



Anti-Bullying Week at Bancroft's

Bancroft's took part in National Anti-Bullying Week for the first time in November when our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors arranged a week's worth of activities. Miss Hughes, Junior Housemistress of East House, took four Bancroftians to the National Anti-Bullying Conference. Here some of the Ambassadors share their experiences of the week.

Jamil Haque, U6E, last year's Anti-Bullying Ambassador leader

The theme of the week was respect, both to yourself and others, and the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors worked to plan a whole week of events to promote these values. The success and importance of such an event cannot be understated and it led to an atmosphere of kindness and understanding throughout the week. This was achieved by different activities being planned for each day from kindness messages on lockers to a video of students spelling out "Respect" on the school grounds.

Rohan Kondel, L6S

It's fair to say that during Anti-Bullying Week, Bancroft's School found their equivalent to Spice Girls' tickets, considering that the proclaimed 'Kindness Kisses', which were mini bags of Hershey Kisses with a kindness note attached, sold out in 15 minutes! After this initial success, Erfa Ahsan, Miss Hughes and I essentially lived in the East House office for the rest of the week selling and making the 'Kindness Kisses'. All in all, for those who bought one for a friend, it definitely made their week!

Samah Butt, RS

On Tuesday of Anti-Bullying Week (also National Kindness Day), the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors stuck kind notes on everybody's lockers. I enjoyed seeing everyone's smiling, happy faces after reading the notes. We hoped that this would be that small thing to make someone's day that bit brighter.





Amelia Wood, L6S

On the Wednesday, students of all years gathered in the Quad to advocate for 'respect' in School, to their peers and teachers, by spelling it out. With over sixty signatures on the Friday before, the day looked increasingly promising. The event was met with lots of laughs, stickers and songs, such as *Respect* by Aretha Franklin to The Greatest Showman's *This Is Me*, with Keala Settle. It was a pleasure to help organise the afternoon with the group and Miss Hughes, and hopefully future events are as successful as this was in raising awareness.

Holly Cohen, 5W

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors ran a photo booth on Thursday, where students could strike a pose and support the anti-bullying message. Fun props and photo frames had been handmade and coloured blue (a national colour recognised for promoting anti-bullying). It grabbed the attention of many students from all years and the turnout was great. A lot of fantastic photos were taken. The pictures are now printed out and displayed on the anti-bullying board in the Head's corridor. Overall, it was very successful and definitely helped raise awareness.

Preneha Karari, RW

Three legged races were held for all students on Friday. These were competitive races to get to the other side of the netball court and back again with your partner- the winners received a prize of a delicious bag of sweets! Right at the end, the teachers had a race. Many teachers participated and Mr Dickinson and Mr Raw were victorious, receiving their trophy in the whole school assembly the following Monday!



Samah Butt, RS

Overall, we Anti-Bullying ambassadors hope that the week helped people realise that bullying is not acceptable and we hope we encouraged the whole school community to be kind, considerate and respectful of each other. Thank you to everyone who helped organise this week and I can't wait for next year!

Miss Hughes, Junior House Mistress East House

I was delighted to take four pupils, one from each of the four houses, to the National Anti-Bullying Conference in Alexandra Palace at the beginning of Anti-Bullying week. The event was organised by the Diana Award and the students heard from representatives from Instagram, Facebook, the Met Police (to name a few) about their views on bullying issues for young people today. The pupils had the opportunity to question these organisations about their responsibility towards young people's safety and wellbeing. The students attended a workshop on self-respect, led by Carrie Grant, whilst I attended a poetry workshop to consider the impacts of bullying on young people. The whole day was full of positivity and the students came away buzzing with ideas of how to promote kindness and respect in school. I was very proud of all four students and look forward to seeing their anti-bullying work in action now!





Eating Disorders Workshop

Soumya Krishna Kumar, U6E

This November, three of my close friends (Isabella Lock, Anisha Choda and Anissa Patel) and I, presented a workshop on eating disorders to the Fifth Form. We ran eight group ‘sessions’, each lasting half an hour. Our aim during these sessions was to raise awareness of a topic that we felt needed to be spoken about more - the reality of eating disorders, their prevalence, symptoms and how to deal with them. All four of us have personal experience with eating disorders, whether it be ourselves or helping a friend go through them, and we wanted to share our advice and thoughts on how to deal with situations that can be scary and extremely difficult to navigate, with little to no experience. It is a subject that has hugely impacted our own lives, and we hoped that by sharing our stories we could help others.

When planning the sessions, we felt nervous yet determined. Nervous, because we wanted to treat the issue with the sensitivity it deserved, whilst still remaining informative; not wanting to scaremonger or upset anyone, yet wanting to convey the very real impacts eating disorders have upon individuals. Determined, because we wanted to make a real change - despite the daunting idea of standing up in front of over one hundred relative strangers and sharing your struggles, we knew the benefits would outweigh our own nerves. Completely vulnerable, we put our faith in the Fifth Form that they would be respectful and engage with us.

All four of us agreed afterwards that it was one of the most rewarding things we had ever done. The day went off without a hitch - the pupils were attentive and thanked us for our candour, and it truly felt worth it when people reached out to us on social media and in person telling us that we had inspired them, or helped them find the courage to ask for help. We all feel that mental health is something that it is so important to talk about, and hope to continue sharing our stories.

We would like to thank Mrs Scurfield and Mrs Channer for making this day possible, helping us plan and organise it, and supporting us from the outset.



Oxbridge 2019

We are delighted at the Oxbridge success of our Upper Sixth pupils. Around 10% of this year group have achieved offers from Oxford or Cambridge colleges this year. Once again there is a healthy mix of subjects amongst those who received offers, but it is a good year for historians and engineers (with three successes each).

Eight pupils have received offers from Cambridge and three from Oxford. The full breakdown is as follows:

Cambridge		
Alex Agedah	Natural Science	Selwyn
Anisha Choda	History	Trinity
Milo Lammin	Economics	Downing
Oscar Saharoy	Engineering	St John's
Jathavan Thevarajah	Engineering	Fitzwilliam
Zac Tiller	Chemical Engineering via Natural Science	Queen's
Rashida Uddin	History	St John's
Charlotte Wyatt	Medicine	Newnham
Oxford		
Busola Femi-Gureje	History	Keble
Jaya Rana	English	Brasenose
Zoe Webb	Biochemistry	Trinity

Head, Simon Marshall, writes, “Every year sees increased competition for places and it is good to see Bancroftians competing successfully for places on the most popular courses. It is also worth noting that a number of excellent students unfortunately missed out on this occasion – they worked equally hard and we are equally proud of their ambition and efforts.” It is also pleasing to see that so many other Bancroftians are holding offers from their first choice universities and from Russell group institutions.

The Head went on to note, “Once again, a common characteristic of those applying is a commitment to all aspects of life at school and they provide great evidence for the importance of engaging fully with everything the school has to offer and inspiration for future Oxbridge aspirants.”





Removes' Engineering Day

Riya Gadhvi, RN

On Friday 7 December the Removes had an engineering day. We all went into the Great Hall and Mr Dickinson explained our mission: to build a bridge connecting Bancroft's school to the High Road outside.

