

# Ruislip High School NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

## GCSE History Trip to Berlin



**On the 14th of February, the History Department took 60 GCSE students on a four day residential trip to Berlin, exploring key historical sites they had studied in their course.**

The first day began with a 90-minute flight to Brandenburg Airport, followed by an evening meal near the iconic TV Tower, built by East Germany at the height of the Cold War. Standing at 368 metres, it remains one of the tallest structures in Europe.

**(story continued on page 5)**

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# HEADTEACHER'S NEWS



As the Spring 2025 term draws to a close, Ruislip High School is proud to reflect on a period brimming with remarkable achievements and enriching experiences for our students across all year groups. This newsletter serves as a testament to the hard work, resilience, and vibrant community spirit that define our school.

A major highlight of the term was the four-day residential trip to Berlin for 60 GCSE History students, which departed on February 14<sup>th</sup>. I'm delighted to see this trip on the cover of our newsletter, as this enriching experience allowed students to explore pivotal historical sites directly related to their course. The engagement, respect, and enthusiasm shown by students throughout the trip were a credit to Ruislip High School. As I've written previously, as a school we endeavour to strike a balance between providing enriching experiences that enhance the taught curriculum, while acknowledging the challenges the cost of these experiences places on families. It's an approach we're constantly reviewing and will always welcome feedback from all our stakeholders.

Yet again this term, the school community wholeheartedly embraced Equality Week, which featured our annual 'Cultural Day' on Wednesday, March 5th. Staff and students proudly wore their cultural attire, celebrating their heritage and fostering understanding of some of the minority cultures that make up our diverse Ruislip High School community. We've always stated that this day is about learning more about traditional cultural dress and not the wearing of sports kits such as national football shirts. I do acknowledge sport is important to many of our cultures, but I believe this is well understood. This year's day was testament to the spirit of learning and understanding that exists within our own Ruislip High School community. The week itself underscored our commitment to celebrating differences while strengthening our community and recognising that within that community there is more that unites us than divides us.

Our commitment to being a school within a larger family of schools within the Vanguard Learning Trust also shone through this term, with our students taking part in Trust-wide events and good-natured competitions. Our Year 7 students showcased their creativity in the VLT Poetry Competition, with the Poet of the Year even coming from Ruislip High School. Our Year 7 students had a particularly busy term as the Trust-wide science challenge took place, as well as the particularly impressive Pan Hillingdon 'Game 24' that was hosted at Ruislip High School. This event is one that I've seen grow during my time at the school, but I've never seen so many schools represented as were this year – a real credit to our maths department.

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

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It wouldn't be the Spring term without our annual Languages Week. I'm delighted that this event has also been taken up by our Trust partners over at Vyners, and I believe next year it will be a Trust-wide languages week that we'll be celebrating. Our 2025 Languages Week, held from Tuesday, February 25th to Monday, March 3rd, was a cultural celebration. As you can read in this newsletter, Year 8 students enjoyed inspiring French and Spanish plays, Year 9 students heard a talk from Steve Eadon, former Arsenal Football Club coach, who emphasised the importance of languages for future careers, and of course there was the delicious languages breakfast that saw me having to work on my GCSE French in a bid to share in some of the delicious continental food Ms Mattias and her team had provided. C'était délicieux!

There's so much more I could refer to in this newsletter, such as the eight ambitious Year 12 students who participated in a realistic Model United Nations General Assembly simulation at ACS Hillingdon International School on Wednesday, March 19th, representing countries like Costa Rica, Fiji, and Jamaica. I could also point to our World Book Day, which was as high-profile as ever, and of course, the plethora of sporting successes our students achieved, but I feel I should allow the articles to speak for themselves. Finally, I'd also like to draw readers' attention to the visit of James Peterson, a mental health expert, who provided valuable advice on maintaining good mental health during the challenging exam season for our Year 13 students.

As the spring term concludes, on behalf of everyone at Ruislip High School, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents, guardians, and staff for their continued support in fostering such a thriving environment. We wish everyone a restful break and look forward to further achievements in the summer term.



