

Ruislip High School NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023

MIZEN FOUNDATION



Margaret and Barry Mizen with Olivia, the 2023 recipient of The Mizen's Sparkle Award

On Thursday 9th November 2023 the school hosted its annual Presentation Evening and we were delighted that Margaret and Barry Mizen were able to join us as our guest speakers.

Margaret and Barry are a couple who have demonstrated incredible strength and resilience in the face of tragedy and have turned their pain into a powerful force for positive change. Margaret and Barry tragically lost their son, Jimmy, in a senseless act of violence in 2008. Instead of succumbing to bitterness and despair, they chose a path of

compassion and courage to ensure that Jimmy's legacy would be one of positivity and change. Their commitment led to the creation of the [Mizen Foundation](#), dedicated to fostering peace, empowering our youth and creating safer communities for all.

The Mizen Foundation works tirelessly towards these goals by engaging with young people, schools and communities advocating for conflict resolution and spreading messages of forgiveness and non-violence. Their mission is to help all young people to realise their potential and Margaret and Barry have presented talks and inspired so many of our staff and students over the years.

Margaret and Barry received a standing ovation after speaking to 80,000 people at Pope Benedict XVI's Hyde Park Vigil in 2010 and were both appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2014 New Year Honours, for services to young people in London.

Image above: Year 10 student leaders support with Panathlon Event

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HEADTEACHER'S NEWS



I am finishing writing this article after having just attended our Christmas concert here at the school. This follows the excellent performance of 'Little Women' that I attended on Tuesday evening. Both events really do showcase the exceptionally strong expressive arts provision at the school. We are fortunate to have a state-of-the-art performance theatre but I am so proud of the hard work and dedication of the students and staff that made both events such a success. The events are also perfect illustrations of the community ethos that runs so

deeply through our school community and I would like to thank all parents and guardians who came and supported the students on both evenings. To have students, staff and parents/guardians together in the audience really does sum up that we are a school both in, and for, our community.

As well as being another exceptionally busy term at the school, I do feel it has been a very long term. Our students and staff have demonstrated great resilience over the term and I have been particularly impressed by the rise in attendance as we begin to return to pre-pandemic levels. I would like to thank all parents and guardians who have supported the school to this end. As Mr Askin is so fond of saying, as a school we have two main priorities: to keep our students safe, and to have teaching and learning at the heart of everything we do; to do both we need the students in school and that is clearly improving here at the school.

I am delighted that Mr and Mrs Mizen are on the front cover of this newsletter. In over twenty years in education I have had the privilege of meeting many inspirational people, but I can honestly say nobody who is more inspirational than the Mizens. To have gone through the awful tragedy that they have done and continue to share a message of peace, forgiveness and hope is truly moving and inspirational. I am so proud that the Mizens have become such good friends of the school and that a couple who speak at so many high-profile events and countless schools speak so incredibly positively about the students of Ruislip High School and travelled a significant distance to be our guest speakers at this year's presentation evening.

This term also saw our long-awaited Ofsted inspection. I am not yet in a position to share with parents and guardians the report that follows the inspection but can say that the inspectors were incredibly impressed with how our students presented themselves both in lessons and throughout the period the inspectors were at the school. In speaking to the staff and students at the school prior to inspection I emphasised that the external scrutiny was a positive and we should treat the experience as 'our time to shine'. I believe our community did that and I would also like to thank all the parents and guardians who filled in the parent view survey that accompanied the inspection.

HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

(CONTINUED)

Ruislip High School is also part of the Vanguard Learning Trust and I am proud to work in the leadership of a family of schools who are all committed to delivering outstanding, inclusive education to the young people we serve. Our focus on continued school improvement has seen us continue to work together at cross-phase level to ensure that we share best practice from both primary and secondary phases. As well as school improvement, our Trust is also committed to holding regular Trust events and RHS once again hosted a maths challenge event for all Trust schools. I am grateful to Mr Ladhani, Director of Maths, for organising such a great collaborative event and, although the events are more about taking part, I was delighted to see Ruislip High School achieve our highest finish to date with a commendable second place.

I wanted to reflect at this time of year that, although Christmas is a time of peace and love, unfortunately for some members of our community, for various reasons, Christmas can be a challenging time. I believe it is important to acknowledge this at a time of year where the overriding media message is one of celebration. I know we are an exceptionally cohesive community and my message to all of us is that it is ok to ask for help and share with others our thoughts and concerns.

Finally, as we come to the end of another calendar year at the school, I would like to wish everyone in the community a restful holiday period. I would particularly like to thank parents and guardians who have been so supportive this term and attended our events in record numbers. I am confident that we can build on these events in 2024 as Ruislip High School continues to be a school at the very heart of its community. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

GEOGRAPHY NEWS



In the autumn term Year 13 students have been writing up their coursework projects from their summer field trip to Norfolk.

Sixth Form

This term started with Year 13s working hard to create very professional-looking documents for their coursework projects. This is a key piece of work with it contributing 20% of the A-Level grade. The projects use first-hand data collected in the summer term field trip to the Norfolk coastline (see photo).

Year 13s then moved on to start the final two topics of the course: Water and Carbon Cycles (physical geography); and Global Systems and Global Governance (human geography).

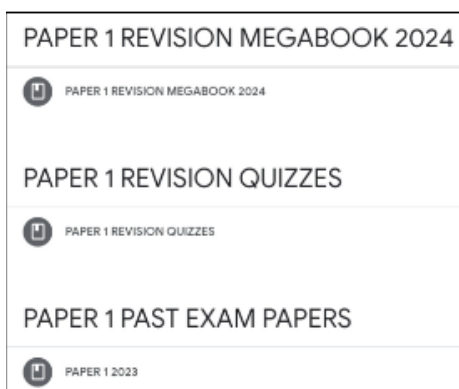
Meanwhile, Year 12 students have made a super start on their first A-Level topics, Hazards (physical geography) and Changing Places (human geography). In particular, students have used 2021 Census data to research statistics about the local area using the website here:

www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/draw

The department is now helping Year 13s revise for their pre-public exams in January 2024. Good luck everyone!

GCSE

Year 11 students are looking forward to their pre-public exam results day in January 2024. Students can keep revising for summer 2024 online at any time using the topic revision quizzes on Google Classroom. Here students will also find the detailed revision 'Megabooks' and numerous past exam papers.



This is how the GCSE Geography Paper 1 revision section appears on Google Classroom.

The five classes in Year 10 GCSE Geography have all made an impressive start. They have already finished the first topic 'The Challenge of Natural Hazards' and completed a unit assessment before moving onto the second topic 'Living World'. As with the Year 11s, Year 10 students have access to revision materials on Google Classroom.

GEOGRAPHY NEWS

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Year 9

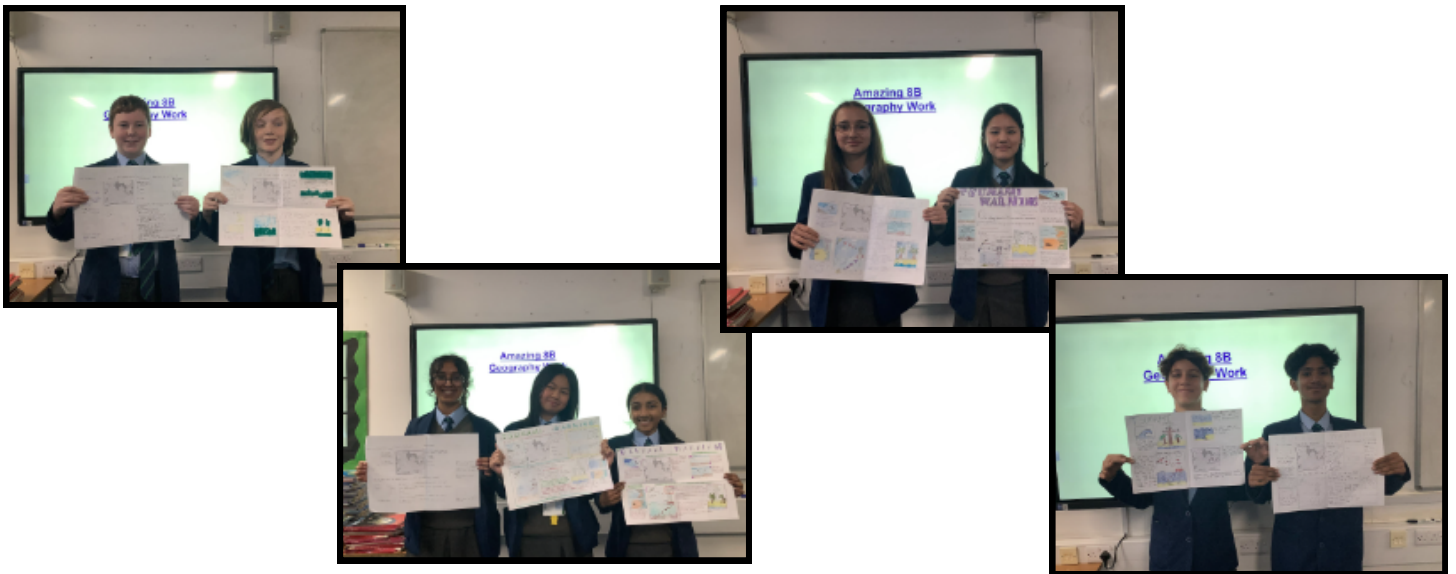
Year 9 topics have included International Development, the Americas and Brazil. In the Americas topic, students have investigated the rate of Amazon Rainforest deforestation using news reports such as this:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-48827490

Year 8

In Year 8, one of the autumn term topics has been to investigate the reliability of tsunami warning systems built after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Included here are some photos of 8B students proudly displaying their work. Year 8 students have also started a topic about Japan. In order to learn about Japanese etiquette and manners, students have been using websites such as this:

www.japanesepod101.com/blog/2020/01/06/japanese-etiquette



8B students with their work to explain tsunami warning systems.

