought had gone into the various decorations. The Prep 2s gave us a Harry Potter themed corridor. The Prep 1s' The Explorer corridor came complete with jungle sound effects!



Downstairs, the Very Hungry Caterpillar munched his way along the Alpha corridor.

During the week there was a story chair situated next to the Library and every break time the bean bags around it were crammed with pupils waiting to hear stories read by members of staff. The story theme continued into Friday when everyone came to school dressed in their PJs (yes, teachers too) to prove that stories aren't just for bedtime. Our lovely Prep librarian Mrs Houghton had



arranged a visit from master storyteller Vanessa Woolf who entertained first the Prep 1s and Prep 2s with the thrilling adventures of nineteenth century highwayman Jack Judd and his black hound Lucifer. The room was totally quiet as the pupils, and staff, sat engrossed by the tale. Afterwards it was the turn of the Alphas and Betas who were equally enthralled, this time by three stories including a retelling of the myth of Echo with lots of audience participation. Neal's (BLY) reaction was typical, "She was wonderful. I enjoyed the way we got to participate in the second story." Storytellers like Vanessa are keeping the old oral traditions alive by telling stories without the aid of a script or book – everything is in her head!

Primary Maths Challenge

Bancroft's Prep has seen another brilliant year, in fact our best year yet, in the Primary Maths Challenge (PMC) organised by The Mathematical Association.

The first stage of the challenge took place in November 2018 when our pupils competed alongside 67,000 children across the country. Successfully answering a variety of multiple choice mathematics problems, the sixteen Bancroftians joined the highest



scorers who were invited to take part in the PMC Bonus Round in February.

We had sixteen children invited to take part in the Bonus (Final) Round. Our pupils received a total of fourteen medals with two of our children receiving coveted gold medals. A total of only 1496 medals were awarded across the whole of the UK and only 103 children nationwide scored the 21 or more marks out of 25 to receive Golds. Eddie scored a brilliant 23 marks out of possible 25 with Harshini not far behind with an impressive 22. In all, 2375 pupils were invited to take part in the Bonus Round and of these only 5% were in the range needed for a Gold medal.

In addition to the two Golds, Bancroft's saw seven Silver medals, five Bronze and two pupils were awarded certificates for participating in the Bonus Round. These prestigious honours demonstrate their achievements as among the best young mathematicians in the UK.

Lesley Jones from The Mathematical Association said: "We would like to offer our congratulations to Eddie and Harshini and all of the pupils who participated. We received a large number of entries which reflects a real appetite for solving maths problems and puzzles. We always try to make the questions interesting and accessible, while giving pupils an opportunity to apply fundamental maths skills. It is great to be able to acknowledge brilliant young minds in the UK and nurture the future mathematicians."

Science Museum Visits Prep

Have you ever wondered what clouds feel like? Or asked yourself how do you make instant chocolate ice cream? Thanks to an entertaining and informative presentation by Alex from London's awesome Science Museum (yes, that Science Museum – the one in South Kensington) our Prep 1 and 2s know the answers to these questions and many, many more. The visit was arranged by Miss Ellery as part of British Science week.

Alex, one of the Science Museum's Outreach team, demonstrated some of the forces which shape our world and used humour and fun to introduce Isaac Newton's first and third laws of motion. Amidst much excitement, Alex launched Phil the Frog into space (well, the Prep School Hall) atop an empty Pringles carton. Ice cream was created in seconds using three ingredients – cream, chocolate flavouring and liquid nitrogen! Sadly, only Alex was lucky enough to get to taste this. Poor Gerald the jelly baby suffered a sad fate when he was bathed in potassium chlorate and burnt alive to demonstrate how much energy is in the sweet. It was time for fingers in the ears when Alex ignited balloons filled with hydrogen: the resulting flames and loud pops showing the gas' flammability. As for the cloud, this was also created using liquid nitrogen. Everyone was eager to touch and we all agreed that it felt exactly as we had imagined a cloud to feel like!

