

The Coulsdon Chronicle

'Excellence through rigour, resilience and passion'

Spring Edition 2023

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A Note from the Editor Nicolas Deeks



Welcome to another edition of the Coulsdon Chronicle! It has been a turbulent time in the Academy with strikes and snow days, but there has been lots going on and the dedicated Chronicle team have been keeping up with the highlights. We have articles about some of the different events that have been taking place, such as International Women's Day and Chinese New Year, as well as a sneak peek about the upcoming production of Matilda Jr! We hope you enjoy this edition and have a wonderful Easter break.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

By Archie Prescott, Year 8

27th January 2023 was Holocaust Memorial Day. Croydon marked the occasion with a formal gathering at the Town Hall where local dignitaries and officials led a morning of remembrance with many people sharing their recollections and memories as well as presenting information; the aim being that the atrocities of the past will never be forgotten and that humans can learn from the past and ensure this does not happen again.

Several students from Oasis Academy Coulsdon took part in the service, with Nicolas Deeks winning the SACRE award (for the second year in a row) for best poem on this year's theme of 'Ordinary People'. Please read his poem, which is to the right. Year 8 OAC students also presented to the gathering, with Isabel delivering a speech on the importance of remembering these atrocities and myself presenting a short film of my Great Grandfather's contribution and recollections of the liberation of Bergen Belsen.

Bread Shop - Nicolas Deeks

An ordinary man comes to a shop,
The ordinary sale of bread takes place,
While looking in the shop window, he stops,
To see the reflection behind his face.
You see, this man was of the Jewish faith,
An ordinary choice, you may assume,
But these people were haunted by a wraith,
And so, in Germany, their lives meant gloom.
The ordinary bread shop now in flames,
The people all around are struck with fear,
Back then, the Holocaust was in first phase,
For ordinary people death was near.
They man buying bread might be shocked to see:

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The Making of Matilda the Musical

By Rose Bishop, Year 7

We are all very excited here at OAC because the music department is putting together a production of the award-winning West End show 'Matilda' that recently has been made into a movie. We hope this show will be very successful and be the highlight of the term. The show, starring Aylena Jaiswara as Matilda, will take place on 26-27th of April. The cast is working very hard on making this show the best it can be and attending rehearsals every Friday. We would like to thank the music department for all their hard work put into this show. Since Roald Dahl's 'Matilda' is a musical, the



cast has put in lots of effort in learning amazing songs such as 'Revolting Children' and 'Miracle'. The cast have been working on the songs for the first few weeks then working in the Agora to practice acting and moving around, since that is where it will take place. There will be many interesting and exciting scenes to enjoy with humour and excitement.

This show is about innocent Matilda (Aylena Jaiswara) who goes to a school not knowing what to expect, where she meets her best friend Lavender (Molly Hughes) along with their fellow classmates. She was raised by her horrible parents, the Wormwoods (Imogen Ehirim & Rufus Warne), and her mean brother Michael (Harvey Hochton). Matilda needs to survive the presence of the nasty Principal, Miss Trunchbull (Nicolas Deeks), who tries to put Nigella (Skyla Wensley) in the horrible chokey and make Bruce Bogtrotter (Pablo Maddocks) eat a whole cake and throw Amanda Thripp (Belle Symon) into the air by her pigtails because of Trunchbull's hammer-throwing history. She also likes to tell stories to Mrs Phelps (Daisy Turner) about an Escapologist (Theo Winkley) and an Acrobat (Elle-Savannah Arthur). With the help of her kind teacher, Miss Honey (Preet Thethi), Matilda manages to survive school. The book-loving, intelligent & super powered Matilda must change her story to have a happy ending.

Everyone involved is very excited to perform the show on the 26-27th April and impress the audience with their talent. This reporter will be playing the role of Alice. Many ideas and weeks of hard work have gone into this show with a hope to put on the best show possible.

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Chinese New Year

By Holly Marshall. Year 7



Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival or Lunar New Year was on Sunday 22nd January and lasted for 15 days. This tradition is celebrated all over the world.

We celebrate Lunar New Year because long ago, in China, the Jade Emperor decided there should be a way of measuring time. On his birthday he told the animals that there was to be a swimming race. The first twelve animals across the fast flowing river would be the winners and they would each have a year of the zodiac named after them. This year is the year of the rabbit. Many cultures prepare for the new year by cleaning and clearing. They do this because the word 'dust' in Chinese is another word for 'old', thus cleaning the house is a symbolic way of driving away the bad and old luck of the previous year. Other ways of bringing forth luck and prosperity of the new year include fireworks, firecrackers, red clothes and decoration. Legend says that "Nian," a half-dragon, half-lion monster, comes out of hiding and attacks people (especially children) during the Lunar New Year. The red colours are used to ward off the dragon.



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International Women's Day

By Molly Hughes, Year 7



International Women's Day (IWD) is an important event that happens every year on 8th March because it shows the equality that women should have. Just take a moment to think about a gender equal world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can make sure women have equality. Together we can all embrace equity.

IWD started on 19th March 1911 (the 40th anniversary of the Paris Commune, a radical socialist government that briefly ruled France in 1871), the first IWD was held and drew in more than 1 million people to rallies and to celebrate it worldwide.



Embracing equity is a thing we need to all do. It's not something we should just talk about, it's not something we should just write about. It's something we need to think about, know about, and support.

IWD is a day where we should think about equity and welcome it. Embracing different genders is the right thing to do. We can all be a part of the solution, if we all work together, we can make a positive change.

IWD is also a time where we can remember what amazing things women have done for the world and their phenomenal achievements. Here are some amazing women but there is many more: Rosa Parks, Mary Shelley, Anne Frank, Florence Nightingale, Jane Austin, Coco Chanel, Emily Pankhurst, Mary Seacole, Mary Curie and of course Queen Elizabeth II, who sadly passed away last year.

Today, you can think about amazing women and women equality and remember to always embrace equity.