

RHS Values Champions:

Top 5 Attendance:

- 8C - 98.71%
- 8A - 98.67%
- 7D - 98%
- 7A - 97.93%
- 7S - 97.67%

(attendance calculated until 19/01/2024)

HoY Shout Out - Year 9:

Congratulations to **Megan, 9F** for her relentless dedication to her studies and the passion she brings to every aspect of school life; Megan is truly an inspiration. She shows everyone what it means to **persevere** and excel. Keep up the hard work Megan - it is not only noticed, but also inspires us all to strive for greatness.

Mr Joseph - Head of Year 9

Subject Shout Out - Music:

I would like to say a huge well done to **Edward** in the Year 11 GCSE Music class. Edward is tirelessly dedicated to music; he shows up at break, lunch and after school to work on his composition pieces. I am sure his hard work will pay off in the upcoming GCSE examinations!

Miss Nastou - Curriculum Leader for Music



A message from Mr Davies:

I'd like to start this week by thanking those parents/guardians who have taken the time to write to express their congratulations to school staff following the publication of our Ofsted report last week. Although we are delighted that the inspectors recognised the calm, purposeful environment and community ethos that pervades our community, it has been very much business as usual at the school this week.

On Tuesday I attended our Year 12 post-18 options evening in which Ms O'Neill and Mr Peacock delivered presentations on how we support students through the university and apprenticeship routes that are open to them. Listening to the depth of their knowledge on Thursday it is no surprise that we have so many students attending the most prestigious universities in the country and taking up apprenticeships with multi-national companies such as Sky, KPMG and L'Oreal.

Wednesday was also an action-packed day at the school as we hosted the annual Vanguard Learning Trust spelling bee. Students from RHS came a creditable second in what was an outstanding collaborative event and the way our RHS audience supported students from all our Trust partner schools was respectful and helped make the event a real success. A more detailed article is included below. Wednesday also saw the second showing of the 'Little Women' performance that was such a hit before Christmas. I would like to thank everyone who supported the production which was every bit as good as the first night.

Our week of evening events continued on Thursday when our partners from Uxbridge College delivered a talk to our Year 11 students interested in more vocational routes than the school is able to provide in our Sixth Form. I was delighted to hear this week that we have had a record number of internal applications to our Sixth Form next year, but I do recognise that for a minority of students Sixth Form study at RHS is not for them; in those instances what we do at the school is ensure that we provide the appropriate support and guidance to ensure our students transition to the right course and institution to allow them to flourish in post-16 education.

Buzz at the VLT Spelling Bee

On Wednesday 24th January, 2024, Ruislip High School was excited to host the Vanguard Learning Trust's spelling bee for the second year in a row. We were also really pleased to welcome the staff and students from Oak Farm Junior School, for their first experience of the spelling bee.

The room was filled with anticipatory buzz even before the competition began. Students across all six schools, alongside Ruislip High's Year 7 cohort, filled the seats of the theatre - all in support of their peers.

Once the competition began, representatives from each school took turns spelling increasingly challenging words, one-by-one, earning points for each correctly spelt word. As the difficulty of each word increased, so did the pressure, but the students rose to the challenge. RHS and Field End were neck and neck, but Field End held their nerve to take the first round.

The second round was the speed challenge. Words in this round centred around the themes of exploration. Students had a choice of difficulty: easy, medium, or hard words to spell. There were some clear tactics employed by the teams with a number of them choosing the 1-point easy ones to answer as quickly as possible.

At this stage, it was still anyone's game. The last round, though technically the individual challenge, was a final opportunity to earn a few additional points to change up the standings. However, with even more challenging words, the fight for the last speller standing was nail-biting. With just two students left standing, Mr Gould commented, "It's just like a penalty shoot-out!". Japji from Vyners ended up taking the crown of Trust Best Speller, but her fantastic effort in the final round wasn't enough to wrestle the overall lead from Field End, who deservedly claimed the team award.

Overall, it was a great opportunity to showcase the best of all six schools. Well done to all our top spellers across the trust, and congratulations to Field End's stellar Year 6 team on their phenomenal teamwork; it was a well-deserved win.



Images above: Top - Scenes from the Spelling Bee. Below - Mr Davies with the individual Spelling Bee winner

Year 8 Update from Mr Cahill

As we leave January and head into February, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that February is LGBT+ History Month. At a time when the LGBT+ community is also experiencing a rise in hate crime and hate instances, the month will be an opportunity to promote inclusiveness and community cohesion. Year 8 students (along with students in all years across the school) will be participating in tutorial activities as part of their personal development curriculum.

