



Our regular 'Music and Munch' lunchtime concerts in the Prep Hall are magical occasions. They particularly allow those who are starting out musically to gain confidence. Many children who begin by performing a Grade 1 piece somewhat shyly in front of an encouraging group of parents and classmates are soon revelling in the spotlight of the Great Hall in our showpiece summer and Christmas productions. It takes courage to perform in front of any audience. Not everything will go to plan but it's a chance to learn from mistakes, to cope with nerves and to take joy and pride from sharing music with others. This is not to say that the 'Music and Munch' slots don't showcase some impressive talent performing technically challenging pieces. The finale of last week's concert saw Bella Zhao's beautiful rendition of Chopin's Prelude in B minor. But, it also featured some much simpler, yet still hugely charming, piano pieces by our younger children. Other stars of the future sang or played the violin, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and trombone. Also debuting at the concert was our new Graduate Music Assistant, Abigail Ingram- already, our Director of Music, Adam Baum, is delighted with the contribution she is making to the musical life of Bancroft's. Two thirds of the Prep children have music lessons in school. It's an area where they can excel and derive great enjoyment and, ultimately, it can result in a place in the Royal Academy of Music's Saturday School or the National Children's Choir as it has for some of our young Bancroftians. An incredible musical journey can start with a single step: the step up onto the tiny stage of a Music and Munch concert!

Joe Layburn

ARGENTINIAN BAND

We were delighted to watch a wonderful band and a fantastic choir from St Andrew's School. They had come all the way from Argentina and were doing a tour of England. Their band started the show, playing a wide variety of instruments: orchestral instruments such as saxophones, trombones and violins mixed with drums and, more modern instruments, like electric guitars. The music they played was varied, covering pop, samba and classical. The song "The Chicken" had the whole school dancing along! Next came the choir. Sometimes they sang in their native Spanish, sometimes in English and, in one song, they made whistling noises like birds! We had great fun watching their performance. Thank you to the St Andrew's School band and choir for coming to visit!

William Hughes 1SS

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

Business has been booming for our Prep 2 Enterprise club; the children worked around the clock to ensure supply met demand of their fantastic collection of 45 Bancroft's trading cards! All pupils have had a chance to buy up to 30 cards each, and the playground has been busy with daily trades and games of Top Trumps. The Prep 2s had to wait patiently to get their hands on some cards, but they were rewarded by the release of gold or holographic limited editions in later packs.

It has been by far our best venture to date - at the time of writing the team have already made over £1500 in profit and this figure is set to rise further when pupils have their final chance to buy extra packs or individual cards during the last week of half term. All money raised will be going to charity; a huge thank you to all those involved and to our parents for their fantastic support.

Alex Adams



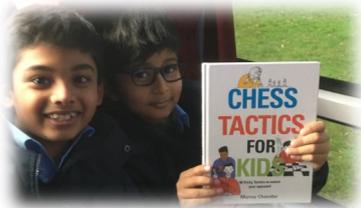
WEAR A HAT!

Last term, in the words of Mr Layburn, staff and pupils decided to 'get ahead and wear a hat!' This was to raise money for Phab; there are 150 Phab Clubs across England and Wales, that enable children with disabilities to get together with friends and family for all kinds of activities and social events and one of those groups meets in our Prep Hall each week. There were all types of hats, including lots of festive ones, and we managed to raise £310.30 for this fantastic charity. Well done everyone, you looked great!

Sarah Strong

CHESS CHAMPS

As we gathered on the gravel by The Tower at 8:00am on Saturday 1st February, there was already a real sense of achievement in the air before the Eastern Round of the EPSCA Championship had even begun! When Mr d'Costa joined us in May 2018, his ambition for Bancroft's Prep was to begin playing in the English Primary Schools' Championship, and here we were; bright eyed, bushy tailed, armed with books about tactics and ready to go. We took five teams with us; two U11 and three U9. Having only attended one much smaller tournament before, we were unsure what to expect. We arrived to find Moulsham Junior School in Chelmsford thronging with excited chess players from all over the region. Players were to play five rounds of games, each round beginning at the same time. It was very exciting to find one's table, sit down opposite one's opponent, shake hands and let the games commence. At this point, the hall became very quiet as the children focused on the important matter in hand. Between each game, the children returned to their 'base camp' for a spot of last minute coaching from Mr d'Costa or a run around outside. During the day it was clear we were performing reasonably well but it is hard to keep a handle on everything that is going on when you have thirty teams playing at any one time. After a long day of play, all competitors gathered in the hall for the results – and how proud Mr Layburn, Mr d'Costa and I were.....GOLD for our brilliant U9A team and BRONZE for our U9Cs! In a very competitive U11 category, our equally magnificent U11A team brought home a BRONZE medal. Four out of our five teams qualified for the semi-finals, which will take place in North Wales in June, and all five teams played superbly all day with five of our children winning every match they played. I would like to thank all the children who took part, all the children who play chess regularly at school and Mr d'Costa, Mr Lee and Mr Bukojemski for making this happen.