We had many things to think about when building our bridges. Will it hold the weight? Will the weight be distributed on all sides? We went into groups and went straight into the work. We could choose between making a 'truss' bridge or a 'suspension' bridge. Our team chose a suspension bridge and we had the whole day to make the bridge out of

wood, tape, paper, and string. In the end our bridge lasted only a few kilograms before it broke while other bridges held over 30 kgs!

I never really thought about how technical building bridges is until engineering day, so, many thanks to Mr Dickinson and other teachers that gave up their time to help us with engineering day.



Arkwright Scholars

Mr Steve Woolley

Congratulations to this year's Lower Sixth Form Arkwright Scholars: Ethan Cohen, Kail Francis and Swasthi Surendran pictured here with Mr Stephen Cornish, Education Liaison Office from the Arkwright Trust. Congratulation also to Lewis Shine who fulfilled all the criteria for the Arkwright Scholarship but for whom no sponsor could be found; Lewis is an Arkwright Associate. Each year the Arkwright Trust seek sponsors for as many of the candidates who meet the criteria for a scholarship, but it is not always possible to identify enough industrial or charitable sponsoring organisations.

We also have three Arkwright Scholars in the U6: Hasha Dar, Simone Luis and Anwar Jouhary. This year we have eight Fifth Form candidates sitting the Arkwright Aptitude Examination this February. We wish them luck and hope that they will continue Bancroft's success in winning scholarships.

Interested pupils are proposed at the beginning of their Fifth Form year and the deadline for submitting the online application form is the end of the Autumn Term. Further details can be found at <http://www.arkwright.org.uk/>

Anyone in a position to provide sponsorship for future Arkwright Scholars can find out more at <http://www.arkwright.org.uk/support-a-scholarship/support-a-scholarship>





A Level Biology Live!

Amrita Bhattacharyya, L6N and Aksaan Arif, L6S

On Friday 18 January, nineteen students and two teachers, Mrs Hampson and Mrs Carter, went to the 'A Level Biology Live!' event. The lectures, which were about key issues facing biologists and scientists, were fascinating, and enlightened us.

Amrita writes, "My favourite lecture was by Professor Robert Winston, who skilfully engaged us in his talk about evolutionary genetics. He talked about humans' tendency to modify their evolution, and how, disturbingly, this tended to lead to skewed thoughts about the superiority of certain races. The theory of 'eugenics' was born in the 19th century, in the brain of Francis Galton. This theory was very much supported by the members of the German Reich, and, more jarringly, by respected statesmen such as Roosevelt. On a much lighter note, he captivated the audience with the story of his ground-breaking research on in vitro fertilization and the subsequent possibilities that this can lead to, such as the eradication of diseases which now plague us.

Other speakers included: Dr Adam Rutherford who regaled us about the ancestry and family trees of royalty, Professor Sarah-Jane Blakemore, who talked about her enduring research into the adolescent brain, and Dr Ben Goldacre whose sudden shouts never ceased to surprise us, and who discussed the web of lies of the MMR hoax."

"My favourite speaker from A-Level Biology Live," according to Aksaan, "had to be Dr. Adam Rutherford. His lecture, titled "A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived," clearly showed me how far we have come in terms of understanding, reading, and translating DNA. In a series of engrossing steps, Rutherford described to us how DNA was extracted from the bones of the late King Richard III to identify him when his remains were found in a car park in Leicester. He also did some spectacular calculations to prove mathematically and genetically that for every human on the planet, our common ancestor comes from around the 15th century. He said, "DNA is the saga of how we came to be who we are today", and "only now are we re-painting the picture of the human story." Of all historical texts available to us, Rutherford has clearly proved to me that none is richer than the historical text we carry in every cell."

Senior Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 28 November, the Bancroft's team of Alex Yan, Swasthi Surendran and Sonya Kalsi (all L6) with Soumya Krishna-Kumar (U6) as their captain took part in the regional heats of the UK Maths Trust's Senior Team Maths Challenge held at Queen Mary University of London. They faced a large, competitive and strong field of thirty six other schools, including St Paul's Girls and James Allen Girls, and the mathematical calibre of the competitors was very high.

The Challenge consists of three rounds: the group round where the team works together on questions; cross-number where the team is split into pairs and solves the puzzle using clues and, finally, a shuttle round where the team works in pairs passing answers back and forth. The Bancroft's team had an extremely strong start, obtaining perfect scores in the first two rounds. In the final round they held onto their 100% record right up until the final five minutes, but their past performance in the Challenge meant they had already done enough to win.

The Challenge provides fantastic enrichment opportunities for the finest young mathematicians nationwide, helping them to develop their teamwork skills whilst being challenged and stimulated by the great range of mathematical problems set. The materials are produced by the UKMT (UK Maths Trust), with the AMSP (Advanced Maths Support Programme) also assisting with the running of the events.

Despite not expecting to win, the Bancroft's four were elated when they were announced as the winners. This is the first time for several years that a Bancroft's team has won a regional heat in the Senior Team Challenge and they are now looking forward to the national final which will be held at the Royal Horticultural Hall in Central London in February. The winners from each of the regional heats around the UK compete for the national trophy.





Spanish Tapas Workshop

Davissen Thielamay, 5E

On Tuesday 13 of November all Fifth Form Spanish students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in an interactive tapas workshop. Organised by Mr Hay, we were sure to have '*una experiencia inolvidable*' and that's exactly what we got. With all of us embracing the language fully over our lessons this widened our knowledge of Spanish culture and not only improved our grasp of the language, but also our skills in the kitchen!

With Spanish being as popular as it is there were pupils aplenty, thus the sessions had to be split throughout the day to ensure the richest experience overall. As an introduction to the world of Spanish culinary art we were tasked with creating our own *pan tumaca con jamón* (bread with tomato, olive oil and ham). This task put us through our paces for the rest of the session but regardless it was great fun.

Secondly, we all had the chance to contribute to the making of a classic Spanish cold soup, *gazpacho*. Such a soup is generally consumed in the hotter regions of southern Spain as a refreshing dish. Our job was to dice the different vegetables provided which were taken in and pieced together by the professional Spanish chefs. As budding chefs this was a real pleasure.

Finally, desert. We never lost interest or a drop of enthusiasm throughout the session and we were fully rewarded. On the menu was a Spanish treat known colloquially as *lenguas de gato*. Translating as 'cat tongues', this was on the stranger of sides of Spanish delicacies but nonetheless an enriching taste followed our efforts. After piping the dough, we waited what seemed hours for our gifts and once ready, Mr Hay took the stage to judge what we had produced.

Having come third, I was very disappointed, but the real purpose of today was to immerse ourselves in a world of Spanish culture and food, and, thanks to Mr Hay and all of the staff who helped organise this for us, we managed to gain an irreplaceable experience.



U4 Spanish Exchange Trip To San Sebastián

Maha Dannawi, U4S

On the 27 October, twelve Bancroft's pupils flew to San Sebastián, Spain, where we all took part in the Spanish Exchange trip with the school *Axular Lizeoa*. When we first arrived, we were all quite nervous, but as we progressed through the trip, we all improved our Spanish whilst also making new friends.