Year 7

Year 7 students have studied Atlas Skills; Water, Rivers and Flooding; then the final topic of the term has been Map Skills and the British Isles. Over the holiday period why not practise your map skills on the 'Map Zone website' run by the Ordnance Survey? Use the web link here:

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone

HISTORY NEWS

Year 7s investigate what happened to Lindow Man

It has been a busy and exciting term for Year 7 as they started their History lessons at Secondary School. Students have been working hard thinking about the ways in which historians make sense of the past. Students studied local history- by measuring the significance of places in Ruislip such as RAF Northolt and the Manor Station. Harry, Year 7 said, "I enjoyed studying how Ruislip has changed over time."

Later, students learned how to make inferences by trying to work out what happened to Lindow Man - the name given to a man whose 2000 year-old preserved body was found in a peat bog in the 1980s. Karina, Year 7 said, "I liked the mystery of Lindow Man as it showed historians can always learn more about the past."

Year 11s visit Notting Hill and Spitalfields

During the second week of November, 2023, our Year 11 students, studying GCSE history, visited Notting Hill and Spitalfields. The purpose of the trip was to help bring elements of history, which students are studying for their upcoming GCSE exams, to life. In particular, their paper which focuses on migration through time.

During the first half of the day, students were given a tour of Notting Hill by one of their history teachers. There, students saw a range of sites, such as Island Studios, where Bob Marley and the Wailers recorded two studio albums; Portobello Road Market; and the site of the Mangrove Restaurant - famous for the 'Mangrove Nine' court case of 1970.



The second half of the day began with lunch at Spitalfields Market - famous for its links to the Huguenot textile industry. Students then had a tour of Spitalfields and the surrounding area, led by former Ruislip High School Deputy Headteacher, Mr Rich. He showed the students remnants of Victorian tenements in Whitechapel, as well as evidence of Jewish, Huguenot and Bangladeshi migration to the area.

HISTORY NEWS

(CONTINUED)

Aahana, Year 11, said: "The trip was a great opportunity to gain more insight into history and culture, which will also be beneficial for upcoming assessments."

Kyran, Year 11, added: "It was a great trip. It helped with my knowledge for the migration course."

The history department would like to thank the residents of Whitechapel and Notting Hill, who were happy to share their experiences of migration. Thanks also to Mr Rich for leading a fantastic tour, which will no doubt support the students' understanding of the course.

Finally, well done to all of the students who attended the trip - your behaviour when representing Ruislip High School was consistently outstanding throughout the day.



Year 13s complete their coursework

At the end of November, the Year 13s handed in the final draft of their coursework. Students had to write a 4000 word essay on the Civil Rights Movement in America. They had the choice to explore a theme within that topic. Some students chose a topic that linked to the subjects they hope to study at University,

Jamie, Year 13 said: "I really enjoyed the coursework as it gave me an insight into a side of politics I haven't studied before. I did my coursework on how the role of Presidents improved the lives of African Americans as it links to my ambition to study politics at University."

Caelan, Year 13 said: "My history coursework allowed me to delve deeper into my passion for law. I chose to focus on the role of the Supreme Court and the impact that court decisions had on the lives of African Americans and their civil rights. I was able to use knowledge from my law A Level and apply it to my essay."

We congratulate the Year 13s on completing a complex and challenging piece of work independently! We wish them the best of luck in their preparations for their PPEs in January 2024."

YEAR 7 NEWS



On the first day of school back in September, our new cohort of Year 7 students were welcomed into the school. It is always a joy to see old friends reunited and new friendships being created. The first few weeks can feel challenging for some students. The first day nerves mixed with worries about homework, getting lost and how tasty will the restaurant food be? Year 7 have settled in well and over the past months we have witnessed an incredible journey of growth, camaraderie and success.

In lessons, our Year 7 students have demonstrated an impressive commitment to their studies. With enthusiasm and determination, they have embraced new challenges, showcasing a love of learning which is inspiring. It is a pleasure to see Year 7 taking on new challenges in lessons whether it be coding animations in computing or showing their culinary skills in food technology.

Beyond the classroom, our Year 7s have embraced the multitude of opportunities on offer in our Above and Beyond programme. Students have joined sports teams, written articles for the Ruislip High and even learning new languages. Their involvement and enthusiasm have not gone unnoticed. They are swiftly becoming part of the dynamic of our school.

As we celebrate these early triumphs, we look forward to witnessing the continued growth and accomplishments of our Year 7 students. Their achievements serve as a testament to their dedication and the supportive community around them. We can't wait to see what Year 7 achieve this year.

Ms Loizou
Head of Year 7

COMPUTER SCIENCE NEWS

BIMA Digital Day 2023

On 8th November Year 10 Computer Science students participated in the BIMA Digital Day 2023. This is a unique opportunity which gives 11-16 year olds an insight into the world of digital careers. Students compete in a sponsored, nationwide digital challenge for a chance to win £500 cash for their school and some fantastic prizes for themselves.

This year the competition was run internally by Mr Joseph who discussed career opportunities and explained the competition brief to the students. This year's brief was provided by Vue cinemas with many complex elements but Ruislip High students absolutely nailed it. Vue cinemas were looking for the students to find a digital strategy to promote their business, focussing on sustainability. Students competed in groups and the winners were: Haroon, Max, Luka, Zeyad and Paavan.

Haroon: " It was interesting to know about the variety of jobs in the digital sector".

Zeyad: " It was a very enjoyable day and I loved working on the brief today."

Congratulations to the winning teams and well done to everyone for participating. The winning entries will be entered for the nationals and we will find out about the results in February, so watch this space.

UK Bebras Competition 2023-24

The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organised in over 50 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. Each participant answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking.

At Ruislip High School all year groups from Year 7 to Year 13 participated in the qualifier round which ran between 6th Nov - 17th November. Although no practice was required for the qualifier round, students were encouraged to go through previous year's puzzles to become familiar with the format. The top 10 % of the students who won the Gold certificate will go through to the next round. Congratulations and well done to the following students:

COMPUTER SCIENCE NEWS

(CONTINUED)

Year Group	Competition Category	Name
7	Juniors (10-12)	Sofia E
8	Juniors (10-12)	Amber S
8	Inters (12-14)	Ethan K
8	Inters (12-14)	Oliver G
8	Inters (12-14)	Ethan Q
8	Inters (12-14)	Amy W
8	Inters (12-14)	Jade C
8	Inters (12-14)	Tyler B
8	Inters (12-14)	Robert B
8	Inters (12-14)	Eleftheria F
9	Inters (12-14)	Lorcan M
9	Inters (12-14)	Daniel L
9	Inters (12-14)	Monica M
9	Inters (12-14)	Arlet M
9	Inters (12-14)	Ray C
9	Inters (12-14)	Tarik D
9	Inters (12-14)	Noah M
9	Inters (12-14)	Harley B
9	Inters (12-14)	Iza B
10	Seniors (14-16)	Olivia L
10	Seniors (14-16)	Elisei S

These students would be invited to the [Oxford University Computing Challenge](#) . Round 1 will take place at school during the week beginning 15th -19th Jan 2024. Parents should expect the letter with more details after the school reopens in January 2024. Students can continue to practise challenges using the link [here](#).

Computer Science in Action A level Trip

On Wednesday the 29th November 2023, twelve A level Computer Science students attended Computer Science in Action, accompanied by Mrs Poddar and Ms Bonny, held at the picturesque Emmanuel Centre.

The day consisted of four intriguing lectures that explored the different avenues that Computer Science could take us in. This event was hosted by Matthew Leeke, a renowned Professor in Computer Science at University of Birmingham.

The first speaker was Katrina Dargel, an experienced Lead UX Researcher, Workshop Facilitator, and Speaker, globally, specialising in uniting product design and strategy. She has worked with major companies like Ford and Airbus, and now helps executives and leaders enhance their product development. She gave a very engaging talk about Navigating UX Design: From Basics to Growth Mindset. She explored the User interface design process and explained how "thinking outside the box" has led to growth in the process beyond our imagination. She also discussed the ethical considerations of the UX design.

Then, Matthew Leeke showed how state-of-the-art machine learning algorithms and the smart devices we use daily can solve some huge societal problems and be used to design smart cities.

COMPUTER SCIENCE NEWS

(CONTINUED)

After this, there was a special session by Dr Nic Harrigan, a physicist with PsiQuantum, on Quantum computing which explored how computing has forever changed the world, and what we are capable of as a species: from arguing across the world, to making Harry Potter fashionable. But equally important applications remain fundamentally impossible for traditional computers. Nic explained how Quantum computers are able to change this, by processing information in entirely new ways.

