

# Ruislip High School NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

## Equalities Week

From Monday 19th February, schools across the Vanguard Learning Trust took part in our second Trust-wide Equalities week. Equalities week, which focuses 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!



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.

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. Max, Year 9, commented: *"I really enjoyed taking part in the cooking workshop and I really enjoyed learning to make something new."*

**(story continued on page 5)**

# CONTENTS

News from the Headteacher	Page 3 - 4
Geography News	Page 6 - 7
History News	Page 8 - 9
Sixth Form Guest Speaker News	Page 9
Year 7 News	Page 10 - 11
Year 8 News	Page 11
Science News	Page 12 - 13
Year 9 News	Page 14 - 15
PE News	Page 16 - 18
Year 10 News	Page 19
Maths News	Page 20 - 24
Year 11 News	Page 25
MFL News	Page 26 - 27
Year 12 News	Page 28
LRC News	Page 29 - 31
Year 13 News	Page 32
Computer Science	Page 32
Art, Craft & Design News	Page 33 - 39
Key Dates	Page 40

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWS



As we come to the end of another incredibly busy term, I wanted to take a moment to thank parents and guardians for all of their continued support this year. I know I speak for all of the staff at the school in saying that we see education very much as a partnership and for our students to achieve to the very best of their potential it is vital that school and home work together. I was so pleased this week to hear that as part of our half term thank you week students had written e-cards to members of staff and over nine hundred postcards

had been sent from RHS students. I have made a point of thanking students this week in their celebration assemblies as I know these small tokens have been hugely appreciated by the staff and again I believe it is testament to the culture we have at the school and why I am so proud to lead our school community.

One of the highlights of my role is that I get to show visitors around our wonderful building and this term I have had the pleasure of welcoming Members of Parliament from both Labour and Conservative political parties. Sir Ben Bradshaw, MP for Exeter, spoke to our sixth formers as part of our hugely popular sixth form speakers programme, while Steve Tuckwell, MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip, also spoke to some politics and citizenship students and was particularly keen to learn more about our special educational needs provision. At a time where there is precious little consensus in our politics, both MPs were united in their positivity about the school and in particular how our students made our visitors incredibly welcome. I am a big believer that first impressions count for a great deal and our students get this right time after time.

I am delighted that our equalities week has made the front cover of this newsletter and I would like to thank parents/guardians who have provided feedback on the week. I know there has been some concern about how not all students had the opportunity to take part in the cultural dress that made up one of the days. I recognise the concern but would only add that the aim of the cultural dress day was to raise awareness of the different minority cultures that exist in our school and to hear students explaining the significance of their dress was a real highlight of the term for me. I have no doubt there are lessons to be learnt but what I would say is that here at the school we do not shy away from having such conversations. Sometimes we won't always get this right, but it is important that all our students feel listened to and understood. As someone who grew up in a very mono-cultural part of the country, I am immensely proud to lead the diverse community that makes up Ruislip High School and will stand by what I have said many times; there is more that unites us than divides us.

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

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It has been an exceptionally busy sporting term for our students and I enjoyed hearing all about the various successes of our Year 8 sports teams in their celebration assembly this week. I know that in a number of tournaments we have come a narrow second this term but what has impressed me the most is the reports I have received from the PE staff regarding the effort and determination our teams have shown and how the students have constantly encouraged each other, not only when things have been going well but also when faced with adversity.

Finally, I am aware that a number of students in Year 8 and 9 will be starting their Easter holidays in foreign climes. I am always very aware of the financial cost of these experiences on parents but have no doubt that the Year 9s who are visiting the World War I battlefields or the Year 8s embarking on a football tour to Holland will share experiences they will long remember.

Finally, I do hope you enjoy reading this newsletter that contains a snapshot of what our community has achieved this term. Whether it be academic, sporting or creative success, our students continue to thrive and however you are spending the holiday period, I wish you a restful and peaceful Easter break.



# EQUALITIES WEEK

## (CONTINUED)

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."*



Mrs Poddar, Equalities Week Lead, said *"It was a privilege to lead and participate in the Equalities week at Ruislip High School. Students enjoyed a range of workshops, talks from speakers and participated in the Cultural day. I am proud to be a member of staff at a school which relentlessly works to be inclusive in every way possible."*

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 closer together.

# GEOGRAPHY NEWS

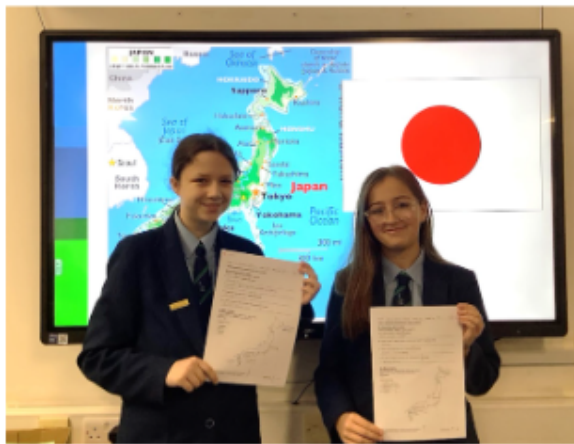
## Year 7 Geography

As part of a topic on Antarctica, Year 7 students are designing a flag for the polar continent. Staff will then be selecting the most creative to enter into the UK Polar Network's Antarctic Flags Project. This will see Ruislip High students compete for their flag to be taken to Antarctica! Please click on the weblink to find out more about this exciting project: <https://polarnetwork.org/2023/11/antarctic-flags-project-2022-2023-round-up>

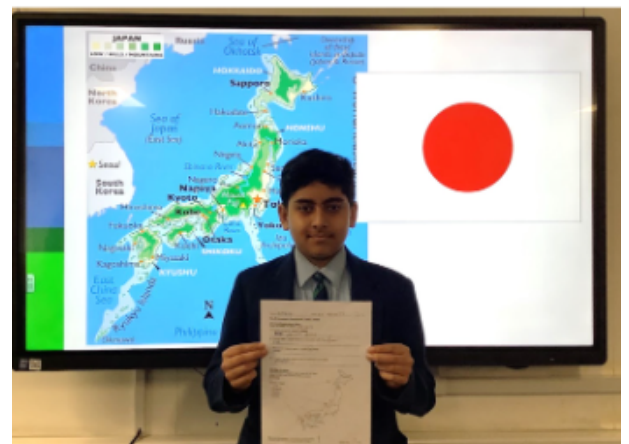
In this topic, Year 7s have also studied the incredible 1911-12 race to the South Pole. Before this, students studied the successful 1953 British Mount Everest expedition, and completed an assessment on Map Skills and the British Isles. Students can revisit these skills at home and play some fun games via this website: [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone)

## Year 8 Geography

The photos show some Year 8 students proudly showing their assessments on the Geography of Japan. They have studied its history and unique culture, and examined why it has become an economically successful country despite a shortage of flat land and natural resources.