On the first day, a few of us went to watch a traditional Basque dance performed by the school. It is the folk dance of the Basque people, which gave us a bit of cultural insight into the Basque region. We all went on a guided tour around San Sebastián on the second day, when we learned a lot about the history of the town and how it developed into the beautiful touristic destination it is today. Unfortunately, we were not able to go up the Igeldo Mountain due to the adverse weather conditions, however our exchange friends made it up to us with a trip to the *churros* café.

We visited the Cider Museum on the third day, where we made apple juice in the traditional way and tried some cider. We were also treated to a selection of different Spanish foods, including chorizo and a special jam from the museum. We visited the town of Hondarribia, which looks onto France and the views were amazing. We discovered the town centre and ate some *tapas* and *pintxos*, which were delicious. In the evening, we went shopping in the centre of San Sebastián with our exchange partners.

On the fourth day, we visited Bilbao and the Guggenheim Museum, which was near the MTV EMAs stage! The museum had art from many different time periods, from Picasso to a modern exhibition by Joana Vasconcelos; it was very interesting. After that, we went to the centre of Bilbao, where we were able to go the largest shopping centre in Spain: *El Corte Inglés*. In the evening, we all went out for some pizza, where we all had the opportunity to talk to each other.

We spent the last day with our exchange families and my family and I went up the two main mountains in San Sebastián: Monte Igeldo and Monte Urgull. Both mountains looked out onto San Sebastián and the views were breathtaking. After that, we got lunch and then headed back out into San Sebastián's lively centre, where we spent the whole evening chatting and socialising.

Overall, the trip was great fun, as we practised our Spanish and discovered a new region, but most importantly, we made new friends and I am very excited for them to come to us in March. We would like to thank Mr Urreaga and Ms Hague for organising it.





Sixth Form Spanish Trip To The Cervantes Theatre

Luis Black, L6E

The Spanish Department held a trip to see *Yerma*, one of the Spanish playwright Federico García Lorca's most well-known plays, at the Cervantes Theatre in Southwark. *Yerma* takes place in rural Andalusia in Southern Spain, before the Spanish Civil War in 1936; however, the director Jorge de Juan, decided to set *Yerma* in rural Cuba. During a fascinating Q&A after the show, he explained that this decision was due to Lorca's love for the island, as well as the similarities between Lorca's rural Spain and Cuba. De Juan also discussed the effect of Lorca's sexuality on his writing, namely the similarities between the playwright and his titular character, namely their shared desire for childbirth.

Yerma, in English 'barren', is a play dealing with themes such as the role of the woman, both as a mother and a part of her community, as well as isolation, jealousy and passion.

At the Q&A, de Juan also discussed his use of a hammock in the centre of the stage. Not only did it help to build the Caribbean setting, but was a way to hide from the world, and its outside judgement. De Juan ultimately said that the hammock acts as a trap for Yerma – as she feels trapped within her childless marriage. In the most captivating scene of the performance, Yerma's companions join her in a pilgrimage for infertile women, culminating in a dramatic end to the play. Despite de Juan and his cast noting the loss of Lorca's natural rhythm seen in his Spanish in an English translation, I would nonetheless recommend *Yerma* to anybody, even non-Spanish speakers, as the company run both an English and Spanish rendition of Lorca's 'tragic poem'.



Pushkin and Tchaikovsky Conference

Luca Famiglietti, L6E

On Tuesday 22 January I was lucky enough to be able to attend a Russian conference, which was kindly hosted by St Paul's School for Girls. We left school at around 2pm in order to trek to Hammersmith station, where it was a brief walk to the school. We arrived with plenty of time to spare and were greeted to some delicious Napoleon cake (a Russian *mille-feuille* type cake) and tea.

The conference was a lecture on *Queen of Spades*, a short story written by Aleksandar Pushkin and later transformed into an opera by Pyotr Tchaikovsky. This was to be followed by a trip to the local cinema to watch a live stream from the Royal Opera House of the *Queen of Spades*. The lecture was by Professor P R Bullock from the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages at Oxford University. It was an incredibly interesting lecture as he described the importance of Russian opera's within classical Russian society and Tchaikovsky's role in the development of Russian opera. After the fascinating lecture we were led to the dining hall where St Paul's treated

us to some take-away pizza, which was a pleasant surprise. I had the opportunity to speak to some other students studying Russian, which was really useful as I am the only member of my class. Then we braved the snow and headed to the cinema. It was a very peculiar experience watching a live stream of an opera in the cinema but enjoyable nonetheless. Unfortunately after, it was time to make the journey back home; I would like to thank Dr Harrington and Valentina for organising this trip!



Lower Fourth German Film and Culture Study Day

Mrs Abbott-Imboden, Head of German

On December 5, twenty eight of our L4 students took part in a German study day. After travelling to London, we were welcomed warmly by the team of the Goethe Institut in London. We were then led into the private film auditorium and received a brief introduction and a bag of goodies each!



The private film screening was a full success and all students enjoyed the film *Der Ganz Große Traum* (Lessons of a Dream) directed by Sebastian Grobler, loosely based on the life of German football pioneer Konrad Koch in the late 19th-century. In the film, Koch is one of the first English teachers in the German Empire, in Braunschweig. He introduces his students to the new sport of football, completely unknown outside of England at the time, to get them interested in English culture and the English language. Koch's liberal teaching methods upset his conservative colleagues, the students' parents, and local dignitaries. Our pupils enjoyed the story not only because of the historical background but also as it illustrated the importance of friendship, teamwork and how to overcome obstacles.

Afterwards, we headed to the Science Museum across the road when our pupils had to complete a fact finding mission in German. All teams got involved and all found many interesting facts not only about science in general but also how the German speaking



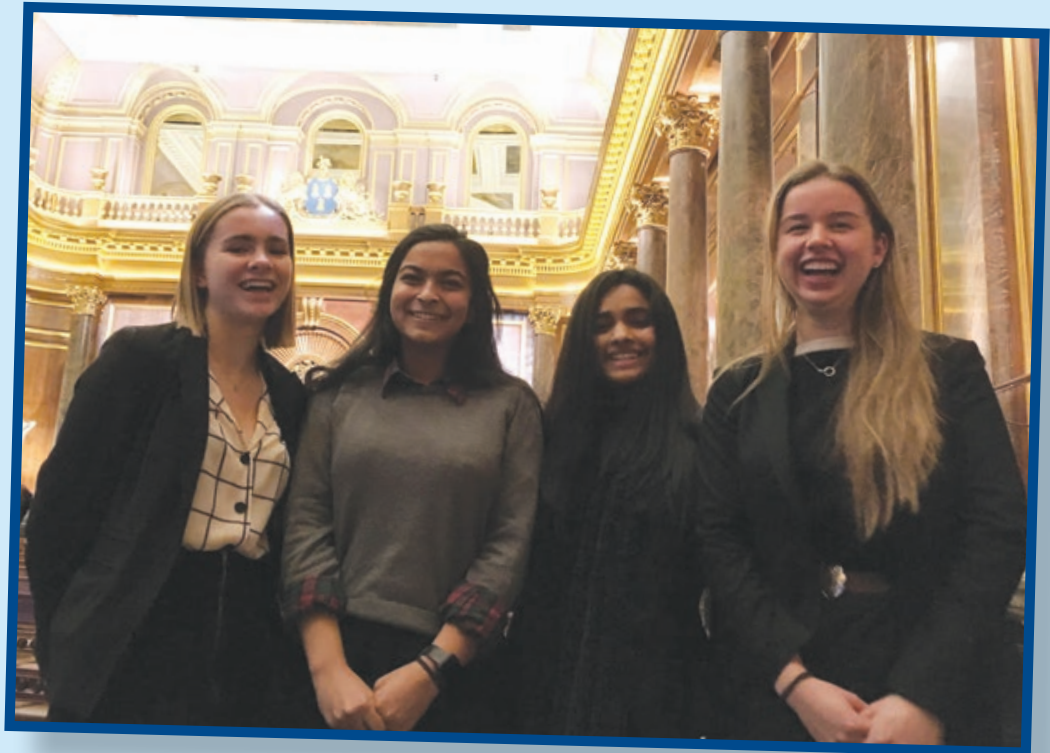
world has influenced the development of scientific inventions and how these have changed the world and still continue to do so.

