



The older you get the faster time seems to pass. I well remember the feeling that the summer holidays would last for ever when I was at primary school. Now the months and the years seem to whizz by- can we really be half way through 2022? We've recently welcomed to the school a new set of parents whose children will be joining us as Alphas in September. Obviously, these children will grow so much, both physically and emotionally, over the next four years and have so many exciting and enriching experiences ahead of them. But I suspect their parents will find, like those of our Prep 2 leavers, that the time passes extraordinarily quickly. A cricket match involving some of the sixth form was taking place on the field during the New Alpha Parents' Evening and I was able to catch up with several boys, now all six foot or taller, who'd started out in the Prep School. All of them had turned into fine young men who any parent would be proud of; all of them looked at me strangely when I said it felt to me like yesterday that they were wide-eyed new Alphas. There's a character in the Joseph Heller book *Catch 22* who tries only to do boring things, or things he dislikes, in the hope that this will make time pass more slowly. That's possibly a bit extreme but it's true to say that the children will benefit from some unstructured time during the holiday, as well as the action-packed activities that may be planned for them. Far from being a bad thing, periods of boredom, where children have to rely on themselves for entertainment, are essential to a healthy childhood. They can also lead them to be more creative and imaginative. However you and your children spend the summer, I wish you a happy and enjoyable time. I also hope that it doesn't pass too quickly!

Joe Layton

DRAPERS' CONCERT

The Drapers' Concert proved to be one of the highlights of the year. The variety and quality were a joy to behold. Our five brave soloists were amazing, with Ryan and Xavier demonstrating how music can move the soul. Lily, Alex and Shalen played beautifully. This concert was a wonderful opportunity to display instrumental talent and, with the orchestra and flute and guitar group, there was a lot to celebrate. The audience enjoyed 'Sweet Caroline'. Messrs MacManus, McGee and Spence do a wonderful job in coaching these groups. The concert concluded with what the school does best...singing! 'There's a Power in the Music' and 'Building' both build to an amazing crescendo. The finale of 'Floreat Bancroftia' is truly inspiring and another generation of Bancroft's students take this song with them for life. Finally, I'd like to thank Miss Akroyd for the support she has given me and the Music Department over the past two years. We have flourished because of her. Her work ethic, skill, and talent have been a bedrock of her time at the school.

Adam Baum

A PEAK EXPERIENCE!



After the excitement of our production of *Matilda*, we set out on our five-day trip to the Peak District. We arrived and quickly had lunch and then swiftly moved on to two activities, which were shelter building and bread making. Both were great fun. On Tuesday, we had an adventurous day including a rope bridge, abseiling and climbing. They were brilliant, however, the walks in between were the most challenging thing we did during the whole week! On Wednesday, we did canoeing and caving. In the caves you sometimes had to squeeze through very small gaps, but we all made it through. During the canoeing we raced with the other canoes, tying the two canoes together so we could all fit in. We also jumped in the water and splashed the teachers. Everyone was dreading Thursday because it was time for the big walk up Mam Tor. It was hot and steep (even though Mr Paramour said it would be a *gradual* climb) but luckily, we stopped for ice cream on the way back. When Friday came, no one wanted to go, but it was time to return to our families and tell them all about the trip. We did many activities, including some tasks that some of us had never tried before, but our experiences weren't just all about the activities, the trip was also about learning about each other, getting along with our roommates and learning to persevere and be resilient during activities that were outside our comfort zones. On the topic of rooms, we would have room inspections every day. Some people would try to bribe the teachers with sweets to give them a better score! The scores were announced every evening and sometimes certain rooms were 'named and shamed' - it was very funny. It was an amazing trip and we did not want it to end. Thank you to all the teachers who came with us and made it such a memorable experience.

Arielle 2TP and Lucy 2AA



HYDE HALL

On Thursday 9th June, the Alphas visited RHS Hyde Hall near Chelmsford to learn more about plants. We arrived and had an introduction from Louise, the education officer, where she talked about how much of our food comes from plants. Then we split into groups and did various activities: we planted cress, made some seed pod rubbings, did an observational painting of some flowers and made a model of a sycamore seed that could fly like a helicopter. After lunch, we went out into the garden and collected beautiful leaves and petals that had fallen down. We went to a small wooded area and made bookmarks and pressed some of our flower petals. Then we had a go at making a bird's nest. Since birds build their nests with their beaks, we had to use clothes pegs and not our hands! Finally, we went to the 'Global Garden' to look at fruits and vegetables growing. We saw a plant called 'mint lemonade' and it smelled just like lemonade! We had a really exciting and fun day.

