

Prep Headlines

Summer | 2026

Bancroft's
Prep

Unless, like the genie, you've been living in a cave, you will know that we have just staged Aladdin with two casts over four nights. It was truly magical- a wonderful collaboration between all 65 of our Prep 2 (Year 6) children and their teachers. The production was impressively professional and the packed audiences were loud, enthusiastic, and suitably wowed by what they saw. But behind the scenes, something else was happening- something familiar to anyone who has been involved in the performing arts. New friendships were forming among those in the spotlight and those working backstage, while existing ones were deepening. One of the key themes of Aladdin is friendship, and there is nothing quite like a production to bring people closer together- supporting and encouraging one another when the house lights dim and nerves begin to fray. We regularly remind the children that education is about everything we do here at Bancroft's. One of the things I am most proud of is how our Prep children continue to embrace a wide range of extra-curricular activities as they move on through their secondary school years. Being part of a play is a wonderful way to build confidence, express creativity, celebrate individuality, and, importantly, work as part of a team. It may also be the beginning of lifelong friendships.

Joe Lytle

Prep 2 Present Aladdin

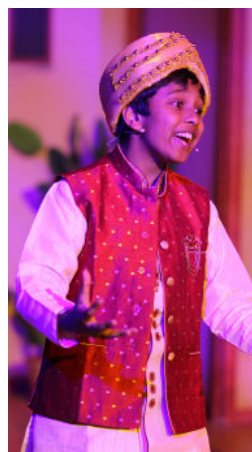


This year's Prep 2 production of Aladdin Junior was a spectacular celebration of teamwork, talent and months of hard work, as two casts performed across four memorable evenings to delighted audiences. From the bustling streets of Agrabah to the glittering Cave of Wonders, the production was full of energy, humour and colour. Familiar characters sprang to life on stage, with Aladdin, Princess Jasmine, Genie and Jafar all captivating the audience, while the dazzling musical numbers, dramatic lighting and lively choreography created a real sense of magic throughout. Every child played an



important role in the success of the show. Some took centre stage in the leading roles, while others worked tirelessly behind the scenes moving scenery, organising props and ensuring costume and microphone changes happened seamlessly. Whether delivering lines to a packed hall or quietly helping the production run smoothly backstage, every contribution mattered and every child rose brilliantly to the occasion. The costumes added even more sparkle and spectacle, from Jasmine's elegant gowns to the Genie's unforgettable sequin hat, with shimmering fabrics, jewels and plenty of pizzazz helping transform the stage into the vibrant world of Agrabah. Mrs Rathod oversaw costumes, props and make-up, while Mr Carson expertly coordinated the backstage crew and technical elements, ensuring each performance ran like clockwork. Musically, the production was equally impressive. Mrs Kinnair led the musical direction, supported by Mr Landon on drums, Lewis Borland on saxophone and flute, and Mr Denyer on bass guitar, whose live accompaniment brought real excitement and atmosphere to every performance. We are enormously grateful to the many staff and parents who gave their time, creativity and support so generously. Above all, we are incredibly proud of the children whose enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork came together to make this year's Prep 2 production truly unforgettable. The show is over for another year, but the memories will last a lifetime. Prep 2, you were magnificent!

Alex Adams



Lunchtime Concerts

The Lunchtime Concert held on 1st May, in conjunction with our Culture & Identity Day, offered a vibrant and uplifting celebration of diversity, creativity and community. Bringing people together in a relaxed and welcoming setting, the event showcased a range of performances reflecting the rich cultural backgrounds and personal identities within our school community. The programme featured a wonderful variety of performances, including classical Indian singing from Anika, who performed *Achutham Keshavam*, a traditional tabla piece by Raja, and a beautiful harmonium performance of *So Amrit Gur Te Paaiya* by Gurman. Other performances included viola and flute duets from Niamh and Melina, comical songs performed by Konrad and Reya, beautiful piano performances from Sophia, Ata and Ava, and excellent drumming from Harry and Sophia. The final lunchtime concert of the half term also included fantastic performances from Delia, Henry, Arjun, Summer, Asher, Theo, Leonidas, Eshani, Karmen, Shay, Elise and Robert. It was wonderful to hear so many instrumentalists preparing for their ABRSM examinations, and we wish them all the very best of luck!