**Zuzanna (left) and Brooke (Year 8) show their assessments on the Geography of Japan.**



**Manuja (Year 8) shows his assessment on the Geography of Japan.**

Year 8 then moved on to study the world's changing population, including that India's population overtook China's population in 2023. Students have also been learning about China's changing population now that 8 years have passed since the famous 1-child policy ended, using website news articles such as this: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-68002803](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-68002803)

Following this, Year 8 students have been learning about the Geography of energy resources, in particular looking at the UK's electricity mix using websites like this: [www.energydashboard.co.uk/live](http://www.energydashboard.co.uk/live)

# GEOGRAPHY NEWS

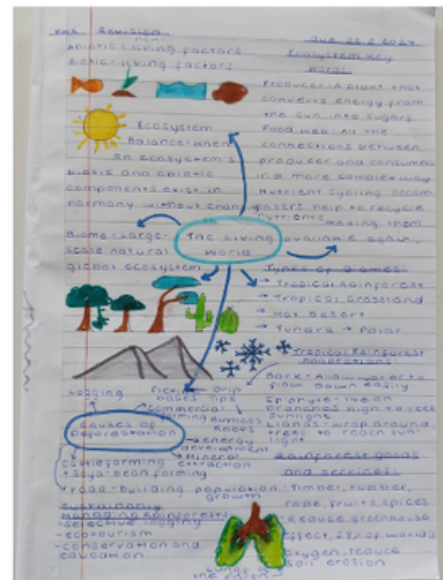
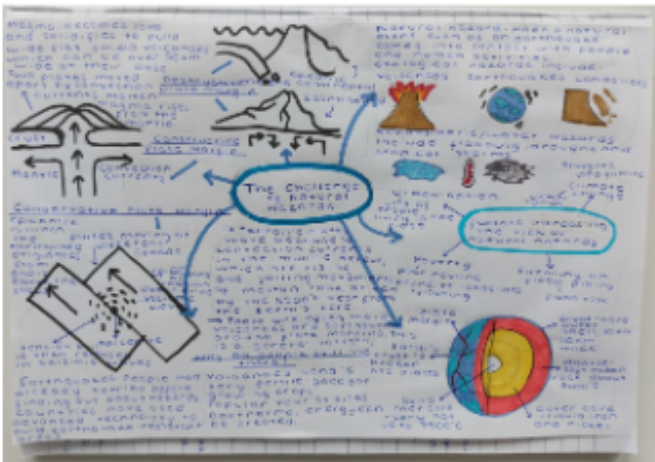
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## Year 9 Geography

The students have studied the Globalisation and Earning a Living topic, which included an investigation into the environmental impacts of 'fast fashion'. This was followed by 'Superpower Geography' where students considered which countries are considered among the most important in the world, using data such as military spending. Year 9s also completed a study of South America by investigating the reasons behind deforestation in the Amazon region. They particularly enjoyed learning about how the Brazilian government rainforest police squad, Ibama, tries to tackle illegal deforestation.

## GCSE Geography

The department always recommends students revise in an active way, for example creating 'mind maps' using words, numbers, colours and images to help knowledge 'stick'. Here are some example mind maps, created by Deveshi ahead of the recent Year 10 exam.



**Deveshi (Year 10) is very creative with revision mind maps!**

Students in Year 11 have demonstrated the Ruislip High value of perseverance to reach the end of the GCSE course and start the revision phase with enthusiasm. They have also been studying this year's Paper 3 pre-release booklet on how to address the UK's housing shortage. Year 11s are using the department's 'Megabook' revision guides. These are also on the online Google Classrooms, along with several past exam papers and revision quizzes. Meanwhile, students in Year 10 are looking forward to a field trip to Hengistbury Head on the south coast in June 2024.

## A-level Geography

Year 13 students have completed their ambitious coursework projects, based on their residential field trip to Norfolk last year. Year 13 students have also been working towards completing the A-level course with topics such as 'Water and Carbon Cycles' and 'Global Systems and Global Governance'. The department wishes the students well for their public exams ahead. Year 12 students have made pleasing progress on 'Coastal Systems and Landscapes' and 'Resource Security'. The department is looking forward to taking Year 12 students on a 4-day residential field trip to the Norfolk coast in June 2024.



# HISTORY NEWS

## Year 7 Castle Project

This term saw year 7 students get the opportunity to bring out their creative side with a long term project to build their one Motte and Bailey castle. William the Conqueror famously built seven hundred castles to ensure the subjugation of the Saxon population. However, none of those were made from cardboard, lego or even chocolate cake! Many students also decided to create castles online - Minecraft was the favoured platform for some including Diyan, Noarii and Ben, who said, "It collectively took us about four hours to make our castle, but we enjoyed doing it. It was different to most homework tasks because we were able to complete a project with the freedom of using a platform that for us is fun to use."



## Year 8 visit the British Museum

On February 9th, students who had been nominated by the History and Geography departments travelled to central London and to the British museum. Students spent the afternoon exploring a wealth of different exhibits, some of which covered topics from the history curriculum such as Norman England.

Tegan said, *"I saw lots of interesting things that I had never seen before. We had a booklet and had to locate items and write about what we found."* While Erin said, *"In the money room there were lots of coins from different time periods, including from dynasties of China. We had to look for one specific coin and it took us about ten minutes since there were so many in the room to search through!"* She went on to say, *"the chess board from the 1100s was especially interesting as it was from so long ago and the pieces were detailed sculptures of people."*



## Year 10

The history department continues to be impressed with how hard our Year 10s have been working to develop their skills and understanding of their GCSE units. Our year 10 cohort have now finished learning about Weimar and Nazi Germany, and have begun studying the Cold War. Laylah, Year 10, said, *"I have really enjoyed learning about life in Nazi Germany - especially how they used the media to manipulate and influence peoples' views."* We wish them all a restful Easter break following their PPEs.



# HISTORY NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

### **Good luck to Year 11 and 13**

We have greatly enjoyed teaching our Year 11 and Year 13 historians. Our students are showing the focus and determination needed to be successful in their final exams. They are producing excellent revision notes and are regularly practising exam questions. The history department would like to wish them good luck with their summer exams.

## SIXTH FORM GUEST SPEAKER NEWS

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

- Sir Ben Bradshaw, Member of Parliament for Exeter (pictured)
- Jeff Markham from Cardiac Risk in the Young.
- Yvonne Omini from S.A.M.E. Academy (Safety Awareness Motoring Education).
- John Jaquiss and Philip Dehany from the Terrence Higgins Trust.



