



A is for Alpha and also for Amit. You all know what Alpha refers to, the new intake of amazing children who have joined us this academic year and who have already enriched everyone's day to day experience here at Bancroft's Prep School. 'But who is Amit?' I hear you ask. Well, if you attended our wonderful Harvest Festival, you'll have seen him, kindly taking time to be with us for the morning and playing a starring role on the drums. It made me smile to see him there, towering above the much smaller children, because I remember well that Amit, who is now in the Lower Sixth at the Senior School, was once a bright-eyed young Alpha himself. Of course, that was many harvest moons ago! Amit, like so many of the children here, was always curious about the world and he understood that what happens outside the classroom is just as important as what happens in it. He was and is a tremendous success academically but he also gave so much to the life of our school in terms of his music, sport and in being a fantastic young man. Amit is a role model to all of the young children in our care - and it was great to see him so keen to give something back to the place which nurtured him and helped him on his way.

Joe Layton

BETA PGL

This was my first ever trip without my family. I was excited for weeks - even during the summer holidays! Finally, when the day arrived, I couldn't contain my excitement! The coach arrived and I sat next to my best friend and we had an enjoyable 2-hour drive to Surrey. My best friend made the journey so memorable as we shared a lot of ideas and plans about what we would do at PGL. Our first activity was the zipwire. We watched people do it first. Then we learned how to land safely and we finally did it. It was so good! Some people were scared to go on it but I loved it so much. I even got a second go. Despite the rain, it was so much fun. Actually, none of us cared much for the rain, we were just so happy that we were all together away from school and our parents.

Viishnu BNB

On the second day my first activity was buggy build. Buggy build is when you make buggies out of wooden poles and bungee ropes and you have to put the wooden poles in line and shove the barrels through them. It was pretty cool when you ride on it because you were off the ground and getting pushed along sitting on metal poles. Next, I went on the giant swing. It was about 50 metres off the ground and three people could go on it at once. It was not like a normal swing because it zoomed really fast and you did not have to pump with your legs. You just got pulled up there by other people to the very top or until you wanted to stop. I went to the



very top on my second go. The giant swing at first was very scary because I thought I was going to fall but then it was not scary after all. It was really fun. It was my favourite activity at PGL because it was super high and I love heights and it felt like a roller coaster which I love going on. On the third day my first activity was the trapeze. When I got to the top they made me hold on really tight to the post behind me. And when they said you could jump I jumped immediately and got onto the trapeze. I held it for three seconds and then my arms started aching so I let go and I was lowered back to the ground. The next activity was abseiling. It was really scary getting up there because it was about the size of a two-storey house! The best thing was that everyone encouraged you to do it. And also, you had to lean backwards outside the metal poles and walk on your feet like on a balance beam. It was scary on the first go but I was fine on the second go. Some people were too scared to go on it so they just sat down and watched and were a bit disappointed. I was glad I did it because it taught me that I know how to lean back and not be scared. When you got to the bottom you landed on your feet and someone would come and help you undo your harness. It was really fun doing the abseiling and it taught me a lot. So, if I ever go down a big canyon I would know what to do. I would love to go back to PGL because it was amazing and cool. It was the best trip ever from Bancroft's. It taught me independence and about taking risks and, even if things are tough, go for it and give them a try.

Charlie BNB



CELTIC HARMONY

The Alphas travelled back in time on Monday 25th September—all the way back to the Stone Age! They were lucky enough to visit Celtic Harmony Camp in Hertfordshire where they built shelters from branches and brush; watched a demonstration of how the Stone Age people would have lit a fire; saw flint being 'knapped' to make tools; experienced what it would have been like to hunt and gather their own food—and not forgetting the chance to hunt an enormous 'mammoth'. Luckily, we had a school packed lunch with us! We had a wonderful day, finished off with some story-telling in the Chieftain's roundhouse. The sun shone and a great deal of fun was had by all.

Laura Dalton



MACMILLAN

On Friday 29th September, to raise awareness of all the amazing work that MacMillan do, we asked that the children accessorise their uniform with something green - the colour of the charity's iconic logo - a pair of socks, tights or perhaps a scarf! Everyone looked fabulous and most importantly we raised over £580 for this life changing charity.

Lisa Life

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

One of the best ways to improve a musical skill is by playing in front of a friendly and supportive audience, and on Tuesday 17th October, we presented our first lunchtime concert of the calendar year; what a delightful concert it was, with 14 performers from all four year groups of the School. The concert started in the

PAC with Tanvi playing a very spirited drum solo which really thrilled the audience of over 30. We then moved into the Prep Hall and the concert followed in traditional fashion, featuring a full range of instruments. 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, clarinettists, flautists (Julia playing the best title of the day 'Boogalie-Woogalie'), cellists, and, of course, pianists. The standard was universally high and the children are a credit to their teachers and parents. The audience in attendance, fuelled by tea and coffee, appeared to love the concert. I thank them for attending. We look forward to 14th November, which is the date of our next concert.