Kati Kinnair



Prep 1 Trip

On Thursday 20th May, the Year 5s (Prep 1) went to the Sir John Soane's Museum in London, where we all had a wonderful tour. We visited because in History we are learning about Ancient Greece and in English we have been reading about the adventures of Odysseus. Sir John Soane was a famous architect who lived over 200 years ago. He loved collecting interesting and unusual objects from around the world, especially ancient artefacts from Greece, Rome and Egypt. His house was filled with statues, paintings, models, books and even real ancient objects that he collected during his lifetime. It felt like stepping back in time! One of the most exciting parts of the museum was a small room where the walls opened up to reveal even more paintings and hidden spaces. It was amazing to see how cleverly the house had been designed. We also took part in a brilliant workshop where we learned more about Greek myths and artefacts, and afterwards we enjoyed a scenic picnic together. We were split into smaller groups because the museum used to be Sir John Soane's actual home, and many of the artefacts are very old and delicate. This helped everyone look carefully at the collection without touching anything important. Adding up all the different parts of the day, this trip was definitely one of the best!

Haala ITB

Celebrating Culture and Identity



Culture and Identity Day provided a wonderful opportunity for the Prep School to celebrate the rich diversity that makes up the Bancroft's community. Joining with the Senior School, children spent the day reflecting on the many different cultures, traditions, interests and experiences that help shape who we are as individuals. Children were invited to come to school wearing something that represented an aspect of their culture or identity, and it was lovely to see the many different ways in which they chose to take part. Some children wore traditional clothing linked to their heritage or family celebrations, while others arrived proudly wearing the kit of a sports club they belong to, the shirt of a favourite team, or outfits representing hobbies and interests that are important to them. There were also some wonderfully creative interpretations, which sparked plenty of conversation throughout the day. Importantly, children took part in whatever way felt comfortable for them, with many choosing to wear school uniform — itself an important symbol of belonging to the Bancroft's community. Across the school, classrooms were filled with thoughtful discussions as children shared stories, traditions, interests and experiences with one another. The day was a valuable reminder of the importance of curiosity, understanding and respect, and of the many different backgrounds and passions that enrich life at Bancroft's.

Bino Rathod



Farewell Mrs Allen



Every school has those special people who become part of its fabric — the people who keep everything running, know everyone, and somehow make the school feel like home. At Bancroft's Prep, that person has undoubtedly been Mrs Allen. There is no denying that the school already feels much quieter without her. For years, Mrs Allen was one of the first people children saw in the morning and

one of the last at the end of the day. Whatever the weather, she was outside in the playground greeting families with warmth, humour and honesty, making children feel safe and parents reassured from the moment they arrived. Mrs Allen was kind, caring and endlessly devoted to the school community, but she was also wonderfully candid and brilliantly funny. She said what everyone else was thinking, usually with perfect timing and a sharp sense of humour that staff, parents and children all loved. She managed the lunch queue like a seasoned professional, kept a close eye on the staffroom, ensured the dishwasher was loaded correctly, and guarded the biscuit tin with unwavering commitment. There are staff members who still fear leaving a spoon in the sink in case Mrs Allen somehow appears from nowhere. But what made Mrs Allen so special was not simply what she did — it was how she made people feel. Children adored her because she genuinely cared for them. Staff valued her because she looked after everyone, often without recognition or fuss. She never forgot a birthday, was incredibly thoughtful and generous, and always noticed when someone needed cheering up or a kind word. Mrs Allen brought energy and laughter wherever she went and was very much the life and soul of every social occasion. She loved the music of the sixties, especially Cliff Richard, adored a trip to Harrods, never said no to a cream cake, and somehow always looked immaculate no matter how early the start or how long the day. Her retirement celebration reflected all the things that made her so unmistakably her. There were Cliff Richard masks, games of "Who Knows Mrs Allen Best?", plenty of laughter and a room full of people eager to celebrate someone who has meant so much to so many. The stories shared that evening made one thing very clear: Mrs Allen was never "just" a member of staff. She was part of the heart of the school. Of course, retirement now means more time with her beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren, which is richly deserved. Although, thankfully for us all, Mrs Allen will still be popping in on a voluntary basis from time to time — presumably to inspect the dishwasher and ensure standards have not completely collapsed in her absence. People like Mrs Allen cannot easily be replaced. Her kindness, humour, honesty and enormous presence have left a lasting mark on Bancroft's Prep, and she will be hugely missed by staff, parents and children alike. The school is quieter now. The biscuit tin is certainly less safe. And Bancroft's Prep will never quite be the same without Mrs Allen.

