



It really is the end of an era here at the Prep School. After fourteen glorious years, our Director of Music, the multi-talented Mr Adam Baum, is retiring. From a personal point of view, as I keep saying, I am not at all sure what I will do without him! I will miss the incredible, high quality productions and concerts he has given us, I will miss the way he puts music at the heart of everything we do here, but most of all I will miss the person that he is. He is a wonderful teacher and colleague who cares deeply about all the children in the Prep School and their individual musical journeys, whether they're a reluctant recorder player or a Grade 8 violinist! He has also been a great friend to all of us on the Prep School staff. I know he has felt the gratitude and the love from so many of you as we have gone through this musical term. On behalf of everyone in the Bancroft's community I wish him all the very best for the future. Thank you for the music, Mr Baum!

*Joe Layton*

## PEAK DISTRICT TRIP

The residential was a fun, exciting trip to the Peak District, but marked the importance of transitioning into the Senior school, it being here or somewhere else. We arrived early at 7.30am on a sunny Monday morning. We waved goodbye to our parents and then hit the road. When we reached the hostel we ate lunch, found our rooms, did some team building and fire lighting, and the staff set some ground rules before dinner. On our trip we did many activities to teach us life skills like rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, ziplining, brain puzzles, room inspections, egg rockets and fossil making. On Thursday we climbed Mam Tor - our biggest challenge was climbing up Mam Tour - but being as amazing as we are, we did it as though it wasn't as hard as we thought it was. We'll never forget the day we

walked 10 kilometres uphill! Thank you to the Prep 2 teachers and Miss Kelly and Mr Hall for taking time out from your families to take care of us. It was a very memorable trip.

Dhrithi 2LW



## SUPER SPORTS' DAY

There was an amazing turnout of spectators at our annual Bancroft's Prep Sports' Day. In slightly 'lukewarm' temperatures, we saw all the children compete to the best of their ability. Once again, photo finish technology was put to the test as so many races were really close-run! As well as the determination of the pupils, the highlight was seeing parents join their children to run around the track in the 'mob race'; it was a new event for this year and a real success. Thank you once again to the PA for supplying the ice lollies, as well as the post-event treats. The overall result saw Knighton come out as victors, closely followed by Hereford.

Team PE





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## THE CICERO CUP

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About two years ago, we decided as a school that we wanted to get more involved in competitive debating. It's a great way to promote and practise so many of the skills that we think are important, like public speaking, active listening and critical thinking. As part of this endeavour, we have participated in the Cicero Cup, the biggest national debating competition for prep and primary schools in the UK. This year's team, which consisted of Soraya, Sophia, Olivia and Michael in Prep 2, did fantastically well in the competition and made it all the way to the final at Hampton Court Palace. They had to take part in two debates, one of which was about a topic released in advance ("This house believes cultural treasures should be returned to their countries of origin") and one of which had to be prepared twenty minutes before it began ("This house believes that planting trees is more important than building houses"). We didn't win the competition but our team gave a very good account of themselves and presented some carefully crafted arguments with real conviction and rigour. The team have taken an important step in developing the profile of debating at Bancroft's Prep School and we're very proud of them all.

Timothy Paramour



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## RAF MUSEUM

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There are a lot of planes at the RAF Museum! Prep 1s went here for a trip to see the different fighter planes used in wars from the past as this linked to our History work on Transport and Communication through the Ages. The planes we saw were all very interesting – we especially liked the one with the scary face painted on it and the big

bomber plane, the Avro Lancaster. We all did a workshop to develop our coding skills, which we have been using in Computing lessons too. First, we made code to test our reaction times; some of us were very fast and could make good pilots! Then, we made a compass and used it to follow directions and find different planes in the museum. It was a fun and exciting trip – it was the bomb!

Dylan and Max, Prep 1



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## DANCEATHON

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On 28<sup>th</sup> June, the Prep School were dancing in aid of Sportability. Each class had a 25 minute slot to dance in their classrooms and, apart from a 15 minute pause to eat, pupils danced through break and lunchtime too. This was in aid of Sportability, a wonderful local club that encourages disabled youngsters to gain confidence, make friends and have fun through a range of sports. We raised £1375, together with the collection from 'The Lion King' and everyone should be really proud of themselves.

