



Bancroft's School

Autumn Term 2005

PUBLIC EXAM RESULTS

Bancroft's is the Top Co-ed School - again!

The 2005 public exam results were published to the traditional background of questions about standards in education, but there could be no complaints about the bumper crop of grades achieved at Bancroft's this year. The results proved to be records at both GCSE and A-level, with the school comfortably outstripping its local rivals.

In the Upper Sixth the proportion of A grades was 55%, the first time that the 50% barrier has been broken, with 84% being graded A or B, up 10% from last year. The overall pass rate rose to 100%. The average UCAS points score (A=120, B=100 etc.) was 399 for the boys, and almost identical at 400 for the girls. There were 13 distinctions obtained in the Advanced Extension Award papers (AEAs), and a further 12 merits. 33 candidates scored 3 grade As or better, placing them in the top 3% of the population. The 16 candidates who took the new Institute of Financial Services exam were all successful.

The Sunday Times has continued its campaign to force Prep Schools to reveal their Key Stage 2 exam results. In their enthusiasm for revealing hidden scandals, they failed to include Bancroft's this year, even though our Prep School has been in their top 10 for the last three years. The corrected version of their league table should have read:

1	City of London (G)	864
2	Bromley High School (G)	839
3	Bute House (G)	836
4	Bancroft's (Mixed)	834
5	Putney High (G)	827
6	James Allen's (G)	824
7=	Manchester High (G)	822
7=	Oxford High (G)	822
9	Notting Hill High (G)	821
10	South Hampstead High (G)	820

Bancroft's Prep thus retained the crown as the top mixed Prep School; our closest rival was Alleyn's in 14th position.

27 of our candidates received **special commendations** from the exam boards for being in the top few nationally. At A-level: Hannah Jaycock (French) and Zoe Leake (Physics). At GCSE: Luke Tatam, Cheryl Gayer, Grace Wood (English) Grace Wood, Karina Watkins, Susannah Milburn (Spanish) Hardeep Rai, Dominic Thompson (German) Florence Vincent, Megan Howlett, Lena Chudasama, Sharon Christy, Jocelyn Chau, Natalie Limb, Cheryl Gayer, Jessica Smart, Hardeep Rai, Jonathan Pease, Alice Millar-Durrant, Jacob Bellworthy, Antony Milne, Karthik Darmasseelane, Susannah Milburn (French) Shanika Mehta (Maths) and Pritham Bhatia (RS).

The Lower Sixth took the AS level exams, which represent the first half of their final A-levels. The results are provisional, as they can resit the papers, but 78% of their grades were A or B; this is an increase on last year, and bodes well for next year's full A-levels.

The Fifth Form GCSE results were stunningly good, with 87% of all papers being graded A* or A, and 55% reaching the top A* grade. Every candidate passed the Government's hurdle of 5 passes at grade C or above, and indeed 94% of our candidates passed 5 or more subjects at grade A. 51 of the 56 candidates passed Additional Maths, and all 49 Upper Fourth candidates who took Maths GCSE a year early scored A or A*.

The Daily Telegraph ranks schools by the % of A* grades at GCSE, placing Bancroft's 11th in the whole country, being the top placed mixed school. This is the fourth time in seven years that Bancroft's has been the top co-educational school nationally.

Full details of the exam results are given on the school website, www.bancrofts.essex.sch.uk

The pace of work on the new buildings has increased markedly over the summer break. The Courtyard Building, which will contain new kitchens, five new classrooms, an exhibition area and a new Sixth Form Common Room, is now starting to take on its final external appearance. It is due to be handed over just before Christmas, and should be in use by the Spring Term. The topping out ceremony was performed



by the Master of the Drapers' Company, Mr Martin Sankey, on Visitation Day. The enormous crane which has dominated the Woodford skyline since Christmas was removed in early August, plucked out of the middle of the building site by an even larger crane.

Meanwhile work has also begun on the new Sports Hall, which will be on the north side of the School Field next to the forest. The turf cutting to mark the start of this project was performed on OBs Day by Steve Ferrari, the OBA President, and Elana Kaymer, the youngest girl in the school. The Sports Hall is due to be completed by summer 2006, and should extend considerably the facilities for sports on the school site, and should also reduce the annual disruption caused by the use of the Gym for public exams.

