

PREP HEADLINES

EDITION: 210



SUMMER 2 2018

I love assemblies in our Prep Hall. They're a chance for the whole school to come together and share important experiences- "Hands up whose parents let them stay up to watch last night's penalty shoot-out?"- as well as our values- "This half term we're focusing on exercising 'Good Judgement'". However, it was only a few days ago that I discovered to my great surprise that the Prep Hall might not have existed. As with many good things at Bancroft's we owe a debt of thanks to our founding headmaster Tony Duncan whose life we celebrated in a special ceremony on Sunday. One of the speakers, former Bancroft's Head and current governor Peter Southern, revealed that the powers that be had not been convinced an assembly hall was necessary for the new Prep School when plans were being drawn up before it opened in 1990. Tony, who was a gentle but hugely determined man, insisted that a space where all the children and staff could meet was absolutely vital. The celebration of Tony's life and achievements was really moving. It was very well attended by many former pupils and staff who all spoke so warmly about Tony and his legacy. Tony had a very clear vision of how he wanted the Prep School to be – happy, nurturing, purposeful, character-forming, where children who are curious about the world can have fun while they learn. I believe he would be proud of how we are now, just as he would have loved the performances of Suna, Tristan and our Chapel Choir. Tony's wife Carol unveiled a plaque for Tony which future generations of young Bancroftians will pass beneath as they enter and leave our Prep Hall. It reads 'Our founding Headmaster and an inspiration still.' We really do owe him such a lot - including, it transpires, the Hall at the heart of our school! Wishing you all a very happy summer,

Joe Layton

SUMMER CONCERT

On Tuesday 5th June over 200 children took part in our Summer Concert. The occasion was as sunny as the evening itself! The programme had its challenging components, not least of all 'The 1812 Overture', but what an truly loud sound the orchestra made, boosted by the biggest pair of cymbals seen since *The Great Gate of Kiev* itself was opened. David Duodu, on the drums, grew Popeye-like arms to get the most noise he could out of the instrument. Many audience members said that it was a highlight for them. Beyond the orchestra, the smaller recorder groups have never played better and it was lovely to hear Mrs Raw's young cello group play for the first time. The second half was all about singing and all of our choirs sang, from the lovely 'No Matter What' by Lloyd Webber to the incredibly moving 'Can You Hear Me?' sung and signed by the Chapel Choir, accompanied by a string trio. The true highlight may have been the combined force of three choirs singing 'If Only You Would Listen' from *The School of Rock*. The Great Hall rocked to the thump of feet and a powerful message. A huge thank you goes to the staff, but mostly to the children for making it so special; it was an evening to remember, indeed.

Adam Baum

ALICE IN WONDERLAND



The Prep 2s have been working on a fabulous production of 'Alice in Wonderland' for several months. The Prep 1s and some parents watched the matinee performance of Cast A on 18th June. We were all nervous and excited as it was the first time we could share our play with an audience. It was led by the fantastic Nadia and Deeya who shared the lead part of

Alice. Mr Pearson described it as 'slick'. The accompanying music, played by Amit, James and Matthew, was timed to perfection. On the Wednesday evening we performed to a larger audience of parents and the atmosphere was electric. On the 19th and 21st June, Cast B performed two incredibly scintillating



shows. Leia and



Aleena shared the role of Alice and stole the show with their wonderful, engaging performances. On the afternoon of the 19th, Cast B performed to the Bancroft's students and a few parents, who could not wait to see the much anticipated play. The Mad Trio were hilarious, with Ehsan, who played the March Hare, memorably screaming, 'MOVE DOWN!'

We all certainly felt mad, considering our rampant and uncontrollable laughter throughout the entire play. The stage crew did very well, moving the flats and changing the sets swiftly and efficiently. All in all it was a brilliant team effort and everyone involved



was amazing. We were sad that it had come to an end but it was a lovely way to end our Prep School years!



