

## RHS Values Champions:

### Top 5 Attendance:

- 9W - 98.67%
- 10F - 98.57%
- 9B - 98.33%
- 10C - 97.59%
- 8W - 96.67%

*(attendance calculated until 23/02/2024)*

### HoY Shout Out - Year 11:

Well done to **Ruby, 11B** for her determination to succeed and overcome challenges. Ruby is working exceptionally hard, and the additional effort she is putting in ahead of her upcoming GCSEs should be commended.

**Mr Sills - Head of Year 11**

### Subject Shout Out - English:

A huge well done to **Alexia, Year 12** for her outstanding effort in A Level English Literature. Alexia always goes above and beyond and as a result is thriving on the course. She should be very proud of all her hard work.

**Ms Bhudia - Curriculum Leader for English**



## A message from Mr Davies:

I am writing the introduction to this week's bulletin following attending our annual Key Stage 4 options evening. I would like to thank all students and parents who attended and Mr Hankin for organising what I believe was a very successful event. As always we are interested to hear parent/guardian feedback and, as well as a more detailed survey at the end of the options process, I would welcome any comments on the evening itself. Please direct any feedback through the [office@ruislihigh.org.uk](mailto:office@ruislihigh.org.uk) email and mark it for the attention of Mr Hankin.

As you can see from the PE notices below, this has been an exceptionally successful sporting week at the school. Tuesday saw our Year 8 boys reach the county cup final and I am not sure who was more excited: the boys or Mr Rutter! We also achieved sporting success at Trust level where Ruislip High School were victorious in the inaugural Vanguard Learning Trust netball competition held at Oak Farm.

As can be seen throughout this bulletin, our school really does benefit from being part of the Vanguard Learning Trust. Trust-wide events such as Equalities week and poetry competitions are great examples of the collaborative nature of our Trust while as Headteacher I also benefit tremendously from the support and challenge offered by other leaders across our network. We are a Trust that is committed to continuous school improvement and this is a key reason I believe we are able to offer the outstanding, inclusive education that we are all committed to delivering.

Finally, I would like to thank parents/guardians who responded to my comments in last week's update relating to what is known as the 'social contract'. I will always believe that education is about partnership and school and home working together. It is this relationship that makes us such a strong school community and while we may not always agree, we are united in our shared goal of ensuring that students at Ruislip High School achieve to the very best of their potential. We are a school with exceptionally high expectations and we are proud of this as we know that it is through a foundation of high expectations that our students are able to flourish and 'reach for the sky'.

# The VLT Equalities Week

From Monday 19th February, schools across the Vanguard Learning Trust took part in our second trust-wide Equalities week. This week, focused on celebrating the diverse cultures, backgrounds and identities of our school community, is an important feature of our school calendar - and this year was no exception!

At Ruislip High School, the week saw students taking part in a range of activities and talks relevant to the week. Year 9 students had the chance to take part in a cultural cooking workshop, learning how to make a couscous salad. During the sessions, mostly led by Ms Poddar, the students gained new cooking skills, inspiring them to try a new dish at home. One Year 9 commented: "I really enjoyed taking part in the cooking workshop and I really enjoyed learning to make something new."

Year 7s took part in a Gamelan music workshop, led by the music department, and got to listen to a talk on LGBTQ+ issues, led by the charity, Brook. Year 8 students took part in an Indian classical dance workshop run by the SBDC dance company. The workshop began by teaching all students basic skills and built up to groups learning a complete dance routine by the end of the session. The students had lots of fun learning this new skill and took part in the workshop enthusiastically.

Finally, one of the most exciting moments of the week took place on Wednesday 21st February, where Ruislip High School celebrated its first ever, whole-school 'Cultural Day'. On this day, staff and students dressed up in their cultural clothes, if they so wished. There was a lovely atmosphere throughout the day, with students wearing clothing representing their cultural heritage with pride and all showing respect to one another and taking an interest in everyone's culture. Sara, Year 11, said: "Getting to share my culture at school through wearing a traditional sari was fantastic. Lots of people in my year group got involved and there was a really celebratory atmosphere."