The theme for LGBT History Month 2024 is Medicine [#UnderTheScope](#). LGBT History Month 2024 will be an opportunity to celebrate the lives and work of LGBT healthcare professionals who have made significant contributions to the field of medicine. For example Sophia Jex Blake, Cecil Belfield Clarke, Margaret Stacey, Ewan Forbes, George Ward and Charry Valentine. Students will have an opportunity to learn about the work these professionals and others carry out, how to be an ally to students in the LGBT+ community and how this topic links with the Equality Act 2010.

I am certain that Year 8 will bring a level of maturity to these tutorials and I look forward to hearing about the discussions that come from them; I know our students always appreciate the chance to explore our world through our diverse tutorial programme.

Personal Development Events in February:



February is set to be a jam-packed month for our students, with a host of events being organised for our students focused on supporting their personal development. Our Equality and Diversity Lead, Ms Poddar, shares the plans for the month below:

I am delighted to provide you with information regarding three events taking place in February: Vanguard Learning Trust's (VLT) Equality Week, LGBTQ+ History month and Safer Internet day.

Vanguard Learning Trust Equality Week- Ruislip High School

VLT Equality Week will take place the week beginning Monday 19th February 2024. The week is designed to celebrate diversity and equality in our school communities and students will participate in tutorial activities, attend various workshops and attend a number of presentations from guest speakers.

Please click [here](#) for an outline of the week for all year groups. Please read through the timetable carefully with your child to ensure they are aware of the activities taking place on each day.

Year 8 students will be taking part in a Kathak dance workshop led by the [Sujata Banerjee Dance Company](#) (SBDC)

Kathak dancing is one of the most elegant dance forms of India and revolves around the concept of storytelling. Students should wear their usual school uniform. Trainers will not be required as they will perform the dance barefoot. Students who wear skirts may wish to bring in PE shorts to wear in addition to their skirt; however, this is optional.

Year 9 students will cook classic Moroccan couscous. Please ensure that your child is aware of the day their form has this workshop as they are required to bring in their own ingredients. Students will need to bring vegetables of their choice, for example cucumber, carrots, tomatoes, which can be eaten in their raw form. All other ingredients, including the couscous will be provided. If any family needs support with this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

On Wednesday 21st February 2024 all students are encouraged to wear clothes that represent their traditional culture to celebrate cultural day at Ruislip High. This is optional and should students not wish to take part they are required to wear their usual school uniform. Please click [here](#) for guidance of what is acceptable.

We are delighted that Jude Guaitamacchi will be addressing students as our keynote speaker. Jude is dedicated to working towards trans & non-binary equality and was the first non-binary person to represent Harrods beauty campaign.

Should parents / guardians have any further questions regarding Equality Week please do not hesitate to contact me via the school email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

LGBTQ+ History Month

LGBT+ History Month is an annual event in February, observing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. To promote inclusiveness and community cohesion, students will participate in tutorial activities as part of their personal development curriculum.

Should parents / guardians have any further questions regarding LGBTQ+ month please do not hesitate to contact Ms Brown via the school email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Safer Internet Day 2024 will take place on the 6th of February 2024 and tutorials and assemblies will focus on this area. Should parents / guardians have any further questions regarding this week please do not hesitate to contact me via the school email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

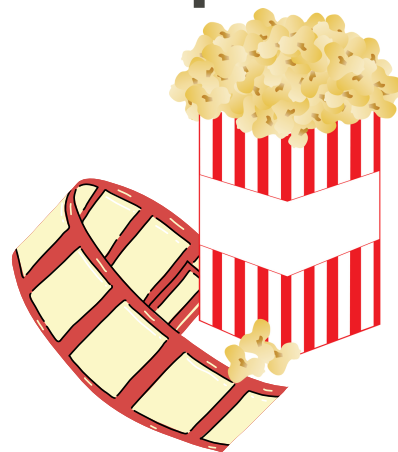
Ms Poddar

Diversity and Equality Lead

Coming Up: Winter Reward Trip to Cineworld South Ruislip

On Friday 2nd February 2024 the winter reward trip will take place. We are delighted that nearly half of all students in Years 7-11 have qualified for the trip, as the criteria includes having fewer than three negative behaviour points, no after-school detentions and no high-level sanctions, as well as having at least 90% attendance.

We are sure that students are looking forward to their trip to the cinema on Friday afternoon and we are sure it will be a lovely event.



