



Sweaty palms, dry mouth, heart pounding, mind blank - many adults will recognise these symptoms if they hear the very words '*public speaking*'! Even teachers who are used to talking to rooms full of children may feel anxious at the idea of addressing an audience of grown-ups. There's no getting away from it, many of us have to force ourselves to speak publicly and, if we absolutely must do it, we cling on to prepared speeches or prompt cards. Back in January, the Prep Staff were entertained and enthused by a guest speaker booked by Mr Paramour as part of his initiative to raise the profile of debating in the school. Professional coach Michael Hepburn had lots to say about formal debating as well as how to teach the skills of public speaking and constructive argument through any subject, from maths to music, from PE to poetry. His bottom line though was scarily simple. The best way to speak in public is ... to just do it! This year we've been delighted by the success of our school debating teams in the competition we hosted here as well as those run by other schools and outside organisations. Our children show great confidence when they are speaking as well as an impressive ability to listen and respond to the other side's arguments. But the thing I am most struck by is their willingness to '*just do it*' and that starts with even our youngest children in our Friday presentation assemblies. Anyone can be called on to come out to the front and speak into the mic about something they've done during the week. No notes, no preparation, just talking conversationally to a hall filled with three hundred people! And the amazing thing is, all the children are fantastic at it. They know they're amongst friends, they know they'll be well received, but they also know that public speaking is an extremely important life skill that improves the more you do it and we are determined to give them every opportunity to speak confidently and be heard.

*Joe Layton*

## MUSIC AND MUNCH

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, we presented our first lunchtime concert of the calendar year; what a delightful concert it was, with 18 performers from all four year groups of the School. The concert started in the PAC with two astonishing performances from two of our promising drummers, Anvik and Samuel. The volume was cranked up to the max and the audience of parents and 30 pupils clapped loudly. We all then proceeded to the Prep Hall and the concert followed in traditional fashion, featuring a full range of instruments, with eight pianists being our most popular. I am so thrilled at how our children prepare for these concerts with the support of our dedicated team of visiting teachers. It was brilliant

to hear talented vocalists, cellists, violin players, an oboist and a French Horn player. The audience in attendance, fuelled by tea and coffee, appeared to love the concert. I thank them for attending. Roll on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, which is the date of our next concert.

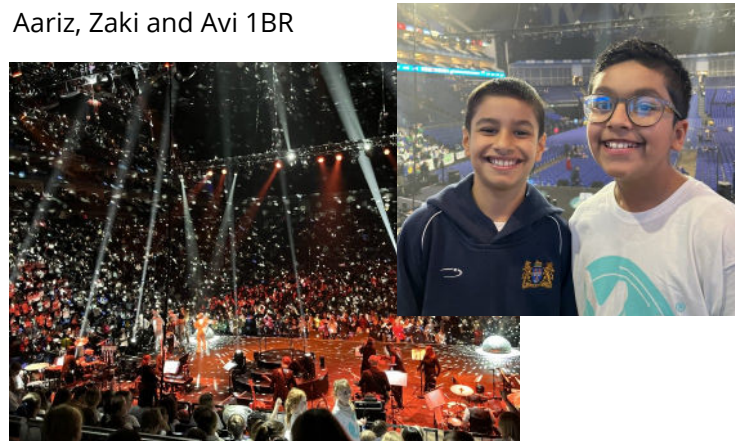
Adam Baum

## ROCKING THE 02!



Young Voices is not simply a children's choir concert, these are the largest children's choir concert's in the world! Choirs perform alongside 5,000-8,000 other children as a single choir to audiences of family and friends in large concert venues around the country. We were lucky enough to perform at London's O2 and it was an incredible experience. The day of Young Voices was one of the best - everyone was really excited. When we got into the Arena, we rehearsed for three hours, had a break and then it was the actual concert. We were a bit nervous but also really confident and it was just amazing. Our highlights include seeing one of our role models, MC Zani, perform with the incredible Beatbox Collective. Another highlight was the violinist Anna Phoebe, whose playing was just unbelievable. It was the most talented thing we have ever seen! Thank you to the teachers who organised this experience. We all had a great time and didn't want it to end!