All in all, it was a very successful and insightful day for our pupils when they not only practised their German but were also able to experience German language and culture in a real life context.

Commemorating Raleigh

The 400th anniversary of the death of Elizabethan courtier and explorer Sir Walter Raleigh, was marked by a special commemoration evening at Draper's Hall.

Four Lower Sixth historians attended the event and participated in a round table discussion with students from various schools about the difference between sixteenth century and twenty-first century entrepreneurship and a panel debate on Raleigh's legacy. The Bancroftians earned praise from Jerry Brotton, Professor of Renaissance Studies at QMUL, for their thoughtful contributions. The evening ended with a reception where the students mingled with academics and business people, getting tips on setting up a company and making several promising contacts as a result.





Russian Trip October 2018

Joseph Moore, U6E

During October half term, at the far too early time of 5am, a group of Bancroftians gathered at School prepared for the long journey to St Petersburg. We arrived at around 4pm and headed straight to the hotel, where we unpacked and went for dinner. The anticipation for our first Russian meal was building and it is safe to say that it did not disappoint; the Russian salad and selection of fish soups proved especially controversial. After this we headed out for our boat trip through the city. The setting of the voyage was fantastic; it was a clear, crisp night as we passed all of the beautifully illuminated palaces built alongside the River Neva.

Throughout St Petersburg, our omniscient tour guide Helena amazed us with facts about Russian history and entertained us with her many catchphrases. On our first full day, we headed out for the Peter-Paul fortress and saw the tombs of the Romanovs. After lunch we explored more of the city, including a seemingly never-ending shopping mall

on Nevsky Prospekt. Once we were done gallivanting we travelled back to the hotel, had a speedy dinner, and got ready to see *Swan Lake* at the Hermitage Theatre. The building itself was stunning and, despite not being the biggest ballet fan, I was able to appreciate the talent that the dancers had shown.

On our second morning in Russia we headed to Catherine's Palace just outside the city. Despite the cold it was a brilliant experience, and one of the most incredibly decorated places I have ever seen; every mirror, wall and piece of furniture was covered in gold leaf. We followed this by visiting the Yusupov Palace where the infamous Rasputin was murdered. The palace had a wax recreation of the murder and showed us once again, what the lives of the rich in Tsarist Russia would have been like. The next day we visited possibly the most fascinating sites so far on the trip. Firstly the Hermitage Museum, inside the Winter Palace; the former residence of most of the Russian Tsars, and the location of the downfall of Tsar Nicholas II. I was in awe the pure size of it, the grandeur in every room and the stunning pieces of art, including a Van Gogh display.

We took the bullet train to Moscow, a journey which lasted 4 hours. We passed the time playing cards, working on our promising careers in music and listening out for very frequent reminders from Mr Brennan that we were in a quiet carriage. On our first morning in Moscow, we visited the Kremlin,

accompanied by our new local guide Tatiana. It was fascinating to see the spot in which Lenin once worked, and in which Putin still works today. Whilst walking through Cathedral Square we briefly looked round the beautiful Cathedral of Annunciation. The Cathedral was built in the 15th century and we learnt that while, many of the original ornaments survive, much had been removed during Soviet rule. Once we left the Kremlin the group walked into Red Square and saw the world famous St Basil's Cathedral.

That evening we headed to the 30th floor of the stunning Hotel Ukraina, where we had a karaoke night. Whilst some of the singing wasn't quite of the standard of my and Dr Hunn's rendition of *Love Shack*, I think it's safe to say that everyone had a good time. This was a good chance for us to reflect on a brilliant trip, full of culture and fun. On our final morning, we headed out Lenin's tomb, the location of his embalmed body. We queued outside in the cold for over an hour, as the former leader is still considered a hero in Russia. The security outside the tomb was unmatched by anywhere else we had seen, showing again the sacred nature of Lenin to the Russian people. Once we saw the body, it was time for our final meal and to head to the airport. After the scare of potentially lost passports and a final few souvenir purchases, we boarded the plane and headed back to Heathrow. Overall the trip was truly memorable and one I enjoyed thoroughly.





The Bacchae

Maria Raheel, U6N and Daniel Leung, U6N

Watching Woodford County High School performing Euripides' *The Bacchae* was fascinating and greatly captured the ritualistic aspects of this renowned ancient Greek play. We sat in their outdoor amphitheatre, enhancing the experience and allowing for outstanding acoustics. We were advised to bring cushions to sit on just as the ancient Greeks would have!

The pupils put their own twist on the play by having an all-female cast, which was particularly intriguing because Greek plays had exclusively male actors. This meant that male characters were portrayed with decorative and extravagant masks and costumes including bright colours and wreaths, which the students made themselves. This added to the mystical experience which an ancient audience also would have felt. The play was performed spectacularly with musical accompaniment making transitions between scenes smooth and even more entertaining. The chorus danced in unison and provided a steady commentary throughout, commenting on the drama on stage. We witnessed the arrogance of King Pentheus being challenged by the mighty god Dionysus, who introduced himself in the prologue, setting the scene for all of us in the audience leaving us in a sense of anticipation waiting to see the tragic fate of Thebes!

We were left horrified upon hearing the Messenger's speech on the murder of Pentheus by his own mother, especially when we saw Agave boasting about her prey, holding the head of her own son! We were able to share this horror with the chorus members who were also shocked at such a sight. The play ended with the students providing a moral message and with an unresolved ending, leaving the audience to ponder over what shall happen to the broken royal household...

We are very lucky to have watched such a well put together production, witnessing the emotions of characters such as Tiresias and Cadmus, the chorus' ceremonial dancing as well as the perfect portrayal of Dionysiac worship performed by the bacchantes. The students did a spectacular job and expressed the magnificent essence of ancient Greek theatre.