Sarah Strong





# THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC!



reaction meant a lot to the choir, Lina and myself. Some revisiting of 'The Lion King' songs was essential and the familiar energy returned for this. Mr Layburn and myself as co-hosts of the concert bounced off each other nicely and I shall miss that friendly interaction very much indeed. I cannot think of a better way to finish my time at Bancroft's, other than in the company of colleagues, supportive parents, honoured guests and talented past and present pupils. This day I will miss very much.  
Adam Baum

## UPPER PHASE CONCERT

## VISITATION DAY

Visitation Day, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June, has traditionally been one of the highlights of the school musical calendar, when visitors from our Board of Governors and distinguished guests from The Worshipful Company of Drapers visit the school. This is a tradition stretching back to the foundation of the school so its significance, even in 2024, should not be lost on our students. We welcomed over 100 parents from our Prep 1 and 2 year groups, and their reaction to the event was very special. In this summary of a wonderful event, I cannot comment on so many items, as would be unjust to leave anything or anybody out, but our soloists were simply wonderful. They are brave and rose to the challenge of playing to such a distinguished audience. Hao, Julia and Devan, I thank you with huge respect.



Bancroft's Prep School has always valued music and for many years Mr Baum has provided it in massive quantities. We have an annual array of concerts: Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Summer in which we sing and play our hearts out with actions, enthusiasm and feeling. On Wednesday, 26th June, the pupils of Prep 1 and Prep 2 performed a number of songs either played by instrument or sung by the harmonious voices of the Senior Choir. Some of the music included: "Action Movie" by the String Orchestra, "La Donna è Mobile" by the Wind band and the "Radetsky March" played by the full Orchestra. The Flute, Reed, Cello and Guitar Groups played songs such as "He's a Pirate", "Bach Rocks!", and "My Heart Will Go On", all beautifully executed. We had soloists as well, including the old favourite, "Fly Me To The Moon", played by Aurelia. The Senior Choir then sang the following songs: "I Wish I Knew How", "Make Your Own Kind Of Music" and our school song "Floreat Bancroftia", all with vigour and pride. My favourite one was "I Wish I Knew How" because of its beautiful message and also because it included an amazing solo by my friend Lina. We were very appreciative of the efforts of Miss Harrison, Mr Bluff, Mr Murray, Mr MacManus, Mr Trebilcock, Ms Saumarez and Miss Akroyd who lifted the show with their extreme musical talent. We have always been inspired by Mr Baum and will miss him sorely after his retirement. We all hope he has a peaceful rest - he certainly deserves it after all his hard work for the school! Mr Baum has taken a place in our hearts and will always be part of our memories of Bancroft's Prep School.  
Lucy ITB



My final Visitation Day allowed me the luxury of inviting two star former pupils to the event. I felt privileged when Matthew and Tristan agreed to come and play a duet and they surely did not disappoint in a performance of one of Dvorak's 'Slavonic Duets'. Their musical futures as musicians either professionally or talented amateur is certainly assured. The rest of the concert was all about singing and there were many glorious highlights, including Lina singing the solo in the powerful, 'I Wish I Knew.' The



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## LOWER PHASE CONCERT

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We started work on the summer concert at the end of the spring term. Mr Baum organised lots of rehearsals and encouraged us to practise in our free time – especially the soloists. As the concert date drew near, the Lower Phase students were very excitable and Mr Baum became increasingly less tolerant of tracksuit tops appearing at rehearsals. Mr Baum prowled the corridors, fishing soloists out of class to run through their pieces. A whole afternoon of lessons was cancelled for the dress rehearsal! Finally, the great day arrived. Junior Orchestra opened the concert with three Larry Newman pieces, conducted in style by Mr MacManus. The Alpha Recorders performed four lively pieces by Sarah Watts which were enjoyed by the audience. Eight soloists from the Alpha and Beta years performed a wide range of music. For most of the soloists, this was the largest audience they had performed to, so it was a big moment. The Junior Choir performed *Let's Start to Sing!*, *Drop in the Ocean*, *Spread a Little Bit of Sunshine* and *I'm a Believer* before closing the concert with the school song *Floreat Bancroftia*. On behalf of the Lower Phase, I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Baum for providing us with this amazing experience. We are very grateful to him for setting us off on our musical journeys, and we will always think of him when we sing. The applause from the audience made all our hard work feel really worthwhile and inspires to carry on loving and performing music.

Elizabeth BSS

inspired to think about the importance of Music, Drama and Art in our curriculum and how the Arts help us appreciate other interests and academic subjects. Marisol is a role model of what an interest in Performing Arts can lead to. Currently at Queen Mary's University studying English and Drama, Marisol has performed at Edinburgh Fringe, worked with the Almeida Theatre Company and works at the Pauline Quirk Academy of Performing Arts. We thank her for her time and hope to see her again very soon.