**Sir Ben Bradshaw, Member of Parliament for Exeter, who spoke to Year 12 students in January 2024.**

The guest 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.org.uk](mailto:office@ruisliphigh.org.uk)

# YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 are thriving as we transition into the spring season. They are proving to be wonderful members of our school community and their commitment to getting involved in the exciting opportunities on offer here demonstrates their thirst for learning and experiencing new things.

## **Trust Wide Poetry Event**

We're thrilled to announce the successful conclusion of our Trust-wide Poetry Event, that saw our students immerse themselves in the world of verse. Five exceptional students had the extraordinary opportunity to workshop and craft their own poetry under the guidance of the esteemed writer, Michael Walsh. The themes of 'If All the World Were Paper' and 'Rainbow' inspired creativity and introspection, resulting in a collection of truly remarkable pieces. We're immensely proud of all participants for their dedication and passion for the written word.

## **Trust Wide Spelling Bee**

Our students recently showcased their linguistic prowess in the Trust Wide Spelling Bee, facing off against some formidable words with determination and resilience. While the victory was for Vyners, our students demonstrated exceptional skill and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

## **Equalities Week**

Equalities Week provided a vibrant platform for our students to embrace and honour their unique cultural heritage. Throughout the week, our school community came together to appreciate the cultures represented among our community. It was a joyous occasion, culminating in a colourful display of traditional cultural attire worn proudly by our students. We're grateful for the opportunity to foster understanding, respect, and unity within our school community.

## **Year 7 Netball Success**

We're delighted that our Year 7 Netball team emerged triumphant, clinching first place in the February tournament. Their hard work, dedication, and teamwork were on full display as they competed with skill and determination. This victory is a testament to their commitment to excellence and the unwavering support of our PE staff. Congratulations to our talented athletes on this well-deserved achievement!



# YEAR 7 NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

### Looking Forward to Summer Term

As we eagerly anticipate the warmer months ahead, we're looking forward to our upcoming "Above and Beyond Month" in the summer term. This will offer our students the opportunity to participate in enriching trips and activities that extend beyond the classroom. From educational excursions to Year 7's first Sports Day, there will be plenty of opportunities for our students to embrace new experiences and make lasting memories.

Ms Loizou  
Head of Year 7

# YEAR 8 NEWS

The last 10 weeks have been a busy and productive time for Year 8. The spring term started with Year 8 Parents' Evening; it was great to see so many parents and guardians attending.

The spring term has been a successful term for the Year 8 sporting teams. The girls' football and netball teams have had great success at recent tournaments, reaching the finals. While on this subject, congratulations to the Year 8 boys' football team for reaching the final of the County Cup, losing only narrowly in that match.

It is also pleasing to see so many students taking part in Above and Beyond clubs after school, notably the Ruislip Eye Newspaper which is always a great read. Therefore, I would encourage your child to sign up to as many Above and Beyond clubs for the summer term.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and restful Easter break. Those going on the football tour to Holland I wish you all the best!

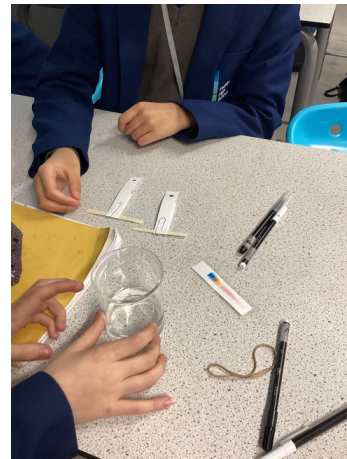
Mr Cahill  
Head of Year 8

# SCIENCE NEWS

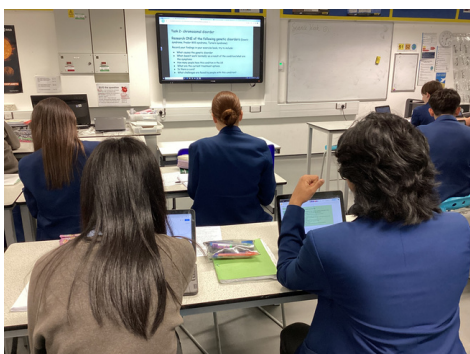
## KS3 science



During STEAM which is a week-long celebration of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (Monday 11th- Friday 15th March) students partook in a number of 'fun events' alongside some science related career activities. Year 7 students learnt about forensics and looked at techniques such as chromatography, fingerprinting, DNA fingerprinting and blood splatter analysis. Year 8 completed an engineering challenge building spaghetti bridges and Year 9 considered how life exists in the most extreme environments.



## KS4 science



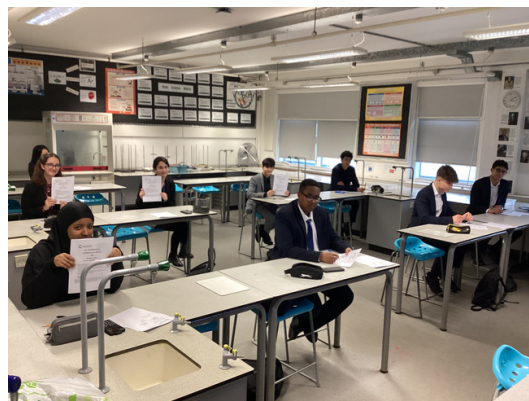
During STEAM week Year 10 students learnt about genetic disorders and considered the difficulties faced by individuals and their families. As part of this week the students watched 'Five Feet Apart', a film about two young people living with cystic fibrosis.

# SCIENCE NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

### KS5 science

The Year 12 chemists entered the Royal Society of Chemistry's prestigious Olympiad competition. Pictured are some of the students just before starting the first round exam. The competition is renowned for being exceptionally challenging as some of the questions require answers beyond the current A level specification. The students from RHS attained three certificates!



Year 12 biologists have shown exemplary work ethic this academic year and are doing exceptionally well with their required practicals. During the spring term the students completed the aseptic technique microbiology practical where they grew a culture of bacteria on a petri dish and tested the effectiveness of a variety of antibiotics. The group pictured above found exclusion zones where the bacillus bacteria had been killed around the antibiotics C (chloramphenicol) and T (tetracycline).

### EcoHub

A number of Year 7 ecohelpers have been helping us get the Ecohub ready for spring and summer by planting bluebells under the silver birch and spreading wildflower seed. It has been lovely watching the birds use the space in the early morning to have a drink from the pond.





# YEAR 9 NEWS

The Year 9 students have had another wonderful term. We have all been blown away by the maturity and positivity demonstrated by our students as they embarked on making their GCSE options choices and considering which path they would like to take.



In our first bit of news we are thrilled to announce and celebrate the outstanding achievement of one of our own – Archie 9S, who has been recognized with a prestigious award for his dedication to keeping our environment clean! Archie started litter picking for his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. He joined a group called the 'Hillingdon Litter Pickers' and once every so often they meet up and collect rubbish. He has been an invaluable member of our community, tirelessly dedicating his time and effort to ensuring that our surroundings remain pristine and litter-free. Archie's commitment to the environment is truly commendable and serves as an inspiration to us all. Archie did so well on a particular litter pick that the Mayor of Hillingdon agreed to meet them all as a group. What an absolute star!!