After lunch, we had an informative talk giving exam tips and tricks to help us with our Computing A-Level. This was followed by a lecture about Behind the Scenes of App Development by Lyndsey Scott, who is a software engineer and coding educator.

"It was an amazing experience and truly inspiring to gain insight from incredible scientists about their amazing work." Parveen, Year 12.

"It was an enjoyable, engaging and educational experience. It gave us many ideas about different career paths in Computer Science." Luvai, Year 13.



YEAR 8 NEWS

It has been a productive first term back for Year 8. Taking over as Head of Year, I have been impressed by the hard work and consistent application shown by so many since the start of term in September, which is a real achievement considering this is the longest term of the academic year.

I have also got to give a special mention to the overall attendance of the Year group. At Ruislip High School we put great emphasis on attendance because of the direct correlation between the number of days students are in school and what they go on to achieve in their exams. Therefore it is pleasing to see that Year 8 is establishing this good habit.

It is also a great opportunity to celebrate individual success, and pleasing news to hear that Samuel Lewis in 8C achieved a gold medal in gymnastics at the European Championships in October, and I wish him the best of luck at the World Championships next year.

With regards to sporting success it is great to see a broad spectrum of success for Year 8 in a variety of sporting fixtures including both football teams, as well as in cross country. Furthermore it is so pleasing to see so many Year 8 students participating in Above and Beyond clubs. Whilst academic success is important, I firmly believe school is an opportunity to broaden your horizons and talents, therefore it is great to see so many Year 8 students appreciating Above and Beyond clubs before and after school. If you are not attending a club then I would strongly recommend joining one in the New Year.

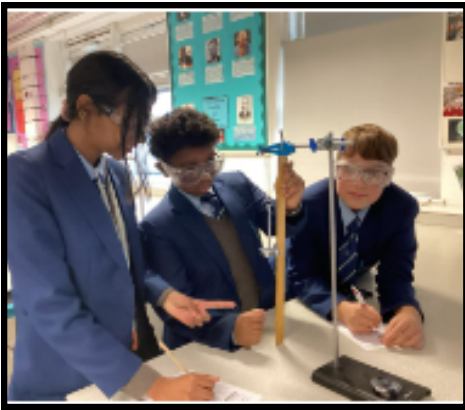
The Autumn term is long but so much has been achieved. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and restful Christmas break. Happy New year and look forward to the start of the Spring term.

Mr Cahill
Head of Year 8

SCIENCE NEWS

KS3 Science

The students have done extremely well to settle into Science lessons this term. All have completed the spring assessment and teacher assessed tasks as well as having participated in lots of different exciting practicals. All were engaged with the curriculum and enjoyed learning new concepts and ideas, such as making electromagnets and the model of an atom. As always the Science Department has been encouraging students to investigate and draw new conclusions from our Let's Think Science lessons on making relationships and Hooke's Law.



KS5 Science

The biologists have completed a number of dissection experiments this term with the highlight being a locust dissection. The students did this incredibly professionally and managed to see the trachea and tracheoles of the locust using a light microscope.

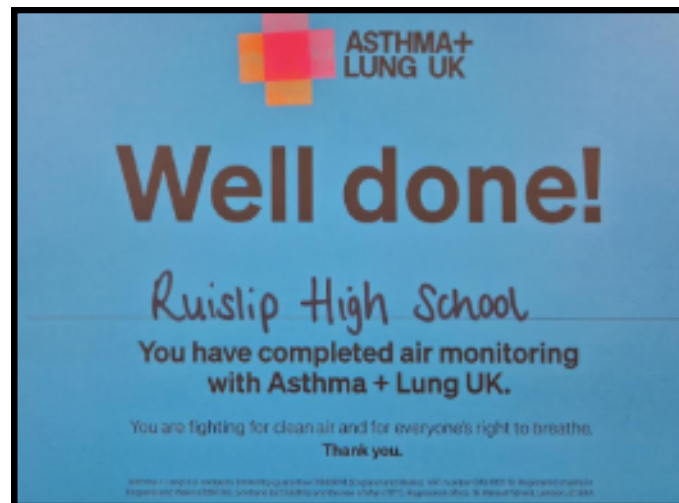
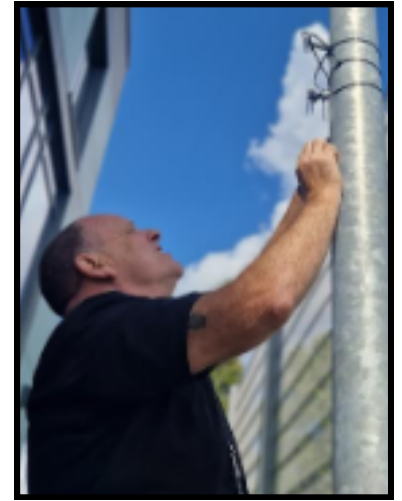
Ecoclub

Air pollution monitors

The students that are part of Ecoclub took part in a study by Asthma and Lung UK to monitor air pollution on the school site. We set up air pollution monitors close to the road and further away from the road in the student social areas to see if there was a difference in the levels of pollution. The results have been returned to us and the air pollution levels in and around the school site are all below the minimum safe levels which is great news.

SCIENCE NEWS

(CONTINUED)



Preserving beetroot

Beetroot grew successfully in the Ecohub garden this term and the Ecoclub collected it and preserved it for us to eat over the winter.



SCIENCE NEWS

(CONTINUED)



First honey from the beehives

There was great excitement in the science department this term as we got our first harvest from the beehive. We were careful to only take a small amount of honey to ensure the bees had enough to survive the winter.

Wildlife cameras

We borrowed some wildlife cameras from the ASC so we could track which animals visit the Ecohub garden at night time. Animals spotted included a lot of domestic cats and a couple of foxes!



Christmas wreaths

In the run up to Christmas Ecoclub made wreaths with largely renewable resources using waste cuttings from a Christmas tree farm.

YEAR 9 NEWS

In their last year of KS3 our Year 9 students have shown a mature and focused attitude towards their studies. Their workload has noticeably increased and the cohort have responded to the challenge with determination and perseverance throughout. It's great to see how they have settled and it is a testament to their strong work ethic.

Year 9 Ambassadors

Our Year 9 ambassadors were selected at the end of the academic year via an application and interview process. Awarding just 12 students the role from a large group of remarkable students was extremely difficult and an illustration of our wonderful year group. Our new ambassadors have been busy delivering guided tours to Year 6 students and their parents on specific mornings and been provided with the responsibility of additional tasks supporting their tutors and myself as the Head of Year. Thank you to all our ambassadors and well done in all your efforts in being a true ambassador for our school: Ronin D, Lorena M, Harley B, Lola W, Monica M, Verity C, Arlet M, Malakhi Y, Megan B, Saranshi J, Nicole G and Lorcan M.

Creative Writing

Miss Forde was impressed with the high calibre of creative writing in her lessons with 9C and 9D. Despite focusing on such a sensitive and mature issue (writing a first-person narrative from the perspective of a person witnessing a protest), it was a delight to read and mark so many descriptive pieces of writing consisting of detailed sensory language, ambitious vocabulary and an extended range of punctuation. This will not only prepare these students for their GCSEs when they begin studying for them next year, but also create some budding authors in the class!

Find some snippets of Year 9 work below:

Eleni M - "BANG! Panicked, I look at my best friend on the ground, blood pouring out of his wound. Harrowingly, I kneeled down beside him as the rest of the protestors gathered around, creating a circle as if sacrificing him to the gods."

Dathusan T - "Flames fiercely raged in the distance; [protestors] stood like malfunctioning robots. Each policeman gripped a large, metal baton in their splintered, purple hands."

Fatima W - "I remembered a wise woman, Malorie Blackman, once said that you can have all the talent in the world but without determination you won't get far."

Verity C - ""Physically maimed, [the activists] collapsed on the ground, haunted by constant reminders of their failure as placards and loose clothing were scattered across the battlefield of the protest."

YEAR 9 NEWS

(CONTINUED)

Parents' Evening

Going back to the face to face appointments was well received by teachers and parents alike. The atmosphere was fantastic on the day and it was great to see so many parents attend and value the opportunity to speak to teachers. The Year 9s have definitely had a great start to their academic year and Parents' Evening has helped map their pathway towards academic success. As we continually mention to the students, Year 10 is right around the corner and this is an important year in preparing for their GCSEs. We would also like to thank parents for making appointments and for supporting the school in our effort to provide the best possible education to the young people in our care. The next crucial event for parents to attend is Options Evening taking place on the 29th February 2024. Thank you for your support and I am filled with gratitude to be working with so many wonderful parents/guardians that play an active role in their child's development. I hope to see you all again at Options Evening.

Year 6 Open Evening

In September we hosted our annual Year 6 Open Evening and it was fantastic to see the overwhelming response of Year 9 students wishing to become Tour Guides (over 40 in total!!). So many students were so keen to represent their school and this exemplified their pride and commitment to RHS. Well done to you all for representing the school and making the evening a memorable one for all the parents and students visiting us.



It has been a great first term for our Year 9 students and we look forward to supporting their personal development and academic success during the rest of the year. We have challenges ahead, namely the option choices, but we also have a lot to look forward to: the Winter Reward Trip, Duke of Edinburgh training, the Battlefields trip, the Paris Trip and much more! Happy Holidays and I wish you a lovely break with your family and friends. See you next year!