The Golden Ratio

Soumya Krishna Kumar, U6E

As a keen mathematician and classicist, I gave a talk in Classical Society last term, giving an insight into the golden ratio and its links with ancient Greece. This is an area of maths that is both beautiful and fascinating in equal measure, and I enjoyed presenting on it.

I began by helping those present to derive the golden ratio (1.6180339887...), a number which is signified by the Greek letter Φ . I explained how the Parthenon was constructed using numerous golden triangles and then discussed Euclid's definition: "a straight line is said to have been cut in extreme and mean ratio when, as the whole line is to the greater segment, so is the greater to the lesser." I then explored the logarithmic spiral and the link to the Fibonacci series. In the final section of my talk, I displayed several examples of the golden ratio being linked to the idea of beauty, including the Mona Lisa, and showed how it can be found in nature – in a sunflower, for example. I think that the audience enjoyed listening to the talk as much as I had enjoyed giving it. One of those present said that I had "made maths interesting," and they were surprised by the underlying beauty of maths and also of its links to ancient culture.

Saatchi Gallery

Sahah Sekhon, U4

On Wednesday 14 November a group of Upper Fourth art students visited the Saatchi Gallery. When we went inside we were introduced to a member of staff who guided us around the gallery and we had group discussions about certain pieces of art work.

The first piece we saw was called *Police Line* by Michael Klein, it was made in 2007. As a group we discussed what it could be about. It was a very ambiguous piece and we had ideas that it was about social realism. The next piece was by the Clayton Brothers it was filled with colour and had so much about it. The gallery features two piece by them. Both the pieces had recurring characters which feature in their art work. It was art work filled by social fantasy. One piece was called *Turbulence, Tumble, Tumble*, its message was about living with excessive items and taking things for granted. The third piece that we saw was by Steve Bishop made in 2008. It was called *J'adore (mountain goat)*. This one was very funky as it had a huge Christian Dior perfume bottle made out of concrete, and incorporated into the sculpture was a mountain goat. The concrete is hard and man-made, the goat is soft, vulnerable and natural. The goat is being forced

into the bottle. The goat is forever stuck in the hard concrete bottle meaning animal testing will be unbreakable, and will keep on going as long these cosmetics products continue. That was one idea that we had about it. Then later on we had a workshop where we made a collage on destruction. After lunch we wandered around the gallery in groups and drew some of the artwork.





Visit From Acclaimed Novelist and Poet

David Nana, 5S

On Wednesday 5 December members of the Literary Society had the opportunity to attend a talk by Sophie Hannah about her life as a poet and author as well as receiving fascinating advice which would be particularly useful to any future aspiring writers or poets.

Her passion for poetry and writing appeared to be something which ignited at a young age as she often sacrificed schoolwork in order to spend time practising her hobby. By the tender age of seventeen, Hannah had already sent publishers a range of her own poems and crime novels and, although many of her creations were initially rejected, an essential idea of persistence was conveyed to us after learning that her first crime story, *Little Face*, had been rejected by seven different editors before its concept was finally accepted by a publishing house. This experience of hers unquestionably appears to abide to the well-known phrase, "Persistence is Key."

Throughout the talk, Hannah explained how many of her ideas for novels almost always derive from personal experiences, with one of her wildest ideas being formulated whilst awaiting the birth of her daughter in hospital. This idea consisted of switching babies at birth and resulted in the creation of her first book, *Little Face*. Personal experiences also tend to be recurring tropes in her poems such as one, which would be clearly relatable to any Bancroftian who has had to sit an external exam, about the atrocious marking by external examiners which was inspired by her husband's final university exam where his 69.5% was rounded down instead of being rounded up... he therefore missed his First by a mere 1%!

Overall, the talk was an opportunity to gain a basic understanding of a poet's life, the struggles they often face and, most importantly, a chance to learn something new. For instance, I would never have guessed that Agatha Christie, for whom Hannah had written several continuation novels, was and still is the world's best-selling novelist who has ever lived outselling even J K Rowling; Christie is outsold only by *The Bible* and Shakespeare. The experience was certainly a valuable one for those who attended and we are thoroughly thankful towards Hannah for such a unique and wonderful opportunity.



Thirds Go Potty For Potter

After a busy first few weeks our Thirds had a week of fun and excitement as they celebrated everything Harry Potter. There were different activities on offer every lunchtime and after school: quizzes, Quidditch, debating, potion making and a treasure hunt.

House Points became Harry Potter Points as our four Houses competed eagerly to claim the Harry Potter Challenge Cup. Lunchtime Quidditch games were competitive to say the least; it appeared to be an exhausting combination of netball and basketball played with one hand while "riding" a broomstick with a few rugby tackles thrown in for good measure. Apparently there were some rules! Debating whether Snape truly deserved to be sent to Azkaban

was a far less riotous activity, but produced lots of thoughtful and well considered arguments.

Thursday proved to be the climax of the week. Bancroft's uniforms were exchanged for Hogwarts' robes, although there were some more ambitious costumes on display such as: a fantastic mandrake; a Dumbledore or two; a brace of prisoners of Azkaban and a couple of Bellatrix Lestranges. Eden Falconry visited in the afternoon to introduce us to their beautiful owls: Mr Forbes; Fudge; Juan Carlos and Big Alice. The display was full of fascinating facts and, when asked who wanted to hold an owl, every hand in the room shot into the air, leaving Head, Mr Marshall, with the difficult task of selecting just five lucky pupils.

Truly a wizard way to end the half term!





The Library – Making Readers Of Everyone

Reviews of the Bancroft's in *The Good Schools Guide* have picked up that our library is a proper old fashioned library – walls lined with books and tables crowded with journals – not a glorified IT suite. Bancroft's is incredibly fortunate to have fantastic librarians; not only will they order books upon request, but they also use their in-depth knowledge of the library stock to recommend books. Keen readers appreciate the fact that Mrs Squire and Mrs Houghton get to know the literary tastes of the pupils and are always ready with suggestions of works to try.

In addition, our librarians are always developing new incentives to encourage

everyone to read. The phenomenal success of Harry Potter Week for the Thirds is down to hard work and meticulous planning from our librarians. They set pupils with reading challenges, arrange inter form quizzes and invite authors, such as Julia Golding and Chris Priestley, to speak to pupils. Some recent challenges have been Bookopoly – the librarians made a board with book related streets, such as Privet Drive, and colour coded them in groups with each group having a literary genre. The challenge this term is Journey Through Time; pupils are encouraged to read books from different time zones either written in or set in that era. Running alongside that is the literary zoo: read a book with an animal in it and gather as many different animals for your zoo.

World Book Day this year is on March 7 and will be marked with a competition to flip a classic to a comic: portray a scene from a classic in comic book format. The library will also have a book tasting event with a menu of new books and a specials board to be

sampled whilst sipping butterbeer (or similar) and nibbling on book cakes and marmalade sandwiches. Every day there will be a quick-fire quiz and the first tutor group to answer book related questions will get a chocolaty prize.

