



What a year it has been! Our girls are national champs at chess; both our boys' and girls' cricket teams are champions of Essex; we gained a haul of medals, golds included, in the national Primary Maths Challenge; staged three high quality summer concerts which delighted all who saw them, including our founders the Drapers on Visitation Day; and our Prep 2s, who we send on their way with all our best wishes for their futures, staged a wonderful performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. These are some of the highlights but often the wonder of working in a primary school is catching those smaller, more fleeting moments which also really matter. It's the fist-pump from a child who has finally overcome a problem, whether that be in a classroom, on a sports field or at the outdoor learning centre in Lambourne End. It's the smile of a child who knows their teacher really gets them and really cares about them. It's about a thousand positive interactions within our Bancroft's community which bring us together and make this place special. So yes, we are very proud of this year's big successes but we know that all those small things that happen away from the spotlight are well worth celebrating too. And we do! I wish you all a happy and restful summer. Here's to another great year, next year!

Joe Layton

AUF WIEDERSEHEN

When I first started at Bancroft's Prep 16 years ago, I couldn't believe how lucky I was. The staff were warm and friendly, the children curious and keen to learn ... and the lunches, eaten with the pupils at long wooden tables, knocked spots off those at any place I'd ever worked before. That feeling of being fortunate to teach here has never left me; in fact, it has grown over time. I've been a form tutor to 16 classes (that's more than 350 wonderful children) and taught numerous others. It's been interesting and enjoyable work, alongside genuinely caring and supportive – not to mention fun – colleagues, many of whom have been here almost as long as, or even longer, than I have. I've got a few more adventures left in me, though, and it's time to move on. I don't just encourage children to learn languages, I've been hard at work getting a few under my belt as well, and I intend to do some travelling and use them in their countries of origin. Longer term, I plan to uproot my husband, Martin, and the four cats I've collected over the years, and move nearer to my family in York to help with his yoga and Pilates business. But with every fresh start come goodbyes, and that's the hard bit. My son, Ben, went to the senior school and both he and Martin are still part of the Bancroft's community. I like to think it's a club you never quite leave. In my profession, you often learn as much as you teach, and that's certainly been the case for me. This has been a most amazing adventure and I thank you all for having been a part of it.

Karen Yelverton

BATTLE OF THE HOUSES

Another exciting year in the House competition at Bancroft's Prep has come to its conclusion. The participation from all the students has been exemplary over the course of the year and we have seen leaders step up and the followers fulfil their roles to the fullest. There were 25 different activities taking place throughout the year and consisted of 49 sets of results. The big question at the beginning of the year was whether the 'Big Green Manor Machine' would continue to dominate the House competition. In other years they had been unchallenged, however this year Knighton took it upon themselves to up their game and came within a whisker of taking the trophy. The result from Sports Day showed what it meant to the Knighton crew as they narrowly pipped Manor to the victory as 'Champions of Sports Day'. That afternoon saw all pupils take part in a sprint, relay and round the post relay in front of a sizeable crowd of athletics enthusiasts. The races were close and the tenacity showed by everyone to try and beat their opposition over the finish line was clear to see.



Events this year: house challenge assembly, skipping, tug of war, girls' hockey, snowman competition, rugby, mixed netball, boys' hockey, dodgeball/benchball, basketball, netball, fitness, football, maths, drama, world book day, daily mile, tennis, aquathlon, bally he, dodgeball, crossFit, cricket, swim gala and sports day (25).

The final standings after all these events are:

We would like to thank the outgoing House captains for all their effort, organization and enthusiasm over the course of the year. They were great role models for their

MANOR	409
KNIGHTON	391
HEREFORD	350
MONKHAMS	290

peers and the younger students within the school. Their batons will be passed on to the current Prep 1s to see if they can influence their House to stardom.

David Archer

HORNIMAN MUSEUM

As part of our scheme of work on Living Things in Science, the Betas decided to venture to The Horniman Museum in Forest Hill. This treasure holds extensive collections of anthropology, natural history, an aquarium and beautiful medicinal gardens. The children were treated to an intriguing workshop on Animals and their Habitats. They learned about how animals are adapted to survival in the desert, the Arctic, the rainforests and woodland. It was an interactive workshop where the children handled tusks, jaws, skins and shells of various creatures. I think the highlight of the trip for many was their visit to Brick Dinos where some of the largest beasts to ever walk the earth have been recreated in miniature form by artist Warren Elsmore and his team. Incredible models include the raptor-like Masiakasaurus, a life-sized Flying Pterosaur, the swamp-dwelling, crocodile-like Sarcosuchus, and a new Polacanthus model on display for the first time. Although not part of our scheme of work, we are a school who love Lego, so the Betas loved the range of hands-on activities including build their own dinosaur and digging for fossils.