Mr Joseph
Head of Year 9

PE NEWS



Boccia - Year 8 & 9

The students competed in a Boccia competition against local mainstream and SEN schools in the borough. Boccia is a game played in the Paralympics, which is where you need to get your team's coloured balls closer to the white target ball than the other team's coloured balls.

These students were fantastic and won the tournament, coming home with gold medals!

Well done to the following students who took part: Salman M, Gurveer G, Christopher M, Ben H, Humaid O, Tyler B, Rico J, Archie L.

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 football team have made a faultless start to their season with two excellent victories against strong opposition. Our first win of the season came at home to Bishop Ramsey on a very wet and windy afternoon. After falling behind early on the boys showed real determination and scored two second half goals (S Bigot 7F) to take the win. There were exceptional performances across the pitch but our win was largely down to some goalkeeping heroics from Josh G (7W) who was voted man of the match.

With confidence flowing from the first game of the season, nothing but victory against Harefield Academy was expected. Once again the team showed their quality and cruised into a commanding 3-0 lead at half time, with goals from Sidney B (7F), Daniel H (7F) and Evan B (7C). The goals continued to flow in the second half with Luca H (7W) and Coby M (7D) sealing a comprehensive 5-0 win.

The season will continue after the Christmas break, where we hope to remain unbeaten for the whole season!

PE NEWS

(CONTINUED)

Year 8 Indoor Athletics

A team of 14 Year 8 students were selected to take part in the annual indoor athletics borough qualifiers at Haydon School. Competing against a number of other local schools in eleven track and field events, our students were able to register a number of victories. With only the 4x1 relay event to go, it was clear that the final standings were going to be exceptionally close but thankfully some strong performances sealed a top two finish in both the girls' and boys' competition. This means that we have qualified for the borough finals in January, where we will be looking to go one step further than last year! Well done to all involved.

All Year Group Netball

The Netball season is well and truly underway with all year groups taking part in a number of league fixtures throughout the term, going against schools such as Vyners, Bishopshalt, Rosedale, Queensmead and Northwood. Goals have been scored by Mya C (Year 8), Bethany S (Year 8), Ava W (Year 9), Ava D (Year 9), Freya D (Year 10) and Hannah C (Year 10) just to name a few. The team effort and attitude by all of the students in both fixtures and clubs have been exceptional. Netball club and fixtures will continue to take place every Tuesday after the Christmas break.

A massive congratulations to our Year 8 and Year 9 teams who are currently undefeated and sit at the top of their leagues. See below for the full results.

<u>Year 7</u>	<u>Year 8</u>	<u>Year 9</u>	<u>Year 10</u>
Vs Bishopshalt (L 13-0)	Vs Queensmead (W 6-2)	Vs Queensmead (W 4-3)	Vs Bishopshalt (L 0-23)
	Vs Vyners (W 5-0)	Vs Vyners (W 6-4)	

Upcoming Netball Fixtures:

Jan 11th 2024 - Year 9 & 10's Vs St. Helen's (Away)

Jan 15th 2024 - Year 10 Vs Haydon (Home)

Jan 30th 2024 - Year 8 Vs Uxbridge High (Home)

PE NEWS

(CONTINUED)

Girls Football

U14s Girls Football

To start off the girls' football campaign this year we had a Year 9 County Cup Match Vs Nower Hill High School. The girls started the game very strong, dominating possession and hitting the post and the bar several times. Eventually they got their first goal which was deserved. They went on to win 3-1 and go through to the next round of the Cup.

Players: Holly M, Nancy T, Ciara W, Amy D, Freya M, Nicolatae L, Darcy M, Emily F, Jessica G-L, Jode C, Megan C, Eva E, Deeya J, Chloe F, Danni K, Ellie S-M

Shout out to Freya for an excellent finish.

U13s Girls Football

The Year 8/Year 7s also started off very strong with a win over Oakwood school in the first round of the County Cup. This was the girls' first 11 a-side game since starting RHS and they showed amazing potential.

They won the game 4-1. Goal scorers: Xenia, Lily, Jess and Mya.

Player of the Match - Bethany S

Players: Lily C, Mya C, Erin D-M, Fatima El-KJ, Xenia G, Chloe R, Bethany S, Kaia W, Chloe S, Alan M, Marwa A, Chrystal S, Jess H, Michaela H.



PE NEWS

(CONTINUED)

Basketball - Year 8

The Year 8 boys played in a Year 9 basketball borough tournament played at Queensmead. Led by Mr Joseph and Mr Rutter, they were extremely pleased with the boys' effort, quality and resilience.

These boys were selected as they have shown a deep commitment to playing basketball in clubs and during their break times.

The boys did extremely well despite being a year younger than their opponents.

The results were:

Won vs Guru Nanak 14-4

Lost vs Harlington - 10-6

Lost vs Haydon - 11-10

Won vs Oakwood - 12-2

The two losses were extremely close games; the boys are buoyed with their efforts and will go into next year's competition for Year 9 as strong favourites. Well done to all. The squad are:

Jamie S-M, Luke L-S, Joshua P, Oscar W, Ashaz S, Hussein I, Dragos T and Leonit M.



First Aid

This year we have introduced a basic emergency first aid certification into our curriculum. Students will learn how to perform life saving skills such as CPR and the use of a defibrillator. It's been an amazing start to the course for our Key Stage 4 students, 48 have successfully passed and are awaiting their certificates. We hope to triple this by the summer. Well done to those students that have been successful so far and provided very positive feedback.

YEAR 10 NEWS

It is quite hard to believe that the first term of Y10 is already almost over at the time of writing and we think that students have grown up a lot in the past fifteen weeks.

We sound like a broken record, but we want our community to fully realise how proud our students are making the Y10 Team on a daily basis.

The gap between KS3 and KS4 is significant and they have overcome the challenge brilliantly; they have shown so much resilience, discipline and kindness towards each other and staff this term, we could not feel anything but respect and appreciation towards them.

To us, Year 10 students have been the reason to get going and try our best to make this term go as smoothly as possible, including during the visit of Ofsted in December!

Here is just a glimpse of what Y10 students have done this term and that we want to recognise, praise and celebrate.

Year 6 Open Evening, 28th September

We had a record number of Year 10 students helping out during our Year 6 Open Evening and the feedback we have received from the families being toured by Year 10 students was overwhelmingly positive. We have been an oversubscribed school for a couple of years and we are convinced this is partly due to the obvious qualities of our students taking part in public events. Thank you Year 10 for representing the school so well!

Presentation evening, 9th November

We also had a record number of Y10 students who were nominated to receive Subject and Bestowed Prizes during Presentation Evening. These awards are really difficult to obtain as only one student per Key Stage is nominated once a year. Well done to the following students for their Subject Prizes:

Efrem M (10F) – Maths

Elena L (10C) – PE

Dorian Q (10 F) – Art

Maha A (10A) – French

Daria T (10S) – English

YEAR 10 NEWS

(CONTINUED)

To receive a Bestowed Prize is even more difficult as only one student (or group of students) is nominated in the whole school. We could not be prouder that three students/groups of students received a prize this year, a record! Well done to:

Laylah H, Jamie U, Izzie A, Freya D (all in 10C) and Alvin C (10A) RAF Award for Innovation
Kiya D (10S) – Alex Wheatle Award for Creative Writing
Eve A (10D) – David Rich Award for Reflective Participation in World War One Education

We also wanted to thank William G (10W) for the beautifully moving reading of his poem, "Respect", at the very start of the evening.

Progressive Masculinity Workshop – 27th/28th November

On Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th November, a selected group of eleven Year 10 students took part in a workshop organised by Progressive Masculinity Ltd, a company working with young men in schools to promote and enhance a positive and healthy understanding of masculinity.

During the workshop, our facilitator Nathaniel explored heavy topics such as: what is masculinity? What does it mean to 'be a man'; masculine hierarchy, friendship and banter; communication and emotional literacy, masculinity in the digital world (including the impact of influencers); attitudes towards women; inspirations – what kind of man, partner, father do they want to be?

In a world where young men are conflicted between very different and sometimes unhealthy role models, in particular online, it was wonderful to see our Year 10 discussing how they truly feel about being a man and what challenges they face every day.

The workshop gave them a safe space where they could express themselves freely and question the misconceptions about what it means to be a man. Nathaniel made students feel very comfortable and open to talk about their emotions and the "masks" they are wearing every day to hide their true feelings.

This kind of workshop is essential to create a safe environment for all in our school community and we will surely organise more in the future.

One of our Year 10 students said; "I have learnt more and talked more about real life in the past three hours than I have all year!"

Another student commented: "Mr Nathaniel was great and it was so easy to talk to him about how society makes us feel and makes us behave. I hope he will come back!"

YEAR 10 NEWS

(CONTINUED)

Basketball trips – London Lions trip 3rd November and Tournament on 13th December

Some of our Year 10 students were invited to watch the London Lions taking on the Bristol Flyers at the Copper Box Arena. Our students were definitely the Lions' lucky charm as they won convincingly 95-67.

It was a wonderful evening and such a great opportunity to see professional players inspire our students. We are also proud to say that Dillon Gurung (10W) has been selected with a group of Year 11 students to participate in a basketball tournament on the 13th of December. If they win the tournament, they will go on to represent Hillingdon in the Basketball Youth Game in the new year!