Aariz, Zaki and Avi 1BR



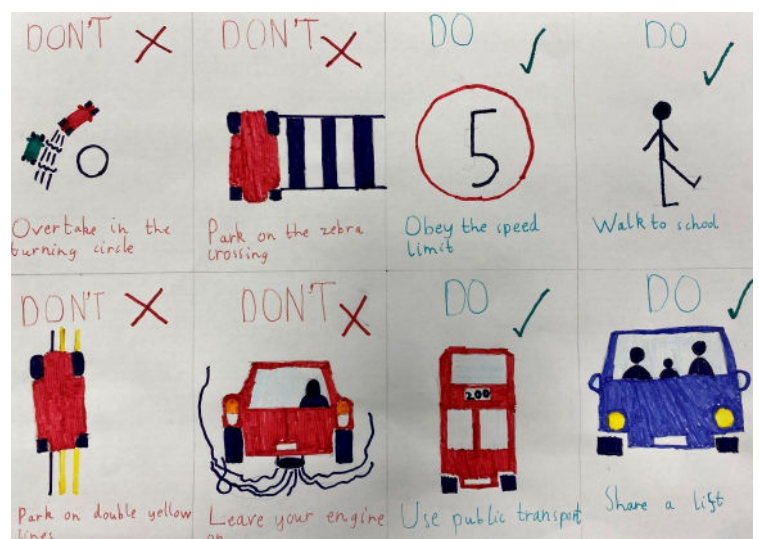
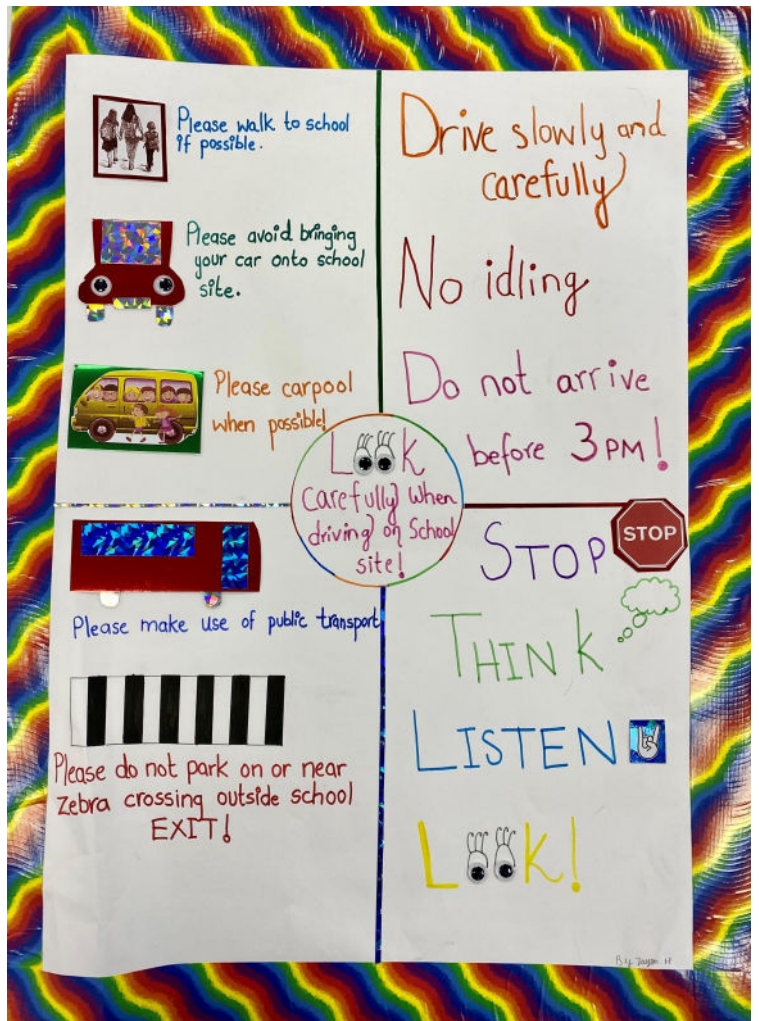
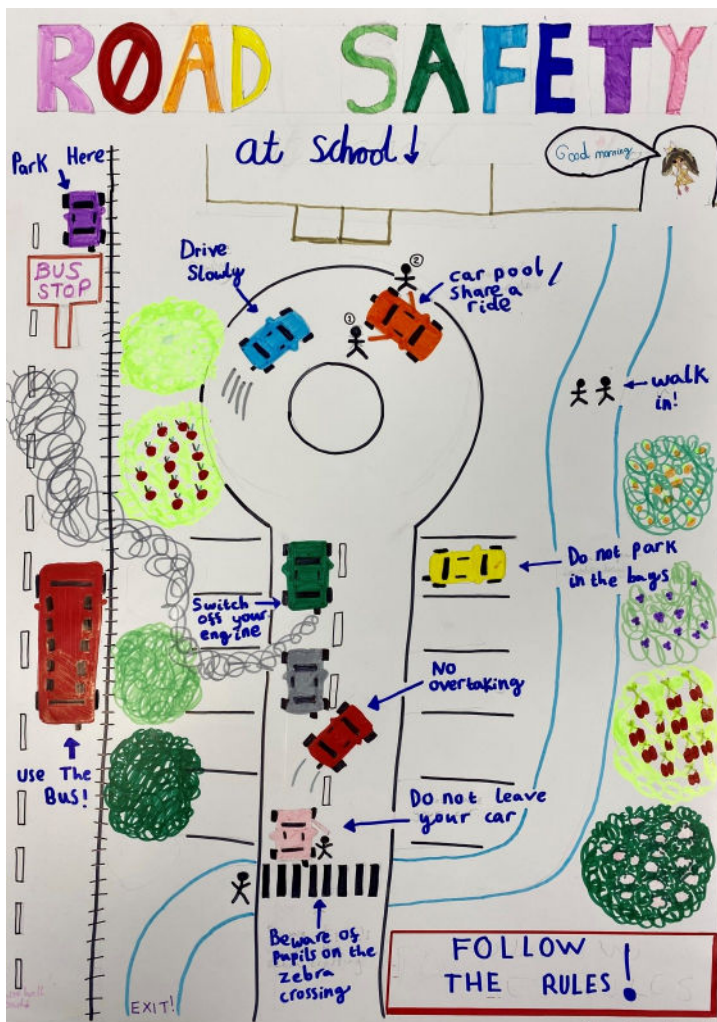