The Betas didn't miss out on the fun as they were treated to a dynamic and interactive presentation of The Bubble Show an amazing spectacle featuring bubbles of all sizes.

This was an incredibly popular visit with the children describing the experiments which they had witnessed as "cool".





University Fair

Ms Michelle Dean, Head of Careers, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

On Wednesday 27 March, Bancroft's hosted its annual University Fair. This year was bigger than the previous year, with twenty nine universities exhibiting.

This event gives students the opportunity to meet university representatives and discuss their degree programmes, university life, and pick up some resources to take home with them. Over 250, Fifth and L6th Bancroft's pupils attended as well as approximately 150 pupils from five local schools, including, St Paul's Way Trust School, Roding Valley High School, The Drapers' Academy, Woodbridge

High School, and Sir George Monoux College. Feedback from exhibitors and students alike was been extremely positive. Exhibitors were impressed with the level of preparation and interest the students showed. Typical comments from exhibitors were: "Students asked very insightful questions, on entry requirements, student life, course modules. They were sufficiently briefed beforehand." and "Really lovely students, all very respectful and asked genuinely interested and pertinent questions."

Next year we hope to build on our current success and make the event even bigger and more useful for our students. Congratulations to all who worked so hard to make this event a success.



Parents' Association News

Sally Fisher, PA Secretary

As the summer approaches and the end of the academic year draws in, Bancroft's PA wants to say a huge "thank you" to you - the parents - for attending our events and contributing towards one of our most successful and busy years yet. This year we welcomed a number of new faces to the PA Committee, all of whom have brought a wonderful new energy and several excellent ideas with them.

Some of the new events that were introduced this year include the Prep School Magic-Show and also a Prep Movie Night, along with the return of Comedy & Curry Night, which was incredibly successful and had our 250-strong audience laughing out loud. The punchy wit of three-acts and a highly entertaining compere ensured the laughs flowed loudly throughout; this event managed to raise over £3,000 profit!

In addition to the events mentioned above, we also held a Quiz Night in October, Christmas Fayre in December and our largest event of the year, the Hollywood Glitz Summer Ball, on June 1.

The purpose of the Parents' Association is to enhance the already outstanding environment of Bancroft's. We do this by organising events to provide funds which are used for equipment, social activities and additional provisions, to complement the academic aspects of the School. So far this year, the Parent's Association has raised approximately £15,000, of which some will be donated towards the various sustainability and outdoor projects, in support of



Bancroft's aim of becoming an eco-school.

Dates for your diary from September 2019, include: our Quiz Night on Saturday 12 October and the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 30 November. We're also excited to announce that Bollywood will be back in early 2020!

As we approach the end of this busy academic year, our Chair, Simmi Tohani, sadly, comes to the end of her term; this means we'll be welcoming in a new Chair and hopefully more new faces at the AGM in October. In the meantime, everyone on the PA would like to say a huge "Thank You" to Simmi for her hard work and dedication to the PA over the years.

We wish all of you, a very wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in September.



Haven House Sparkle Walk

Mrs Lynne Hague

On Friday 10 May, twenty-four of Bancroft's female staff and a few of their friends, aka The Belles of Bancroft's, embarked on a sponsored walk in aid of Haven House Children's Hospice. This is located just a mile away from Bancroft's and is amazing in its work caring for young people who have life-limiting or life-threatening conditions, in addition to helping to support their families.

The Belles of Bancroft's joined other walkers at Christchurch Green and set off on a circular route of 10k around the forest areas and streets of Wanstead and Woodford, ending at the Cuckfield pub for a well-earned glass of prosecco! Everyone who took part had a great evening and are keen to repeat this annual event, some so enthusiastic that they are planning to sign up for the Moonwalk next year (26.2 miles). Earlier in the day staff also had a bake sale in the staff room to help with the fundraising. They have raised more than £2000 and, at the time of writing, donations are still coming in for this very worthy cause.