Options Evening was the highlight of the term. Heads of Departments and Teachers were available to discuss their subjects with students and guide them on the right pathway. The number of positive conversations I saw over the evening between students, parents and staff was incredible, along with the brilliant turn out of students, parents and guardians. Year 9 were wonderful; able to discuss what subjects they were thinking of and why.

Year 9 have had a range of opportunities offered to them this term including participating in the Build Roadshow where the School of Construction delivered taster activities in Plumbing, Electrical Engineering, Bricklaying, Power tools, Woodwork, and Tiling. The students also received information on future careers in Renewable Energy and Artificial Intelligence.

# YEAR 9 NEWS

## (CONTINUED)



As we reflect on the term, I must pause to say well done to all of those students who were nominated for subject awards, the DofE award, Head of Year and Headteacher awards. I know that teachers struggled to pinpoint only one student who had been exceptional, which is a real testament to the year group and the work that they put in.

As the Year 9s embark on their final term as leaders of Key Stage 3, I hope that they are able to continue to consistently demonstrate the maturity and positivity which they have been able to maintain through this year. Over the Easter holidays, I hope that our wonderful Year 9 students can relax and look at all of the achievements they have made this year so far and start dreaming about the next set of achievements they can make in their final term of Year 9.

I hope you all have a restful holiday and are able to enjoy spending time together as a family. We look forward to seeing the Year 9 students back with us next term.

Best wishes,

Mr Joseph  
Head of Year 9

# PE NEWS

## Year 8 County Cup Final

For the first time in a number of years Ruislip High progressed to the County cup final, hosted at Rectory Park Stadium. Our Year 8 team, who have had an excellent season, had reached the final having defeated three other teams, and conceding just one goal. This was also the first team since 2017 that had reached the final of this competition.

We would be facing Highgate School, another strong team who had also qualified for the National Cup final later in the week. It was a back and forth game with goals at both ends. With less than 10 minutes to play we trailed by 6-3, but the boys once again showed the spirit and determination that had got them to the final to score two late goals. Unfortunately, we were unable to find an equaliser in the last few seconds and had to settle for runners up medals on this occasion.

Final score : 6-5 to Highgate!

Well done to all the boys on a brilliant season and an excellent cup run. We are already looking forward to seeing what they can achieve in Year 9!



### Players:

Oscar W, Dragos T, Charlie C, Sam H, Ashaz S, Tomas B, Charlie K, Amin, Ethan K, Conor F, Ibrahim H, Daniel L, James B, Georgi G, Dexter G.

### Goal Score:

Oscar x2, Conor, James x2

## Girls Football

Last week both the year 8 and 9 girls football team played the 7 aside borough tournament at Uxbridge High School. Both teams had 6 games and did really well. Unfortunately the year 9 missed out on a semi final spot but our year 8's got all the way to the final. The year 8's were fantastic, showing excellent skill and teamwork, and just missed out winning the competition by losing 1-0.

Well done to all the students involved.



# PE NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

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### **Netball**

We took a group of year 7 students to Oak Farm School at the beginning of this term to play in a netball tournament against the other school in the Vanguard Trust. We had one girls team and one mixed team, they both played 5 games and played brilliantly. Ralph, Jaylan and Hamza had never played netball before, however played exceptionally well and picked up the rules very quickly. The mixed team won 2 games out of the 5 and came in third place. The girls team won all 5 of their games and won a trophy and the overall tournament.

The year 9 girls played at Queensmead School for the borough netball tournament. All the girls played very well in a tough group of teams, however they just missed out on the semi final by 2 points.

Last week the year 8 girls also attended a netball tournament at Queensmead and played 6 games, however they didn't manage to get to the semi finals but played excellent .

### **First Aid**

So far this year Ruislip High PE department have successfully passed 82 students through their First Aid course. Below are the most recent cohort to pass and will receive their certificates in their upcoming assemblies.

### **SCQF Level 5 Award in Basic Life Support and safe use of an Automated External Defibrillator**

#### **Date passed: 19th February 2024**

Oliver A, Kian B, Lauren B, Maisie D, Bobby G, Haymani H, Aimee H, Dhanvi M, Ivana N, Tyler O, Diana S, Haedar A, Aayza A, Asuade B, Muhamad B, Niamh C, Lily F, James M, Daniel M, Zia M, Paige M, Dominic P, Daria T.

### **Sports Colours**

We are very pleased to announce the first students to receive their sports colours awards at Ruislip High school.

These are designed to celebrate individual achievement in sport as well as to recognise an individual's commitment, enthusiasm and dedication towards school sport, whilst acting as a role model for our younger students and as an ambassador for the school.

# PE NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

### **Sporting Excellence Colours (platinum badges)**

These can be awarded to any student consistently representing the District, Region, Middlesex County or Higher in their chosen sport. (Year 7-13)

The following students have achieved the platinum award:

**Lucas C** participates in Taekwondo, he has competed in five National Competitions and won 3 medals.



**Eve A** participates in swimming outside of school, she regularly competes and has received medals when competing in club championships, county level as well as the London Youth Games. Eve has also competed at the Irish nationals for swimming.

**Zayn A** competes in the 60m and 100m sprint. He has won 1st place at the Middlesex Championships twice for both the 60m and 100m sprint. He has also competed at the South of England Championships and got 2nd place for the 100m.

**Elena L** competes in hammer throwing. She has represented Hillingdon in the Middlesex Schools county championship and won Gold with 33.29m.

**Sam W** has recently competed for the National Academy of GB U19s squad NAGS he won 1st place in the regionals.

**Sam L** came 1st place last year at the European Championships for his acrobatic performance.

**Finley B** won the U14s Middlesex County Cup with Ickenham Football Club last season.

**Ellie M** competes in Irish dancing and came 5th place at the world qualifier.

**Keira B** has participated in county regionals and also the London Youth Games for her swimming. Last year she won silver for the 4x50m freestyle relay at the London Youth Games.

# YEAR 10 NEWS

The Spring Term was another brilliant term for Year 10 students, ending on a high in a very successful PPE week.

Students rose to the challenge of revising for all their GCSE subjects and sitting multiple exams on the same day. PPE season in Year 10 is extremely stressful and tiring and students can often feel very overwhelmed. However, we were really impressed by the resilience and perseverance they have shown. We could not be prouder!

Next time they sit in the Exam Hall it will be for the real thing and their Citizenship exam!

It is also important to note that some Year 10 students have already started to submit coursework for their GCSE and both Mr Rutter and Ms McLoughlin have commented on how brilliant students have been so far! Drama students have also been filming for their final piece and they have shown a lot of dedication too.

