



The concept of a twelfth man or woman at a football match is well established, it's where the crowd's support is so inspiring the team seem to have an extra player on their side. This is exactly how it's been for the children at our two big Christmas events, The Alpha Nativity and the Prep Christmas Concert. On both occasions, the warmth and encouragement the children felt from the audiences inspired them to produce some truly stellar performances. We all love to be praised; we all get a lift from the enthusiasm and energy of those around us. At the end of a tiring but always magical term, it's been wonderful to see our community of children, parents and staff come together so joyfully. Whether or not we have a faith, the celebration of love and hope for the future is something in which we can all share. It's great to be part of our Bancroft's family and I am grateful to all its members for making this a truly special place. Wishing you the happiest of holidays and a wonderful 2024!

Joe Layton



LUNCHTIME CONCERT

I have organised and hosted over fifty of these in my time at Bancroft's Prep School, and I must say that this was up there with the very best. The atmosphere was lovely; the audience appreciative; the performers very well prepared; the repertoire appropriate and, most importantly, the pupils performed extremely well. Famously, there are the Three Tenors - well, we had the 'Four Drummers' at the end of the concert and what a finale it was; loud but fun and very energetic; the audience loved it! Congratulations especially to our youngest performer, Isaac, who has reached grade 3 on the drums already. Beyond this, we had the full range of instruments, inevitably more piano, with Sebastian's performance being a talking point, playing a tricky Nocturne by Chopin. Two of our performers were accompanied by Ms Saumerez on the cello and Miss Harrison on the saxophone respectively. It gave Kaitlyn and Devan so much confidence to shine. But, serious congratulations must go to all of our young performers. They truly did themselves a great musical service by performing in front of an audience and doing it so well.

Adam Baum

THE INN-SPECTORS



How do you get all 69 Alphas on a stage? Not easily is the answer! But together they performed the most wonderful retelling of the nativity story on the evening of Monday 4th December. As well as the traditional roles, this version centred around six rather officious, stony-faced 'inn-spectors' that have arrived in Bethlehem to check that the inns there are up to scratch as hordes of travellers descend on the little town for the census. Of course, the Little Inn at the End of the Street cannot compete with spa facilities at The Bethlehem Grand or the delicious lobster thermidor served at the Bethlehem Plaza, but nevertheless, this lowly inn is where Mary and Joseph - and a rather disgruntled donkey - end up when every other inn is full. There may be a few cobwebs here and there; spiders lurking in the bath and wallpaper that's not to the inn-spectors' taste, but when Jesus is born there, it really puts this little inn on the map! Even the stern inn-spectors have a change of heart and declare that the inn is 'Fit for a King!' which was the title of the final song. The Alphas worked incredibly hard and the result was a spectacular and confident performance; we could not be prouder of them! As their first term at Bancroft's draws to a close, we cannot wait to see how their theatrical and musical talents develop over the next four years.

Laura Dalton



CHILDREN IN NEED

Friday 17th November saw the Prep School turn spotty for Children in Need. BBC Children in Need exists to make sure that every child has the childhood they deserve – and the support they need to thrive. They fund thousands of charities and projects in every corner of the UK, that support children and young people to feel and be safer, have improved mental health and wellbeing, form better, more positive relationships and be given more equal opportunities to flourish. We raised a spot-acular £451.05 for this important cause.



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

On Tuesday, 5th December, Prep 2 visited the Imperial War Museum. When we arrived, we were divided into two groups and visited the World War II floor. We wandered around the World War II exhibit for half an hour before heading back to the meeting place. A guide led us to a room in the museum and explained what our next task would be. We divided into groups and chose one museum item to focus on in a brief documentary. After lunch, we visited the 'Spies, Lies, and Deception' exhibition on the museum's third level. We had a great day and I hope to go again.

Amelia 2AA

STAY SAFE ONLINE

On Thursday 23rd of November, the Upper Phase took part in an Internet Safety workshop that was delivered by the 'Two Johns' Roadshow. It was an interesting, educational experience in which I learned a lot of new things. The Two Johns taught us about many dangers of being online, and how we can prevent ourselves from falling into traps like scams as well as being careful about sharing personal information with people we may not know online. They also taught us about how to do things like put the ghost mode on on Snapchat so people cannot follow us. It was good fun, and we played games like 'Guess the Youtuber.' This workshop expanded my knowledge of how to be safe and happy on the internet. This presentation taught me a lot more about internet safety than I already knew, and it made me more conscious about how I behave and who I interact with when I'm online.

Shadhana 2AA

THE GREAT EXHIBITION

Prep 1s made versions of important Victorian inventions that were ground-breaking then and had a big impression on life today. Some of these inventions are still being used, just upgraded through the years. We showed our projects to the whole Prep school for an exhibition, similar to the Great Exhibition of the Victorian Era. We learnt so much about the materials used in the Victorian times and the impact of the Industrial Revolution. We really enjoyed making and talking about our own projects and it was great to see everyone else's work too – there were so many cool inventions on show!