Regular visitors to the library will be familiar with the changing displays in which Mrs Squire and Mrs Houghton show off their indisputable artistic talents. These displays change regularly to mark seasonal events (Christmas or Valentine's Day) or to tie in with themes, such as upcoming International Woman's Day in March. Mrs Houghton was awarded a prize by Softlink (our library management system) for her displays in the Prep School Library. The displays of literature, artefacts and biographies which were on show for Remembrance Sunday were the work of Mrs Squire. Surely few can resist the temptation of a literary treat presented in such an appetising way.





Rugby – U13s In The Essex Cup

James Hitching, RW

On Wednesday 3 of October the U13A team went to Barking Rugby Club to play in the first round of the Essex cup for the first time in school history. We played Davenant and Coopers' Coborn, and we won three games out of four so we made it to the next round. The game against Davenant we lost disappointingly. It was a tough game as they were so much bigger than us. Against Coopers' we won 15–0. Zac Rahman scored a very good try down the wing where he ran most of the pitch. We were North East Essex champions.

Two weeks later we travelled to New Hall for the Essex Cup Final where we played New Hall, Westcliff and Hornchurch. When we played New Hall we lost 25 – 0. This was an especially tough game as they were the hosts and it was during their lunch time so everyone was watching. Our captain Alex Ngassa got injured so

we played the next games without one of our most experienced players. Next we played Hornchurch. It was 5 – 5 at half time then they scored two more tries. But we still managed to get one back. We could not get another though so the final score was 15 – 10. We played our final game with a weaker team than we started as we had lost Zac Rahman to potential concussion and Aaron Gideon. The Westcliff players were so much bigger than us; we did not have much, although we still tried. Their final score was 20 – 0 to Westcliff. We learnt to keep getting back up to tackle again even when being beaten. This helped us to learn to cope when missing key players were. We all thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful opportunity to play in a cup competition. Thanks to Mr Argyle and Mr Faiers for their coaching and encouragement.



Netball & Football In The Netherlands

During October half term, fifty pupils accompanied by six teachers boarded a coach to Dover at 5.25am. From Dover we then took a ferry to Calais. After leaving the ferry we drove for four hours, through three countries until we reached our destination, Hotel Walram, in Valkenburg (In Holland).

After a speedy unpack we had to be downstairs ready and waiting to go to Laser Tag. This took place in a cave system which was really exciting because it was dimly lit and full of smoke. It was a great experience for all of us. We had a tournament of Laser Tag between all of our teams, but unfortunately it was the boys' U14 team who won! We went back to the hotel for dinner and a good night's sleep.

Netball: Dami Kalejaiye, RS and Emily Winterburn, L4W

We needed to set our alarms early that morning because all eighteen girls had to leave for our five hour netball training session. We did this the next day as well! On Wednesday evening the girls went into town for pancakes and a little browse around the local shops. There were loads of lovely shops there but I think our favourite was most certainly the sweet shop!

On Thursday morning we all went to the indoor waterpark 'Mosaqua' this was great fun. After we separated and went to our tournaments.

It was a tough couple of games with the U13s and U14s both coming second. Later we went tobogganing which was very thrilling and even people who didn't like speed or height enjoyed it! In the evening we went to a disco with all the schools on the tour and it was a great night! The last day was very long. We got up very early to visit a theme park in Germany. There were loads of exciting rides and one boys' group decided to go on a water ride meaning they had to sit for the next six hours in wet clothes! We arrived back at school at 11:30pm after a great trip which we all will remember!



Football: Fiaz Ahktar, RW and Uwais Khan, RW

We had to get up very early for training with British MasterClass professional coaches and then had a match later in the day. The match was very successful for the L4 and a couple of the Removes' boys who played with L4 but it did not go as well for the Removes' team. On the Wednesday, we woke early again and travelled to the old Roda JC Kerkrade stadium for a coaching session with the Roda coaches followed by a tour of their new stadium, then we went on to play against their academy but with both teams losing.

After our visit to a waterpark, we travelled to the venue where we were playing our tournament against all the other UK schools which came on the trip, unfortunately neither of the teams won the tournament, but at its end Kieran Petrie got an award for the best player of the team.

To spend our last evening in the town we were staying at we had a MasterClass disco! For our last day at Holland we had to wake up early and load our coach to make our way to the theme park Phantasialand.



U13 British Squash Champion

Removes' pupil Yusuf Sheikh has secured top spot at the Boys' U13 British Junior Squash Championship. The Essex player says, "It was a dream come true for me to be the new British Junior Squash champion." The tournament, which took place from 26-28 November at Nottingham University's David Ross Sports Village, is a Gold Level Sanctioned Event which is aimed at the best players from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Yusuf said that he went into the final against Abd-Allah Eissa with trepidation. "Historically head to head Abd-Allah has had the better of me: he had won three out of four of our previous meetings. He had a huge psychological advantage over me."

The venue for the final was the main all glass show-court at Nottingham in front of a full house crowd. The final was played as the best of 5 games to 11 and each game had to be won by 2 clear points. The first game was long and very close, ending 12/14 to Abd-Allah. The Birmingham based player demonstrated some great squash and Yusuf ended up losing the second game 5-11. Frustrated by some of the decisions made by the official referee, Yusuf confessed that he lost his focus on the game. He was determined that he was going to give it his best shot. He had great support from the crowd and coach, Dave Webster, motivated him and advised him

to change his game plan. A combination of grit and determination meant that Yusuf went on to win the next three games 11/7, 11/5 and 11/5, to take the title. Yusuf described the moment, "The relief and joy I felt at the end of final point was something I had never felt before in life. To say the least I was jubilant! It was a thrilling game in front of a packed noisy crowd."

Yusuf, currently ranked No. 1 in England Boys U13 and No. 4 Boys U15, started playing squash at Chingford's Connaught Club; where he still trains. He has recently been awarded the RTF scholarship and free membership at London's prestigious Queens Club in Hammersmith and this year will be playing for the club in their senior team.



Thirds' Rugby Tour

Louis Channer, 35

On the 13 December the squad of Thirds' boys turned up at the Tower bleary eyed but still full of uncontainable excitement. We all hopped on the minibuses and started our long journey to Wales. It was an agonizingly long trip. As we went past the border many people hadn't looked up and kept asking if we were in Wales yet. The rest of us, who had been paying attention, got rather impatient and just said "yes, look we have crossed the bridge."

About an hour into Wales we came to Merthyr Tydfil; here we played the school Pen y Dre. The pitch was absolutely amazing. At the start of the game none of us were awake and we got punished time and time again as no one was tackling and we were being knocked off the ball repeatedly. It took the first half and quite a few reminders from Mr Lee before we actually got our heads into the game and started playing rugby like we had been playing the rest of the season. We put up a fight and started to give them something to worry about. By this time it was too late, but we had done what Mr Lee had told us to do. "play hard and give everything you've got so you earn their respect and they know you have given them a good game." After the game we went to the presentation area where captains exchanged gifts and Man of the Match awards were awarded. In the B team Arman Bashir got the Man of the Match award.

We said our "thank yous" and jumped on the bus to Merthyr Tydfil House where we were staying. On the first night we were all ready to

go to bed when we got a call saying that we were walking up a mountain called Sugar Loaf. We got our kit and drove up to the mountain where we were given torches but were told to use them only when it was slippery as they wanted our eyes to adjust to the dark. It was a tiring climb but we all felt a surge of relief as we got to the top. Everybody rushed down as we were all very tired. We got back to the house, and just collapsed in bed. No one could be bothered to make any noise.