The summer break has also been used for a complete renovation of the swimming pool; the tiling has been replaced, the changing facilities upgraded, and the depth of the water at the deep end has been reduced to two metres. The pool should be back in use by October.

The first stage of the restoration of the historic fabric of the School has begun with the east elevation of the quad, the clock and the tower. As was expected, there has been considerable erosion of the soft brick and coping stones in the 118 years since it was built. The restoration is likely to take at least five years.

A Question of Courage

History came alive in this year's junior play. Based on Marjorie Darke's classic novel, *A Question of Courage* is set in 1912 and tells the story of one woman's growing involvement in the fight for votes for women. Appreciative audiences enjoyed three performances from a large cast.

Our heroine Emily Palmer – played with energy and intelligence by Pratheeshaa Nageswaran – went from working in a dress shop to vandalising a golf course once she met the activist Louise Marshall (a poised and mature performance from Sonia Hunter). There was also the more romantic side of things – focused in particular upon the raffishly charming Peter (Oliver Myers).



Original artwork by Kimberly Ling

Staged in the chapel, the production used the full space available and when as a member of the audience you found yourself sitting between two key characters (such as Emily's forceful parents – the splendid Oliver Kiddell and Holly Lucas) you certainly felt involved in the action.

The story embraced force feeding, hot-air ballooning and wild dogs so there were technical challenges to be met; but the excellent acting and strong backstage support meant that all who saw the show were transported to that era of key change in an entertaining fashion. Congratulations to all.



We were ready to leave from Bancroft's at 04.00. We got to Portsmouth harbour at around 6:30 we took a ferry to Fort George; it is a fully operational ship, and during war time its job is to take men, food and weapon supplies to our ships.

During the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar we, along with other sea scouts and cadets, lined the port side of Fort George and waited while standing at alert for HMS Endurance, (an Antarctic survey vessel) to go past which had the Queen on board. We knew the Queen was there because she was the one wearing sky blue in a crown of navy uniforms. We got our orders from the 'Man and Cheer Ship' via the ship's PA system. It lasted 30 minutes and was an exciting experience. After a short rest (since we had only 3 to 4 hours sleep the night before) we then repeated

the routine on the starboard side of the boat.

After this we met the Prince Michael of Kent, who asked us where we were from and if we were enjoying ourselves. We also spoke to some cadets who were serving on board Fort George with the navy, and they seemed to be enjoying it.

After all that we were starving and walked to McDonalds. We then hurried to a spot where we would be able to clearly see the re-enactment of the Battle of Trafalgar and the fireworks. However we were very pleased that we did stay, since the fireworks especially were fantastic. We left after the fireworks, and hit heavy traffic, since all the other spectators were leaving at around the same time.

I arrived home at 3.30am, but it was well worth the lost sleep.

FAR EAST RUGBY TOUR JULY -AUGUST 2005

Mr D J Argyle

Twenty one days, twelve matches, nine flights, nine hotels and only three days in any one location. With such a schedule this was always going to be a really tough tour. Upon arrival at Gatwick the size of our tour party was very evident. In our smart blue polo shirts we all but took over the Emirates desk.

The journey started with an enforced stop over in Dubai for 18hrs. Despite the very intense heat it was a good introduction to our new environment. Arrival in Colombo was a sharp contrast and we were left in no doubt that we were in a developing country. The journey to the hotel was a quick introduction to Colombo's driving etiquette.

The following ten days in Sri Lanka was a mixture of rugby and sightseeing; travelling from Colombo to Kandy to Sigiriya. Highlights included the elephant orphanage and safari, batik factories, spice gardens, a climb up the famous Sigiriya rock and visits to the Temple of the Tooth. We played six games in Sri Lanka, winning 5 of them. They proved to be tough and physical opposition and we suffered our only defeat of the tour.



Singapore was a huge hit, allowing ample opportunity to shop for 'boys toys'. Two tough games were won against very physical and strong opposition.

After further success in our final two tour matches in Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Malaysia provided fantastic opportunities for white water rafting, caving, and the all important beach based R&R. This was essential after a schedule that had included three games and two flights in five days! The last of the pocket money was spent in the street markets and tailors of Georgetown before returning to Kuala Lumpur for the journey home.

The tour was an incredible experience for all concerned, one that we will never forget. The friendships and team spirit built up on the tour will endure.



