



It's important to savour the moment and we are certainly still enjoying the fact that the Independent Schools Inspectorate found us to be 'doubly excellent' in their report- the highest accolade they can award. At the same time, we do not intend to sit on our laurels and I think it's important that we reflect on the recommendation for improvement ISI included amongst all the praise. The inspectors said we should 'ensure that the school's enrichment programme enables all pupils to develop an understanding that education goes beyond traditional academic outcomes.' The inspectors could see that we are placing a great emphasis on the children's character development, not least through new subjects which we have included in our curriculum this year such as Outdoor Learning and Philosophy. We are a highly academic school and our children can be expected to go on to get outstanding results in their GCSEs and A Levels. But future employers will be looking for more than certificates: they will need confident, well-balanced young adults who can look them in the eye when they talk to them, who can cope with failure as well as success, who can collaborate with others as well as working independently. For this to happen, we in the Prep School need to be educating 'the whole child', giving them formative experiences and developing life skills both inside the classroom and outside. It is probably true to say that some of our children feel that real learning takes place in a Maths lesson but not in a bush craft session, or when performing in a play. We need to help them understand that everything they do here is part of their education and there for them to draw upon throughout their lives. It is their whole Prep School experience which will help them to grow into successful, rounded, happy adults. That is our wish for them and our hope for all their futures.

Joe Layton

## DR KATHY WESTON

Last month we were very lucky to welcome Dr Kathy Weston to our school. Her talk, *Raising A Resilient Child*, was delivered to about 90 of our parents and was extremely well received. Kathy's mission is to give every parent and teacher the tools they need to develop children into young adults who are self-confident, self-sufficient and full of self-worth; curious about the world and passionate about learning and digitally skilled and digitally resilient. Parenting can often feel like the hardest job in the world and it was great to receive so many evidence-based tips to help us on our way to unlocking our children's potential and going some way to ensuring they thrive both socially and academically. Many thanks to those of you who attended.

Lisa Life

## LILLE TRIP

Parents and pupils of Prep 1 had a traditional French experience when they spent a weekend in Lille this half-term. Under blue skies, we travelled by ferry to Calais and took the coach direct to Lille. Over two days we explored the cobbled streets of this historic city which was like a miniature Paris, but with a Flemish vibe. Many chose to explore on foot, others by city bus, and some in a cool 2CV- très chic! Some stayed in Old Lille and visited Palais des Beaux-Arts, La Citadelle de Lille and the traditional cafes around Grand Place. Others ventured a little further afield to Marche de Wazemmes or Parc Zoologique. It was great to hear the children asking for directions in French or purchasing produce in the many boulangeries and crêperies. As always, the children were superb ambassadors for our school and immersed themselves in French culture, trying new French delicacies and finding out about the history of this vibrant charming city. It was an extra pleasure having the parents join us; we really enjoyed their company and got to know them all a little more. Jusqu'à la prochaine fois...

Sarah Strong





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## WINDSOR CASTLE

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On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May we were lucky enough to visit Windsor Castle and the Queen was actually in residence! Windsor Castle was originally built in 1070 by William the Conqueror. The site had all the basic needs: forests for hunting; the river for water and it was on a hill. The castle had four parts: the keep where the king would have lived; the moat to close down the enemy; the bailey where people who worked at the castle lived and the motte to make it harder for enemies to attack. Windsor has changed a lot since then. The bailey has been extended and there are now grand state apartments where the Queen lives and entertains her guests. We had a great day exploring the castle!

James ALD



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## CHESS CHAMPS

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On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May, Mr Hall and I took an U9 and an U11 chess team to Westminster Under School to compete in the London Zonal of the National Primary Schools' Chess Championship. With 38 teams and all their coaches, teachers and parents, it was quite overwhelming on arrival but we soon got into our stride. Each team plays 5 rounds. Silence is called for as the clocks are set for 25 minutes and you can feel the tension in the air! The U11s battled hard losing by a whisker to Aldro, Highgate and Sevenoaks; forcing a draw against Devonshire House and beating St Cedd's. The U9s found NLCS, St Anthony's and Newton Prep to be hard opponents but beat Rhodes Avenue and Devonshire House handsomely. All the children gained valuable experience from the day and played brilliantly, with standout performances from Frank 2AA and Alexander AAK.