Shaanveer Sandhu 2CP and Nathan Adeyemo-Dakoh 2BR

EUROPA CENTRE

On Monday 4th June, all Betas went to Europa centre in Hornchurch to practise French listening and speaking. When we arrived at the centre, we saw that it was like a mini French town, with a boulangerie, boucherie, pharmacie amongst others. The whole session was led by native French speakers. We were put into groups and given a mock credit card. Then we went around the French town buying various things, while speaking French all the time. We were also given a booklet to note our activities. My favourite part was shopping in the bakery, which had all sorts of cakes and brownies (unfortunately though, they were not real!). All of us really enjoyed the trip. Nous avons passé un bon moment! (We had a great time!)

Anjali Singh BCB

POLICE VISIT

On Thursday 17th May the Alphas were visited by two local police officers to discuss how to keep us safe and what their role is. All of the Alphas were very excited to listen to them! The officers taught us what to do if we were ever lost and to report anything we thought was suspicious. Most importantly they taught us about the 999 number and when to use it. They also told us how important it is to not waste police time as you could even receive a fine. They answered questions from the Alphas, such as how they cope with two incidents at the same time. My favourite part was when they showed us all of their police gear, including hand cuffs, electric tasers and a special spray. I found the workshop very interesting and the officers were professional and kind.



Neal Gray AHS

MOON JUICE

On Monday 18th June celebrated poet Kate Wakeling visited the Betas as they were learning poems from her book 'Moon Juice'. It was an interactive session and she was very excited to hear our answers to her questions. She told us that most of her poems were based on real thoughts she had. She also signed some of the copies of 'Moon Juice' for pupils who had chosen to buy the book. Kate was really enthusiastic and she read out some of her poems with lots of action and expression. She also helped us to write our own poem about sound scales from loudest to quietest, based on her poem 'This Be The Scale'.



Overall, it was a great experience for the Betas.

Rishi Bose BCB

WE'RE GOING TO THE ZOO...

On Tuesday 3rd July, the top five credit winners from each class went on an exhilarating trip to Colchester Zoo. We arrived at school excited for the day ahead; we jumped on the coach and zoomed away. On arrival we split up into 6 groups, the leaders being: Mrs Strong, Mr Layburn, Mr Pearson, Mrs Life, Mrs Kanolik, Mrs Clark, Mr Paramour and Miss



Adams. Excitedly, we explored the amazing lives of different animals from around the world. We fed tricolored tropical birds nectar as they soared above our heads in their forested enclosure and watched beautiful butterflies flutter around in their humid dome. We fed the graceful giraffes leaves from the end of very large sticks! At midday we sat down on wooden benches and ate our packed lunches. They were delicious but



the treat was to follow as we were able to buy ice cream! Refuelled and recharged, we set off to find the stocky sea lions and then watched the orangutan swinging gently through the trees. We had an incredible view of the sea lions as we walked through a water tunnel to see them darting above us. We were immediately awestruck by their elegance despite their colossal size.

After a terrific day exploring the animals we made a quick pit stop at the gift shop and had a little play in the park; we had an amazing time. Tired out by our adventures, we bid farewell to the animals and drove back to school thinking about the lions, tigers, elephants and other animal friends we had left behind. I would like to thank all the teachers that helped on the trip and Mr Layburn and Mrs Life for organising the trip for us to enjoy!

Camille 1SS



BEE KIND

In our Science lesson we found out that in the last 5 years the bee population has dropped by a third. If bees were to disappear from the face of the earth, humans would have just 4 years left to live. At this time of year bees can often look like they are dying or dead, however, they're far from it. Bees can become tired and they simply don't have enough energy to return to the hive which can often result in being swept away. On the 21st of June the two of us saved a life and we believe you can too. When we found a bee on the school field we knew instantly it was struggling to fly and needed our help. Following the tips of the famous biologist David Attenborough, we dissolved some sugar in water for the bee, as this drink boosts the poor bee's energy. We poured the solution onto a spoon and left it beside the weak bee. After a drink, the bee was healthy and well enough to fly. If you come across a bee on the floor, try helping it with a sugar and water solution like we did. Do something good this summer and 'bee' kind!