Sarah Strong

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## VALERIE BLOOM

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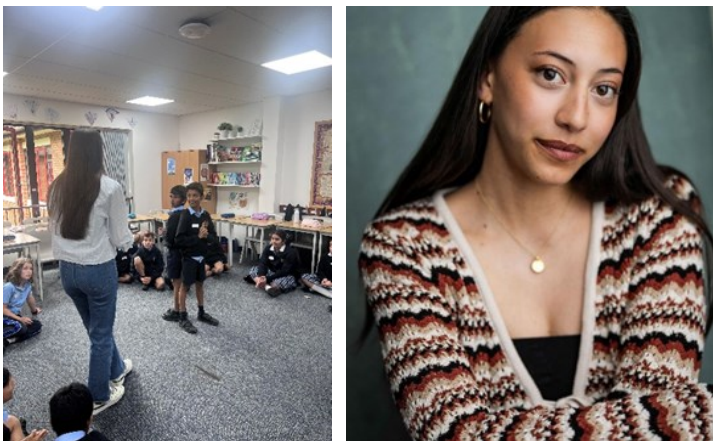
On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June, the poet Valerie Bloom visited our school. We have been working on her poems in English and everyone has enjoyed them. Firstly, she performed a few, such as 'Sandwich', 'Welcome' and 'Pinder Cake', which she actually sang. She also used some Jamaican words in them and balanced her bag on her head pretending it was a box of goodies. This is what they do in Jamaica. Afterwards, we did a writing workshop with her. We played a concentration game which was really fun. Then, we wrote a list of different types of things and places and then she asked us to add adjectives and articles to turn them into similes. Eventually, it formed a poem. Going forward, we will use some of her tips for our writing.

Imogen & Skye ITB

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## WHAT A PERFORMANCE!

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BSS were honoured to take part in a performing arts workshop led by OB Marisol Rojas on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June. The session began with a brainstorm on the Arts; what are they, where can they be found and what defines an art? This led to a philosophical conversation and a brainstorm of amazing ideas about what Art means to them. Then Marisol organised drama games to test the children's concentration, awareness and collaboration skills. The children did not want the excitement to end, so Marisol stayed on to create poetry with the children which they then performed to each other. The children were so

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## HORNIMAN MUSEUM

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As part of our Science topic on 'Living Things', we decided to research two species in action: fish and butterflies at The Horniman Museum. We managed to see beautiful tropical fish in the aquarium there and, in an extremely hot butterfly house, we caught sight of many vibrant coloured butterflies. We shared facts about what we had learnt, for example how there are 30,000 species of fish and they have excellent memories, and how butterflies taste through their feet and cannot fly if they are cold. We also



had the opportunity to explore the Music Gallery and World Gallery seeing a multitude of instruments through the ages and exhibits across many cultures respectively.

Then it was time to explore the gardens. As the sun was shining, we went on a nature trail, played in the sound garden, found rabbits, alpacas and sheep on the animal walk and then rolled down the hills in the meadow! It was so much fun and the Betas were the best version of themselves. They returned to school exhausted but with minds full of exciting information. Curiosity and excellence were achieved.

Sarah Strong



## AYDIN TRUST BOOK SALE



The Book Fair in aid of The Aydin Trust was a success. Pupils donated pre-loved books, in good condition to sell, and all avid readers flocked to grab some bargains. It was the idea of Sophia Rahman 2LW, of whom the charity is close to her heart. A Charity Ambassador, Sophia has worked tirelessly to raise awareness for the charity in the Prep over the years and has been a real asset to us with her organisation, commitment and compassion. Thank you to all who contributed and supported; we raised over £120.

Sarah Strong

## LIBRARY NEWS

Our librarian, Mrs Houghton, has not been able to produce a library newsletter this term, as she has been busy preparing the Prep library for a huge upgrade! We have just about seen her head popping up above stacks and stacks of books as she checks and scans every single one of them. Over the summer, a new system will be installed, which will make borrowing books even easier than before. In other book-related news, over £1000 was spent at the recent book fair, earning us £400 worth of new books for the school.



## THE TEDDY TRUST

Teddy bears are there to spread love and happiness and fill our lives with goodness. A simple way to bring happiness to children less fortunate than ours is to share our pre-loved bears to them. Last week we delivered 40 traditional bears to The Teddy Trust who will then ship them to war-torn countries to provide comfort for children who have suffered great loss and trauma. Some of our children chose to add a message on a label which we tied to the bear. Thank you to everyone who 'cared to share a bear'! Another example of Bancroft's kindness and collaboration.





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## SPORTS NEWS

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This school term has been an exceptional period from our pupils in all things sport, showcasing their fantastic cricket and tennis skills, swimming and athletics! From exciting performances and thrilling victories, the girls and boys have demonstrated excellence on and off the sports field. Each PE lesson, fixture and tournament has been a testament to all their hard work, making this term for the world of sports truly memorable. We have had our annual Cricket Festival, the London Youth Games, our much-anticipated Sports Day, Aquathlons, a Swimming Gala and many more exhilarating events. The pupils have worked extremely hard and are commended for their efforts this term. It has been a pleasure watching them play, compete and enjoy all things sports!