On the second day we were all raring to go as we were going to do some orienteering and then drive to Cardiff to watch Cardiff Blues vs Saracens. It was very wet so many of us had wet maps which washed away our progress, meaning we couldn't prove we had done anything. When we got to Cardiff it was hammering it down. The atmosphere in the stadium was electric and we had a very entertaining Cardiff supporter behind us who could not keep his thoughts to himself. As my friend Freddie and I are both part Welsh we were the only ones of the Bancroft's boys who, by Mr Faiers' order, weren't allowed to support Saracens. It was a great game; we watched some brilliant rugby and were entertained by the man behind us who loved his club too much. On that day it was Freddie's

birthday so at the game we got him some presents. It was a great day and all the boys enjoyed it.

On the third and final day we headed off to face our toughest opponent, Blackwell RFC. This was the first time we were going to play a full game of rugby with kicking and proper lineouts. It was actually a very proud day for me as my grandma and my mum had come down to watch the game. We started strong and really took the game to them. We controlled the first half; however we lost concentration in the second half and got punished. In the last seconds of the game Nathan Dakoh ran through their entire team to score the winning try. The score was 43-39 to us: the first time Bancroft's had beaten them in four or five years. It was a massive achievement for all of us. We then went to their clubhouse for tea.

I would like to thank Mr Faiers, Mr Lee and Mr Greenidge for organising this season's rugby and the tour and also Mr Dickinson for coming with us on tour. Thank you to all of them as they didn't have to spend the start of their Christmas holidays in Wales with us. It was an amazing trip.





Remembrance Sunday

RSM Martin Prusa, U6N

This school year we commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the end of the First World War during our annual CCF parade: a war which sadly and needlessly took the lives of over nine million military personnel and eight million civilians. I hope that the procession we provided in November gave testament to the bravery of those who fought in this conflict and dealt with the struggles after it.

Remembrance Sunday started with the whole contingent marching in front of the School and turning into the Quad where we were greeted not only by visitors coming to pay their respects, but also by the delicately and beautifully crafted ceramic poppies made by the art department arranged around our First World War memorial. Each of these, rather touchingly, bore the name of a Bancroftian who fell during the war. These were later

put on sale to further raise money to aid the charities: Help for Heroes and Combat Stress. We marched around the Quad and then halted by the Great Hall where this year's Remembrance Service was taking place. This was only the second time I have seen the service first hand, and it was the first time for most of the contingent as there has never been enough space in the Chapel in previous years.

This year I found the service particularly moving with our first reading read by CSM Anissa Patel and emotional readings by Ed Sautter (President of the Old Bancroftians' Association), Major Graham Goodey (Royal Anglian Regiment, OB 1993-2000) and Major Laurence Baum (Royal Army Medical Corps, OB 1998-2005). They each read an extract from documents written by Old Bancroftians who, sadly, gave their life during the war. One that particularly hit home for me was the biography of Norman Lindsay Mackie. He gained First Class honours at Oxford for History and went on to become a Captain in the London Scottish Regiment after being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

I particularly remember the fact that he was referred to as the 'Scotsman.' He sadly died after being immobilised by the failure of the allied use of chlorine gas.

Between these readings we were provided with soothing songs from the Bancroft's Singers and wonderful music from our Concert Band. The morning ended with the annual 'laying of wreaths' with the contingent marching under my command around the Quad after the wreath of poppies had been laid on the War Memorial and the two minutes' silence had taken place. After the parade, we posed for a special centenary photo when the number 1918 was created by members of the school contingent.

This article is not complete without mentioning our Chaplain, Reverend Moore, for organising the Great Hall service and making it my most memorable one since it is my final one as part of the CCF. It also goes without saying that Major Hitching and SSI Pascal helped me a great deal in getting everyone together and allowed for the day to go as smoothly as possible.



October Field Day 2018

Avneet Sapal, L4N

Having joined the Army Section of the CCF at the start of the school year I was excited to go on a field trip so soon. After spending the majority of the weekend at School doing weapon training, it was a relief to finally pass our rifle weapon handling tests. We got to School early, at seven, on Monday 15 October and, after registering, we got into coaches for the drive to Colchester.

When we arrived the Army Section was split into two groups. We spent half the day patrolling in various section formations, such as an arrowhead, and learnt about basic field signals. We also had the chance to blank fire for the first time and it was an amazing experience. The NCOs conducted a challenge where we located and remembered various army related objects on a trail and this proved to be difficult for most of us.

However, for many, the highlight of the day was the laser tag. We played several fun games for two hours in teams. Overall the field day was informative and showed us what CCF was about but it was also a lot of fun and a fantastic trip!





Christmas Card Competition

Tomisin Awoyode, RN

A couple of weeks before the end of term, the Removes were set an inter-house challenge to create and sell Christmas cards. Each house was given a £60 budget to buy supplies from Hobby Craft. They were delivered to school a short while after, and we got straight down to making the cards.

By 3 December, people were already selling their cards to other Bancroftians, teachers, family and friends outside of school. The winners of the competition were East House, who took a runaway lead, with West coming in second, School third, followed by North. Overall, it was a fun experience that brought us closer together as a house, and taught us the value of money and teamwork. We raised over £700 for Crisis, a charity that helps the homeless. Thanks to Mr. Dickinson for organising the event, and to all our teachers for helping us out with everything.



Christmas Fund Raising Concert



We ended the Autumn Term on a high with a special Christmas concert which saw staff and pupils raise much needed funds for two charities: Haven House and Aldea Yanapay.

Highlights of the afternoon included impassioned versions of "Paradise" and "Nothing Compares 2 U" from "The Common Denominators" a band made up of members of staff (mainly from the maths department!). Even the Head, Simon Marshall, showed his festive spirit when he agreed to be lifted by our Strength and Conditioning Coach, Arraym Egotham, much to the pupils' delight. The school's soul band finished the show with a rousing performance of "All I Want for Christmas is You" The concert supported local charity Haven House Children's Hospice and Ginny Donnelly Community Fundraiser of Haven House was a special guest at the afternoon event. In addition, money was raised for Aldea Yanapay a local charity in rural Peru with which the school has a special relationship. Summer 2018 saw eighty pupils and staff spend a total of six weeks in Peru where they worked hard to build much needed toilet and sanitation facilities for the village of Lamay.

Roman Day

Rian, ASB

On Tuesday 15 January the Alphas were taken back over 2000 years to Roman times when soldiers invaded countries all over Europe. To help set the scene, we all dressed up as Roman soldiers, Emperors and Celtic warriors.

Our day began with a fantastic talk given by a Roman historian. We learnt how the Romans had conquered all the countries around the Mediterranean Sea including North Africa and large parts of Europe. The Romans had also been successful in conquering England and Wales, but failed to conquer Scotland and Ireland. After the talk we played some Roman games such as Ludus and Delta. In Ludus we had to flick a counter at targets on the board to get points. Delta was a little bit like Connect 4. We also took part in a Roman quiz which was a great way to test our knowledge. Throughout the day we learnt about Roman artefacts, how the Romans lived and what they ate - which was a bit disgusting! Luckily our lunch on the day was not a Roman feast! It was a really enjoyable and interesting day.





