



Our Christmas Concerts are seriously big productions, underpinned by countless rehearsals and planned with military precision! Nonetheless, they remain joyous occasions. It takes courage for our children to step out under the lights of the Great Hall in front of a huge audience. But despite the nerves that most confess to, all of them are able to give their utmost on the night and, as they take the final applause, you can see their collective pride in their school as well as their personal satisfaction at getting through, and ultimately enjoying, a memorable experience. Images from this year's Christmas show will remain in my mind for a long time and I'm sure that is true for many of you. The play performed by 1SS was full of verve and humour. Some of the cast will have surprised themselves at the performances they were finally able to produce. The musical groups and choirs also hit the heights as they always do under the direction of Mr Baum and the other hugely talented teachers involved in preparing them. From the charm and fun of the ukulele group to the impressive West End pizzazz of the Senior Choir, there was so much to entertain the audience, but I know how much the children will have taken from it too. Productions like these build confidence, as well as friendships with those playing and singing alongside you, or chatting with you backstage. And it's nights like these that the children remember from their schooldays; nights when they have revelled in the spotlight, exceeded their own expectations and made their parents, their teachers and themselves so proud. This year's Christmas show was very special indeed as it always is. I do hope it marked the start of a happy and restful holiday period for all of you.

Joe Layton

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

We had an explosive start to this year's Anti-Bullying Week as James, from the OpenView Theatre Company, delivered a highly entertaining but thought provoking assembly with some brilliant puppeteering and storytelling about Philip and Emily. The stand out message for the children was that small changes in behaviour can make a big difference and highlighted the importance of 'Speaking Out' and 'Standing Tall' against anti-social behaviour. James stayed with us through the day delivering workshops to the Prep 1s and Prep 2s who impressed us all enormously with their good sense and maturity. It was fantastic that such important messages were delivered in such an engaging way. Our anti-bullying

theme continued into the following week with the children wearing odd socks to school on Tuesday as part of a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of and celebrate difference. In addition, both phase assemblies were led by the brilliant anti-bullying ambassadors from the Senior School who talked to the children about the work they do as ambassadors and the possibility of launching the scheme down here. How we would do this is being discussed by the School Council who are taking the lead with the initiative. In short, the week left us mulling over important themes and has given us plenty of ideas as to how we can make our school an even happier place to be for all of us.

Lisa Life

PHOTO PROJECT



We were invited by Woodford Creative Hub, to take part in a photography project. Their mission is to empower everyone to be creative in their everyday lives. The pupils were asked to take a photograph of Woodford Green. The challenge was to think outside the box, take a shot from a different viewpoint and think about all the elements in their frame. All photos will feature in a mini exhibition during next year's Woodford Art trail 2020. We also decided to make it an in-house competition and in joint third place was Hugh James with *'War and Peace'* and Charlotte Jones with *'Enchanted Tree'*. In second place was Tara Johal with *'Cricket'* and Lily De Wever with *'The Tower'*. In first place was the stunning image by Nell DeSyllas entitled *'Wooden Whirlpools'*. These children won book tokens. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Sarah Strong

TATE PROJECT

Earlier this year, our Alphas, and many other Year 3 classes in London's 33 boroughs, were invited to be part of a project created by Turner Prize-winning artist and Oscar-winning filmmaker Steve McQueen. The three classes (now BLE, BBR and BCB) who participated had their photographs taken, which are now on display at the Tate Britain! The free exhibition is open until May 2020.

Aimee Kanolik

THE BARBICAN

On Monday 1st November, the Alphas visited the Barbican to sing with the London Symphony Orchestra. The song we sang was 'Loch Ness Monster'. We have been learning about myths and legends around the world. It was wonderful to hear the orchestra play. The music was peaceful and gentle, and then when we joined in to sing it became loud and fast and full of energy.

Rian Shah ASB



MACBETH

The Young Shakespeare Company came to perform 'Macbeth' to the children. The play is a tragic story about despair and treachery when an ambitious man called Macbeth follows a prediction after a visit from some evil witches who tell him he will become King. A few children were chosen to play small parts in the show like the royal announcers for King Duncan, King of Scotland. The actors asked us to create the noise from around the heath, the stormy weather, the raucous calls from the animals and the gentle hum of the magic surrounding the wild heath. I loved the final of the action when Macduff and Macbeth battle each other. I would highly recommend seeing this and other shows by the YSC. I would rate this show five out of five stars and I really hope the YSC come back to perform another one of their shows to our school soon.