NEW STAFF



Mr Christopher Curl

Christopher Curl joins Bancroft's as the new Head of the Prep School. He is 44, and a graduate of Exeter University. He is a married man, with two children; his daughter Hannah is starting in the Prep School, and son Oliver hopes to follow in due course. He was Headmaster of Ferndale School, a prep school in Oxfordshire for four years, and before that his experience included teaching at Junior King's School Canterbury, and Haileybury Junior School. He has been particularly interested in Drama and Boys' Sport.

Mr Peter Fellows

Peter Fellows is joining the Biology Department this year. He is a graduate of Southampton University in Biomedical Sciences, and has just completed a PGCE at King's College London. He has considerable experience of outdoor activities, and of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme; he has also been involved in swimming and diving, and he is an experienced musician.



Mr Jonathan Prole

Jonathan Prole is a late recruit to the teaching profession. After graduating from Imperial College in Physics, he spent eleven years working for a variety of banks in the City. He has now decided to fulfil a long-standing intention to move into teaching; he will be helped by his very broad experience of education in this country and abroad. He is a good games player, and will bring a new breadth to the careers department.



IN SHORT....

The school buildings will be open to the public on Sunday 18 September from 11 am to 5 pm as part of the London Open House Weekend.

There will be an inspection of the Prep and Senior Schools during the second week in February 2006.

Congratulations to:

Andrew Saull who has been selected for the England Rugby Junior National Academy. **Michael Vroobel** who has won a national Arkwright Scholarship for Engineering. **Rishabh Shah** who represented the South of England in the national U13 cricket festival. **Mr David Morgan** who has been invited to join a group of teachers visiting The Sudan in October with Education Action International. **Jonathan Fallman** on his selection for the National Junior Chess Squad

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2005

Tuesday 6th September - Friday 16th December

Half Term

Monday 24th October - Friday 4th November

Spring Term 2006

Tuesday 10th January - Friday 31st March

Half Term

Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February

Summer Term 2006

Monday 24th April - Wednesday 12th July

Half Term

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June

Autumn Term 2006

Tuesday 5th September - Friday 15th December

Half Term

Monday 23rd October - Friday 3rd November

CALENDAR DIGEST

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday	06	11.10	Term Starts.
Wednesday	07	7.30	U6 UCAS Presentation to Parents & Pupils.
Thursday	08	7.00	2005 Leavers' Evening.
Friday	09		A Level Biology Trip Departs (until Monday 12).
Tuesday	13	7.30	L6 Introduction to Sixth Form.
Thursday	15	7.30	New Thirds Parents' Evening
Sunday	18	11.00	London Open House (till 5.00)
Monday	19	7.00	11+ Open Evening.
Friday	23		Removes Activity Weekend Departs. (until Sunday 25).
Tuesday	27	2.30	CCF L4 Recruiting.

OCTOBER

Thursday	06	7.30	PA AGM
Saturday	08	10.00	7+ Open Morning.
		6.00	House Drama Finals.
Saturday	15	1.00	CCF Field Weekend (until Monday 18).
		7.30	PA Quiz Night.
Wednesday	19		Sixth Form Open Evening.
		6.30	Current 5ths.
		8.00	External Students.

Mon 24 October – Fri 04 November HALF TERM

NOVEMBER

Wednesday	02		BMAT Exam.
Friday	04	6.45	OBA Dinner – Chigwell Police Club.
Tuesday	08	6.30	U6 Parents' Meeting.
Thursday	10	7.30	Chamber Concert.
Sunday	13	10.30	Remembrance Sunday.
Tuesday	15	7.30	School House Family Evening.
Friday	18		Fifth Form Battlefields Trip.
Saturday	19	12.00	PA Christmas Fayre.
Wednesday	23	7.00	Prep 2 Parents' Evening.
Thursday	24	6.30	L6 Parents' Evening.
Saturday	26	10.00	11+ Open Morning.
		a.m.	16+ Scholarship Exam.

DECEMBER

Thurs/Fri/Sat	08/09/10		Senior Play.
Tuesday	13	7.30	Bancroft's Singers Charity Concert – St Mary's, South Woodford.
Thursday	15	7.30	Carol Service – All Saints Church.
Friday	16	3.40	Term Ends.