Sarah Strong

Science Superstars!

It all started last term with the team selection quiz. Every pupil in Prep 1 and Prep 2 took part, and Miss Ellery then organised the teams and placed us into the heats. This was the first step towards reaching the finals because only the top 20 teams out of

93 would qualify. There were seven teams in each heat, with every team made up of two Year 5 pupils and two Year 6 pupils. Two Bancroft's teams successfully made it through to the semi-finals, and we then had a few weeks to prepare for the next round. We revised lots of different topics, including space, dinosaurs, the periodic table, famous scientists and their discoveries. In each quiz there are six rounds, with five questions in every round. After each round, the scoreboard is revealed, which makes the competition really exciting. My team has been strong throughout the competition. We usually scored highly in the first few rounds, but found the final rounds more difficult because every question was worth 100 points and they were extremely challenging. There were two semi-final competitions and we competed in the second one. Only the highest-scoring teams from both semi-finals would qualify for the national finals, so both Bancroft's teams were determined to earn a place. The semi-final was very challenging and we had to stay resilient and keep encouraging each other as we slipped down the leaderboard. When the final scores were first revealed, it looked as though neither team had made it through. However, the next day we discovered there had been a technical glitch which meant that one of our teammates had answered questions correctly, but the points had not been recorded properly. It turned out that my team had actually scored highly enough to qualify for the national finals in Oxford! The other Bancroft's team, who were only a few points behind us, also earned a place in the online finals competition. The quiz finals will take place towards the end of June and we are all feeling really excited.

Raja IZR

School Council News

On Wednesday 13th May, the School Council had the opportunity to meet Mr Frazer in the Head's house. He told us the history of Bancroft's and then asked us to share anything we enjoyed about the school or something we wanted to improve about it. Some of our favourite things about Bancroft's were concerts, the sports we play and the new playground equipment. Suggestions for improvements included introducing a Buddy Bench, more drinking fountains and more opportunities for dramatic arts in the Betas and Prep 1s. It was exciting to meet the Head of the Senior School; he was very friendly and wrote down all our suggestions.

Eden ITB

A Credit to Us

This half term's Green Credit winners enjoyed a special reward trip to the top of the Bancroft's tower with Mr Layburn and Mr Denyer. The children were treated to spectacular far-reaching views across the school grounds and the local area, giving them a completely different perspective of Bancroft's. Following the visit, everyone enjoyed hot chocolate and pastries together in the Dining Hall. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the pupils' excellent effort, positive attitudes and commitment to earning Green Credits throughout the half term. Congratulations to all of the winners!

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| ALPHA | Nathan, Arya , Xavian, Sophia , Melina and Kiaan |
| BETA | Jaap, Izzah, Eliza, Fujian, Kush and Charlotte |
| PREP 1 | Alesha, Ayush, Ibrahim, Sukhmani, Eden and Charlie |
| PREP 2 | Charlie, Marco, Aneesa, Robert, Yusuf and Jessica |

County Cricket

The recent County Cup cricket fixtures provided another excellent opportunity for pupils to showcase their talent, resilience and teamwork in highly competitive matches. A fantastic victory against Warren Junior School saw the team produce a mature and thoughtful performance, making sensible decisions with the bat, bowling accurately and consistently, and developing a stronger understanding of fielding positions and tactical play within the game. This was followed by an incredibly close contest against Brentwood School, where the team narrowly missed out by just four runs in a thrilling match that went down to the final over. Despite the result, the pupils showed outstanding determination, composure under pressure and excellent sportsmanship throughout. The performances across both fixtures highlighted the continued progress and growing confidence within the squad, leaving the team with plenty to be proud of as the season continues.