Sarah Strong



OPENVIEW THEATRE

The Openview shows come to Bancroft's every year, teaching us how important our mental health is to our daily lives just as our physical health is. Of course, as an incredibly old and experienced Prep 2, I saw it for the fourth time running! No matter how many times they do it, they always make it fun and interesting while educating us at the same time. This year they brought interactives, meditating and roleplay to action with them to entertain us. So in the end, what we now have to say is ...THANK YOU for the brilliant work you do!

Aashritha

HYDE HALL

The Alphas enjoyed a fantastic trip to RHS Hyde Hall near Chelmsford in mid-June. We went there to learn more about plants and see all the magnificent examples that grow in the gardens there. Working in two groups, we had fun doing all sorts of activities: planting peas; using pastels to have a go at botanical drawing; making seed packets for pepper seeds; investigating various specimens that had been found around the gardens and learning about where our food comes from. Out in the garden, we filled our buckets full of fallen leaves and petals to make some ephemeral art and visited the 'Global Garden' where we saw everything from potatoes to chillies and lemons to melons growing! The weather was glorious and we were able to sit outside on the grass and eat our lunch from an amazing vantage point that allowed us to look right across the gardens. Bancroft's staff were very proud when a member of the public came over to compliment the children on how well behaved they were. A wonderful day was had by all.

Laura Dalton



HEAD FOR THE DAY

I was so lucky to get Head for the Day. When my friends told me, at first I thought they were kidding! Mr Layburn and I had a few chats about what I wanted and he was amazing at supplying treats that were gluten and dairy free. I wanted my whole class to be involved and I loved us coming into assembly with 'The Final Countdown' playing. At break we took a few photos and I was allowed to play Subway Surfers on Mr Layburn's computer! We had a table to ourselves at lunch and felt very special all day. I really loved it - thank you Mr Layburn for letting me try out your job!

Harris 1BR



HISTORY OF FASHION

What better way to showcase how styles have changed over the years than by hosting a fashion show to do just that. The Betas looked 'absolutely fabulous' strutting the catwalk in everything from Stone Age tunics to Egyptian thobes; Roman togas to Tudor doublets. We saw Victorian bonnets and petticoats, 1920s flapper girls and war evacuees. Some chose to keep it relatively modern and we were shown the more casual styles of the 1950s and psychedelic 60s and 70s. I really loved some traditional outfits depicting the history of other cultures like the beautiful hanfus we saw from China. Everyone made such an effort and loved the opportunity to have their moment on centre stage. It has been a very interesting unit of work and inspired curiosity and creativity in our Beta children.

Sarah Strong



A CREDIT TO US!



Despite the very wet weather, our Credit Winners had an awesome day at Legoland Windsor this week. A prize for

their efforts this year, the top 15 children in each year group enjoyed all the thrills and spills of this fabulous theme park. With Lego Club being our most popular after school activity, it was the perfect choice of venue and one that had been suggested by our School Council. After some fun rides, an exploration around MiniLand and some serious shopping, the children returned to school tired but very happy and feeling rewarded. Well done to our Credit Winners 2023.

Sarah Strong



CHICKEN SHED

For our Community Assembly this half-term we were fortunate to be visited by Julie and Erin from The Chicken Shed Theatre company based in North London. They are an inclusive performance company who take performing arts training to the next level, by bringing together young people from all social and economic backgrounds, cultures and abilities, to study creatively alongside each other. They create powerful productions to perform in the outstanding Rayne Theatre. Most recently they performed 'Wonder' on Britain's Got Talent and were awarded the Golden Buzzer by Alesha Dickinson. The Prep children watched their performance in assembly and were blown away by the incredible journey of the Chicken Shed team. Erin also taught the children a song and the British Sign Language to accompany the lyrics so our Prep children got the chance to perform themselves. A truly magical and inspirational visit, it has hopefully encouraged the children to support the charity either through fundraising or going along to watch a show. Their mission is to create wonder out of chaos and change out of challenge – let's help them to do this.

Sarah Strong



PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE

All the Prep 2s took part in the initial round in November – along with 58,000 children nationally and 19 of our children were invited to take part in the Bonus Round back in February. Three pupils narrowly missed an Award (Kiran and Luke missed it by one mark!) but certainly did themselves credit. Participation certificates went to: Rian, Luke and Kiran. Bronze Awards went to William, Ruhaan, Evana, Kai, Jake, Aashritha, Ryan and Ami. Six of our pupils received a Silver Award: Chahat, Carina, Stephan, Hsian-Wen, Mia and Yahya. Nationally 3700 children took part in the Bonus Round and 67 actually scored full marks. Although none of our pupils scored full marks Lily only dropped one mark and Arani just two so they both receive a coveted Gold Award.