Well done for making the selection Dillon even if you are not in Year 11 yet!

Citizenship PPEs and Health and Social Care Exam

This term has also seen Year 10 students sit their first Pre-Public Examinations in Citizenship but also work on their first practice assessment in Health and Social Care.

Ms McLoughlin said about her Health and Social Care class: "Well done to Year 10 on completing their first practice assessment. I was so impressed at how organised they were and how seriously they took this practice controlled assessment in timed conditions. It really does bode well for the real thing in February!"

We were also very impressed by how the whole cohort conducted itself during the exam period.

It is obvious that everyone is really trying very hard and we are confident that everyone will achieve what they set their heart and mind to.

An Arty Year Group

We would also like to mention all our wonderful Year 10 students who are taking part in our school productions every time they get the chance! It is such a brilliant reflection on their character, personality and dedication to the school community. We have no idea how and where they find the courage and confidence to walk on stage in front of their peers, their parents and teachers as they do. It also takes an awful amount of time, organisation and resilience to get fully ready for these performances.

YEAR 10 NEWS

(CONTINUED)

We would like to pass on all our admiration to the wonderful actors who took part in the Little Women play on the 19th December:

Laylah H (10C), Kalel H (10C), Amira H (10W), Emily B (10W), Julian C (10A) and James O (10A).

Equally, we would like to thank and congratulate the following students for a superb performance and rendition of "Do you hear what I hear?" in our Christmas Concert on the 20th December:

Dorian Q (10F), Angelina I (10W), Richard H (10W), Adam B (10D), Kalel H (10C), Mia H (10C), Alisha U (10A), Jamie U (10C), James M (10C), Trixie R (10A), James O (10A), Olivia L (10A), Lyla T (10W), Maria B (10C), Emma M (10F), Olivia A (10F), Hannah S (10D), Louie H (10B), Dylan S (10D), Katie W (10S).

Finally, to Year 10 parents/guardians we would like to say thank you for your unconditional support and for the trust you give us in your child's education. You can be extremely proud of your child's achievements this term and you can be looking forward to Parents Evening on the 2nd May 2024, as I know you will hear a lot of praise!

Have a wonderful, well-deserved break. We hope that you will be able to enjoy spending time with people you love and we are looking forward to seeing you in what will be a fantastic new year!

Miss Lucas
Head of Year 10

MATHS NEWS



VLT Maths Challenge

On 18th October 2023, Ruislip High School played host to the eagerly anticipated third Vanguard Learning Trust Maths Challenge. This spirited competition saw a collection of esteemed schools participating, including Field End Primary School, Hermitage Primary School, Ryefield Primary School, Oak Farm Primary School, Vyners School, and, of course, the ever-impressive Ruislip High School.

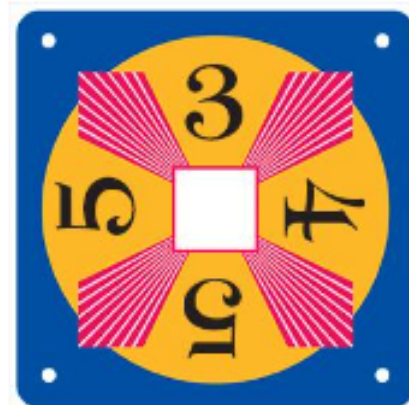
It was truly heartening to witness the unwavering passion displayed by the students, not only in their quest to comprehend and conquer mathematical problems but also in their remarkable teamwork throughout the event.

The Maths Challenge consisted of five diverse rounds, each designed to test the participants' mathematical mettle. These rounds included a variety of engaging topics, including the renowned "24 game." In this beloved game, contestants are presented with four individual numbers and are tasked with combining them, using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, to craft the elusive double-digit number 24.

Here's a little challenge for you—can you find the solution in the numbers below?

And did you manage to uncover the solution? Here's the step-by-step breakdown:

$$\begin{aligned}5 \times 5 &= 25 \\4 - 3 &= 1 \\25 - 1 &= 24\end{aligned}$$



The subsequent rounds tested the students' skills in Financial Mathematics; UKMT questions; Problem Solving, and concluded with a round inspired by the popular TV show, "The 1% Club."



In a remarkable turn of events, Hermitage Primary School emerged as the champions, becoming the first primary school to secure the coveted gold medal. Ruislip High School secured the silver medal, and the podium was completed by Field End Junior School, who took home the bronze.

MATHS NEWS

(CONTINUED)

The competition was fiercely contested, with each participant showcasing their mathematical prowess.

On behalf of the entire Mathematics Department at Ruislip High School, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all participants of this remarkable challenge. Special recognition and applause go to our deserving winners. We eagerly look forward to welcoming you all back next year, with even greater enthusiasm and mathematical prowess.

The resounding success of this event would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the dedicated teachers across the Trust and, most notably, the invaluable contributions of the RHS Sixth Form Volunteers and Year 11 Trust Ambassadors who worked tirelessly to ensure the event ran smoothly and successfully. Their commitment to the event was truly commendable and greatly appreciated.

Mr Joshi who joined Ruislip High in September 2023 had this to say about the event:

"It was a privilege to be a part of the team alongside Mr Ladhani, as well as the Year 11 and Sixth Form helpers to deliver another successful, and my first, VLT Maths Challenge. It was a pleasure to see the levels of engagement and excitement on the students' faces as they tackled challenging maths problems. A huge congratulations to all the Trust school students and staff for taking part, and a special shout out to Hermitage for being the first Primary school to receive the coveted trophy! I am already looking forward to the VLT Maths Challenge 2024!"

Maths Opportunity

Spring Maker Challenge- Imperial College - Apply by 7th January

Imperial College is offering the chance to develop an idea and see it through to creation. With access to cutting edge technologies, you will learn to use a range of making tools and techniques with the support of our staff and students.

You will gain a range of skills from practical, hands-on use of equipment to a myriad of soft skills including product development, team-building, presenting and communicating. At the end of the programme there will also be a showcase of the projects for your parents, teachers and families to see. To attend this programme, you must:

- Be 14-18 years old
- Live in London (applicants local to White City prioritised)
- Be available to attend all sessions, as listed in the 'How to apply' section

More information can be found here:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/be-inspired/schools-outreach/secondary-schools/stem-programmes/the-maker-challenge/>

MATHS NEWS

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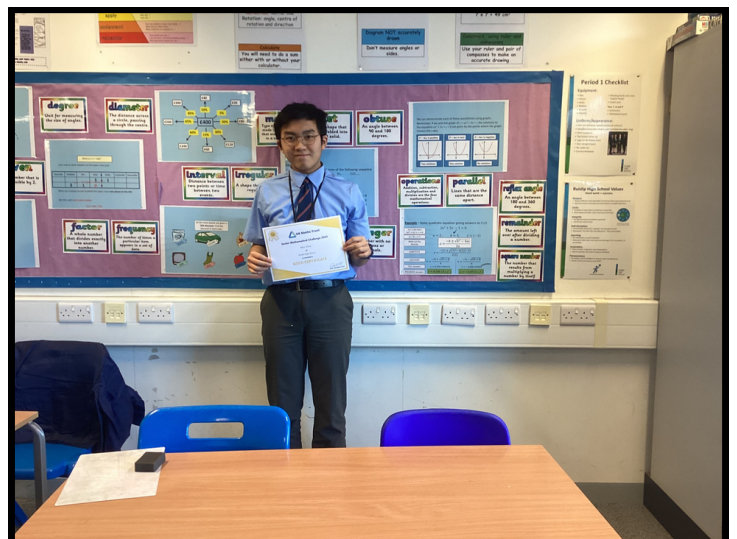
UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge

Year 12 and Year 13 students at Ruislip High school took part in a UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge on 3rd October. We also entered one of the Y10 students as he is performing brilliantly in maths lessons. The event was led by Ms. Jani.

UKMT Senior Mathematics challenge is a 60 minute, 25 multiple choice challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think. The problems on the challenge are accessible yet still challenge those with more experience.

The performance of our students was spectacular. Y12 student Maxim L and Y10 student Alvin C not only received gold certificates this year but also received best in year and best in school respectively. They also earned the prestigious invitation to the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo follow on round.

Both students completed Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo challenge on 15th November and received prestigious qualification certificates.



MATHS NEWS

(CONTINUED)

This enrichment event helps students in their problem solving skills for their exam boards (GCSE and A Levels) and creates love for Mathematics. It also prepares our students for other competitive university entrance exams for their further advancement.

The students who received silver certificates in the UKMT Senior Mathematics challenge are: Zoi Mouzia and Benjamin Martinez.

The students who received bronze certificates are: Harry Dunckley, Corey Lewis, Parveen Bansal Calvete, Yusuf Bishar, George Georgiev, Aidan Jansen-van Rensburg, Barmal Pasarly, Iman Ibrahim, Yung Rai, Rasum Sohi, Aylar Khaibi, Nathan Steer, Luvai Catterywala, Elliot Grant, Aaron Skinner and Abderahman Khammal.

It is a very proud moment for the Maths department and I would like to congratulate each and every Mathematics teacher, students who took part in the challenge and parents of the students.

Well done and keep it up!