Tennis Stars

Congratulations to Barney and Rory in the Betas for living up to their year group name and “beating” so many older opponents at the U11 Essex Independent Schools Tennis Cup on Tuesday! The event, which included a number of county-level performance players, was a doubles tournament which allowed the boys to show off their beautiful backhands (which every teacher and coach commented on!) and they achieved the fourth-best set of results out of 13 teams. There were two groups, with the winner of each going through to the final. Barney and Rory played six group matches and won four of them, losing one in a very tight match against the eventual Brentwood School champions. They came away with wins over the Chigwell Cs (3–2), Forest As (5–0), New Hall Bs (5–0) and Thorpe Hall B (5–0), as well as a certificate — and an ice cream reward from Miss Wainwright (Head of Tennis in the Senior School), who was delighted both with the way they played and how admirably they represented Bancroft’s with their conduct on and off the court.
Mandy Wainwright



Golf



Our Morning Club golf sessions have been a huge success, with children showing great enthusiasm and enjoyment each week. Pupils have loved taking part in the activities and have made excellent progress in developing their golf skills, particularly in chipping and putting. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they learn new techniques, improve their accuracy and work together in a fun and encouraging atmosphere. The club has provided a wonderful opportunity for children to develop coordination, concentration, patience and teamwork while enjoying the game of golf.

Tennis News

The tennis season has got off to a fantastic start, with all pupils showing great enthusiasm and progress on the court. Prep 1 and Prep 2 pupils have been learning about doubles scoring and have enjoyed putting their knowledge into practice during Games sessions. Alongside this, both year groups have been working on their serving skills and developing their overarm serving techniques. The pupils' rallying has been particularly impressive, demonstrating a strong understanding of the ready position and effective follow-through when striking the ball. It has also been exciting to see the Prep 2 pupils take part in their first fixture of the season, playing the Thirds in a friendly mini tournament. Prep 2 achieved their strongest performance yet in this fixture, with the Prep School winning an impressive 11 matches — the highest total recorded in this fixture in recent years. With upcoming fixtures against Chigwell School and Brentwood School, we look forward to seeing more excellent tennis on display!

Making Waves in the Pool

Our Alpha Swim Squad have had an exciting half term competing in external school swim galas for the first time.

Our Alpha and Prep 1 squads were victorious against Chigwell on May 5th.

1st Bancroft's 167 points

2nd Chigwell 132 points

On May 19th Alphas were joined by Beta swim squad competing against Highgate.

1st Bancroft's 140 points

2nd Highgate 116 points

Cricket News

Over the last few weeks, our cricket fixtures against Heath Mount School, Forest School and St Aubyn's School have showcased excellent determination, teamwork and progress across all teams. The girls' teams were outstanding throughout, producing superb performances and remaining unbeaten against all competitors with confident batting, disciplined bowling and excellent fielding. The boys' teams competed brilliantly in a series of closely contested matches, narrowly missing out on a full set of victories despite displaying great resilience and sportsmanship. Meanwhile, the Beta teams experienced a mixture of wins and losses, but their improvement from game to game was clear to see, with growing confidence, stronger teamwork and significant individual development evident across every fixture. It has also been particularly pleasing to see a number of pupils experience hardball cricket for the first time this season. Many embraced the challenge superbly, showing bravery, determination and a willingness to learn. Pupils responded positively to coaching feedback throughout the fixtures, making noticeable improvements in their technique, decision-making and understanding of the game with each match played. Overall, the recent cricket fixtures have been a tremendous success for the school. Pupils across all teams should be congratulated not only for their performances and results, but also for the respect, risk-taking and excellence they have displayed throughout the season. Cricket at Bancroft's continues to grow in strength across all year groups, with pupils showing outstanding commitment, enthusiasm and development throughout the term. We look forward to building on this success and enjoying the remainder of the season.



Mini-Marathon Magic



On Saturday 25th April, 40 runners from Bancroft's Prep School took part in the Mini London Marathon alongside an incredible 21,000 children from across the country. We all met at Horse Guards Parade before the races began. The Alpha and Beta runners completed the one-mile course, while the Prep 1 and Prep 2 runners tackled the 2.6km route. It was an amazing event, especially because we got to run past Buckingham Palace! I felt really proud whilst running, as there were so many people cheering and watching along the route. It was definitely one of the best races I have ever taken part in. Before the race, Joe Wicks led the warm-up, which got everyone excited and ready to run. There was music playing along the course and even bubble machines, which made the atmosphere really fun. By the end I was quite tired, but there were plenty of people handing out water and I loved receiving a medal at the finish line. In my opinion, the 2026 medal is far more impressive than the one we received last year!

Harry ITB



House Update

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