Keerithika Kuganeswaran and Emira Kangesan 1LE



SPORTS DAY

Saturday, 23rd June was my last and final sports day at the Prep School, along with all my peers in Prep 2. The sun shone and it was a perfect day to be running around the track. It was a great experience for all the year groups with a wide range of activities, from individual races to the jumbo relay, short and long distances to jumping and throwing competitions. The scores were close between the Houses throughout the competition and all four Houses had their time at the top at some point during the morning. In fourth place, well done to Monkams; a highlight being the Prep 1 boys winning their 4 x 75m relay. Third place went to my House, Knighton, a highlight being Hema Iyer who won her 600m. As Mr Layburn said, 'In all my 12 years at the Prep school there has never been a tie in points' but in joint first place were Manor and Hereford who tied on 303 points! There were some great individual performances in all year groups: Caitlin Hancock won all her races for Hereford as did Sadie Vohmann for Manor. I would like to thank all the staff who came along to support us on Saturday morning and especially the PE staff who helped to arrange such a brilliant sports day. Thank you, also, to all the parents for their support and cheers!

James O'Malley-Kumar 2AA



Photographs courtesy of Mr Hancock

PLANETARIUM

On Thursday 21 June, the Prep 2s were invited to the Great Hall to experience 'Planetarium' for the afternoon. I was 'over the moon' when I walked in to find the room decorated with coloured lights and a gigantic inflatable dome inside, ready to be explored. On entering the dome the guide explained to us about all the planets and star signs. He told us about space as we stared at the ceiling of the pitch black dome now studded with stars. My favourite part was being able to touch real rock from both the Moon and Mars. I loved seeing stars shooting above my head. I found out that the largest volcano is actually on Mars. I felt like I had been on a great adventure, so thank you to the senior school for your kind invitation.

Aurora Strong 2BR

CHARITY DAY



Charity Day was amazing! In the morning we all took part in a sponsored steeplechase, including two water jumps! We had to run five times around the course. I did it wearing a plastic horse's head which was rather hot! The more we ran, the more we raised. In the afternoon we did activities at lots of fun stalls like: build a Lego tower, Mini Games and ate delicious cakes made by the Betas. There was also a Tombola which the Alphas supplied lots of prizes for. There were some other really cool prizes like a cricket set, sweets and games. Mr Paramour, who was soaked at Sponge-the-Teacher, said, "It's my first year at Bancroft's and I enjoyed my first experience of Charity Day. Although I did get soaked from head to toe and covered with cornflour, I also won a Lego prize, so that was a bonus!" The charities we were supporting were *The Chigwell Riding Trust for Special Needs*, who help disabled children and give them freedom through horse riding and *The Marine Conservation Society* a charity to help keep our seas healthy and to reduce plastic in our waters. They received cheques for £5000 and £1000 respectively. Thanks to all who donated prizes and sponsored us – it was a really successful afternoon!

Henry Hitching 1TP

SCRATCH OFF!

On Thursday 21st June, Deen Pramanik, Eddie Jiang, Nicholas Gebhardt, Hema Iyer, Iva Garg and I went to the University of East Anglia to represent Bancroft's at the CAS Scratch competition. When we reached the University, I was nervous and excited. There were 36 children and we were given a colour that put us in different groups. We had to invent a 3-level game. Eddie and Nicholas made a robber game where you must collect a chest and escape from the police. Our project was a scrolling maze, a scrolling platformer and a scrolling jump platformer. Iva and Hema's game included a make your own song, a quiz and a maze. The judges asked us to explain the game that we had made and make a clock quiz. We then had a lunchbreak and went to a lecture theatre where every school received a certificate. When they announced the winners of each group, Bancroftians shone! Our group came first in the game. Nicholas and Eddie came first in their clock game. Iva and Hema also came first in their game. We then had to show all the other schools what we had achieved. After that, they announced the overall winners - Iva and Hema got first place in the game and got a Kano set, Nicholas and Eddie got a board game for getting first place in the clock quiz and Deen and I came fourth in the game and got a micro bit. I was proud to be representing Bancroft's School and anybody who likes coding should participate in the future. I would like to thank Miss Ellery for giving us this wonderful opportunity!