# FRONT COVER

## (CONTINUED)

After a well-earned night's sleep, Saturday started with a three-hour guided coach tour of Berlin. Students saw several major landmarks, including a very snowy Checkpoint Charlie. In the afternoon, they visited the Museum of German Resistance, which focuses on the failed attempts to assassinate Hitler. This was followed by a visit to the Topography of Terror, located on the former site of the infamous SS headquarters.



On Sunday, students took a short coach trip to the Olympic Stadium, originally built for the 1936 Olympic Games. Today, it is home to Hertha Berlin and was the venue for England's 2-1 loss to Spain last summer. The tour provided insight into the stadium's Nazi-era history, while also allowing students to explore the changing rooms, and even walk through the tunnel and into the dugouts.

Max, Year 10 said, *"I really enjoyed visiting the stadium, and sitting in the same VIP box that Prince William watched the European Championship Final in."*



# FRONT COVER

(CONTINUED)



Sunday afternoon saw a visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, which housed political prisoners and those deemed "undesirable" by the Nazi regime. This was a moving experience for all.

Max said, *"I was very moved by the trip to Sachsenhausen, the snow definitely added to the experience."*

On Monday, students visited the Stasi Museum, which documents the activities of the secret police in the former East Germany. Later, they toured the Reichstag, the centre of German democracy today. They also travelled up to the glass dome, which stands 47 metres high and offers breathtaking views of the city.



The final visit of the trip was to the East Side Gallery, the longest remaining stretch of the Berlin Wall. At 1.3 km in length, it is covered in murals, including the famous painting of the kiss between Leonid Brezhnev and Erich Honecker.



Upon returning from the trip, Ellie Year 11 reflected, *"As a history student at Ruislip High the opportunity to witness the sites of so many historical landmarks and events in Berlin was incredible. I have created memories that I will keep with me forever."*

We believe it was a truly enriching and unforgettable experience for all involved. We would like to thank the students that came who made it an amazing trip.

# YEAR 7 NEWS

As we come to the end of the spring term, our Year 7 students have been making us (and themselves) proud with their enthusiasm, hard work and dedication to their school life.

## **Trust Poetry Competition**

7C showed off their creativity as they put pen to paper for our VLT Poetry Competition. They explored language, emotions and written expression to produce some truly outstanding poems. Congratulations to our three winners, Patryk and Darla, with a special shout-out to Freddie, who was crowned Poet of the Year! Well done to everyone who took part – your words have inspired us all!

## **VLT Science Competition**

Our Year 7 students put their scientific knowledge to the test in the VLT Science Competition, tackling challenges based on the periodic table. Although we didn't secure a win this time, the students performed exceptionally well and demonstrated impressive knowledge and problem-solving skills. Their enthusiasm for science was evident and they have shown great knowledge.

## **Maths 24 Game**

Numbers, logic, and teamwork were at the heart of the Maths 24 Game competition. Our Year 7 students worked together to solve mathematical challenges, showcasing their problem-solving skills and perseverance. Though we didn't take home the top prize, the students' determination and teamwork were commendable. Well done to all who participated!

## **Celebration Assembly**

To honour all the hard work and dedication that we have seen this term, students attended Celebration Assembly where we recognised the achievements of our students. It was wonderful to see everyone come together to celebrate their successes, and we are incredibly proud of all our winners who show true commitment to their education and the school community. Students also heard from the new Sixth Form Student Leaders who were inspirational – I am looking forward to seeing which of our Year 7s will be in the same position as they move up through the school into sixth form.

## **Above and Beyond – Get Involved!**

We encourage all students to go Above and Beyond by getting involved in extracurricular activities. Whether it's sports, arts, or academic clubs, there's something for everyone. These clubs offer a fantastic opportunity to develop new skills, meet new friends, and make the most of school life. Information is on the school website and I hope to see each and every member of Year 7 involved in at least one club next term!

As students move into their final term of Year 7 it is clear to see the confidence they have gained since September. They have already achieved so much this year and we can't wait to see what they achieve next.

Ms Loizou  
Head of Year 7



# EQUALITY WEEK

From Monday 3rd March, 2025, students at our school had the chance to get involved in Equality Week. This annual week focuses on celebrating the diverse cultures, backgrounds and identities of our school community.