At Ruislip High, we are always willing to develop the leadership skills of our students and, this term, the MFL Department had the hard task of selecting their fifteen Language Ambassadors amongst Year 10 students. It was not an easy task as we had over thirty applications, the highest number since the creation of the Language Ambassadors! The Ambassadors have already been helping with the organisation and the running of Language Week and will start promoting Language GCSEs for the recruitment of Year 9 students next year. The chosen ambassadors have written wonderful applications filled with great ideas to promote languages around the school. The new Language Ambassadors are Gabriele S, Kiana C, Daria T, Freya D, Iazmina I, Isabel I, Alina L, Efrem M, Jeffrey H, Dorian Q, Zeyad N, Eve A, Eva C, Harun A and Rishan P.

Next term, we will give more leadership opportunities to Year 10 students and we will be advertising for positions in the Prom Committee and, of course, interviews for Prefects and Senior Prefects. Competition will be tough given the quality of our Year 10 cohort!

We are looking forward to seeing you for Parents Evening on the 2nd May; be prepared to hear a lot of praise!

We wish you all a wonderful and restful break if you are fortunate enough to get one!

Miss Lucas  
Head of Year 10

# MATHS NEWS

## Corbettmaths 100 Days of Revision

As we venture into the second term of the academic year, it's time to gear up for those upcoming exams. For many students, maths can be a challenging subject that requires consistent practice and revision to grasp concepts fully.

To aid students in this journey, we're highlighting one exceptional resource. Corbettmaths 100 Days of Revision program, available at [this link](#). This comprehensive program offers a structured approach to revising key mathematical topics over the course of 100 days. Organised by topic and difficulty level, it provides bite-sized lessons, practice questions, and video tutorials, making it suitable for students of all abilities.

As we embark on this journey of revision together, let's continue to encourage and support our students in their academic pursuits. With the right resources and guidance, we can help them unlock their full potential in mathematics and set them on the path to success.

## STEAM Week

As we bid farewell to STEAM Week, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey our students embarked upon over the past week. STEAM Week was a celebration of creativity, innovation, and interdisciplinary learning, as our students delved into the realms of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM).

During STEAM Week, our students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in a variety of hands-on activities, workshops, and interactive sessions that highlighted the principles of STEAM.

As we look back on STEAM Week, let's revisit what STEAM stands for and why it is such a valuable component of our children's education:

- Science: Our students explored the wonders of the natural world through scientific inquiry, conducting experiments, making observations, and drawing conclusions.
- Technology: They embraced the world of technology, learning about coding, robotics, and digital literacy, and discovering how technology can be used to solve real-world problems.

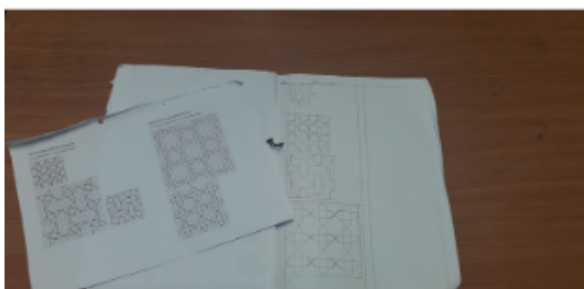
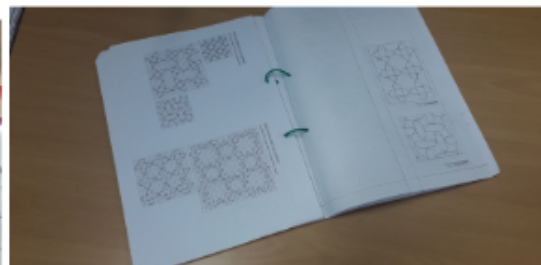
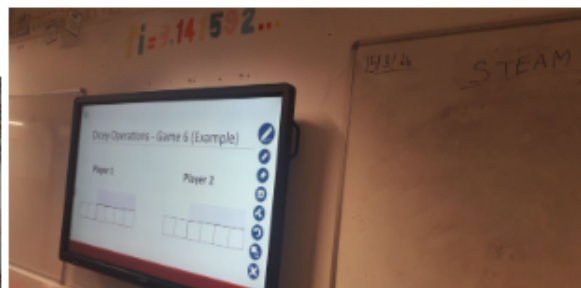


# MATHS NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

- Engineering: Through hands-on engineering challenges, our students applied design thinking and problem-solving skills to create innovative solutions and prototypes.
- Arts: The arts played a central role in STEAM Week, inspiring creativity and self-expression through visual arts, performing arts, music, and design.
- Mathematics: Our students tackled mathematical challenges, developing their logical reasoning and quantitative skills while exploring mathematical concepts in diverse contexts.

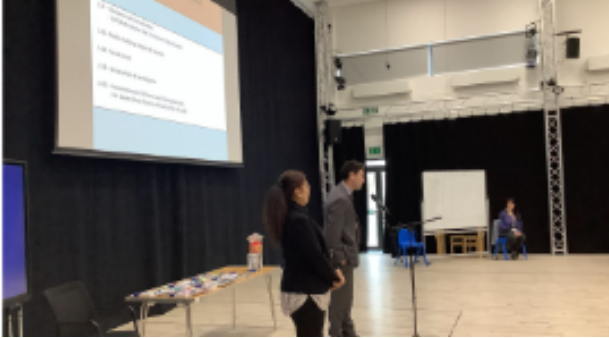
STEAM Week encouraged our students to think critically, collaborate with their peers, and approach problems with creativity and resilience. It fostered a love for learning and exploration, igniting a passion for STEAM subjects that will continue to inspire our students in the future.



# MATHS NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

### Game 24 2024



On Monday 13th March 2024, Ms Jani hosted the annual 24 Game competition at Ruislip High School. Year 7 students from different schools in Hillingdon Borough took part in this challenge.

This year the students of following schools took part:

Ruislip High School, Queensmead School, Bishop Ramsey, Swakeleys School, Northwood School, Rosedale College, Vyners School and Douay Martyrs Catholic Secondary School. There were two teams from each school.

The event was supported by Mrs Austen as well as a number of Year 12 Maths students. Maths teachers also came to help out and helped in marking and supporting the students.

The headteacher, Mr. Davies, started the competition by giving an introductory speech and Ms. Jani continued the challenge with 3 rounds. The students needed to make 24 by using BIDMAS to answer the interactive questions provided on the screen. For the first round, the time for each question was 1 minute, for the second round, for each question the time was 1.5 minutes and for the third round, for each question, the time was 2 minutes. For each round, there were 10 questions.

The environment of the event was very competitive and the students were well engaged. The students at Ruislip High school did extremely well and came in 5th place.

The event was a huge success and we look forward to hosting this event again next year.