# ROAD SAFETY



Our PD topic this term is 'Keeping Safe' and we began by talking about road safety. Many of us will be familiar with the Green Cross Code, taught to generations of children and, whilst the Code has undergone several changes over the years, the basic principles have remained more or less the same. Traffic around our school is a perennial problem and whilst many parents are respectful of the guidelines we suggest that keep our pupils safe and our neighbours happy, frustrations persist. The Alphas took the matter into their own hands and you'll see from their wonderful posters that if they were in charge, we would be in a much better place!

Laura Dalton





## COMMUNITY ASSEMBLIES



We have had two important members of our community in to speak to the children in Phase Assemblies this term. The Upper Phase were addressed by Old Bancroftian Ronnie Henderson (2006-2011) who works for the Met Police and is based in Westminster. He explained what life is like protecting people on the streets of the Capital whilst also giving advice on how our pupils can keep themselves safe. He also gave them tips on online safety and introduced them to volunteer as Police Cadets where they can personally lead social action in their local area.



Rhiannon Evans, Outreach Officer for London's Air Ambulance, spoke to the Lower Phase about the wonderful work they do for the community. She gave fascinating facts about their job and it inspired great discussion; the children curious to know more. We aim to raise money for them this term as they have no funding from the government and need to replace two helicopters next year at a cost of £15,000,000! Some Alpha girls, Elise, Elizabeth and Isabelle in ALD were so inspired by Rhiannon's talk that they took the initiative to make some homemade, finger-knitted items that they sold to raise money. This is an excellent example of Bancroft's kindness in action and we are very proud of them for taking this lead. Hopefully, during fundraising events at school throughout the year, we can put a little more towards this important cause, but we are #upagainsttime!

Sarah Strong

## CICERO CUP

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, a team of Prep 2 children took part in a debating competition called the Cicero Cup at William Davis Primary School in Shoreditch. Jayden in 2CP, Cordelia in 2AA and Carina in 2CP participated in two debates. The first, which they had been able to prepare for before the competition, was on the motion *"This House would Abolish the Monarchy"* and the Bancroft's team were the proposition, which means they had to argue in favour of the motion. The second debate, for which they only had twenty minutes to prepare, was on the motion *"This House would Ban Junk Food for Children"* and this time they were the opposition. The whole team performed very well and, although we didn't win the competition this time, it felt like another important step forward as we aim to make debating and public speaking an ever-bigger part of life at the Prep School. A special mention must go to Carina who was recognised as the most impressive individual debater in the competition.