At Ruislip High School, the week saw students taking part in a range of activities and talks relevant to the week. Year 7s took part in a Gamelan music workshop, led by the music department, whilst 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.



One of the highlights of the week took place on Wednesday 5th March: 'Cultural Day'. On this day, staff and students dressed up in their cultural clothes, if they so wished. It was wonderful to see students wearing clothing representing their cultural heritage with pride and celebrating their heritage with others from different cultures and backgrounds across the school.

Finally, throughout the week students took part in tutorials linked to the theme of equality in society. For example, Sixth Form students considered the power of language and how we should all aim to use language that is inclusive of everyone – and not use language to single people out or identify them based solely on one characteristic.

Thank you to all of our staff and students for getting involved in the week and remembering that at RHS we celebrate and respect our differences, whilst remaining stronger together as a school community.



# YEAR 8 NEWS

As the spring term draws to a close, we'd like to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic achievements and experiences we've had over the past few months.

## **Languages Week: A Cultural Celebration**

One of the standout events this term was Languages Week, where many Year 8 students had the chance to watch inspiring French and Spanish plays. These performances provided a fun and engaging way to bring language learning to life, while also offering a glimpse into the rich cultures behind the languages.

## **Equality Week: Embracing Diversity Through Dance**

Equality Week was another highlight, with all Year 8 students taking part in a Kathak dance workshop. This cultural experience allowed students to explore a beautiful Indian classical dance form, helping to promote the values of inclusivity, respect, and creativity. It was wonderful to see so many students engage with such a unique opportunity!

## **Parents' Evening: A Great Opportunity for Connection**

We also had a successful Parents' Evening, where teachers had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with many parents and guardians. It was a great chance to discuss the progress and achievements of our Year 8 students and celebrate their hard work so far this year. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this event so successful.

## **Above and Beyond Clubs: A Chance to Excel**

The Above and Beyond clubs have also been a fantastic part of this term, with many students taking the opportunity to participate and further develop their skills outside of the classroom. These clubs provide a wonderful chance to pursue interests, learn new things, and challenge themselves in a supportive environment. As we look ahead to the summer term, we'd love to see even more students getting involved to make the most of these valuable opportunities for growth and skill development.

As we move into the final weeks of the term, we encourage all Year 8 students to continue striving for success and to embrace the many exciting opportunities ahead in the summer term.

Wishing everyone a restful break and a fantastic finish to the school year!

Miss Farrell  
Head of Year 8

# PE NEWS

## Indoor Athletics

Both the Year 8 girls and boys put on excellent performances in both running and field events. The girls placed 3rd and the boys 1st at the Hillingdon event.

**Girls:** Millie B (8S), Jess H (8F), Lois C (8D), Sophie W (8B), Hannah H (8S), Ellie D (8F), Alyssa L (8A) and Eva A (8A).

**Boys:** Luis J (8S), Freddie W (8F), Sidney B (8F), Finley MW (8F), Luca H (8W) and Vinnie MB (8B).

## Indoor Athletics Finals

Congratulations to the Year 8 boys who all performed superbly at the Indoor Athletics Finals on Monday 3rd March, 2025. Usually this event would have been the London Youth Games finals, but unfortunately the LYG have decided to only run finals for Year 7. Instead, Mr Hall, Head of PE at Vyners School, kindly offered to host and run the competition.



At the halfway point, after the running events there were three points separating all three schools; RHS was winning by one point! The competition was extremely high and the boys were in complete disbelief when this was announced.

As the afternoon events began, the boys continued to perform well. Sidney B achieved a personal best in the 30 second speed-bounce, with a score of 93 jumps! Daniel W also impressed in the standing triple jump, where he placed first with an amazing jump. A student from Ealing Fields, also competing in the event, said: 'Wow - nobody has ever beaten me in this event before, and you're jumping off the 8m board'. Finally, Luis J was so strong in the shot put, that the officials had to move back the starting point, as Luis kept hitting the wall.

Overall the boys were fantastic. Sadly we missed team mate Vinnie on the day as he was unable to attend, however he helped the team hugely in reaching these finals.