Overall, Equalities Week highlighted that although, in the words of one of the week's speakers, our students have 'power in their uniqueness', we also have strength together as a community. It was a joy to celebrate what makes us individuals during the week, as sharing that understanding can only bring us together.



## Year 11 Exam Support

As we move further into the second half of the year, our attention begins to be drawn to the GCSE and BTEC examinations in the summer term. To prepare the year 11 students for their examinations, we have put together a comprehensive timetable of interventions and tuition sessions that can be found [here](#). This timetable is likely to be updated as we get closer to the summer term and we will update parents accordingly.

In addition, we are opening the LCC before school and during lunch times, to give our year 11 students a quiet space to study or complete coursework. This is an incredibly important period for our exam groups and we ask for parents to support us in encouraging students to make full use of the support provided.





# GCSE and A Level Drama Trip to The Kiln Theatre

On Monday 19th February, the Drama department took the Year 11-13 students studying either GCSE or A Level drama to watch a performance of *The Frogs* at The Kiln Theatre, in Kilburn.

The performance, from the UK's leading physical comedy ensemble Spymonkey, was a 'delirious trip through Greek theatre, a monster-filled Underworld and classic vaudeville double acts'.

The hilarious and often bizarre production was a comedic adaptation of the Greek tragedy by Aristophanes. The drama department selected the production, as it was a contrast to the haunting and brutal tragedy of 'The House of Bernarda Alba' which they saw during the Autumn Term. Equally, The Kiln Theatre continues to prove to be a fantastic venue for live theatre for our students; everyone enjoyed the melting pot of performances in this production!

Max, Year 11, commented: "The trip was lots of fun. The show was honestly like watching a mad dream, but it was definitely worth watching. We are really lucky that the school organises trips like this for us to go on."

Thank you to the staff who led the trip and to the students for being excellent ambassadors to the school, whilst at the performance. Year 10 will have the opportunity to visit The Kiln Theatre in April.



*Image above: The A Level media studies students get ready to enjoy the performance of *The Frogs*.*

## Year 7 Take Part in the VLT Poetry Project

On Wednesday 21st February, five of our Year 7 students took part in the VLT's Poetry Project Launch, run by Michael Walsh, and hosted at Field End Junior School.

During the course of the sessions, students studied poems in workshops before composing their own poem, which they may submit to a competition. As this is the pilot of the project, five Year 5-7 students from each school across the VLT were selected to participate in the day.

After a cold and wet journey on foot to Field End, the students were relieved to be in the warmth of a primary school, with a couple of them commenting on the nostalgia of the primary school atmosphere. Once the sessions commenced, the students were fully immersed in the study of the poems 'If All the World Were Paper' and 'Rainbow', which brought much needed joy to contrast the gloom of the weather.

Our five students were a real credit to RHS, with their highly impressive and sophisticated interpretations of the poems, alongside their originality and creativity when it came to writing their own poems.



*Image above: Miss Sakr and the Year 7s take part in the VLT Poetry Project at Field End Primary School*

George, Year 7, explained how it was a "wonderful experience, full of creativity, and very interesting to share our ideas with other people."

We look forward to our second session in March. Keep on the lookout for our budding poets - maybe one day they'll be Poet Laureates!

# Year 10 Update - Ms Lucas

Next week at RHS, it is our annual Languages Week. It is tradition for our Year 10 language students to get involved in the activities during the week, to help support and promote the importance of languages in the school. This week, the MFL Department had the hard task of selecting fifteen Language Ambassadors from Year 10. It was not an easy task, as there were over thirty applications - the highest number since the creation of the position!

The Ambassadors will be helping with the organisation and the running of Languages Week next week. They also are vital in the recruitment of future languages students in the school, as they are passionate and inspiring about their own love of studying languages at GCSE.