*"It creates a sense of community between the students in different schools."*

- Hiruni Y, Y12 student



# MATHS NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

### AMSP Y10 Maths Feast

Some year 10 students took part in the Maths feast run by AMSP on 3rd March under the guidance provided by Ms. Jani. The event was hosted at Bishop Ramsey School.

There were about 28 schools who took part in the event. The questions were highly engaging and students were challenged throughout. It was led by experienced staff members from AMSP. The aim of the competition was to check students' GCSE problem solving skills in a competitive and fun environment.



The students of Ruislip High school performed extremely well and they were also provided with the certificate of attendance by AMSP. We are looking forward to attending these programmes next year as it not only boosts students' grades but also motivates them for A level Maths and their future career!

*"It was excellent to experience GCSE/A level exam questions in a fun and challenging environment."*

- Zeyad N, Y10 student

### UKMT Intermediate MATHS Challenge 2023 - 2024

On Wednesday, January 31st, 2024, Ruislip High School buzzed with mathematical energy as Year 10 and Year 11 students eagerly participated in the prestigious United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Intermediate challenge. This annual event, renowned for its rigorous 60-minute, multiple-choice format, serves as a platform to foster mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in fundamental mathematical techniques—traits that are essential for tackling intriguing problems.

A remarkable 180 students from Ruislip High School's Year 10 and Year 11 cohorts proudly represented their institution, pitting their skills against counterparts from schools across the UK.

Under the diligent guidance of the Mathematics department and the industrious organisation by Ms. Jani's Above & Beyond club, students received comprehensive preparation both within the classroom and through supplementary resources. Past paper questions and advanced materials, curated with care, were made accessible on Google Classroom, allowing students to sharpen their skills even beyond school hours.

# MATHS NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

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The results of our students were nothing short of spectacular. Fueled by a spirit of healthy competition and armed with their mathematical prowess, Ruislip High School students achieved remarkable feats. This year's cohort continued the tradition of excellence, with four students from Year 10 and Year 11 earning coveted Gold Certificates, while 15 and 35 students secured Silver and Bronze certificates, respectively, for their outstanding performance in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge.

The exhilaration was palpable as the results were announced during the celebratory assembly. Participation in such challenges not only reflects the high aspirations and dedication of our students but also serves as invaluable preparation for the rigours of GCSE and A-Level Mathematics examinations, as well as competitive university entrance assessments.

Special recognitions are reserved for Alyssa M, Charlie M, Alvin C, and Elena L, who clinched the prestigious Gold Certificates. Additionally, three students have been extended invitations to partake in the next level: the Pink Kangaroo Mathematics Challenge.

As Mathematics Across The Curriculum Coordinator, I take immense pride in congratulating each and every student who rose to the challenge, supported wholeheartedly by their parents, guardians, and dedicated mathematics teachers. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their commitment, perseverance, and unwavering pursuit of excellence.

Well Done and Keep it up!

*"Positive attitude plus effort equals performance."*

- Tommy Tuberville

# YEAR 11 NEWS

The spring term has been yet another busy and productive term for Year 11. In what was their last full term at secondary school, the students have shown great dedication and hard work both inside and outside the classroom. I have been so impressed with the commitment the year group has shown to their studies, particularly in completing coursework in vocational subjects, and preparing for their core subject PPEs (pre-public examinations) which took place in March. This provided students with another opportunity to practice exam technique, and make important improvements based on targeted feedback from their class teachers. The PPEs in March followed the December exams which informed the discussions parents and carers had with teachers across all subject areas at Year 11 Parents/Carers Evening, which took place on 1st February. The evening was a great success, with 95% attendance. There was a real buzz in the hall which emphasised to me the genuine partnership between parents/carers, teachers and students - all committed to working together to ensure the students reach their full potential in the upcoming summer exam season.

Outside of the classroom our Year 11 Prefect team have been providing a warm welcome to attendees at parents/carers evenings throughout the school, as well as whole school events. The Year 11 student parliament have made representations to the senior leadership team and have helped bring about positive change to the whole school community. This term has also given students a real focus on post-16 options, with record applications to our Sixth Form and a hugely successful day of Sixth Form interviews, held in early March. Several Year 11 students have also taken part in taster sessions at Uxbridge College with courses varying from Plumbing and Electrical Installation, Music and Health and Social Care.

As we look ahead to the summer term, our attention will undoubtedly turn to the highlight of Year 11, the Prom, which is being held at the beautiful Denham Grove Hotel in Uxbridge on 27th June. Between now and then, I know that Year 11 will continue to show resilience and determination to succeed in the all-important summer exam season, which will begin in early May. I would like to thank all Year 11 parents and carers for their continued support for the school, and their child as the end of Year 11 fast approaches.

Mr Sills  
Head of Year 11

# MFL NEWS

Between the 4th and 8th March Ruislip High School held its fourth annual Languages Week. This year was our biggest and most ambitious week thus far! Students across all Key Stages had some lessons with a Languages Week element, such as learning about the evolution of the English language and borrowed words in English; Pig Latin in Computer Science and vocabulary taken from Italian for Music, to name but a few.

On Monday 4th March Year 9 students were fortunate to have an assembly by a multi-lingual, inspirational speaker called Steve Eadon. He spoke to the students about how he had never been a big fan of learning languages in school but as they were compulsory he stuck with them and carried on studying them at A-level and University. As a result of his language qualifications, these got him some work experience working for Arsenal FC. They trained him as a coach and he was sent around the world representing the team to train teams abroad. This then led to an eleven year career at Arsenal working in Community outreach where he got to go into schools and local communities with Arsenal players and talk to them about the work they do.



Steve's talk was incredibly inspirational and opened the eyes of students to the many professions available within the football industry and many were not even football related.

Ronnie, 9D: *"Before the guest speaker I didn't want to study Spanish for GCSE but now I do!"*

On Monday afternoon, a theatre company came to the school to perform a play completely in Spanish called *La Reserva Duplicada* (The Double Booking) to 240 students of Spanish from Years 8 and 9. Three of our students were fortunate enough to get cameo roles in the performance.



On Tuesday 5th March 106 Year 9 students attended the Languages Breakfast which started before school and ran into Period 1. The Breakfast was hosted by the fifteen fantastic and newly appointed Year 10 Language Ambassadors who all study a language for GCSE. Students were able to sample a range of French and Spanish breakfast foods. The French breakfast selection included croissants, pains au chocolat, madeleines, crêpes, orange juice and hot chocolate. Churros with chocolate sauce, potato omelette, serrano ham and chorizo as well as toasted bread with tomato were on offer for the Spanish selection. Students got into the spirit of things by dressing up with berets and Spanish hats whilst tucking into their food and listening to Spanish and French music.



# MFL NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

A code-breaking exercise was also created for the breakfast, where students had to use their language and number skills to decode the words spread around the hall, unscramble them in order to make a sentence in French or Spanish and then translate it into English. From all the correct entries, four were selected at random and those students won a £10 Amazon voucher each.