PA NEWS

The Bancroft's Parents' Association was pleased to host the first ever complimentary Prep 1 Fun Night on Friday 9th June. The whole year group had a blast! The evening was full of entertainment, music, games, glitter tattoos, prizes, pizza and much more!! Each child went home with a big smile on their face along with a parting gift of a delicious doughnut and Bancroft's related paraphernalia! We look forward to having this as a regular event in the PA social calendar for every Prep 1 Year group. Bancroft's Parents' Association hosted the annual parents vs staff cricket match on 20th June 2023. Wonderful sounds from the summer festival played in the background. The parents stepped forward with positivity following a victory

from last year's win but, alas, the staff team came with a fire in the belly and won by 9 runs! A very close game and hopefully we bring back the trophy next year! Although, we kept hold of the man of the match trophy, this year won by Pulkit Bawa - an Alpha parent! Sumeeta Dhir



LOWER PHASE CONCERT

The amazing Lower Phase Concert started with the fantastic Orchestra who played Suo-Gan (a Welsh traditional), followed by Blueberry Train (by Sarah Watts) and finally, Battle of the Hymn Republic! This was my favourite, as I love the booming, strong sound of it! We really enjoy the sense of pride in this song. I, Kaitlyn, played in both the Cello group and the Orchestra and it was a privilege. I had the main part in Edelweiss, and I also had the main part in Pavane too, and I shared it with my fellow cello player, Lina. The wonderful Alphas played their recorders to some jazzy tunes. Scat Cat Swing was one of my favorites, as well as EBGB's, which we Betas sang along too! All these great songs were written by Sarah Watts. Our amazing soloists showed off their talent in multiple instruments. We enjoyed some true classics, including The Bear Necessities on the saxophone by Chloe and My Favourite Things on violin, played by Rebecca-May. Imogen sang as beautifully! Asya, Alexander, Khadijah and Victoria performed outstandingly too. The Junior Choir sang the song Bad Guys from the musical Bugsy Malone. It was a very energetic. Then came Edelweiss and then we performed Spuds, a song by Chris Hazell all about potatoes (including mash and chips!). Our final song was my favourite - the Toy story classic You've Got a Friend in Me! To end, we all sang our school song Floreat Bancroftia, which in English means may Bancroft's Flourish. We felt immensely proud and honored when singing our school song. Kaitlyn and Aurelia BSS

UPPER PHASE CONCERT

The Wind Band performed two amazing pieces in the Senior Concert; 'Moving On' and 'Shrimp Spritz' both by Sarah Watts. The Preppettes wowed us once again with their brilliant performance of 'Summer Holiday' by Bruce Welch and Bryan Bennet. One of the soloists was Devan who played 'Breton Marina's Song' by Ross Stephen on the saxophone. This was played with great dynamics and overall, was a very moving piece. After this the entire senior choir sang 'Sing' which had several descants. This

was sung with great energy and was very inspiring. Next up was, once again, the Senior Choir with the song from the Disney film Zootropolis, 'Try Everything'. Mia played 'Soldier Soldier' by Jim Parker on the clarinet. The orchestra was simply fantastic. They played a variety of pieces from the James Bond theme to 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' by Andersson & Ulvaeus. They were played with musical brilliance, and it was obvious that each and every one of the orchestra members had practised them thoroughly. What stood out for me was the enthusiasm shown by Kai, who was changing his body language as the pieces changed. Some children had the opportunities to play by themselves in solos, whether that was in an orchestra piece or in their own. Abhi played a beautiful piece called 'Where is Love', by Lionel Bart; he really showed the emotion of the piece. The Flute and Guitar group did an amazing performance of 'Going Home' and 'Lady Madonna'. The Senior Choir finished with 'Where Do We Go From Here' which was a very peaceful piece, very suitable for Prep 2s as they are leaving the school. Finally, we finished with our school song 'Floreat Bancroftia'.

Ruhaan and Mia 2LW

VISITATION DAY

This was, and continues to be, one of the musical highlights of the school year and we continue to place great importance upon the occasion. It is an important concert when the historical foundation of the School is recognised and current Drapers and The Master Warden, make a symbolic and memorable visit to both the Senior and Prep Schools. It gives some of our most talented musicians an opportunity to showcase their talent; this year was no exception. I won't single out individuals, but the recognition of their musical gifts was certainly witnessed by an appreciative audience of nearly 100. They heard solos on the piano, saxophone, cello and oboe. In tune with the season, the concert opened with Summer Holiday from The Prepettes in their last public outing. The audience smiled. The rest of the concert was all about singing, from The Chapel Choir, The cast of The Wizard of Oz and from the combined vocal power of ALL Prep 1 and 2 pupils. There were some delightful pieces and in conclusion to our vocal display was the song Where Do We Go from Here, a song of aspiration as the Prep 2s move on to the next stage of their education, either at Bancroft's or indeed elsewhere. Appropriately, as we had distinguished visitors, the event finished with a truly rousing performance of Floreat Bancroftia. My colleagues, Mr Landen, Mr Pearson, Ms Tarrant and Miss Harrison, added amazing verve and sparkle to the occasion. A highlight for all, I hope.