Lisa Life



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## PREP 1 MUSEUM VISIT

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On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April the Prep 1s visited the Sir John Soane's Museum. Sir John Soane was said to have collected over 53,000 pieces of Roman, Greek and Egyptian architecture and drawing pieces. One of these artefacts included a real sarcophagus that once had King Seti I mummy in it; thankfully it was empty when we visited! When we arrived at the museum, we were split into three groups: one looked at the different artefacts Sir John had collected; the second group learned about his life and his house. The third group learned about the structure of Ancient Greek temples and had a go at designing one. My favourite part of the museum tour was the picture room, which Sir John Soane had built himself to hang his artwork; it had a very clever design that opened up to a secret room which housed even more paintings. Overall, I really enjoyed our trip to the Sir John Soane's Museum and would recommend it to others.

Imaan 1KY



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## HEAD FOR THE DAY!

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The hard work started as soon as I arrived at school and had to host assembly with Mr Layburn. I handed out medals and trophies and led the singing. Mr Layburn's office was also mine for the day and I was allowed to invite 11 of my friends. We had the best surprise when we walked in and Mr Layburn had left treats for us to enjoy whilst sitting in his chair and playing on his computer. Good job I had given Mr Layburn my order for snacks the day before! At lunchtime the 12 of us had a special table with orange and apple juice and we were first to go up to lunch before any of the teachers or pupils and Mrs Allen made sure no one went in before me. I had a lot of attention as Head Teacher and I could get used to that! My mum said that I had the biggest grin on my face when she came to pick me up - it was the best day ever!

Adam ALD



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## CONSERVATION DAY

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Bancroft's Prep was a myriad of earth tones as the children wore their own clothes for Conservation Day. The day was about helping our local environment and raising money for our Conservation Project that the Prep School has been undertaking down at Lambourne End. The pupils made butterfly and bird feeders out of recycled milk bottle tops and toilet rolls respectively, which can entice some more wildlife to our gardens. They designed secret gardens to transport them to a place of relaxation and adventure and, in the afternoon, the Imperial Bird of Prey Academy came into school to display their wonderful British birds. The birds flew around the hall above the children's heads; it was so exciting. The leaders spoke about the habitats of the birds and what they need for the birds to thrive in the countryside. This linked well with why the tree and hedge project is so important for local wildlife. Meanwhile, our very own Mr Hall walked for 24 hours covering 120km and averaging 5km per hour. He raised thousands of pounds for our project. The support was incredible and Aadi and Arnav in the Alphas actually walked all lunch time with Mr Hall. Parents also joined in after school either walking with Mr Hall or talking with staff about the project. Some brought Mr Hall a Lucozade which was much appreciated! It was great to have such a community feel. The biggest credit of all must go to the Bancroft's pupils who have now raised £6,300,68 and have planted 185 trees in our local community. This really has been a labour of love and an appreciation of the outdoors and our local environment. This project will continue and will hopefully be enjoyed by many in years to come.

Chris Hall



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## BIKEABILITY

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From the 23<sup>rd</sup> April to the 1<sup>st</sup> May, five fun and informative sessions were led by Louie and Claire; two excellent Bikeability instructors. Over 14,000 cyclists per year are killed or seriously injured by not being wary enough on the roads. In our Bikeability sessions, we learned how to cycle confidently on the road and be alert at all times. Armed with our bikes, helmets and some water, we can now ride on a variety of different roads and keep ourselves safe. Thank you to Mrs Life for organising the sessions and to the teachers who came in at weekends in order for the course to take place.

Sienna 2CP

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## JUBILEE ART

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We held an Art Competition in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The pupils were asked to design a poster to represent an era of the Queen's reign. Posters flooded in and there was a vast selection, from popular culture to current affairs including other Jubilee celebrations and sporting achievements. It was so hard to judge but we chose 15 winners whose entries were particularly detailed and unique. These will all be put together into a timeline and showcased at a Redbridge Library this summer. Not only that, the runners up received a badge and a certificate in Presentation Assembly. The winners had the honour of meeting the Mayor of Redbridge at Redbridge Town Hall to present their posters to him. He showed them the treasures of the vault and the Council Chamber. They had a chocolate picnic in his office whilst discussing their community efforts and what Redbridge means to them! It was a very special occasion and one I feel the children will treasure forever.

Sarah Strong



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## THE TEMPEST

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The Betas watched The Young Shakespeare Company perform *The Tempest*. There was no stage, no backdrop and only few actors and yet the amazing props, such as Antonio's dagger and Prospero's binoculars, transported us to Prospero's island. It amazed me how the actors could know their parts so well, yet they each played three or four characters! They also changed costumes very quickly and always had something to distract you while they did so. One of the other things I liked was how everybody in the audience could take part and act as the storm or cry for help. Everybody was included in the performance, even if they weren't on stage. I loved the scene when Ariel disguised himself as an evil spirit, reminding the courtiers of their sins, because it gave a sense of mystery. How the props were set out for that scene was also very clever. For example, the actor who played Ariel quickly put his costume on and then lay on the table with his mask in the corner of it. The narrating (when the actors explained the progress of the story) was very clear. How Ariel repeatedly sucked his cheek in and did a double wink was particularly funny. I thought this was an excellent performance and helped me to understand the play even more.