Shaan, 9D: *"I enjoyed the breakfast because I got to try different foods I've never had before."*



On Wednesday after school the MFL Department screened Disney's latest movie Elemental in the hall in French with English subtitles. On Thursday 7th March after school the same movie was screened in Spanish with English subtitles. Over 150 students attended the screenings across both days and they were also treated to free popcorn.

On Friday morning the theatre company returned to school to perform a play completely in French called Le Cours d'Art (The Art Lesson) to 270 students of French from Years 7 and 9. One of our Year 7 students was also fortunate enough to get cameo roles in the performance. The play was very well received and funny.

Scarlett, 7B: *"I enjoyed the play in French because it was very interactive and funny. Also I volunteered to play a part in it and played alongside the actors."*



Nicole, 9S: *"It was an amazing week! If I am to take anything away from my time at RHS, it'll be this week and the passion for languages that it has lit. Between the breakfasts, plays and movies it truly is a week to be grateful for."*

# YEAR 12 NEWS

Year 12 students have had a very busy term and I am immensely proud of all their achievements. I think it important to start the Year 12 update by congratulating the new Student Leadership Team, led by Ms Kingscott. We had a record number of applications and the quality of those applications was outstanding. I know the new team will continue to develop the legacy of the RHS Sixth Form student leaders and contribute to the continued success of the school.

Much of the focus of the Spring Term has been preparing Year 12 for their post-18 applications. We started the term with our Post-18 Information Evening and the students have continued their preparation for post-18 applications by updating their journals. All students have their own copy of their post-18 evidence journals and are expected to update this every three weeks with a new submission. I have been truly astounded by the extent of preparation and wider reading many students have engaged with. This will, no doubt, place students' applications to university / apprenticeships in a stronger position as we approach the Summer Term. Many students have also secured some excellent work experience placements to complement their future applications.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the year group on continuing to have excellent attendance and focus as we approach the Summer Term; indeed this term will be the last full Summer Term in the student's school academic life. We have a busy schedule ahead with PPEs beginning on the 3rd June and work experience on 10th June followed by excellent post-18 preparation days to more fully support students as they prepare to leave RHS.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Year 12 a restful break and look forward to the term ahead.

Ms C. O'Neill  
Head of Year 12



# LRC NEWS

## World Book Day - The Masked Reader

Following the success of last year and to celebrate this year's World Book Day, once again the LRC presented 'The Masked Reader' Tutor Challenge. This event featured a number of RHS staff who were filmed reading "Revolting Rhymes" by Roald Dahl, a collection of traditional stories, with a twist.

Each staff member's face was hidden behind an animated character, hiding the narrator's true identity. Years 7 - 11 were able to watch the masked reader during Tutorial and were given the task of filling out the question sheet to see how many the tutor groups could guess correctly. The feedback was extremely positive, and seemed to go down a storm with both staff and students alike; there was even a 'special guest reader' this year, none other than RHS Head Teacher Mr Davies, whose character was the Bear and read the Three Little Pigs!



## Golden Ticket Event - Guess the book by the Emoji



During break and lunch the LRC held a special Golden ticket event for regular LRC users. Students were given a selection of book based quizzes guessing the books, films, nursery rhymes and songs by just the emojis.

Students who participated were treated to a selection of sweet treats and the winners of the quiz got to choose a free book from the book vending machine.

## BookTok

To round off World Book day, the BookTok club discussed the books as usual but were able to read whilst enjoying popcorn and treats. Overall it was a very enjoyable day and meant there was a whole school buzz around books and promoting reading.

# LRC NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

### **RHS Stationery 'Tuck' Shop arrives at the LRC**

Following a vote by RHS student parliament, aiming to try and reduce the amount of equipment check warnings, students now have the opportunity to redeem reward wheels for brand new stationery equipment which they may have been lacking....the most popular of these items being a 'skip the queue' pass, where for 50 points students can go straight to the front of the queue each lunch time for a week. There are also food

items such as cookies / full lunch and for older students in Year 11, 300 points can be exchanged for a prom ticket or year book. All items start at 20 points onwards and each reward wheel is worth 1 point. The students' rewards points don't diminish, they remain on the students' record; only the spendable points decrease. The Stationery shop is managed by Mrs Austen in the LRC and the opening times are as follows:



**Before school: 8:15–9:00am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.**

**During break and lunch everyday**

**After school: 3:00–4:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.**



### **Above and Beyond clubs**

The LRC is still part of the Above and Beyond programme and continues to be extremely popular and increasing in numbers, attracting more students each week.

Clubs include Booktok, an exciting club currently attended by eager book lovers, who meet every week in the LRC and discuss the latest reads, book recommendations, likes, dislikes and ones to avoid !! Then there's the ever popular Games club, which at present has over 30 regular members each week. At the end of a busy school week on a Friday students have the opportunity of staying after school in the LRC and playing a range of different card and board games, which the students absolutely love. For a much quieter environment the LRC also runs an after school Homework/ Silent reading club twice a week, where students can read or complete homework in a silent environment.

# LRC NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

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### **The LRC After School Clubs opening times:**

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

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

Thursday: 3:00pm - 4:00pm - BookTok Club

Friday: 3:00pm - 4:00pm - Fun and Games Club

### **Thank you**

A big thank you to all the students who regularly help in the LRC, as part of the Student LRC team, not forgetting all the volunteers from the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme who also help. It is very much appreciated.



'Happy Easter', enjoy the Spring break and as always 'Happy Reading'.

Mrs Austen  
LRC Manager

# YEAR 13 NEWS

It has been a fantastic term for the Year 13 students who have been incredibly busy. The term started with students finding out their final teacher predicted grades following on from their PPEs. Students have been raising their attendance which has been wonderful to see as attendance really is the key to them being able to go on and achieve the grades that they want. I would urge that you, as parents, keep doing everything to ensure that your child is in school 100% of the time.

We have had fantastic successes with regards to university offers and students have offers from the best universities in the country. This term also saw the creation of a brand new tutor group, led by Miss Bonny. Students who have shown an interest in gaining an apprenticeship have been working with Miss Bonny on their applications in order to secure some amazing opportunities after their A Level exams.

Year 13 students now have just one half term ahead of them before their exams. It is so important that they attend every day, that they are supported at home and in school and I know that they will continue to thrive and achieve their potential.

Keep up the support!

Mr Elsby  
Head of Year 13

## COMPUTER SCIENCE NEWS

Spring term saw the results of Round 1 of the Oxford University Computing challenge being released. It was a challenging competition with only 5% of the top students in the country moving to Round 2. We are proud that our students tried and would like to congratulate the following students on their achievements as below:

Iza B, 9S - Distinction

Daniel L, 9W - Merit

Samy H, 11A - Merit

Computer science department has also been busy participating in whole school events like Languages week where KS3 students have been learning how to speak Pig Latin and KS4 ,KS5 students have been busy coding Pig Latin translators. [Click here](#) if you would like to learn how to speak it. We also learnt about Artificial Intelligence , ethics of AI and how AI systems work during the STEAM Week. It has been an eventful term and we wish everyone a restful Easter break.