Ms. Jani
Teacher of Mathematics,
Mathematics Across The Curriculum Coordinator

YEAR 11 NEWS

It has been an extremely busy, but positive term for Year 11. I have been so impressed with the students' hard work and dedication, particularly in the past few weeks as they prepared for their pre-public examinations (PPEs). Year 11 have risen to the challenge and the maturity, resilience and determination shown has been wonderful to see.

At the end of the summer term last year, many students put themselves forward to be prefects and went through a vigorous interview process. All the applicants were exceptional and I am delighted to say that the following Year 11 students are our prefect team for this year; Amelia S, Avantika P, Edward T, Eshal Z, Ethan W, Florence S, Katie B, Luke E, Pearl P, Velizar G, Zinovi B, and Zoey J. The prefects have already supported whole school events and have been exemplary role models and the finest of ambassadors for our school. In addition to this, a special well done to our Senior Prefects; Maisie D, Aahana K, and Reuben M - all of whom excelled in a further interview with Mr Davies and Dr Hill.

In November, a number of Year 11 students were given awards at the annual Ruislip High School Presentation Evening. Huge congratulations to all award winners, especially to Max D-M, Lucas C, Zayn A, Pearl P and Olivia D for winning whole school bestowed prizes.

A group of Year 11's have taken part in a coaching programme with Innerscope, an organisation that works with young people to improve their aspirations and to provide them with tools to self-motivate and be more reflective. The feedback from the students was really positive and they gained a lot from the hour-long sessions which took place over a number of weeks.

A mention has to go to the Y11 basketball team who took part in a Hillingdon Tournament in December. Huge congratulations to all the boys involved.

Many students were involved in the school's latest production of Little Women, which took place at the end of term. It was wonderful to see a number of Year 11s in leading roles! Alongside this, the year group's musical talent was on show at the Christmas Concert and in our Winter Celebration Assembly at the end of the term.

As I write this, Year 11 are mid-way through their PPE week. It has been an intense period for the students, but they have conducted themselves impeccably and I am confident that by the summer they will be more than ready to tackle the GCSE examination season. A reminder that PPE results will be handed out at Parents/Carers Evening which will take place in school on Thursday 1st February.

Wishing the students and their families a restful Christmas break, I hope the students come back fully recharged for the Spring term.

Mr Sills
Head of Year 11.

MFL NEWS



MFL Languages Challenge

A group of our current Year 8–10s took part in our MFL Languages Challenge over the summer holidays. They had to complete a variety of tasks in Spanish/French in order to be awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate. Well done to the students who took part.

Spanish Trip to Cervantes Theatre

On Friday 10th November, 2023, a group of Year 11 and 12 students got the opportunity to visit The Cervantes Theatre. At this small theatre in the heart of London, students watched a play in Spanish, with English subtitles, written by the Spanish playwright and poet Federico García Lorca. The play, *Amor de Don Perlimplín con Belisa en su Jardín* (which translates to *The Love of Don Perlimplín and Belisa in the Garden*) is a romantic comedy first performed in 1933. Our students were very impressed with themselves, as they managed to understand large parts of the play without relying too much on the subtitles.

For most of our students this was the first time that they had come across Federico García Lorca's work and hopefully it won't be the last. The school even has a classroom named after him in the languages corridor!

At the end of the performance, when the cast were chatting to audience members, Ms Matias recognised one of the actresses. She is called Montserrat Roig Puig and she features in the Channel 4 series *Extr@*, which we show to our Year 9 students in lessons. The students were very excited to meet her and get a photo with her, as well as other members of the cast.

MFL NEWS

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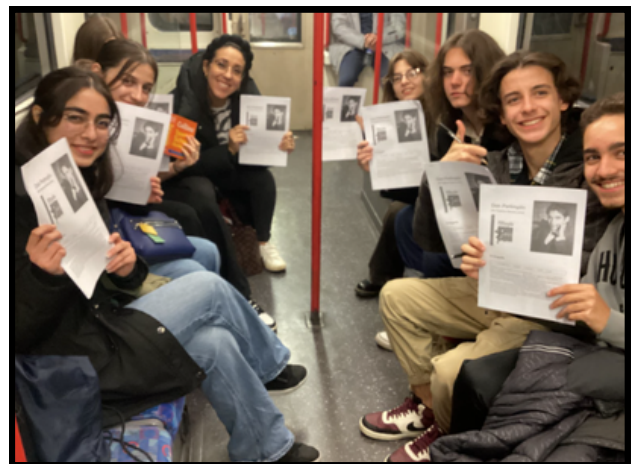
After the performance, our students had the following things to say:

Maisie, Year 11: "I really enjoyed watching the play and getting to meet the actors after, especially Monserrat from Extr@".

Velizar, Year 11: "The night was full of more fun and laughter than I ever imagined!! I definitely learnt new words and phrases; but I think the reason I enjoyed it so much was because the people there were as passionate about Spanish as me".

Ethan, Year 11: "The trip was a really fun experience watching an incredible play and socialising with friends. ¡Fue inolvidable!"

It was a privilege to take our Spanish students out for an evening of theatre and we hope it has inspired them to look for other opportunities to use Spanish beyond their lessons again soon.



MFL NEWS

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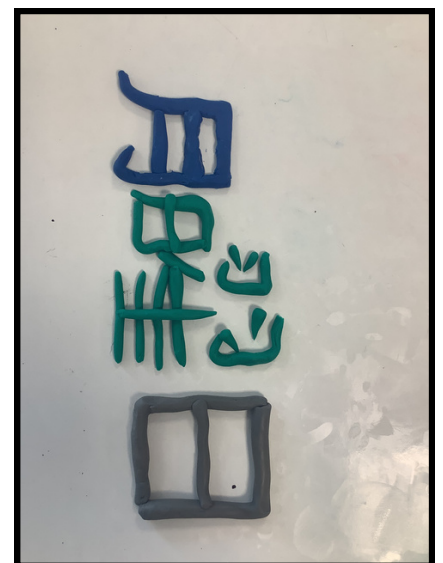
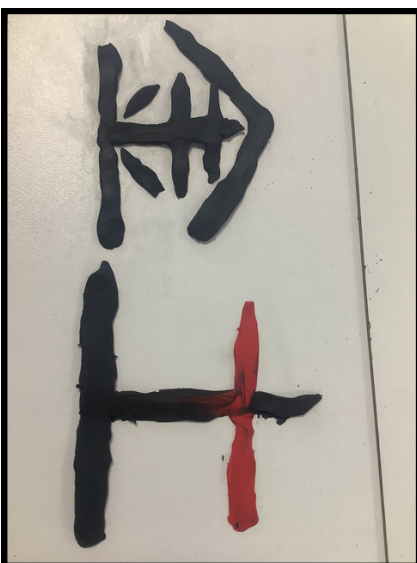
Japanese Club

This year Ruislip High School is offering Japanese as an after school club so that our students can enjoy learning and discovering the culture and the language of such a special country. The keen students, mainly from Year 7 and 9, have been learning to write using the Hiragana alphabet and some Chinese characters. They have made traditional origami cranes, tasted Japanese marshmallows and created Kanji with play-dough.

In addition, most recently, students got to wear typical Japanese bandanas called hachimaki and used chopsticks called hashi in a role play where they bought and sold sushi in Japanese with very good pronunciation! The classroom's door displayed a noren, a Japanese curtain typically used in some restaurants or shops that are open for business. A follow-on task of this activity was a mochi tasting which is a rice cake filled with red bean, to create the opportunity to practise eating with chopsticks again.

Some students' quotes:

- 'I liked learning the writing and speaking challenges, memorising the stuff that we learn' (George, 7C)
- 'I liked learning hiragana and phrases. I also liked the speaking exercises' (Iza, 9S)
- 'I like the origami' (Summer, 7S)
- 'I really like Japanese club, it's so fun and it's kind of rewarding, but I really like it when we play games and get rewards' (Sophie, 7W)
- 'Japanese club is really fun and I enjoy all the activities we do' (Karina 7W)
- 'I like learning all about sushi and traditional food' (Sergo)



YEAR 12 NEWS

It is a real pleasure to write this end-of-term update as Year 12 have settled into Sixth Form life so successfully. I have been very impressed with the diligence of the students. They are really taking ownership of their work and academic progress, and this maturity is pleasing to see. It is highlighted by the fact that so many Year 12 students are already combining their academic studies with progress towards researching and preparing for their post-18 application.

It has also been pleasing to see Year 12 involving themselves in the wider life of the school. All students have been participating in one of our eight Sixth Form Above and Beyond clubs on Friday Week B mornings, and a number of students have auditioned for the school's Christmas production, which I am sure will be as well-crafted and entertaining as previous editions. Many Year 12 students have got involved with the "We are Leaders" programme, whereby a Year 12 student visits a Year 7, 8 or 9 tutor group once per week to support the students with their learning and study habits. Needless to say, the students' efforts have received glowing reviews from the Year 7-9 form tutors. It has also been wonderful to see almost half of the year group sign up to do an Extended Project Qualification, which will boost the students' academic research skills.

On Friday 13th October, all Year 12 students went on a trip to a university! Half of the year group visited the University of Reading, and the other half visited Oxford Brookes University. Students received talks on how to apply to university, and heard from student ambassadors about what university life is like. They also had the chance to go on tours around the campus of each university. Both trips were extremely valuable, with many students commenting on how they feel that they have a far better understanding of university, what it entails and how to apply. The conduct of students was exemplary on both trips, and they were a pleasure to run.