1st Ruislip High School; 2nd Isleworth and Syon; 3rd Ealing Fields

Luis J (8S), Freddie W (8F), Sidney B (8F), Finley MW (8F), Luca H (8W), Tommy M (8D) and Daniel W (8S)



# PE NEWS

(CONTINUED)

## Middlesex Cross Country Championships

Five Ruislip High school students were selected to represent Hillingdon in the Middlesex Cross Country Championships, which took place on Tuesday 4th February. The students were selected as the result of their excellent performances in the Hillingdon Borough Cross Country Championships, where they all finished in the top 10 of their races. The students battled some tough running conditions and all showed excellent grit and determination to compete very well for Hillingdon. They all finished in very respectable positions!

Anna R (7S) came 41st out of 60 runners; Vinny M (8B) 37th out of 61; Freddie W (8F) 45th out of 61; Charna B (9A) 38th out of 68 and Kallum J (10F) 37th out of 61.



Well done to all 5 students – fantastic effort!

## Year 7 VLT Netball Tournament

Congratulations to the two Year 7 teams who represented the school in the VLT Netball Tournament which took place at Oak Farm School on Wednesday 5th March 2025.

Both teams placed 2nd to Vyners. Scores were extremely close and the organisers had to go back and look at the number of goals scored for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place!



### Mixed Team

Zachary B (7S), Conor W (7C), Avani S-G (7A), Pelin B (7B), Maiara S (7C)

### Girls Team

Caitlin B (7A), Freya B (7A), Francesca A (7D), Lily J (7S), Coralie A (7D)

# PE NEWS

(CONTINUED)

## Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 Girls Netball Teams

Well done to all of the girls who have been a part of the netball teams this year and have attended training weekly.

Year	League placing
Year 7	3rd
Year 8	3rd
Year 9	3rd
Year 10	3rd
Year 11	4th



### Year 7 team:

Pelin B, Coralie A, Avani S-G, Freya B, Francesca A, Maiara S, Isabella L, Caitlin B



### Year 9 team:

Erin DM, Alicia G, Lily C, Chloe S, Bethany S, Alana M, Axarei G-C

## Year 8 Netball Tournament

Congratulations to the Year 8 team who represented the school in the Hillingdon Borough Netball Tournament which took place at Queensmead School on Wednesday 12th March 2025.

The team did a superb job defeating Vyners, Haydon and Douay Martyrs in the group stages and just missed qualifying for the semi-finals.

**Team:** Lois C (8D), Ellie D (8F), Millie B (8S), Mara A (8W), Alyssa L (8A), Harper M (8F), Maddie D (8S) and Josie C (8F).



# PE NEWS

(CONTINUED)

## First Aid 2025

We are pleased to announce that the Year 10 First Aid training is back up and running. We have successfully had our first 23 students passed and are awaiting their certificates for First Aid, Basic Life-saving Skills and use of AED.

**Congratulations to:** Bianca G, Nicolatae L, Amelia M, Emaani N, Sophia R, Sofiia T, Lola W, Kyra W, Julia S, Amelia S, Maryam Z, Radha S, Lacery W, Jodie C, Monica M, Arlet M, Lorena M, Saranshi J, Holly B, Gabriella D, Abigail O, Milcah M and Amy D.

## Year 7 Boys 5-a-side tournament



The Year 7s took part in a 5-a-side tournament at Springfield Road Goals in Hayes. The squad was split into two teams, Blue and Green. The Greens were handed a tough draw, facing off against a very strong Bishop Ramsay side and Uxbridge to finish 3rd in the group.

The Blues, on the other hand, did qualify from their group with some strong performances, unfortunately losing out to Oakwood in the quarter final.

## The squad included:

Alfie L (7D), Aiden S (7C), Harry J (7W), Amari P (7A), Conor W (7C), Ben H (7D), Freddie H (7B), James E (7F), Antony C (7W), Dani A (7F), Marwan G (7A), Leo E (7S), Joseph B (7W), Colby H (7W) and Henry S (7C).

## End of an era for Year 11



# PE NEWS

(CONTINUED)

The Year 11s have finished off their footballing journey at Ruislip High, bowing out to Oakwood in the semi-final. This group of boys have always enjoyed their football, and some will go on to continue playing to some very good levels, but the most important aspect is that they always tried their best! A wonderful group to watch and grow from Year 7 onwards. On to the 6th form team next year!