# ART, CRAFT & DESIGN NEWS

## THE CREATIVE CORNER

### STEAM week

As part of STEAM week our KS3 students had the opportunity to take part in some of our design brief challenges!

Years 7s were challenged to create their own typography inspired by the work of Becca Clason. Our Year 8s were inspired by sustainability in creating their recycled fashion garments.

Students worked amazingly well showing the true Ruislip values of perseverance and resilience when things didn't go to plan, as well as unity and integrity whilst showing off to many RHS staff members how well they can work together on a piece of work. Here are just a few of the pieces of work that the students created during the week:

*" I really liked being creative in the ways that you can repurpose rubbish" -Addison, Year 8*

*"It was so interesting to make things that don't work together normally into a creative piece of Art & Design" - Elise, Year 8*



### Art Club

Art club has focused on collaboration, the growth of a piece of communal work and developing a range of skills and art styles. They have been creating a series of images, each divided into small sections, that have been painted and drawn by a mixed ability group of Year 7s and 8s. This series of work shows that with support from our peers, when we come together we have the opportunity to learn from one another and develop our skills.



The outcomes of this team building exercise are sensational and will be added to the growing amount of student work being presented throughout the school so keep your eye out next time you see a new frame pop up!



### **Textiles workshop**

Some of our Year 9 students got the opportunity to take part in the first of our Textiles workshops with an award winning Textiles and Graphics designer, Layla Chauhan.



Layla started her career after graduating with a first class degree from Edinburgh University and since then has achieved many accolades in both Textile and Graphics design.



Our students were able to see Layla's work, hear her talk about her career so far, as well as being taught some textile techniques that were built up in layers and inspired by her 'Brick Lane' series.

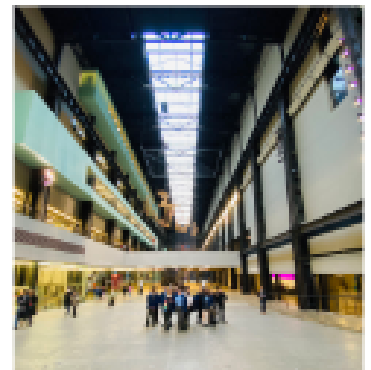
*"It was great to analyse the fabrics she has created and talk about all the opportunities that her Textiles qualifications has given her"* Ocean, Year 9

*"Layla was very informative about what you could do in the future with Textiles qualifications. It was really fun"* - Abigail C, Year 9

*"It was very engaging. We got to see her work and properly experiment with new ideas and techniques"* Sebastian, Year 9

### **Tate Modern trip**

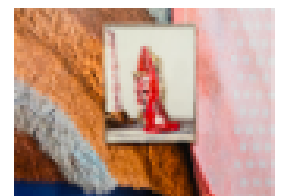
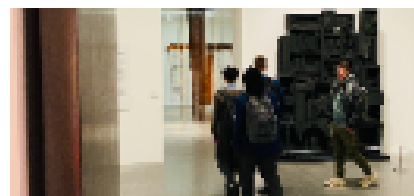
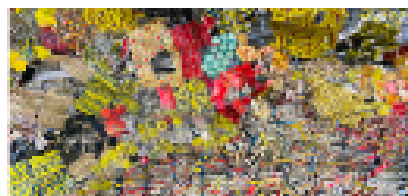
This year we are very pleased to share that our students had a fantastic time on our annual trip to the Tate Modern to help support our Year 11 & 13 students with their exam project. The students had the fantastic opportunity to see thousands of pieces of artwork that date from the 1500s to the present day, of varying different styles, medias and themes. We were very lucky with the weather. The students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the gallery and have lots of new inspiration for their exam in the summer term.



For some of our students, this was the first time they had visited a gallery and they were very impressed with the sensational work they saw!

*"It was very peaceful and there were lots of artwork that will be able to help me with my exam project and my coursework"* -Yuba, Year 11

*" It was a great experience and my first time in an Art gallery! It was fun to see how different artists portray different themes in such different ways"* - Kyran, Year 11



# RHS Gallery

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





Year 8 Art



Year 8 Textiles





Year 8  
Graphics



Year 9 Textiles



Year 9 Art



Year 9 Graphics/Media



Year 10 Fine Art

# KEY DATES

- **Monday 15th April 2024: Summer term begins**
- **Tuesday 16th April: Year 7 technology workshops/Year 10 drama trip**
- **Wednesday 17th April: Year 7/8 technology workshops**
- **Thursday 18th April: Year 8/9 technology workshops**
- **Friday 19th April: Year 9 technology workshops**
- **Monday 29th April: Paris trip parent meeting**
- **Tuesday 30th April: Friends of RHS meeting**
- **Thursday 2nd May: Year 10 parents' evening**
- **Monday 6th May: Bank holiday/Duke of Edinburgh silver pre-assessed expedition**
- **Wednesday 8th May: Year 7 parents' evening**
- **Monday 13th May: Mental Health Awareness Week/Parent voice meeting**
- **Friday 24th May: Half term ends/Year 9/10 Paris trip**
- **Monday 3rd June: Half term begins**
- **Monday 10th June: Year 12 work experience week**
- **Tuesday 11th June: Year 9/10/12 drama theatre trip**
- **Friday 14th June: Year 7 angling trip/Friends of RHS Community event**
- **Tuesday 18th June: Parent voice meeting**
- **Monday 24th June and Wednesday 26th June: Year 10 geography trips**
- **Wednesday 26th June: Year 13 Leavers' assembly/Year 13 Leavers' ball**
- **Thursday 27th June: Year 11 prom**
- **Friday 28th June: Duke of Edinburgh silver assessed expedition/Year 7 Museum of stories trip/Year 7 London Zoo trip**
- **Tuesday 2nd July: Duke of Edinburgh gold expedition/Sports day/Year 12 University of Hertfordshire trip**
- **Wednesday 3rd July: Trust basketball tournament/Music performance**
- **Thursday 4th July: Year 9 Cadbury world trip/Year 9 Hendon trip/Year 8 history trip/Year 9 Regents Park theatre trip**
- **Friday 5th July: Year 12 history trip**
- **Monday 8th July: Sixth form induction day**
- **Tuesday 9th July: Year 8 history trip**
- **Wednesday 10th July: Year 10 Bletchley Park trip/Year 10 Globe trip**
- **Thursday 11th July: Year 12 Talk the Talk**
- **Tuesday 16th July: Reward trip**
- **Friday 19th July: Term ends**