As I look forward to the Spring Term, I see a plethora of academic, super-curricular, volunteering, mentoring and enrichment opportunities for Year 12 students. In particular, students will have the opportunity to apply to be on the 2024-2025 Student Leadership Team, which will be a great opportunity for them to boost their confidence and leadership skills, and to give back to the school. I am excited by the enthusiasm with which students have already undertaken to conduct further research into their chosen fields in order to strengthen a future post-18 application, and look forward to furthering these discussions with them in the Spring Term.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support of the school and the students, and wish you a restful break.

Mr B Peacock
Head of Year 12

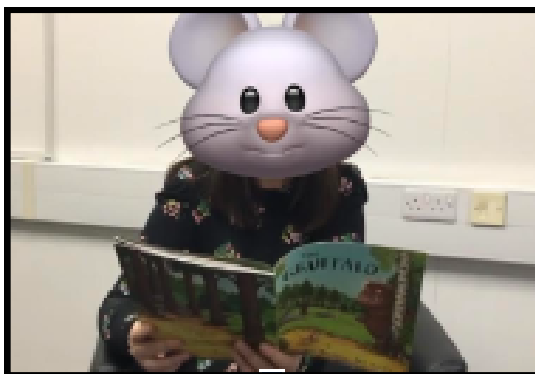
LRC NEWS



As the saying goes 'Time flies when you're having fun' and this is certainly true for the LRC, as another exciting, busy year comes to a close, with lots of events having taken place and lots of fun had by all.

'World Book Day' with a difference

So many events have taken place over the last twelve months. The LRC celebrated World Book day with a bit of a difference this year; it really was 'Lights, camera, action' as lots of staff featured in a special episode of "The Masked Reader". Teachers read different parts of *The Gruffalo* for Key Stage 3 or *The Gruffalo's Child* for Key Stage 4, with digital characters



disguising the faces and each Tutor group had to guess who the teachers reading the books were.

As we predicted the students and staff seemed to love it and it certainly made for an entertaining tutor time! During social times of the day students could play various book related activities, with a special bingo session after school to finish the day, available to 'Golden Ticket' holders.

'A Golden Opportunity'

The LRC also has a custom made book vending machine, which stocks lots of current fiction and nonfiction titles and is incredibly popular amongst students and staff. There are several opportunities for students to win special gold coins throughout the school year, which are presented in assemblies. This allows students to choose a book from the machine to keep or once read, to exchange for a different book from the donated section, meaning students never have to buy a book again!



LRC NEWS

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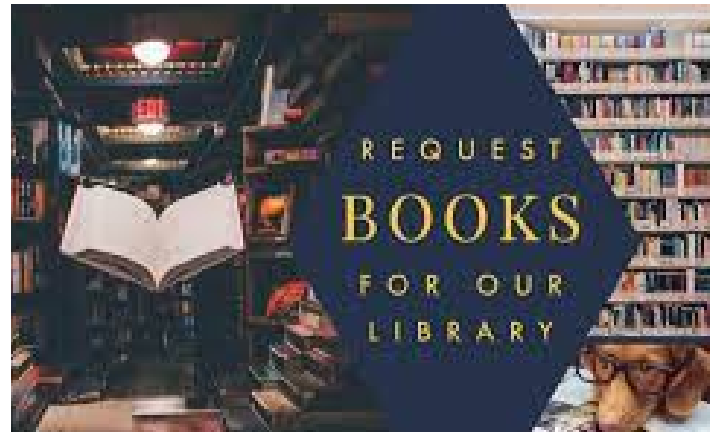
'Reading intervention'

To promote reading and to increase students' confidence in reading aloud the LRC has been running reading intervention programmes for students in KS3 who can sometimes find reading a bit of a challenge, especially reading out loud in class in front of peers. The aim is to boost the students' confidence, allowing them to practise 1:1 reading with Mrs Austen in a quiet library setting. It has proved very successful and encouraged a lot of non-readers to actually start reading and borrowing books from the LRC. This is an invaluable life skill, that in the long term will help improve memory and the ability to retain information, vocabulary and broaden the imagination !!



Student and Staff Book Requests

Although the LRC stocks thousands of books, ranging from fiction through to non-fiction, catering for all ages, including staff, there are always new books being launched. To keep up with this, the LRC has now introduced a Google Form for students and staff to be able to request a book not currently stocked. This has proved very popular amongst both staff and students, who appreciate being able to order the latest title to read at their leisure.



'The LRC Above and Beyond clubs'

The LRC Above and Beyond clubs have been extremely successful over the last year and are as popular as ever, with lots of students from all years attending. In particular, the Friday night games club which has over thirty regular attendees who have an array of board games to choose from, provides a great way to wind down and have some fun with peers after a busy school week.

The clubs will continue in the new year.

LRC NEWS

(CONTINUED)

The LRC 'Above and Beyond' Clubs Timetable: Open to years 7 - 11

Tuesday: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Silent reading / homework

Wednesday: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Silent reading / homework

Thursday: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Mrs Austen's Book Club

Friday: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Mrs Austen's Games Club

A Massive Thank you goes out to the student helpers of the LRC

The LRC wishes to say a massive thank you to all the wonderful students who regularly volunteer to help in the LRC each week; the continued help and support from the student team is very much appreciated.



Christmas Joke from the LRC:

How does Santa keep track of all the fireplaces he has visited?

He keeps a 'log book' !!

The LRC wishes everyone a fantastic Christmas and New Year.

'Happy Reading'

Mrs Austen
LRC Manager

YEAR 13 NEWS

As I sit and write this article, I reflect on the year we have had so far and all the challenges and successes that have arisen. It has been an exhilarating term for the Year 13s. In the first half term of the year, every student successfully completed a UCAS personal statement and has had the ability to go on to University should they choose to. The Year 13s approached this task with maturity, resilience and courage in order to have the highest aspirations possible. Following on from a successful exam series in October, students have now got their predicted grades and all that is left is for them to work hard, stay motivated and achieve those grades or even better!

The second half of the term has seen a change in emphasis and even more focus on alternative pathways. Students have heard from people on apprenticeships and about their journey in order to be able to make an informed decision as to what they would like to do in their future. We constantly advertise these apprenticeship opportunities when we see things that we believe our students might be interested in but students should also be using their spare time to look on the government website for apprenticeships to ensure they see all possible opportunities.

The new year will produce similar challenges to the previous years of your child's education. They will be tired and they will need your support. Please work with your child to ensure that they remain motivated and positive, keep reminding them of the fact that they've done most of their school education now and are onto the final stretch!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas when it comes and a Happy New Year and to reiterate that students should keep working hard, that the hard work will pay off and they'll be able to access the futures that they have worked so hard for once they've finished their exams!

Mr Elsby
Head of Year 13

SIXTH FORM GUEST SPEAKER NEWS

Sixth Form Guest Speakers

The Sixth Form's guest speaker programme has been running fortnightly since 2016. This term the visiting speakers have included:

- Eric Salama, Chair of Comic Relief.
- Carl Jones, award-winning creative director.
- Anhad Randhawa and Ollie Luckham from Mace - a global consultancy and construction company.
- Amrit Walia, Home Office Presenting Officer.
- Michelle Smith, Kooth mental health support website.



Carl Jones speaks to Year 12 students in October

Next term the school is looking forward to welcoming two Members of Parliament among the guests. The speaker programme is organised by Mr Alison (Director of Humanities). If you have a suggestion for a suitable guest speaker based around one of the '3Cs' of careers, current affairs and culture, please email Mr Alison via office@ruisliphigh.com

CHRISTMAS NEWS

Little Women

On Tuesday 19th December, the RHS Drama Department gave a phenomenal performance of 'Little Women'. Adapted from Louisa May Alcott's 19th Century novel, this was a journey of sisterly love, personal growth and gender expectations.

The play featured performances from students in Year 9-13. Every student shone; the production was incredibly ambitious, with the whole cast remaining on stage for the entire performance and included elements such as physical theatre, songs and dance.

Performing to a full audience, the cast were incredible and their performances reflected the hard work and dedication that they have put in over a rigorous rehearsal schedule, which has taken place throughout the Autumn Term. All of their hard work truly paid off and it was a sensational production.

Giselle, Year 12, who played the role of Jo March, said: "It was a thrilling opportunity and I am so grateful to have been a part of this magical play. The cast became such a strong community and I will miss our weekly rehearsals - we will be friends for life."

Lyla, Year 11, who played Hannah, said: "To me, being part of the school play is a highlight of the year. I feel like the drama department is like one big community and that everyone involved gets a chance to show off the Ruislip High School values in many different ways - from respecting one another to the self-discipline required to learn our lines."

Mr Randall, Head of Drama, said: "The students have all worked exceptionally hard and deserve all their plaudits. They pushed each other in rehearsal to be the best they could and it was apparent in their excellence on the night."

Thank you to all of the staff, parents and students who turned up to watch the performance. It was a wonderful atmosphere - we really hope you enjoyed the show!



CHRISTMAS NEWS

Christmas Concert

On Wednesday 20th December, the RHS Music Department hosted a musical extravaganza to end the term: The RHS Christmas Concert. This musical event saw a range of performances from students from across the school, in all year groups.