Kalel H (11C), Joseph B (11D), Adam D (11S), Arun B (11S), Maximillian B (11B), Rian J (11B), Finley B (11C), Alfie S (11D), Emilis V (11S), Jaydon D (11C), Adrian M (11F), Lewis S (11W), Ralph T (11D), Abdul A (11C), Mason M (11B), Haedar A (11B) and Dexter O (11W).

## SCIENCE NEWS

### Science Week

During Science Week, which is a week-long celebration from Friday 7th until Friday 14th March, students participated 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, DNA fingerprinting and blood spatter analysis. Year 8 completed an engineering challenge building spaghetti bridges and Year 9 considered how life exists in the most extreme environments. They all had an amazing time and the Science department are now looking forward to seeing all the fantastic poster entries for the British Science Week competition.



# SCIENCE NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

On Wednesday 26th March, 2025, a number of our Year 7 students took part in an exciting VLT Science Challenge at Ryefield Primary School. Accompanied by Mr. Rutter, our students faced off against other schools in the Vanguard Learning Trust, in a competition that tested their understanding of the periodic table.

The challenge unfolded in three engaging rounds, each focused on different aspects of chemistry. In Round 1, students worked together to complete a tricky jigsaw puzzle featuring elements from the periodic table. This round was a fun and fast-paced way to get the competition underway.

Round 2 brought the excitement to a new level with a game of 'Guess the Element'. Students put their knowledge to the test under pressure. The final round, Round 3, was an intense series of questions about the different elements, challenging even the most prepared participants.

As the competition reached its conclusion, the points were so close that tie-breaker questions were needed to determine the winner. Dr Lecky came up with a set of challenging questions, which Will from the RHS team answered correctly, securing a special badge for his impressive performance.

While Ruislip High gave a strong performance, the overall winner of the event was Field End Primary School, who narrowly clinched first place. Though we didn't come out on top, our students made us proud with their enthusiasm, teamwork and dedication.

Mr Rutter, who attended with the students, said: *"It was a really tough competition and the students did very well in each round. We are especially proud of Will for answering all of Dr Lecky's questions with confidence!"*

Congratulations to all our Year 7 participants for their fantastic performance.





# FOOD AND NUTRITION

## Ready Steady Cook Competition 2025

Last half term students in Years 7 and 8 were given a challenge based around the programme Ready Steady Cook. They were given a list of five ingredients that they must use in their dish/dishes. They had to create a dish that is healthy and filling for a meal of their choice. They could make more than one dish if they wanted to.

There were prizes for the winning dishes. All that took part did exceptionally well and we had some very creative dishes. Here are some of our winners:





# YEAR 9 NEWS

The spring term has been a busy period for Year 9 and as a result another term has passed rapidly. The highlight of the spring term for the year group were the trips to the West End to see the musical The Lion King. Both trips were a huge success with exceptional behavior demonstrated by all the students and feedback was really positive. As a result, we are looking to arrange future trips for Year 9.

As I write this article, it has just been confirmed that all students in Year 9 have now submitted their GCSE options. I would like to thank all parents and guardians for coming to Options Evening and making it a very successful evening. We are now going through the process of assigning the students their different subjects. We hope to be able to tell the students their final choices in the second part of the summer term.

Finally, the end of this term marks a significant landmark in the Year 9's journey at Ruislip High School, as we have now officially passed the halfway stage of their journey. To mark this milestone, and as our focus turns towards Year 10 and the start of their GCSEs, the Year 9s will have completed their official Pre Public Exams on Friday 28th March in Citizenship . As you read this, I will be in the process of marking these papers so therefore good luck to all the students .

Mr Cahill  
Head of Year 9



# YEAR 10 NEWS

As we come to the end of the spring term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic achievements and experiences of our Year 10 students over the past few months. It has been a term filled with hard work, resilience, and exciting opportunities, and I am incredibly proud of how our students have conducted themselves.