Adam Baum

HARVEST FESTIVAL

After all the fine weather we have enjoyed this term, it seemed right and proper to herald the start of autumn with our Harvest Festival. It was wonderful to be able to welcome parents to a harvest celebration filled with music and song and fantastic readings from our school council. We enjoyed old favourites such as the Big Red Combine Harvester and new songs such as the Chapel Choir's beautiful rendition of Care For Our World which featured outstanding performances from Aurelia and Kaitlyn. Other individual accomplishments included Azaria and Raja's recorder performances and 1TB's collective cazoo playing added to the party atmosphere of the Harvest Hoe Down where we saw BSS's farmers really digging at the earth! The donations of food and toiletries were overwhelming and these were swiftly dispatched to the Epping Forest Foodbank who were grateful in the extreme and would like me to thank you all for your kindness.

Epping Forest Foodbank wrote:

*'I am amazed to inform you, that your donation this year was... **An INCREDIBLE 499KG!** Which is absolutely incredible and is the equivalent to 500 Japanese Marten! These furry animals are part of the ferret family and can be found in Japan and South Korea. A group of Japanese Martens are called a 'Richness'. From us all at food bank, a great big thank you and well done for all your hard work. Give yourselves a big pat on the back!'*

Lisa Life

PREP 2 TOURS

The Prep 2s went up to the Senior School to have a tour. Our parents accompanied us, and we were each assigned a Year 8 pupil to show us around the School. We could ask our guide about different areas, and they would show us and give us information. I really liked the DT department as it had multiple tools, and they told us that we would be able to make items during break and lunch. After the tour we continued to The Great Hall and had a talk from Mr Marshall about all the different things we can do in the Senior School. Two senior students, including my brother, did a Q&A with the audience and answered all the questions about the School. This was informative, and I learnt many things. Finally, we had cakes and drinks before going back down to the Prep School. Everyone enjoyed the morning - it was fun and helpful!

Seb 2AA

THE RAGGED SCHOOL

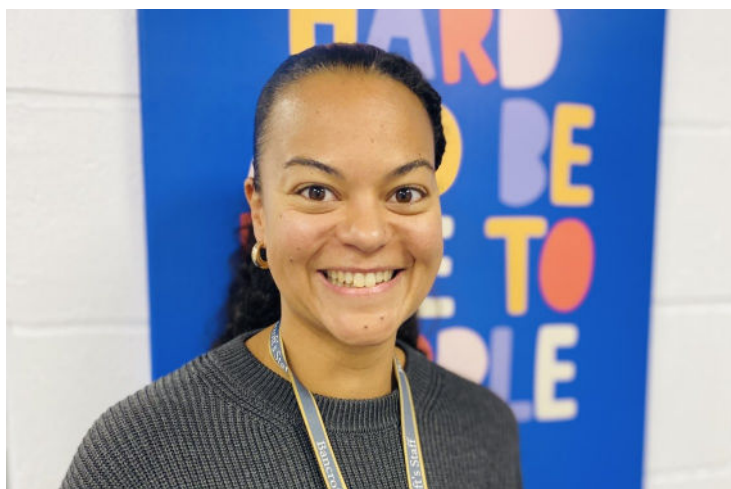
On Monday 16th October we went to the Ragged School Museum in Mile End. We enjoyed the Victorian lesson with Miss Perkins because she was strict like a Victorian teacher would be. She kept on telling us off for anything and everything which we thought was quite funny and she was quite a character! She taught us about Victorian money and made us write in Copperplate style on a slate with chalk. At the end, she came out of character and showed us some of the ways children would be punished, like wearing a 'dunce' hat for getting answers wrong or using a back straightener to force you to sit up straight. We also learnt about household chores during this era. We had a lot of fun but we're glad we don't live in the Victorian times!

Max 1BR and George 1AK



WELCOME MISS BIRD

Hello everyone! I am Tara Bird; new Prep 1 Form Teacher. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term at Bancroft's Prep where I have been warmly welcomed by supportive colleagues and enthusiastic children. As an Old Bancroftian, Bancroft's isn't totally unfamiliar to me! I spent many happy years here as a child; the encouragement I was given at this school was certainly the launch pad to my professional track and field career—I was fortunate enough to travel the world and represent both England and Great Britain on several occasions, before deciding to train to become a primary school teacher. Now, in my 10th year of teaching, I am back at Bancroft's and I couldn't be happier to have returned. Away from work, I still enjoy the occasional run in Epping Forest but most of all I love spending time with my daughter.