Francis Perera BBR



AACHEN



On the 23rd November some Betas went to Aachen in Germany accompanied by their parents. We went on a very long journey travelling to Dover and there we caught the ferry to France. We travelled through Belgium and the Netherlands by coach until we finally reached Germany. We stayed in a hotel in Aachen which was close to all the Christmas markets. The journey may have been long, but the markets certainly made up for it! There were so many different types of stalls. There were Christmas stalls with different decorations and some with delicious food to try and buy. I personally tried a special curried sausage, which was mouth watering. Aachen gave me a wonderful opportunity to use all the German words and phrases I have been learning, which really impressed my father! I really do hope to return again in the future.

Annabel Wynn BCB

CELTIC HARMONY

On Friday 15th November the Alphas went to Celtic Harmony Camp in Hertfordshire to find out more about life during the Stone Age. On arrival we were divided into two groups: Wolves and Stags. We went in to a roundhouse and the man taught us how Stone Age people would have made fire in order to keep warm and cook food. We made woodland shelters out of logs and sticks and learned that there were three stages in the Stone Age: Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic. After lunch we learned about tools and how they used flint to make spears and axes as well as using bones and horns. I would not have liked to live in the Stone Age. Life was hard: there was no electricity and everything was done by hand. Even making a simple soup would take hours!

Kanav Gupta ALD



CITIZENSHIP DAY

The Prep 2s went to Ilford to learn about citizenship. When we arrived, we saw members of the police, ambulance and fire brigade. Firstly, we learned never to share personal pictures or information on the internet; even if you know the person really well, anyone could share it on social media. We learnt about what a zip card was and how to use public transport. A zip card is a child's version of an oyster card and it allows you to use the buses and the tube at a reduced price. After that, we learned never to take anything from strangers. If anyone approaches you and gives you anything, you say no and tell someone about it. Next, we found out how to make a 999 call. We went outside and pretended to make a call. My friend, Yashi, was holding the phone and a man came round the corner and shouted, "I've got a knife, give me the phone". None of us knew he was coming. He was actually a police officer. We learnt that it is better to give them what they want because you can replace items but your life is invaluable. We also learned about how to stay safe during a fire. Finally, we learnt about DR ABC. Each letter has its own purpose. D stands for danger. R stands for response. A stands for airway. B stands for breathing. C stands for call 999. It was a fun but informative trip and I now feel more streetwise and prepared for the unexpected.

Avantica Arora 2AA

DENTIST VISIT

On the 5th November Miss Jayakumar, a trainee dentist, came to visit the Betas. She told us lots of information about tooth decay. Germs in your mouth eat the sugar that coats your teeth after you have eaten. If you do not clean your teeth properly, they produce plaque. This can then make holes in your teeth. A dentist can fix small holes with fillings but, for big holes, the tooth will have to be taken out. The dentist also told us that fizzy drinks, Starburst and Drumsticks should be banned for children because they contain lots of sugar. The main message that I came away with was that we should look after our teeth and brush them twice a day for two minutes. At the end, we all received a goody bag. The visit was very informative and will help us to keep our teeth healthy. I have already started following the tips!

Arhan Jasani BLE



BEBRAS CHALLENGE

The Prep School took part in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. This is a competition for primary and secondary children that comprises of short, fun puzzles that require logical thinking that get progressively harder. In 40 minutes they solve as many as possible and must bear in mind that the more difficult questions have negative marking. All the children have received certificates for participation, and many scored highly enough to earn Merits or Distinctions. The highest scoring children in each age category were given 'Best in School' certificates. They were awarded as follows:

Kits: Carina Mazumder

Castors: Michelle Lee, Alexia Mazumder, Elio Chan, Alexander Freeman and Dorothy Willerton - each student scored full marks in the challenge.