Julia BNB

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## PA EVENTS

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It was a busy Spring term for the Bancroft's Parents Association. The popular *Comedy & Curry Evening* returned after 2 years and was a huge success, with tickets sold out within hours. Four fabulous comedians and the host entertained the audience and a delicious three-course Indian meal was served. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and wonderful to finally socialise again! Next came the Spring Fayre. We were fortunate to have fantastic weather for a fun-packed day and we were delighted to welcome a large number of the Bancroft's community; it was a roaring success! The PA, with the help of parent volunteers, were able to offer a variety of indoor stalls and activities including a Spring treasure hunt, arts and crafts stalls, face and nail painting, glitter tattoos, lavender bag making and homegrown plants. The Prep 2 children also ran stalls showcasing their talents selling handmade jewellery, Mother's Day and Easter cards as well as setting up a Scalextric track, gaming activities and other traditional games to challenge the visitors to raise funds for the school's conservation project; the Prep 2 children donated an incredible £642! On the field, Miss Kelly kept the energy levels high with sack racing, egg and spoon races, bean bag and hoop throwing and some Prep 2 children held penalty shoot-outs. Food and drinks stalls tickled the taste buds with a sweet shop; a hugely popular Easter egg tombola; a crêpe stall and popular bubble tea and Pimm's stall. Visitors were entertained throughout the day by musical performances from the Prep band, 'The Prepettes' led by Ms Tarrant; the Beta street dancing troupe (led by Streetz Ahead Dance Academy) and the Chingford Morris dancing troupe brought the event to a close by getting the Prep staff and families up and dancing! It was a very special Bancroft's community event! The Spring term came to an end with the Prep children enjoying a performance of *The Secret Garden* sponsored by the PA. This term saw a wine tasting event in May and we are looking forward to our family camping event in June.

Sumeeta Dhir PA

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## SPORT UPDATE

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The cricket season is officially upon us and we have had a very busy few weeks with competitive fixtures against Chigwell, Loyola, Brentwood, St. Cedd's and Heath Mount for the Betas, Prep 1s and Prep 2s. These fixtures have been differentiated to ensure that all pupils are challenged according to their ability and it is clear to see that this has resulted in the pupils playing meaningful cricket, developing their skills and most importantly playing with smiles on their faces! A particular shout out to the Betas who have done very well in their first competitive cricket fixtures – it has been great to see them descend upon West Grove en masse for the last few Thursdays. All in all, it has been a 'wicket' half-term of cricket and we look forward to much more!

The Prep 1s enjoyed a tennis fixture against Woodford Green Prep School in the penultimate week of term. It was great to see the pupils work so well with their opponents to organise their fixtures, decide on rules and problem solve throughout the games. The games were

played in blistering heat, but this did not stop the effort levels from our pupils – well done Prep 1s!

And finally, a gentle reminder that Prep Sports Day is scheduled to take place on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**. Parents will be invited into the school between 1.00pm and 3.00pm where they will have an opportunity to see the finals of the 300m, as well as seeing their child running in a 75m sprint and a team relay event. The PA will be selling refreshments after the event and parents will be invited to stay on at school until 5pm. We hope to see you there!

David Archer and Sasha Kelly

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## A FURRY FRIEND

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On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May we had two special visitors at Cubs: a dog called Jacob and his trainer. However, Jacob is no ordinary dog; he is in fact a guide dog in training! Things that people like you and me think of as 'normal', may be a huge challenge for people who are either partially or fully blind. That is why dogs like Jacob are being trained to help make blind people's lives easier and more enjoyable. Most people underestimate just how smart guide dogs can be; they can be just as clever as us humans. They can even tell the owner when there are steps by stepping down one step and stopping so that the owner can feel the angle of the dog and follow the dog down the steps. This is because the dog has a handle instead of a leash. After we had been introduced to Jacob and his trainer, we played two games: one involving grabbing a sock out of a bag and then trying to find its pair with your eyes closed. I found this surprisingly hard but, something that helped us find matching pairs of socks, was to feel the different textures and lengths of the socks. In the second game we had to apply our knowledge of a coin's shape and size as we were challenged to find pairs of coins. This proved to be slightly tricky, but Jacob wasn't going to let himself miss out on all the excitement! He came to sniff out what was causing all the buzz. To support dogs becoming guide dogs to help the blind, you can donate a small amount of money to the Guide Dogs' Association.

Hsien Wen 1SE