Lisa Life



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

It was wonderful to bring the Prep and Senior Schools together in an extensive Design Technology project last term. The Prep 1s were studying 'Force' in Science and we were also studying 'Moving Vehicles' as a project for DT, so we thought it would be wonderful if we could do a cross-curricular activity where children could design, make and race their own cars to fulfil all objectives. With the expert help of the DT department at the Senior School: Aron Whitbread, Marc Rogers, David Fernandez and Simon Newbury, we did just that. Over the course of three weeks, the children designed, sawed, sanded, drilled, painted and sprayed. They then raced their cars, learning about force and friction. They followed up with a written report, reflecting on all they had learnt. They learnt about health and safety in the workshop and the different tools involved in the process. So successful was the project, it caught the attention of the Bloodhound LSR team who tweeted about the quality of the cars. A big thank you to all involved in making it happen; I think we have some engineers in the making!

Sarah Strong

MUSIC AND MUNCH



Friday saw the return of Music & Munch: Bancroft's Prep's very own lunchtime concert series. This concert displayed the talents of sixteen members of the Prep, taking the audience to France, Egypt and the fantasy world of *Hushabye Mountain*. All children performed exceptionally well, with pieces from recent and upcoming grade exams, as well as personal favourites, with Friday's performances reflecting the recent outstanding ABRSM results. One of the performers was Su, from the Alphas, who played *Bransle De La Torch* by Praetorius, a piece which gained her a Distinction in her recent Grade 3 piano exam. A particular highlight was a lively duet of *Oh When the Saints* by Ilyas on trumpet and Jayden on trombone. Another excellent performance came from our very first Music 'Star of the Week', Sienna, who performed *Comptine D'un Autre Ete* from the film *Amelie* completely off-copy, making it look effortless whilst doing so. The children were an example of the high standard of music we see every day at Bancroft's and they made both parents and staff very proud – well done to all!

Abigail Ingram

L'OREAL CENTRE VISIT

On Wednesday, 1SS visited the L'oreal Young Scientist Centre at The Royal Institution to continue our study of solids, liquids and gases. We were accompanied by Mrs Ware and Mrs Strong and some parents. Our session was led by a really nice lady called Dani, who tested us on our knowledge of science equipment such as measuring beakers, pipettes, spatulas and so on. She also made sure we understood about safety in the lab. Then another lady named Liz, took over and showed us into the lab. It was a massive room with seven or eight tables, surrounded with chairs and lots of interesting scientific equipment. We had to wear a white coat with L'Oreal embroidered on it and gloves. I felt like a real scientist! Firstly, we worked out how to find acid. We needed to know what a good shampoo would compose of and how we like it to work. After experimenting, we had a very tasty lunch break. Soon after that, we went back to the lab and made our very own shampoos. You could choose a fragrance and colour for them. I remember colouring mine blue with a dab of yellow, which turned out to be a lime green. In the end, all of 1SS's shampoos smelt wonderful. I enjoyed working in a real lab where Sir David Attenborough and Michael Faraday had discovered things. Every Prep 1 class has visited this half-term. Sophie Lee 1SS



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

We were very lucky to have a visit from some MFL students in the Senior School. They came to give our pupils taster lessons in Spanish and Russian and this enabled our Prep children to know what other language options there were at Bancroft's Senior School other than French and German. Through games, puzzles, drama activities and worksheets, the pupils learnt some basic phrases and we were surprised how quickly they picked things up! The sixth formers, who wanted experience in teaching, admitted they found being a teacher, even for an hour, was hard work. Patience, energy and enthusiasm are needed, and some were quite exhausted by the end! Спасибо and gracias to Mrs Whalley for organising the experience. Everyone had so much fun. Sarah Strong