The chosen ambassadors wrote wonderful applications, filled with great ideas. We can't wait to see what they will do. The new team is: Gabriele, Kiana, Daria-Maria, Freya, Iazmina, Isabel, Alina, Efrem, Jeffrey, Dorian, Zeyad, Eve, Eva, Harun and Rishan.



## Student Success:



We were really proud to hear that one of our students, Archie, recently met the Mayor of Hillingdon after taking part in a local litter picking event. Archie began litter picking for his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.

He joined a group on Facebook 'Hillingdon Litter Pickers' and once every so often they meet up and collect rubbish. During a recent meet up to tidy up the local community, the group did so well that the Mayor of Hillingdon agreed to meet them all as a group.

Well done to Archie for your efforts in helping to keep our community tidy!

**Has your child done something incredible outside of school? We love to share our students' success stories! Please share stories with [office@ruisliphigh.org.uk](mailto:office@ruisliphigh.org.uk) and they could be featured in a future Parent Bulletin.**

## P.S. I Love You



On Friday 1st March 2024, the Daniel Spargo Foundation, a drug education charity, presented Mark Wheeler's play 'I Love You, Mum - I Promise I Won't Die' to all Year 9 students.

This was an emotional representation of a true life story, where a child sadly died from a drug overdose. The Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation is a drug and alcohol education charity that aims to support young people to make safe choices about drugs and alcohol and reduce harm. They do this through increasing understanding of the effects and risks, and helping to develop life skills and resilience.

The Foundation was set up in January 2014 by Tim and Fiona Spargo-Mabbs in response to the death of their 16-year-old son Daniel having taken ecstasy.

Year 9 watched the performance with maturity. One student commented: "Although the play was really sad, it is really important that we get the chance to watch performances like this. They really make you think."



# Sports Fixtures & PE News:



## Year 8 Boys' Football Team Reach the County Cup Final!

On Tuesday 27th February, the Year 8 Boys' Football Team secured a win against Vyners' in the Semi-Final of the County Cup.

The team played brilliantly, with both Dragos and Oscar scoring, helping the team secure a 2-1 win against Vyners'

team.

The team will now go on to play in the County Cup Final on the 11th March at the Middlesex FA Headquarters in Northolt.

## The Year 7 VLT Netball Tournament

On Tuesday 27th February, some of our Year 7s took part in the first Vanguard Learning Trust's Netball Tournament.

All of our teams who took part did brilliantly, but a special well done to the girls team, who won all of their games and brought home the first place trophy!

The mixed team, made up of three girls and three boys, also performed well in the tournament, bringing home a Bronze trophy for their excellent efforts on the day.



## Year 9 Options Evening

We would like to say thank you to all of the families who attended yesterday evening's Year 9 Options Evening.

Attendance at the event was excellent and it was wonderful to see our students engaged in a variety of discussions about the next steps in their academic journey at RHS.

The deadline for students making their options choices is Thursday 28th March, 2024. The slides from yesterday's presentation on the options process, held in E201, can be found [here](#).

# Notices:

## Key Dates:

**Monday 4th March 2024**  
Start of Languages Week

**Monday 4th March 2024 - 5pm-6pm**  
Battlefields Trip Information Evening

**Tuesday 5th March 2024**  
Year 12/13 Apprenticeship Trip

**Thursday 7th March 2024 -**  
World Book Day

**Thursday 7th March 2024 - 4:30pm-7pm**  
Year 12 Parents' Evening

**Monday 11th March 2024**  
Start of Science Week

## Letters Home

Update to Parents -  
**23/02/24**  
[Click here](#)

Languages Week Breakfast  
[Click here](#)

Languages Week Breakfast  
[Click here](#)

Year 9 Drama Trip Letter  
[Click here](#)

## FRIENDS of Ruislip High School Corner

Would you like to support our school community, by building stronger links between parents, staff and students? Why not get involved in our Parent Association Group: Friends of Ruislip High School - our next meeting is coming up on **Tuesday 5th March at 6pm** in the Conference Room.

We would love to welcome you!

## The Ruislip Eye

[Click here](#) to view the latest edition of our student publication, The Ruislip Eye.