Anya and Savanna ALD



MAKE A WISH



For my 9th birthday my younger sister Delia and I had a joint trampolining party. Instead of receiving presents, we asked people coming to the party and our family to make a donation on our Just Giving page for the *When You Wish Upon a Star* charity. We were very proud to raise a massive £1,000! The charity grants wishes to children who are very unwell and takes the children on trips to places like Disneyland. Delia and I hope that these wishes will make some children feel happier and we hope they enjoy the trips.

Basil BCB

RAF MUSEUM

The RAF Museum was fantastic. We got to see a lot of fighter planes and even did some coding. We used a program called Micro-bit. First, we made a reaction speed test. We made the code so that it would time us on when we saw a light in milliseconds. There were also different 'ranks' based on your reaction speed. We also made compasses using this type of coding and we transferred the code into an actual micro bit so that we could walk around the hangars with it to find different planes. After lunch, we visited hangars 3, 4 and 5; these were where most of the planes were kept. We even got to see the cockpits of some and, with one, we could go inside! We then went to the gift shop, where there were a variety of things to buy, from holographic pictures to sweets. Overall, this was a fantastic trip and I would love to go back.

Ruhaan 1SE



INSTITUT DE FRANÇAIS

On Tuesday 7th June 2022, the Betas travelled to the Institut de Français in South Kensington to attend a workshop on the film *Ernest et Célestine*. We then had the opportunity to watch the film at the Ciné Lumière. The supervisors told us to get into pairs in the workshop. They mostly spoke French during our time there. After we had completed and marked some worksheets, which included vocabulary we would come across in the film, they showed an episode and trailer of *Ernest et Célestine*. This wonderful series and movie are about a mouse and a bear who both lost their way until they met each other and became a family. It was in French but there were English subtitles. We had lunch in the grounds of the Natural History Museum which is close by.

Lily BSS

MATILDA



All the Prep 2s worked around the clock to put on our play: Matilda the Musical. We rehearsed from January all the way to the final show. It began with auditions for most characters; everyone really tried their best to impress the judges. We were filled with anticipation asking each other who they hoped to be and, although the announcement kept getting delayed, it only built



hype for the cast lists. Lots of people were nervous (I certainly was) but the judges took their time to sort out the best roles carefully and fairly for each of us. After the auditions, everyone was getting into character, learning lines and practising hilarious accents, plus all the many songs some had to sing. It was long and arduous but it was also fun and we got to see our friends in a new light. We had pupils who helped build props and then paint them too. Finally, the show opened on Monday 23rd May with Cast A and closed on Thursday 26th with Cast B. After the opening we all gained more confidence and it almost seemed natural. After all these weeks and months, we were finally performing it! It really helped seeing the audience smiling and laughing even though we were trying desperately to do the opposite in some scenes.



It truly was a fantastic experience for all of us, none of us will forget this play and it will hold a special place in our hearts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing teachers and choreographer John Hebden who helped to bring this production together.
Elise 2TP



A CREDIT TO US!

This year the credit winners were treated to a day out at Colchester Zoo. I saw many different animals, for example lemurs, red pandas, elephants and sea lions. It was an exciting experience and a unique opportunity to get closer to their animals. I had never seen a lemur in real life before and the cutest thing was seeing it eating. As I was walking around, I saw the lemurs mostly eating frozen beetroot. In the underwater tunnel, we saw how the sea lions swam as fast as the wind. Other groups saw red pandas and llamas, but we saw a little manta ray and many angelfish. A couple of fish looked like Dory from 'Finding Nemo'. There was an unusual fish that was a little ugly with its teeth sticking out. We saw penguins but they were brown and white. We then saw the 'Lost in Madagascar' exhibition and there were two tigers there. Later they were fighting. We saw two big brown elephants and they were so cute! So was the big chubby rhino! After that we had lunch and played in the play area. At lunch most of us played 'It' and there was an incredibly fun slide. We then went to the Safari Park and the lima walkthrough. Then I went to get bubble gum marshmallow ice-cream and I bought a beautiful tiger necklace and two squishies. Overall, the animals were so adorable, especially the lemurs and elephants. I loved Colchester Zoo! I would rate it 10/10!
Shotriya BCB