The event was hosted by Year 11 student Pearl, who led us through a packed programme, which included our all-school



choir - who meet as one of our school Above & Beyond clubs - to our Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music classes, who had also prepared performances. In addition, there was a solo vocal performance from Mia in Year 10; a piano performance from Rahul in Year 11; and our RHS Band also performed several numbers, much to the delight of the evening's audience.

Led by the Curriculum Leader for Music, Ms Nastou, the evening was a true showcase of the exceptional talent we have here at Ruislip High School and it was wonderful for the students to have the opportunity to show their hard work off to their friends and family. It is very clear there is a real

community spirit amongst the musicians and each performer, when watching one another, was rooting each other on to perform their best.

A real highlight of the evening was a beautiful poem, written by Year 10 student, Hugo, which was read out to begin the event. Hugo's words were atmospheric and really set the festive tone. The poem is written out in full at the end of the article.

Pearl, the evening's host, said: "I adore being a part of the music department and I was delighted to host this evening. I feel like I have taken part in a moment of the school's history, as it is the first time we have done an event like this. It really has been a special event."



CHRISTMAS NEWS

Christmas Concert (continued)

Edward, Year 11, said: "I always appreciate any chance I have to perform. I absolutely loved this evening and I am always so thankful to Ms Nastou for her passion in the way she leads the subject at the school."

Thank you to all of the students and parents who supported the event - we are certain you enjoyed the show as much as we did.

Christmas Concert Poem written by Hugo, Year 10:

**In winter's hush, a melody sweet,
Christmas whispers in notes discreet.
People shiver, a frostbitten nose,
Music wraps the season's close.**

**Carols dance like falling snow,
A symphony of festive glow.
Guitars strumming, hearts align,
In Christmas tunes, joy entwined.**

**Through the sound, the heart finds its way,
A carol, a lullaby, a serenade to stay.
Christmas and music, connected and true,
A timeless bond, a festive hue.**

**Drums beat to a yuletide rhyme,
Sleigh bells echo, marking time.
A carol's warmth, a timeless song,
In music's embrace, we all belong.**

CHRISTMAS NEWS

Christmas Community Event

On Tuesday 19th December, the Sixth Form team hosted a Christmas Community Event, for members of our local community. This annual event is always a festive highlight of the school calendar and it was wonderful to see so many of our community in attendance - with over 50 guests from our elderly community joining us for the occasion.

The evening is an opportunity for our Year 12 and 13 students to meet and serve members of the local community. Guests were greeted with a cup of tea or coffee, followed by food and a festive quiz, hosted by some of our Year 13 students.

The Sixth Form students did a fantastic job of greeting our guests and ensuring everyone had plenty to eat. Tia, Head Student, who hosted the quiz during the evening, said: "The Christmas community event is one of the main reasons I wanted to join the student leadership team. It is my favourite event on the Sixth Form community calendar and makes me so proud to be a part of this school."

Ms Horton, Assistant Headteacher in charge of Sixth Form, said: "I truly love the Christmas Community Event. It has always made me feel so proud of the way our students come together and take ownership of hosting such a special event, that means so much to members of our community. It is a highlight of the calendar for so many of us."

All of our guests had a fantastic time, with them all commenting that they cannot wait to see us next year and that the students were a credit to the school. Thank you to the Sixth Form team and students for hosting the event.



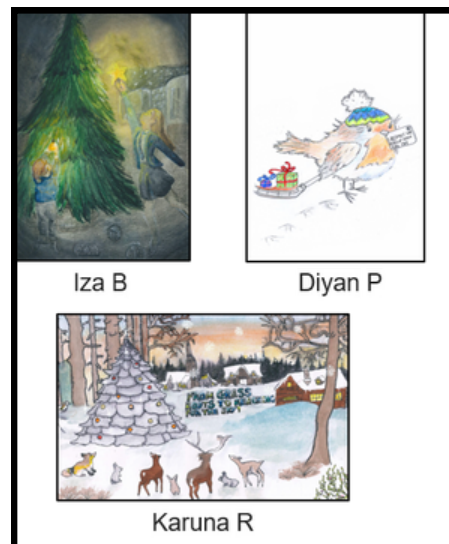
ART, CRAFT & DESIGN NEWS

THE CREATIVE CORNER

Winter card competition

We had so many sensational entries this festive season which made Mr Davies decision especially hard this year! I have shared just some of them in our RHS gallery as there are just too many to mention. The entries this year were so good that Mr Davies has decided to pick 3 designs as our winter card winners this year!

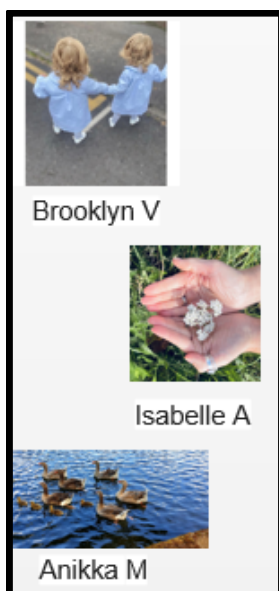
A massive congratulations to Iza, Diyan and Karuna for their sensational entries that capture the festive season with a sprinkle of Ruislip High magic!



Art Club

Coil pottery originated in Central Mexico nearly 4000 years ago and during this term Art club have been making their own coil pots inspired by them and their heritage, friends and family.

Coil pots take time and patience and all of Art club did an amazing job!



Ruislip High School photography competition

As always, we have so many entries for our photography competition with the theme of 'Caring' with our top three shown here.

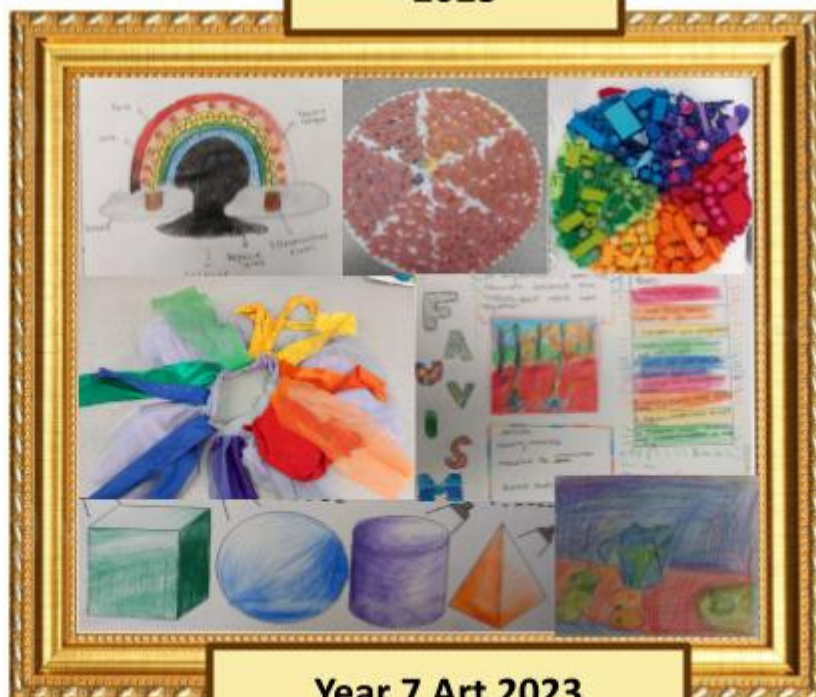
Mr Davies had an extra challenge for our students this year! For our presentation evening Mr Davies commissioned a picture of the school to present to the Mizens during presentation evening. Our students used the schools high quality camera to take a lovely photos that the Mizens were very happy with. Keep your eye out everyone for this years theme coming out in the spring/summer term!

RHS Gallery

Here is a selection of work from the Art, Craft and Design department:



Year 10 Fine Art
2023



Year 7 Art 2023



Year 8 Art
2023



Year 10 Fine Art
2023



Year 8 Textiles
2023



Year 9 Art
2023

Here are just SOME of the AMAZING winter card entries we have had this year!



KEY DATES

- Monday 8th January 2024: INSET day
- Tuesday 9th January 2024: Term begins
- Tuesday 9th January 2024 - Wednesday 17th January 2024: Year 13 PPEs
- Tuesday 9th January 2024: Year 12 government and politics trip
- Tuesday 9th January 2024: Year 9 Build workshops
- Thursday 11th January 2024: Year 7 Astronomy night
- Monday 22nd January 2024 - Friday 26th January 2024: Year 12 in-class assessments
- Tuesday 23rd January 2024: Year 12 post-18 options evening
- Wednesday 24th January 2024: VLT spelling bee
- Friday 26th January 2024: Year 9 - Young Green Briton Challenge
- Wednesday 31st January 2024: Intermediate UKMT maths challenge
- Wednesday 31st January 2024: Music recital 5pm-6:30pm
- Thursday 1st February 2024 - 28th February 2024: LGBTQ+ month
- Thursday 1st February 2024: Year 11 parents' evening
- Friday 2nd February 2024: Winter reward trip
- Monday 5th February 2024 - Wednesday 7th February 2024: Year 11 music exams
- Tuesday 6th February 2024: Safer internet day
- Thursday 8th February 2024: Year 8 parents' evening - 2:30pm-7pm (early finish for students - KS3 students will be dismissed at 1.35pm, KS4 and KS5 students at 1:25pm)
- Friday 9th February 2024: Half term ends