Theo & Abdullah 1BR



DEBATING COMPETITION

On Thursday 16th November, our hall was buzzing with anticipation as seven different schools came to participate in our first ever debating competition as prep 2 students. I had never engaged in a debate with my friends against other schools before. All of us experienced a mixture of anxiety and excitement. We began the competition by eating sandwiches and chocolates whilst compiling our notes for our first motion: "Honesty is the best policy". We did not know whether we were proposing or opposing the motion. My team of three discovered that we were proposing the motion a few minutes later and proceeded to our assigned debating station. We argued our points succinctly and fortunately, we managed to win our first debate of the night. We were all overjoyed. Afterwards, we had 15 minutes to prepare for our next motion, which was "Books are better than films", and this time, we were opposing the motion. We ended up winning that as well! "Robots could replace teachers," was our final motion. We were proposing the motion. Unfortunately, the judge had a difficult time choosing between our team and the opposing team because both teams were very strong in asserting their point of views, but she ultimately chose them. Despite the outcome of the last round, I was still incredibly proud of my team for how well we had performed. Overall, I believe it was an excellent experience that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. I would be thrilled to participate in another debate like this again.

Azaria 2AA

OPENVIEW WORKSHOP

On Friday 10th November, the Betas took part in a workshop with Openview Education about bullying behaviour. The lady who ran it told us to be an upstander, not a bystander. An upstander is someone

that stands up for others and a bystander is someone who sits back and watches another person get bullied. To help us remember, she made it more fun and easier, for example, we said "shoulders of strength" whilst we moved our arms up and down. She made everything simpler to understand. It was a fun experience and it taught us things we didn't already know about anti-bullying. She showed us a video and let us act some of it out in groups of three. It was so good, I think I'd do it all over again, because I learnt so much. SO TOGETHER LET'S STAMP OUT BULLYING!

Ottilie BCB

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK

On Wednesday 6th December, Mr Archer and Mr Hall loaded up the minibus with a vast quantity of food donated by pupils and parents and delivered it to the Epping Forest Foodbank. Each class donated a different item on the charity's wish list that will make a real difference to local families at Christmas. We had custard and crackers and pudding and pies galore and it was all very gratefully received by the foodbank volunteers .



PETER & THE WOLF

On Saturday 18th November , I went to see 'Peter and the Wolf' for my birthday. It was an animated film with a live orchestra. The characters included a boy, Peter, a hunter, Grandfather, a goose, a wolf and a bird. The director of the film was called Suzie Templeton, who won an Oscar award for it. The film was produced in Poland. The instruments in the orchestra represented the characters. I loved the bird the most, which was played by a flute, because it was very funny and it was attached to a balloon. Suzie Templeton used wire and metal to make the puppets, which she showed to everyone afterwards. It was a beautiful performance. We were very lucky because Suzie Templeton was there, and we were sitting next to her.

Konrad BNB



READING CHAMPIONS

This year Bancroft's has been keen for everyone to discover the joy of reading. One of the ways they did this was with 'Reading Champions'. The Reading Champions are a group of Prep 2 children who were specially chosen based on how much they read. They are each assigned two or three Alpha children to read to on a Thursday lunchtime. They will sometimes ask the Alphas to read out a paragraph or explain what a certain word means. They are currently reading *Georges Marvellous Medicine* by Roald Dahl. This activity is so good because it both teaches the Alpha children to read confidently out loud and awakens their love of books, which is a very important skill for academic studies, but more importantly, relaxation and fun.

Julia 2AA

SPACE DAY

We had a lot of fun during our space workshops in November. Our first part of the day involved stepping into a mobile planetarium and learning lots of interesting facts about space. It was really fun to sit in the dark and see what the planets and star formations looked like. After the planetarium, we made rockets using paper and tape and then launched them into space! Well, not quite space, but some of them went so high in the air that they landed on the roof! We had a great time and it really inspired us to find out more about our amazing universe.

Ellie & Leah 1BR



ELF RUN FOR HAVEN HOUSE

On the penultimate day of term, the whole school took part in a charity 'Elf Run'. Organised by local charity, Haven House (who supplied the elf hats) everyone completed three laps around the school field to raise money for this important cause. The idea was put forward by Marco BNB and his family as Haven House's centre in Woodford Green is a great support to their family. We raised over £600!



SPORTS NEWS

It has been an extremely busy term with every single pupil having now participated in a competitive fixture. Whether it be Hockey and Rugby in Games lessons or football fixtures/tournaments, the Sports Department are very proud of the commitment and effort from all pupils this term, especially in what were Baltic conditions towards the end of term! We now look forward to next term where the girls move onto Netball and the boys move onto Hockey in their Games lessons.