Tim Paramour



## PEDESTRIAN TRAINING

We recently went for a pedestrian walk as part of a Beta workshop. I found the whole experience both educational and fun. We were split into three groups before going out of school and into the local area. The workshop leaders were very experienced and we learnt a lot of handy tips on how to stay safe while out and about and crossing roads. They spoke about the need to stay focused and stand behind the kerb, for example, rather than casually cross while listening to music on headphones. They left us with cards, which we could carry in our pockets to check if we were crossing safely.

Irina BKY





## FIXTURE NEWS

An early first game of the season is always a good test and this half-term saw all of the Beta, Prep 1 and Prep 2 pupils play their first netball and hockey fixtures against St. Cedd's. The Games staff are always impressed with how very keen the pupils are to play and learn. They were all competitive matches, which really challenged our pupils and encouraged them to utilise the skills that they have been learning in their Games' lessons. What was also evident in these fixtures, was how much our pupils thrived on the social element of playing fixtures too - it is always great to see our pupils playing competitively but fairly and having pleasant interactions with the opposition. We look forward to many more netball and hockey fixtures next half-term.

## IAPS NETBALL

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, the U11 girls' netball team competed in an IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools) tournament at Felsted School. It was an extremely long but exhilarating day. We met at Spotty at 7.45am and before long, we arrived at Felsted School. Once there, we donned our bibs and started practising our passing and shooting before our first match. At 10.00am sharp, the group games started, and we began our 3 group stage matches. For the first 2 games, we were off to a promising start, winning 7-0 in both games. Unfortunately, in our 3rd game, after a close fought match against St. Albans High School for Girls, we lost 5-7. We were disappointed, but we still had a chance of being in the top 2 in our group, so that we could move on to the cup competition and hopefully win. After a long-awaited break, we played our last match of the morning against York House School. After playing York House, we were delighted and thrilled that we had made it past the group stage and was moving forward onto the cup competition. After lunch, we got ready to play one of the best teams in the tournament: North London Collegiate School. We were very nervous going into the match and, after a very intense game, we lost 3-8. Unfortunately, because of the result, we had been knocked out of the competition. Regardless of the score, we had a fantastic time and it was a great opportunity to compete against the best netballing schools in our region.

Lily 2CP



## IAPS BOYS' HOCKEY

The boys were thriving at the opportunity to play in what is a prestigious hockey qualifier tournament. A win, draw and a loss in the group stages saw the boys qualify for the quarter finals of the Plate competition in the afternoon. It was a very close match and one that required the boys to play their best hockey. At full time, it was a draw which meant the match would be decided on penalty flicks. Credit to those boys who demonstrated risk-taking and bravery to take a penalty, knowing that this could be the difference between going out of the tournament or progressing into the semis. These qualifiers are always won and lost on fine margins and, unfortunately, this was in the form of an inaccurate penalty flick. Regardless of the result, it was a day that the boys enjoyed and they learnt a lot from the experience of playing in what was a very competitive tournament.

## #LETGIRLSPLAY

After an incredible summer that saw England become European Champions, what better time to #LetGirlsPlay. By 2024, The FA's goal is for girls to have the same football opportunities as boys in schools and clubs. #LetGirlsPlay is a campaign to drive change, showing that football can be played by girls. It is bringing together a growing community of people of all genders, ages and backgrounds who want to champion equal access for girls, helping to create resilient young girls who will be a force for good in all local communities. On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (International Women's Day), the Biggest EVER Football Session is back! Following our success last term in the Redbridge Girls Football Tournament, our Prep 1/Prep 2 girls' football team have been invited to be a part of the East London Celebration event on this day @Frenford FC.

Please note these other opportunities:

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** – our Alpha and Beta girls' football team will play a football fixture here at Bancroft's against St. Edmund's.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March** – our Prep 1 and Prep 2 girls' football team will play a football fixture here at Bancroft's against St. Edmund's.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – Alpha and Beta girls' football club after school – skills, drills and match thrills.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – Prep 1 and Prep 2 girls' football club after school - skills, drills and match thrills.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – our Prep 1 and Prep 2 girls' football team will play a football fixture away to Woodford Green Prep School.

A gentle reminder that **'Football for All'** club runs every Friday after school (Alpha/Beta: 3.10pm-4.10pm, Prep 1/ Prep 2: 3.30pm-4.30pm). Please do encourage your daughter to attend. Thank you in advance for supporting my dream of getting more girls to play the sport I came to love!