YOUNG VOICES



On the night of a thousand mini torches, the London O2 came alive to the combined voices of 8200 children from all over London and the Home Counties. The evening was a huge success. We had the most wonderful seats for a superior eye line to the stage and we could hear, see and feel everything that was provided for us. The Prep 1 children sang and danced brilliantly, led by the incredible 'Urban Strides'. The number of words to digest is a feat of learning. Medley upon medley flowed through the evening, from 'Oklahoma!' to a Queen Medley not to mention 'The Little Shop of Horrors'. It was imaginatively produced, it seemed effortless. Our star turns were a sensation, from the up and coming 'Ruti' (winner of The Voice 2018), to the established country duo, 'The Shires' and to the legend that is Tony Hadley. What a voice! The audience loved him and so did Mrs Life! When he sang 'That's Life' and emerged through the audience, the O2 erupted. That was just the start from him and towards a rollicking finale by Queen, all the guests, the YV Band and the combined Young Voices nearly raised the substantial roof of the O2. It was a moving and wonderful conclusion to a great concert and, well done, YV, for making it happen. The children were a credit to the school and despite a long and tiring day; they did not falter once. It was a pleasure to take them. Roll on YV 2021. Will Tony be back next year?

Adam Baum



SWIMMING SUCCESS

Take your marks...Prep swimmers are on fire! On 11th November the Prep swimmers took part in the London Swimming League (North Heats) with heats taking place across London involving 22 schools. The Bancroft's team put in strong swims and have progressed to the 'B' Final in March. Some incredibly tight races against New Hall meant they finished ahead on points with the pupils putting in an impressive win against Highgate. The annual U11 Prep School Gala took place at Forest on 21st January. The gala showcases the standard of swimming across many of the schools. The atmosphere is always electric and it is wonderful to see so many parents coming along to support. The Bancroft's team are supportive and encouraging of both their teammates and friends from other schools. This creates a fantastic atmosphere for the swimmers to compete in. We placed first in three of the individual events and both of the boys' relays, with the girls placing second in their relays. Bancroft's were triumphant this year winning overall with 133 points and Forest placing 2nd with 125pts. Congratulations to first place finishers: Blake Goodfellow, Dhiya Venkateswaran, the boys' relay teams and a special mention to Emma Diebel who set a new gala record for the 25m Front Crawl in 16.67 seconds. Every swim counts and the swimmers have learned that milliseconds make a difference. All 47 members of the swimming team have contributed to the team's success. Well done!

Susan Cheshire



HOCKEY

The boys have swapped rugby for hockey this term and have had the opportunity to improve their stick skills and team play has been grasped with both hands. The excitement of heading to Ashton Playing Fields on the bus is clear to see each time and the sessions have been very productive. Once again, all the boys will have an opportunity to represent the school in a competitive fixture and what we have seen so far has demonstrated great commitment, sportsmanship and collaboration.

David Archer

NETBALL NEWS

The girls have swapped the astro pitches at Ashton for the netball courts at West Grove this term. In only a few weeks they have played numerous matches against Brentwood Ursuline, Gatehouse, St Aubyn's and St Cedd's. We have been really pleased with the turnout at netball practice and credit is due to all girls for their commitment to lunchtime sessions too. Next term sees our Alpha girls travelling to Chelmsford to play New Hall and our Prep 2s will be focussing on the annual Bancroft's Netball tournament taking place in March.

Hayley Pegg



HOUSE COMPETITION

A 'Dancing Queen' (#17) came through the 'Garden Gate' (#8) 'Knocked at the Prep School door' (#4) and offered to host a game of House Bingo. This led to a 'Time for Fun' (#41) and the pupils 'Asking for More' (#34). A lovely morning was spent with the whole school playing a game of bingo in the Prep Hall. This was an exciting House Competition and a first for Bancroft's Prep. Everyone got into the spirit of the game, including our resident Bingo aficionado, Mrs Allen! To date, the pupils have all had the opportunity to represent their House in a variety of different tasks; Tug of War, House Captain's Challenge, Hockey, Rugby and Football competitions have been on the agenda. This term our chess masters, skippers, drama kings and queens, as well as hockey and netball players will all have the chance to showcase their skills. There is everything to play for as we head into the next half-term of House events, so support your House all you can!

David Archer

HOUSE	TOTAL
HEREFORD	108
KNIGHTON	102
MANOR	128
MONKHAMS	118