SPORTS DAY



Sports Day is one day of the school year when we come together as a community. Every year, new stars emerge and remind us of what hard work and dedication can achieve. Pupils, staff and spectators all play their part in what is one of the highlights of the school calendar. Spirits just could not be dampened, despite the clouds above, for this year's Sports Day. It started with the gruelling 600m races - well done to those Prep 1 and 2 pupils who showed great resilience to take on the challenge and try their best to run around our track as fast as they could twice! This was followed by a carousel of various sporting challenges, which pupils took part in, in a bid to earn points for their respective Houses. From rugby ball shuttles to bean bag target throwing and football dribbles, there really was something for everyone to take part and excel in! With the pupils' energy levels revitalised with muffins at the break, it was time to welcome the spectators (en masse it must be said) for the track races in the afternoon. It was louder than a Saturday afternoon at the Emirates! The track races are always a spectacle and yet again, they did not disappoint this year. Every single pupil in the Prep School had the opportunity to grace the track in front of a crowd and there were so many close races that we had to refer to our very own VAR at the finish line on multiple occasions! As we all know, it is the taking part that counts the most, as is the fun and memories made. However, there was a winning House on the day and that was Manor so a huge congratulations to all of the pupils in this House! And well done to all of the pupils in the other Houses that made it a very competitive day! We would like to take this opportunity to thank the pupils who showed their true sporting potential during Sports Day, as well as the parents who were great spectators! A special mention must also go to the Parents' Association - their stalls created a real 'family' environment and it really was great to see parents, pupils and staff stay behind after Sports Day to socialise over pizza and Pimms!

Sasha Kelly

CRICKET FESTIVAL

This year saw the return of the 'Bancroft's 6-a-side Cricket Festival'. We entered three girls' teams and three boys' teams who really excelled in this home tournament - this is a testament to the time and effort they put in to cricket at school, as well as at their clubs outside of school. Our teams dominated our home tournament. The boys' A team, which was made up of Prep 1s, won the plate, narrowly defeating the Prep 2 team in the

process. Our girls' B team finished in third place and our A team won the tournament overall. A particular mention must go to Arani Bakeerathan who bowled a hat-trick on the way to this victory. It was a double header of tournaments for the U10 girls cricket team this week. Earlier in the week, they also attended a tournament at St Aubyn's where they qualified to represent Redbridge at the London Youth Games in Kwik Cricket later this month. It sure was a busy cricketing week for the girls, but they rose to each challenge coming away with victories in both tournaments. On behalf of the PE Department and our young cricketers, we would like to extend our gratitude to those parents who came along to cheer on our teams at the 'Bancroft's 6-a-side Cricket Festival' - it did not go unnoticed! It created a positive environment conducive to healthy competition which our pupils thrived in. We hope to see you again soon!

Sasha Kelly

HOUSE RESULTS

The end of the year is upon us and it only seems like yesterday that the children were on the netball hard court demonstrating their brute strength in the tug of war competition. 24 events later and children should reflect on the skills they have developed and experiences they have had. The House captains have been great role models for the rest of the students and really came into their own when they had to organise the House Dance competition as well as participating in the inaugural 'apple in a box' event. It is evident that the children have great pride when representing their House and the effort during the recent Aquathlon was a testament to this positive attitude. Throughout the year, we have seen the 'Big green Manor steam train' motor its way to victory in many of the competitions which has resulted in them retaining the trophy for a third year in a row. Between the other three Houses, it has remained tight all year and positions have changed frequently. The final results, based on stiff competition in skipping, mass shuttle relay, tug of war, chess, girls' hockey, rugby, 'Apple in a Box', dodgeball, benchball, teamwork, House Captains' Challenge, football, quiz, dance, boys' hockey, netball, rugby/netball, cricket, tennis, swim gala, the Aquathlon, reading, debating and Sports Day are:

MANOR	513
KNIGHTON	444
MONKHAMS	405
HEREFORD	402