Juniors: Leo Frchet

In the Juniors' category, there were over 80,000 children competing. The top 10% of this age group in the country have been invited to enter the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge in March to develop their skills further and produce programme solutions to computational thinking problems using Blockly, a visual block-based programming language. Our Prep 2s did extremely well, and in fact 19 of them achieved a high enough score to gain a place. Those children are:

2AA: Adam Jaleel, Selin Halil, Yusuf Ali, Blake Goodfellow and Avantica Arora

2CP: Leo Frchet, Atharv Gupta, Luca Ventura, Ayushi Shah and Mathuran Arunan,

2TP: Hareena Giretharan, Emma Diebel, Joe Harvey, Natasha Wynn, Yashi Purohit, Hsien Yang Tan, Esha Cross, Joenesan Senthana and Aryaa Kakkar.

Laura Ellery

SAFER INTERNET DAY

In November we welcomed Gareth Cort from the UK Safer Internet Centre. He worked throughout the day delivering workshops to every year group, and later on to staff and then parents. Each workshop was enthusiastically delivered, brilliantly tailored to his audience and packed full of information. He asked the children, "Do You THINK Online?"

T - Trust (can we trust all that we read online?)

H - Health (balancing your online and offline life is vital for good mental health)

I - Information (be careful what information you share online)

N - No (never be scared to say 'NO' online if something makes you feel uncomfortable)

K - Kindness (the internet and social media are forums for kindness too)

His insightful workshops really ensured that we do all now THINK online!

Lisa Life

RUGBY

Much like Saracens chances of retaining the premiership trophy, the rugby season has been and gone. In all fixtures the teams represented the school with great pride, showing sportsmanship throughout each encounter. Once again, all the boys had the opportunity to represent the school and we were also pleased to welcome Anastasia from the Betas to our training and matches. The not so new Alphas also played a competitive tag fixture and, most recently, have been given the opportunity to engage in some contact sessions where they have been getting acquainted with the mud (some for the first time). Hockey season is next and new skills are to be learned.

David Archer

NETBALL

Next term we swap to netball. Some of the Prep 2 girls attended the Fast5 All Stars Netball at the London Copper Box. A fantastic afternoon of netball saw 10 teams battle it out to be crowned the champions. The Prep 2 girls were inspired by the fast pace and the shooting skills throughout all the games. They even managed to get a selfie with the great Serena Guthrie who inspired them to get out on the court and start practising. With lots of fixtures in the diary, I am very much looking forward to seeing what all girls can achieve throughout the netball season.

Hayley Pegg

HOCKEY

As we come to the end of the Hockey season every girl can reflect upon an impressive season. Every girl has represented Bancroft's in a fixture. The Alphas played for the first time against New Hall School at Ashton Playing Fields. All pupils displayed our school values, especially that of integrity. With 17 fixtures over 13 weeks it has been a busy term. A highlight of the season was the Betas playing against a new school, Alleyn Court, from Southend. The girls showed great sportsmanship and we cannot wait to welcome them back in the Spring term. In the last week we held our Inter-House Hockey competitions where the skills learnt from the past term have been on show. It has been remarkable to see the skills coming together and the girls enjoying the thrill of the game. Congratulations to Manor House who won the overall competition. It has been great to have so many pupils join local hockey clubs; this is a great way to hone their skills. We are really excited about the term ahead and have many fixtures in the diary, a big thank you to the girls for their commitment to clubs during a very busy time of the year.

Hayley Pegg

CROSS COUNTRY

On 23rd November my teammates and I from Woodford Green Athletics Club competed at one of the most prestigious races on the Cross Country calendar, the British Athletics Cross Challenge at Septon Park in Liverpool. My team and I had no fears as the whole squad had put hard work in during training and competing in the Met League as we all do every year. Of course, we were all nervous but we were all there to encourage each other to try harder. My coaches John Stow and Joe Everitt have been supportive of my running and I really appreciate all of the work they do to help me try harder and harder each and every year. In this race, I came 30th with a time of 8 minutes 33 seconds, not my best but I will try harder next year. My race was very popular with 112 runners. I was the second runner home from my team, and was among the top ten at the start of the race. With my strength and determination, I will work on maintaining that fast pace at the start and do much better next year. My team are brilliant and I am excited for the future.



Dhiya, Natasha and I had some other good news earlier this year - we had been selected by Redbridge to represent the borough in the London Youth Games Cross Country race. The race was on Saturday 16th November, at Parliament Hill. We ran against all the other 32 boroughs of London. There were 158 girls in our race and we did very well - with all our determination and strategy we helped Redbridge get 8th place overall. We all really enjoyed the run and we are hoping to be able to participate in the same race next year!

Caitlin 2CP