Year 11 Parents' Evening - Thursday 1st February 2024 - in Person:

A brief reminder to parents/guardians of students in Year 11 that parents' evening will take place at school next **Thursday 1st February 2024**. Appointments should be made via school cloud as usual, but all appointments will take place in person. Students will also receive their PPE results at the evening and will receive a virtual copy of our Making the Grade booklet, which includes key guidance for students for all subjects to support preparation for the summer examinations.

Year 8 Parents' Evening - Thursday 8th February 2024 - early finish for all students

We would also like to remind parents/guardians of students in Year 8 that parents' evening will take place at school on **Thursday 8th February 2024**. Appointments should be made via school cloud as usual, but all appointments will take place in person. The parents' evening starts at 2.30pm to accommodate as many parents/guardians as possible, due to the number of teachers who teach multiple classes of Year 8 students. Due to this, there is an early finish for students.

Students in Years 10-11 will be dismissed at 1.25pm on Thursday 8th February 2023 and students in Years 7-9 will be dismissed at 1.35pm. The majority of Year 12 and Year 13 lessons will take place as usual during both period 5 and period 6: students will be told in class and through assembly, and notified via Google Classroom, where lessons are not able to take place due to the parents' evening.

Year 9 Young Green Briton Challenge:



On Friday 26th January, every student in Year 9 was given the chance to participate in the Young Green Briton Challenge. This exciting project is a national platform to nurture, support and celebrate youth-led, school-based climate action. The challenge uses an adapted design thinking curriculum to enable young people to design entrepreneurial solutions to local climate issues.

The full day 'Design Sprint', saw members of the Young Green Briton team hosting a series of workshops and activities to develop the students' green skills, teamwork and social action. Our Year 9 students got stuck in, working collaboratively to tackle a host of climate issues raised. All students enjoyed the chance to work together, be creative and attempt to find solutions to real world problems.

Dorentina, 9A, said: "Taking part in today's challenge has been really great. I have had a wonderful time planning with my team thinking about how to reduce our plastic usage. I think this is a chance for young people to share their ideas and for adults to listen to us - we have some good ideas!"

Sports Fixtures & PE News:

Borough Table Tennis Tournament

Results

On Thursday 18th of January, our PE Department took some of our Year 9 students to take part in the Hillingdon Borough Table Tennis Tournament.



At the event, our students did the school proud; out of sixteen entrants, four boys qualified into the quarter finals from their respective groups. At first, RHS had an unfortunate draw of Jamie having to play Oliver, 9A, in the quarter finals, which Jamie, 9F, won. Jonatan, 9A, then unfortunately lost his quarter final in a close game, but then Roman, 9A won a cool 11-0.

In the semi-final both Roman and Jamie cruised into the final against each other. Both had the upper hand at different stages, but it was Roman who secured the final with a 14-12 game. However, it meant that Ruislip High School walked away from the tournament with both silver and gold medals!

Upcoming Tournaments and Fixtures:

- Year 8 Football Quarter finals vs Bishop Ramsey - Monday 29th January
- Year 8 Netball Match against Uxbridge High - Tuesday 30th January
- Year 9 Netball Match against Bishop Ramsey - Tuesday 6th February

Notices:

Key Dates:

Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 5:30pm
Year 11 Music Recital

Thursday 1st February 2024
Start of LBGTQ+ Month

Thursday 1st February 2024 at 4:30pm - 7:00pm
Year 11 Parents' Evening

Friday 2nd February 2024
Winter Reward Trip

Tuesday 6th February 2024
Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 6pm
South Africa Trip Meeting

Thursday 8th February 2024 at 2:30pm-7pm
Year 8 Parents' Evening

Out of school opportunities (not linked to the school):

Half Term Basketball Club
[Click here](#)

Brilliant Parents Newsletter:
[Click here](#)

Hillingdon Winter Wellness Directory:
[Click here](#)

Autism Training Network Parent Workshops:
[Click here](#)

FRIENDS
of Ruislip High School

Calling all pre-loved uniform! The Friends of Ruislip High School are running low on some of their second-hand uniform and would love to see some donations to add to their stock.

If you find yourself with any uniform that your child has outgrown, but is still in a good and clean condition, and you are willing to donate - please drop it off at the school office. All donations would be much appreciated.



Second-hand Uniform Sale - Thursday 1st February - 4:30pm-6:30pm:

Our next second-hand uniform sale will be happening in the school Atrium on Thursday 1st February in the school Atrium. Cash and card will be accepted.