Alphas Strike A Pose

Ella, AHS

On Friday 23 January 2019, Bancroft's Prep welcomed a photographer from the famous Tate Britain Gallery to our school.

A world famous artist named Steve McQueen has joined forces with Tate Britain, to prepare the most ambitious project, to create visual portraits of citizens in one of the world's biggest and diverse cities - London. "It will be considered a piece of landmark artwork," he said. It will also be seen as a time capsule of the children who took part, who will be the capital's future. Bancroft's Prep is now proudly part of this fantastic project. Year 3 children were chosen for this project, as Mr McQueen believes this is a very important stage of a child's life.

On Friday Deniz, a professional photographer from the Tate, visited. She first told us about the history of Tate Britain, the project so far

and how in four months she had visited 300 schools and seen and taken pictures of 70,000 pupils. Deniz then explained about art and the importance of why we take photos, which I now appreciate, as it captures a moment in life which you will never experience again.

Next we played a game, to help us pose for the type of pictures Deniz wanted. We were instructed to all walk in the same direction and when Deniz shouted "STOP, we would freeze in a particular pose inspired by the feeling Deniz had told us, for example happy or excited.

These pictures will now be part of history and will go on display in November 2019, at the prestigious Duveen Galleries, home to the world's greatest collection of British art. Remember to save the date in your diary!



Prep House Drama

The week before Christmas, a mixture of all age groups took part in the inaugural Prep House Drama Competition. The performances were expertly directed, coordinated and driven by the student House Captains, who learnt a great deal from the process. Keethika the House Captain of Monkams said, "Now I know how a teacher feels!"

Over the course of a few months they rewrote the script, auditioned the students, organised props and costumes, as well as holding rehearsal practices at lunch and break times to get their House to perform to a very good standard. The commitment from each cast to learn their lines and perform so expertly was a credit to themselves. The results were; Hereford 1st, Monkams/ Knighton 2nd, Manor 4th Everyone was very positive about the competition; Lois, Manor's House Captain described it "Excellent. It showed a different side to people that I didn't expect."





PHAB

Mrs Lynne Hague

Phab was born during a National Association of Youth Clubs holiday conference in 1957 which included a lone, severely disabled young man who simply asked for “opportunity, not pity for disabled people” and that those who were disabled should be given a chance to share in a programme of exciting activities on equal terms with non-disabled people. This heartfelt request led to the foundation of Phab.

Phab continues to bring together people of all abilities on equal terms to make more of life together - breaking down community barriers, reducing social isolation, and creating opportunities for disabled people to enjoy the same activities and challenges as and alongside non-disabled people.

We are proud to say we have been hosting a regular Phab Club at Bancroft’s every Monday evening for almost six years. We involve our members and their carers in a variety of activities such as arts and crafts, board games, karaoke, bocchia, table-tennis and football on the field. We arrange special parties, music workshops, dance workshops, etc. We even had the excitement of Anita Dobson and a BBC camera-crew come to film during club night in order to promote the work of the charity.



Bancroft’s Saturday Challenge

During last term, thirty-five nine year-old pupils from five primary schools (Coppermill, Larkswood, Brookside, Mead and Broadford) came to Bancroft’s each Saturday morning to participate in a programme of exciting activities.

With help from some dedicated U4 and Fifth Form pupils, Bancroft’s staff ran a very varied programme for the youngsters: cooking, science, maths, history, geography, classics, languages, philosophy, drama, fencing and camp-craft. Members of the London Chamber Orchestra ran a session and helped the children to produce a piece of music which they performed in front of their parents and teachers at the showcase session on the final week.





OBA News

Susan Day, OBA Administrator

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

OBA Annual Dinner

On 19 October 2018 the School welcomed back Old Bancroftians to the 112th Annual Dinner held in the Dining Hall. Pre-dinner drinks were followed by an excellent three course meal provided by the Bancroft's catering team. Post dinner speeches were both entertaining and informative from the OBA President, Ed Sautter and the Head, Simon Marshall.



London City Drinks

On 28 November the OBA hosted an informal drinks evening at the Old Dr Butler's Head pub in Masons Avenue, Moorgate. This was well attended and was the perfect opportunity to catch up with old friends and to network with other Old Bancroftians, OBA committee members and the Head. A good time was had by all and we are looking to roll out similar events throughout the country.



Bancroft's Business Breakfast

On 15 November we welcomed more than sixty Old Bancroftians, parents, parents of Old Bancroftians, Sixth Form pupils and friends of the School to the latest Business Breakfast at the Allen & Overy office in Bishop's Square London. With thanks to our generous sponsors Joanna Hughes and Amanda Thomas, both Bancroft's parents, who were terrific hosts and Amanda kindly moderated the discussions. The 10th floor dining room was a wonderful location with marvellous views of the city. It was a fantastic and interesting open discussion with our panel guests who also generously gave up their time: Ian Jameson – OB (1971-1978) General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer, EMEA – Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and William Bennett - OB (1975-1982) Barrister – 5RB Specialising in defamation, breach of confidence, privacy and harassment claims. All ticket proceeds, were donated to the Bancroft's Foundation which provides Means Tested Awards at the School to provide life changing opportunities to talented young people, regardless of their financial means.



OBA News

Congratulations to Vinod Raj and Ramiyaa Sretheran who got engaged on Saturday 15 December in the Southern Garden at Bancroft's School! Both attended Bancroft's from 2004 to 2011.

Looking ahead, the Association continues its programme with the Five and Ten Years On Reunion at the School for the leavers of 2008 and 2013 in May, OBs' Day on Sunday 30 June, the Northern Dinner in Chester and the 113th OBA Annual Dinner, the latter two events both in October.

Bancroft's School





Bancroft's Foundation



A thank you and consultation event was held on Tuesday 15 January. We were very pleased that more than seventy OBs, parents, former parents and friends of Bancroft's travelled



out on a dark January evening to attend a drinks reception and buffet curry supper here at the School. The purpose was to thank them for their support of the Bancroft's Foundation and to share with them plans for the future. Some had tours of the School and then guests were entertained by performances from the music and drama departments including preview performances from the imminent Senior School Musical, *Chicago*.



The Head spoke about the School's vision for the Foundation, Ed Sautter, spoke about the support of the OBA and three OBs Kavin Vijayakumar (2008-2015), Jack Lewis (1996-2007) and Rishabh Shah (2003-2010) shared their experiences of their time at school and how they benefitted from the support that enabled them to have a Bancroft's education. With thanks to all the pupils and staff involved who made this a wonderful evening.



The Bancroft's Foundation was established by the School's Governors with one goal: to support more talented pupils at the School, regardless of their financial situation.

To date we have already been supported by more than 600 Old Bancroftians, parents, parents of Old Bancroftians, staff past and present, and friends of the School, in addition to the Drapers' Company and the School is most grateful to all those who have already generously lent their support.



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