Adam Baum

NSPCC DAILY MILE

On Friday 9th June the Bancroft's Prep students supported the NSPCC childhood daily mile initiative. Along with the money raised, which was £369.86 the children also took part in a House running challenge in the morning. The turnout was amazing and a total of 1011 laps was completed in 30 minutes which equated to 202 miles. The house result was also amazing as Manor edged Monkams by just one lap!

David Archer

SILVER AWARD

It was a great pleasure to attend a Friday assembly to present the Chief Scout Silver Awards to eight of the Cub Scouts. The Silver Award is the highest award that can be achieved for children in the Cub Scout section of the Scout Movement. To gain this award, each cub must complete seven challenge awards and six activity badges of their own choice. The cubs have worked extremely hard to achieve this award and many have now progressed on to the Sea Scout section of the group where they will be working towards the Chief Scout Gold Award. Congratulations to them all.

Akela



WEDDING BELLS

I am sure you will join us in congratulating Sasha Kelly on her marriage to Tom Haynes on Saturday 3rd June. The wedding took place at Chalkney Water Meadows, hidden away amongst ancient woodland, next to a picturesque river and a tree-lined lake. It was a stunning location for their outdoor wedding. There were many nods to her passion for sport from a penalty shoot-out, tug-of-war and mini golf. Miss Kelly also wore personalised trainers on the day. The couple looked absolutely stunning and we wish them many happy years ahead.

Sarah Strong



PREP 2 IN THE PEAK DISTRICT



We are in the last year of our fabulous journey through this school. We had the chance to go to one of England's most beautiful locations, with stunning views and thrilling activities, we had a week of our lives we will never forget. On Monday, 5th June, the Prep 2s went to the Peak District, to enjoy ourselves and celebrate moving up. Wherever we go, this is one memory, which we all shared. On the trip, we canoed and caved, abseiled, and climbed up rock faces, and we hiked up a mountain named Mam Tor. After an exciting bus journey, we headed over to a county named Derbyshire and a special place named Castleton. We stayed in a place named YHA Castleton Losehill Hall, for five days and four nights. When canoeing, we journeyed across a vast lake. In caving we squeezed through tight spaces and entered tiny rooms where all lights would be switched off. In abseiling and climbing we heaved ourselves up, higher and higher until we reached our destination, or leaned back and trusted that the rope could hold our weight. And when we hiked, we walked until we reached the peak and took a picture as a memory of our great adventure as Prep 2s. In the evening we had activities planned for us like fossil making, egg rockets, movie nights, playing outside with Mr Hall and puzzles. But we owe it all to the teachers who planned this amazing trip for us and gave up their time to look after us. They gave us our last year in the Prep school and they made it an amazing one. A special thanks to Mr Paramour, Mr Pearson, Mr Hall, Miss Kelly, Miss Ware and the wonderful Miss Adams.

Riya 2LW



SPORTS NEWS

It has been a tremendously busy term of cricket where pupils have had the opportunity to partake in cricket in their lessons and sometimes competitively against other schools. We have also been proud to hear of a number of pupils extending their learning beyond Bancroft's and playing for local teams. As always, do let the PE team know if your child is participating in any sport outside of school. This term, a particular shout out must go to the outgoing U11 boys and girls who have truly excelled in their cricket, boasting the following accolades:

Boys

U11 Essex County champions (see photo below)

U11 Bancroft's Festival 6-a-side champions



Girls

U11 IAPS Champions

U11 Essex representatives for East of England Championships

U11 Bancroft's Festival 6-a-side champions



On what has been an absolutely jam-packed year of sporting endeavours, the PE team wanted to extend their thanks to the pupils who wore the Bancroft's badge with pride and graced the field/pitch week in week out with grit and determination. And of course to you, the parents, who continue to support both your children and our sporting programme here at the Prep School. We wish you all a lovely summer, and do not forget your children can still get their sporting fix from the following:

Ashes (Cricket): 16th June - 31st July
Wimbledon (Tennis): 3rd - 16th July
Women's World Cup (Football): 10th July - 20th August
Netball World Cup: 28th July - 6th August
AAF World Championships (Athletics): 19th - 27th August
Team PE