Report from the Governors

Prof Peter Kopelman, Chair, Governing Board

It is hard to believe that we are now in the Summer Term of this academic year - the sunshine and warmth of Easter was a timely reminder. The Governors continue to delight in the success of the School, most particularly the pupils' achievements in the classroom, in sporting activities, in drama and musical productions, and within our local communities. We have welcomed this year a new member

to the Governing Board, Richard Van Maanen. Richard, who lives locally and is an Old Bancroftian, brings additional skills and specialist knowledge to the Board.

The Governors recently had a joint meeting with the School's Senior Leadership Team (SLT), the Bursar and his deputy to discuss the SLT's plans for academic and pastoral developments, the importance of the pupils' voice regarding School activities, and the prominence and relevance of co-curricular and outreach activities in broadening learning. I am very conscious of the significance of the latter to students when they progress into university. We also heard about the plans for developing careers' advice and encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation across the School. Finally, we considered how best to enhance communication – to pupils, to parents and to promote the contribution that

the School and its pupil are making to society. This is particularly relevant given the current political focus on independent, or in politician speak, private schools.

You may be aware that the independent schools' sector is facing questions and possible challenge from both of the major political parties. Indeed, a leading member of the Conservative Government has stated his ambition to make sending children to private schools "seem eccentric" as it is "in Europe". The Governing Board and SLT spent time considering these challenges in a context of the considerable contribution that a strong independent schools' sector makes to education in the UK.

I welcome thoughts on any of the above topics from readers.



OBA News

Susan Day, OBA Administrator

The Old Bancroftians' Association continues in its aims to maintain links between its members, the School and the Bancroft's Foundation. Over the last few months we have run a series of very successful events.



Five and Ten Years On Reunion

On Friday 3 May, more than eighty Old Bancroftians from the leavers of 2008 and 2013 revisited the school for their Five and Ten Years On Reunion. The reunion was held in the Dining Hall and OBs were welcomed by our new OBA President Steve Dodd (an OB and parent of OBs) and the Head Simon Marshall who both encouraged everyone to remain in contact with Bancroft's and explained how they could become involved with the OBA. Our fantastic catering team provided a selection of canapés and beverages, giving everyone the opportunity to catch up with their contemporaries and former teachers. A very successful and enjoyable evening!

Past Presidents' Dinner

The 66th Past Presidents' Dinner was held in the Warner Room on Friday 26 April. Seventeen past presidents from 1979 to 2018 and their guests Steve Dodd, current OBA President and parent of OBs, Simon Marshall and Professor Peter Kopelman, Bancroft's Chair of Governors visited the school for pre-dinner drinks hosted by the Head, Simon Marshall, in the Glass Courtyard Building. This was followed by a three-course meal prepared by our excellent catering team.



Old Bancroftians' Careers Evening

In March fifty five Old Bancroftians came back to the School to support our biennial Careers Evening. Our pupils from U4 to U6 and their parents/guardians were invited to come along to meet the OBs to talk about their career paths. Many different careers were represented: banking, the Army, medicine, IT, PR accounting, journalism, architecture, law, civil service, engineering, and charities to name but a few. The School is so grateful for the OBs' enthusiasm and for them enlightening our pupils about life after Bancroft's.



Old Bancroftian Golf Society

Ten OBs and three guests recently travelled to Gog Magog GC near Cambridge and played 18 holes, followed by lunch. The winning OB was Andy Beer with 37 points and the winning guest was Chris Lineham with 38 points. The photos show our Captain, Roger Booth, presenting the Goddard Trophy to Andy and the Visitors' Trophy to Chris



Looking Ahead

The Association continues with its programme with Old Bancroftians' Day in June, the Northern Dinner in Chester and the 113th OBA Annual Dinner both in October, as well the Bancroft's Business Breakfast kindly hosted by Bancroft's Chair Professor Peter Kopelman at the University of London, Senate House London. Our annual London drinks will be held in November.



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