OUR BEAUTIFUL GAME

Over the last few months, girls that attend girls' football club have been encouraged to read 'Our Beautiful Game' by Lou Kuenzler. The girls then had the amazing opportunity to meet Lou herself when she visited the girls during one of their Thursday training sessions. Lou was bombarded with over an hour of enthusiastic questions, ranging from "why did you choose to write a book about girls' football?" to "what advice would you give me as I am writing a book?" It was an inspiring meet and greet and we now look forward to working further with Lou when she judges an upcoming writing competition, inspired by football.

A stand-out novel inspired by the incredible true stories of female football legends like Lily Parr and Alice Woods. They can take our ball, but they can never stop the game. Polly Nabb is no stranger to trouble. When her brother Joe is sent to serve in the trenches, all Polly wants is to kick a ball about and forget the war. Mam has other ideas, and makes her stay home to help with endless chores. But football is something Polly is prepared to fight for - it's her life! She's determined to do whatever it takes to fulfil her dream and show the world that football is not just for boys...

Sasha Kelly



GIRLS' FOOTBALL



Girls' Football has been splendid and very enjoyable. We have had the opportunity to participate in lots of fixtures and tournaments which were so much fun. When we played against Avon House, we played really well as a team, and this was in front of a big crowd of parents and staff too. We did not buckle under the pressure, and instead kept our focus in the game and executing our skills to the best of our ability. Miss Kelly was very positive about the quality of the football we played in this fixture, commenting on our progress in keeping the ball on the ground and under control. We really have come on such a long way. Bancroft's has never really had a history of girls' Football, but this really has changed in the last year. All girls from all year groups from Alphas to Prep 2s have been included along the way and we really love it. For me, the highlight so far this year is us attending the Football tournament that took place at Billericay FC, where us girls stood proud, as we were practically the only girls there! We turned up really nervous as we looked upon a field full of boys! But then we had our team talk which made our nerves vanish. Although the other teams scored goals, we congratulated them and stayed confident during the match, never giving up. Miss Kelly and Miss Peckham were very proud of us because, playing against boys is difficult but it helped boost our determination and challenge us. After the match, we were congratulated and recognised for our confidence and perseverance as the only girls in the tournament. I am very proud to be part of Bancroft's Prep School girls' Football team!

Imani 2LW



HOUSE NEWS

With 29 events happening over the course of this term, it has been a busy one for all involved. The work behind the scenes by the House Captains is worth mentioning as they have fulfilled their roles to the maximum. An example of this is their preparation and creativity in producing scripts for the upcoming House Drama competition next term—we are all looking forward to those performances! The annual House skipping contest highlighted great talent amongst the Prep children and the 'Big Skip' was as exciting as usual. The scores leading into the last week of term stand at:

Manor	188
Monkhams	176
Knighton	174
Hereford	172

David Archer



HOCKEY NEWS

Girls' hockey this term has been fun, engaging and competitive. All of us, from Alphas through to Prep 2s have been busy sharpening our skills down at Ashton Playing Fields. Across the year groups, we have had many fixtures this year, which has given us the opportunity to put practice into gameplay. All of us have been persistent, hard-working, and having fun whilst learning lots of new skills along the way. Our biggest fixture this term was the IAPS competition at Haileybury. We competed against some strong teams, from as far away as Cambridge and Wimbledon. We started well in the group stage and made it all the way to the semi-finals, coming 4th overall. Everyone gave it their all, and it was a great day all round. Sophia (Prep 2) played in goal for the first time and made fabulous saves and we really appreciated Ottilie (Beta) and Imogen (Prep 1)

stepping up and making great contributions. Hockey training on Mondays has been really fun, especially the games involving all the year-groups, and the 'Go Glow Hockey' was a highlight too - we really lit up Ashton Playing Fields with our neon clothing and glowsticks. All in all, it has been a great term of Hockey and we now look forward to Netballing fun in the Spring term.

Helena 2CP



MIXED RUGBY

The mixed tag rugby tournament was an unforgettable experience. Bancroft's entered two competitions on the day - the Cup and the Plate. I was in the Plate team. There were ups and downs, but the main thing was we went through these together as a team. For most people, it was our first time playing together, especially as a mixed gender team. We dedicated ourselves to the team and continued to strive for excellence. In our first game against Gearies Primary School, we instantly gained dominance and realised we work better together. We won all our games in our group stages due to our chemistry and inspiring talks from our Captains and teachers. Eventually, we got to the final which was a huge achievement in itself. Unfortunately, the team we were against had one extremely fast player and we marginally lost the match. But instead of being sad about not winning, we looked back at our progress as a team, and we were delighted about that instead. Here's to much more rugby!

Zaki 2LW