Sasha Kelly

## HOUSE NEWS

Behind the scenes, the children have been developing their netball and hockey skills in preparation for the annual house competitions that take place at the end of the term. In the meantime, the inaugural House Maths competition took place, which combined mathematical knowledge, organisation and collaboration. The aim of the game was to try to collate as many times table facts as possible and it was great to see everyone supporting each other. It is House Skipping this week and it will be great to see the rabbits and kangaroos bounce their hearts out in front of the rest of the School!

The current scores are:

**MANOR – 156**

**KNIGHTON – 132**

**HEREFORD – 128**

**MONKHAMS - 128**

David Archer

## GIRLS' CRICKET

If any Beta girls are interested in playing cricket, there is a club on a Thursday morning in the Sports' Hall from 7.45am – 8.30am. It would be great to see as many girls as possible. Also, please see the poster below for further opportunities for girls to play cricket at a local club.

Sasha Kelly

**GIRLS CRICKET AT WOODFORD WELLS**

**TRAINING**

YEAR 7 AND ABOVE:  
**GIRLS-ONLY TRAINING TUESDAYS AT 6.30PM**  
FROM 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023

YEAR 6 AND BELOW:  
**FRIDAYS AT 6PM**  
FROM 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2023  
ALL AT WOODFORD WELLS CLUB

**MATCHES**

FULL 2023 SUMMER FIXTURE LIST

TEAMS ENTERED  
IN ESSEX UNDER  
13 AND UNDER 15  
GIRLS LEAGUES

PLUS OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: WELLSGIRLSCRICKET@YAHOO.COM

## MISS PECKHAM

I am Gemma Peckham, Sports' Graduate here at the Prep School. My first term has been fantastic. The Prep School boasts such a positive, vibrant atmosphere that has been a great environment to work in. The students are a delight to teach in Games and PE, they bring an enthusiastic spirit to lessons which makes my day! The staff are very supportive and helpful, I have learnt a lot during my first term here so far. The Bancroft's community is a very welcoming place and I feel lucky to be a part of it! Fun Fact - I have played Netball for 15 years and competed at the Copper box Arena!

Gemma Peckham



## MISS CROWLEY



My name is Amanda and I am the Office Manager and Prep School Secretary. I have lived in Woodford for the last 20 years. Frequently driving past the striking Bancroft's School, I dreamed of one day working there and now here I am! The Bancroft's Prep Community are fabulous and the staff and children have made me feel so welcome and supported. This is my first job working with younger children (I previously worked in secondary

schools) and I love to see the awe and amazement on their faces as they absorb the wonders of the world through their learning. I hope to provide the best support that I can to our amazing teaching staff body to ensure that they can continue to provide the Bancroft's Prep School children with an exceptional education and life skills. Born of Irish heritage, my family moved to live in South Africa where we spent a few joyful years travelling around, setting up camp in tents with family friends during the school holidays. I was privileged to have witnessed the amazing wildlife and the breath-taking scenery including the spectacular Victoria Falls! After returning to London, many a school holiday was spent in Ireland where my passion for horses began to grow and I am now the proud owner of two beautiful brown ones called Polly and Twiggy!

Amanda Crowley

## MISS HARRISON

Since joining the Bancroft's team in September, I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support from everyone at the School. The children are extremely talented and I feel privileged to be a part of their learning. A graduate from Guildhall School of Music and Drama with a degree in Classical Saxophone and second study Flute, I one day hope to play in a pit band for a West End show. I am a keen baker, my favourite bake being a Baked Alaska! I am grateful for this opportunity to help the children along their musical journey and I hope that many of them will feel inspired to also choose a career in music.

Laura Harrison



## MR CROW



My name is Mr Crow and I am a General Studies teacher here at Bancroft's Prep. I love that every day is different and that I have been made to feel so welcome. I was born in Shoreditch, London, to an Italian mother, so community, food, family and spirituality is important to me, of course – another reason why I love Bancroft's! When I am not working hard teaching, I'm an avid cook, baker and walker.

Additionally, I love music, drama and theatre, literature and poetry. I actually made a cameo appearance on television when I was a primary school pupil! You'll often find me tuning into a drama on TV or seeing a play at the theatre, walking through forests and towns learning new things, discovering books. I am thrilled to be at Bancroft's – it is a place of curiosity and fun and I hope to make many memories here!

Daniel Crow