PA MAGIC SHOW

The Alphas came in with a bang at the annual magic show hosted by the Betas on Friday 29th September. It was organised by the Bancroft's PA to welcome the new Alphas to the fun that is the Bancroft's community! Mark at Tidimix amazed the crowds with his jokes, puppet show and games. It rained confetti, snow and bubbles whilst they danced the night away. They have a lot of energy! The night didn't end there as they had pizza, crisps, sweets galore and drinks aplenty. In their dazzling party clothes, they laughed with their new friends and shared jokes. And if that wasn't enough, they all left with a yummy doughnut for the journey back and a gift. Welcome to Bancroft's Alphas and parents. Don't miss out on the next fantastic event coming up! Bancroft's PA



HOUSE NEWS

The House competition 2023-24 at Bancroft's is fully underway. The latest House Captains have entered their role with levels of enthusiasm never seen, or heard, before. This was evident as they single-handedly tried to drive their House to a winning performance in the Tug of War event. We are still in the early days with many events to come, however with the scores currently at; Hereford 42, Monkham's 50, Knighton and Manor 52, it's definitely all to play for and we look forward to all the ways in which the Houses will battle it out this year. Who will finally lift the trophy next July?

David Archer



GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Inspired by the Lionesses this summer, it has been great to see the girls completely throw themselves at the increased provision of girls' football here this term. Our Prep 1 and 2 girl's football team have played in a football tournament at St. Aubyn's and a competitive fixture against Avon House. Our Alpha and Beta girls were afforded the opportunity to attend a girls' football festival at Frenford FC. It was great to see over 100 girls descend upon the state-of-the-art football pitch, playing fun mini games in the morning and then participating in skills workshops in the afternoon. They were also lucky enough to watch the Tottenham Hotspur U18 Ladies team prepare for a match that they were playing – a great inspirational tool! **A reminder that girls' football club is every Thursday 3.30pm – 4.30pm and all girls, all ages and all abilities are of course welcome!**

'Girls' football is so fun. So far this term, we have been to a tournament at St. Aubyn's and we have also had a match against Avon House where we won 4-0. My friends and I really enjoy football and so do lots of other girls. We are really lucky to have Miss Kelly running girls' football and helping us to better understand the game. Myself and the other girls are very excited for the upcoming fixtures and tournaments.' Alice 2AA

Here's to many more footballing endeavours this year!
Sasha Kelly



FUN RUN



Our first competitive cross-country fixture... We were so excited on the minibus drive to Goodmayes Park. The site had many children all trying to run to the best of their ability. I was involved in the Year 5/6 race for girls. Loads of people were pushing and shoving, trying to gain some space, so it was quite hard to stay calm and run my best, with a big stampede of girls behind me. However, the bunching soon dispersed, and I found myself able to get into the zone and run a good race, finishing 8th in a race with over 120 girls. My teammate Jessica, was just behind me in 9th place and our finishing places has now earned us a place in the Redbridge cross country team at the London Youth Games this year, which we are so proud of. Miss Bird came with us and so did Miss Kelly, so we had advice, which was helpful. After we all finished our events, we had lunch on the grass. There were 3 races: Year 5/6 girls, Year 5/6 boys, Year 3/4 girls and boys. We all achieved great scores, but more importantly we enjoyed what was a new experience for us and took away lots of advice. A massive well done to Jessica who, after a tremendous run, finished 2nd place in the Year 4 girls' race. An absolutely amazing achievement which we are all proud of!

Arianna 2CP

BOYS' FOOTBALL

The Prep 1 boys entered the annual football festival hosted by St. Aubyn's, demonstrating great character and defensive rigour against the other teams in the group. At the conclusion of the group stage, they qualified for the plate competition and things started to click for the boys, eventually coming home with the plate winner's trophy.



IAPS HOCKEY

On Friday, I had to get to school at 7.30am in the morning... But it was for good reason! As our Prep 2 girls' hockey team were going to the annual prestigious IAPS hockey qualifiers! Once we arrived, we got ourselves mentally and physically prepared for our pool games. We needed to finish in the top 2 to progress to the cup competition in the afternoon. It was a morning of highs and lows, winning 3, drawing 1 and losing 1. We finished second and qualified! After a filling lunch, we played a so far unbeaten team and came out on top following penalty strokes. A huge shout out to Sophia who made 2 great saves, clinching the win for us! We faced a very strong St. Michael's team in the semi-final who beat us 2-0, meaning our IAPS journey was over. However, all of us girls enjoyed the experience and had a great day!

A particular well done to Ottilie (Beta) and Imogen (Prep 1) who played up in this tournament and showed great strength and technical ability to match their older counterparts!

Soraya 2CP



BANCROFT'S PA



After a 4-year break, the Bancroft's PA Ball was back at a new location - West Essex golf Club on 7th October 2023. The tickets were sold out within 48 hours of release, there was so much anticipation and excitement about the event. The 'masquerade' theme was highlighted in the venue's beautiful decor as well as our guests' glamorous attire. Guests

arrived to a welcome reception on the outdoor terrace to make the most of the wonderful weather and then enjoyed a delicious 3-course sit down meal. A live band and DJ provided a night full of dancing whilst the magician provided jaw dropping close up magic and a photographer from Venture captured all the glitz and glamour! No one wanted the evening to end! We have received incredible feedback and planning for next year is already underway with some early requests for tables! So, watch this space and don't miss out next year! Details of all forthcoming Bancroft's PA events can be found here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/BancroftsPA>