Vedant Prabhakar 1SS

CRICKET ROUND UP

The sun has been out to play this summer term and so have the boys' cricket teams. With everyone representing the school in a competitive fixture, the boys have developed their skill levels and understanding of the game. It was great to see the Betas take part in their first competitive soft ball cricket fixtures and, in particular, the improvement in their levels of concentration. We look forward to spending more time developing their skills in the future. The Prep 1s demonstrated an extra year's worth of practice and knowledge, which was evident from the consistency of their bowling and the power of their hitting. There are a lot of hopeful prospects in this year group and, with continued practice over the next year, they will produce a good standard a cricket. All Prep 2s had a competitive fixture against Thorngrove (Mr Harrison's new school) and it resulted in three very close and enjoyable games. This year also saw fine weather to be able to complete the 'Bancroft's 6-a-side Cricket Festival'. We entered five teams and I was particularly impressed with the intelligence of the boys to adapt to the different format of the game during the competition. A final mention should go to the Prep 2s who have gone through their four years at Bancroft's without losing a competitive fixture. This is a testament to the time and effort they put into cricket at school, as well as at their clubs outside of school. We have competed against all the local schools and even drove all the way to Bedford for a late-night Friday fixture; they have accepted each challenge and demonstrated great skills and sportsmanship in their victories. They have also, most recently, won the Essex Schools Kwik Cricket tournament (from 345 schools that entered) and will now represent Essex against the other Counties.

David Archer

GIRLS' CRICKET



It's been wonderful to see so many aspiring young cricketers attending training consistently throughout the summer term this year. The girls have thoroughly enjoyed their experience on the cricket field and the skills they've learned in each training session. In the penultimate week of term, girls from the Alphas right through to Prep 2 took part in an inter school fixture on our iconic grounds. They played an adapted version of the game to give everyone the opportunity to experience success and had lots of fun too. Well done to everyone and a special thank you to Mr Hall for sharing his cricket knowledge with us all.

Kelly McNelis

INTERHOUSE GALA

As always the annual House Swimming Gala was a tense and exciting event as every pupil in the school participated to fight for their place on the House Leader board. There were some first class performances in front crawl, back stroke, breast stroke and butterfly with many relays too. Everyone was supporting their house and the swimmers really showed how their solid coaching had paid off in this competitive forum.

The final results were:

First place: Monkams

Second place: Manor

Third place: Hereford

Fourth place: Knighton

INTERHOUSE RESULTS 2017-18

As we go to print, the current House Competition scores for this school year are:

Hereford: 266

Manor: 262

Monkams: 252

Knighton: 250

However, it will be up to the Betas, who play the final House competition of the year this afternoon, to decide to final result. With scores as tight as these, it will be a tense afternoon of Rounders!

CRICKET FESTIVAL

On Wednesday 6th of June, five teams made up of Prep 1 and Prep 2 boys took part in an annual Cricket Festival organised by Bancroft's. It gave us the opportunity to play against ten other experienced school cricket teams. We were split into five groups with the chance to compete for a different trophy depending on your ranking within your group. There were some tough and close matches with plenty of incredible skills on display! Four out of the five Bancroft's teams managed to get through to the final with the Bancroft's A team edging away with a win against a brilliant Forest School side. The sun was shining all day and there were lots of parents supporting what turned out to be a fantastic event.

Xavier Valliani and Theo Jayaraj 1SS