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## CRICKET DYNAMOS

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We represented the London Borough of Redbridge in the London Youth Games on Wednesday 19th June. We boarded the bus and set off for Gunnersbury Sports Park at 7:30am. We arrived at the venue around 9:30am and registered our team. After warming up, it was time for our first game. Our first match was against a strong side and the game was remarkably close, but in the end, after teachers from both teams had to deliberate with the umpire, we came out on top! The rest of the morning we comfortably won all our matches, meaning we qualified for the semi-finals. The semi-finals were nail-biting, with the last over making all the difference. After a close score we made it into the final! We came across a very strong bowling side when batting in the final, which we couldn't come back from. Our bowling and fielding were very strong in this game. But we all walked away from the tournament with silver medals round our necks. We finally arrived back home at 8pm to applause from our parents while getting off the coach. The long day was worth it as it was an amazing experience and one that none of us will forget. Thank you to Miss Kelly and Miss Peckham for a wonderful day.  
Soraya 2CP



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## IAPS CRICKET

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The U11 boys met for an early departure to St. Joseph's in Ipswich for a round robin IAPS cricket tournament. In beautiful surroundings, they came up just short in their first two games, but showed some real grit, determination and tournament knowledge to win both their final games. Overall, we finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and celebrated by everyone falling asleep on the minibus on the way back. This concluded the end of a very successful cricket season, once again, for all the boys and girls cricket teams.

David Archer



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## CRICKET FESTIVAL

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On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June we held our annual Cricket Festival at West Grove. The girls had two groups consisting of four teams in each and the boys had four groups consisting of three teams in each. Both Bancroft's girls AB team got through to the Cup and Plate final and Bancroft's boys AB team got through to the Cup final. The boys had a tough Bancroft's vs Bancroft's nail-biting final with Bancroft's A beating Bancroft's B, resulting in gold and silver medals for both Bancroft's boys' teams. The Bancroft's Girls A team had a very successful morning and got through to the Cup final where they met St. Edmunds Girl's A team.





The final game was extremely close, with some fabulous cricket being played, uncommonly ending in a draw on points! However, the result was decided on the head-to-head game and St. Edmunds A went home with the gold medal. Bancroft's B Girls made the final of the Plate competition against Heath Mount school after a triumphant morning. The girls played extraordinarily well, winning the gold medal! It was a great day for all with some fantastic cricket being played, ending with all the Bancroft's teams going home with gold and silver medals!

Gemma Peckham

## EAGLES V HAWKS

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, a group of Prep 1 & Prep 2 pupils went to a cricket match with Miss Kelly, Mr Archer, Miss Peckham and Mr Hall. We left school at 3:30pm and went on a coach to get to the Essex cricket ground in Chelmsford. Just before we arrived, the teachers surprised us by saying we had special tickets to make the Guard of Honour for the Hampshire Hawks' team! Everyone was thrilled by this news. When we arrived, we each got a



packed dinner and then we went through to the ground, and we watched the England V Denmark football game. Around 6:30pm, it was time to go on to the pitch for the guard of honour! We all went on the pitch in two lines and the players came out between us getting high fives! That was amazing! Then we went to our seats and watched the game. Every time the batters hit a 4 or a 6, we put these cards up; The whole trip was so much fun! During half time we went to the merchandise shop and got lots of lovely memorabilia, to remember the day we had. Then we went back to our seats and watched the rest of the game. The match finished at 10 o'clock; we climbed back on the coach

and went back to school after a fun day. Everyone enjoyed it a lot, it was great.

Isavella IAK



## BATTLE OF THE HOUSES

The House competition concluded this week with a fine performance in the BETA cricket. The children have improved their collaboration, as well as opening their minds to a few alternative pursuits and challenges. These have included; Daily mile, Treasure Hunt, Display board, Mixed netball, Mixed rugby, House Peristalsis, Basketball, Tug of War, Rugby, Dodgeball, Bally-he, Hockey, Poetry, Skipping, Netball, Ruler Drop, Benchball, Round the Post Relay, Squadron Run, Football, Times Table Challenge, Drama, Tennis, Aquathlon, Cricket, Swimming and Sports Day. The House system is there to give the opportunity for children to compete in a 'friendly' environment where learning about sportsmanship, teamwork and taking opportunities is high on the objectives. It has, once again, been a pleasure to see all the children perform in the various House activities that have been thrown at them this year.

The final scores for this academic year are:

<b>Knighton</b>	506
<b>Manor</b>	486
<b>Hereford</b>	483
<b>Monkhams</b>	456