## **Berlin Trip**

One of the major highlights of this term was the Year 10 trip to Berlin. This was a truly enriching experience that allowed students to explore the city's rich history and culture. Visiting key historical sites such as the Berlin Wall, the Brandenburg Gate, and the Holocaust Memorial gave students a deeper understanding of the topics they study in History and beyond. Their engagement, respect, and enthusiasm throughout the trip were a credit to Ruislip High School, and I hope they will carry these valuable lessons forward.

## **Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)**

This term, our Year 10 students also sat their first set of Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs), an important milestone in their GCSE journey. These exams provided an opportunity to experience formal exam conditions and assess their progress in each subject. We have been very impressed with their focus and determination throughout this process. Teachers will be providing detailed feedback to help students identify strengths and areas for improvement, and I encourage all students to use this as a learning opportunity as they prepare for their final GCSE exams next year.

## **Looking Ahead**

With the final term of Year 10 approaching, it is crucial that students maintain their momentum and continue developing their independent study habits. The summer term will bring further opportunities for academic progress, as well as extracurricular activities and events that will enrich their school experience.

I would like to thank parents and guardians for your continued support in helping Year 10 students achieve their best. I hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable break, and I look forward to seeing the students return refreshed and ready for a successful summer term.

## **Save The Dates**

- Year 10 Parents' Evening – 1st May 2025
- Mental Health Awareness Week – 12th-16th May 2025
- Year 10 Museum Trip – 20th June 2025
- RAG Week – 23rd-27th June 2025
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold – 1st July 2025
- Media Trip – 11th July 2025

Mr Joseph  
Head of Year 10

# MATHS NEWS

On Tuesday 11th March 2025, the Game 24 competition brought together thirteen schools from the local area, for an unforgettable day of fierce rivalry and incredible sportsmanship. The event showcased the skills and determination of students, as they competed across a series of questions.



The competition was intense from the start, but the most exciting moment came during the tie-breaker between three top-performing schools. With the scores close, a sudden

death tie-breaker was called, leaving everyone on the edge of their seats. The remaining teams battled it out in a final round that tested their teamwork, focus, and resilience under pressure.

While the competition was fierce, the sportsmanship displayed by all the students was equally impressive. Regardless of the outcome, each team showed immense respect for their peers, creating a positive and supportive atmosphere throughout the day.

In the end, a winner emerged from the tie-breaker, with first place being awarded to Queensmead Team A. However, all 13 schools were celebrated for their hard work and determination. Although RHS were not the winners this year, our team showed great promise and dedication. The school will no doubt keep working hard and focus on improving for next year's competition, aiming to come back stronger.



# YEAR 11 NEWS

As Year 11's final full term as secondary school students draws to a close, I would like to start by saying how proud I am of all our students for the hard work and determination they have shown in these crucial few months before their summer exams. They have shown real perseverance and commitment across all subject areas, whether it be finalising and submitting coursework, preparing for and completing vocational exams, or revising for the all-important exams in May and June.

The term began with a brilliantly attended Parent and Guardians Evening in January, where there was a genuine buzz in the hall as teachers gave feedback to students following their PPE's (pre-public examinations) in December. Many students left feeling energised and were spurred on by a truly impressive set of PPE results. For other students, it highlighted areas they need to focus on in these final weeks and months ahead. I was really pleased to have had the opportunity to meet so many parents and carers and to hear many positive and productive conversations taking place.

In morning tutorials, the students have benefitted from Maths and English 'masterclasses' on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Thursday's, re-branded 'Think Ahead Thursday's', students and tutors work together on creating a weekly revision timetable, as well as developing their revision skills with excellent study sessions provided by Assistant Head of Year 11, Mr Rutter. During these tutorials, students also spend time considering their post-16 options and I am delighted to say that a record number of students have applied to join us next year at our outstanding Sixth Form. Sixth Form interviews were conducted in March, and our students' desire to continue their education at RHS really shone through.

Year 11 students are genuine role models to the wider school community and conduct themselves impeccably at school. I am fortunate to be able to observe this year group, on occasions, in their lessons, and have been so impressed with their engagement and the high-quality work being produced. Outside of the classroom our prefect team have been busy supporting whole-school events, and the year group student parliament representatives have been making an important contribution to student voice through student parliament meetings with the senior leadership team.

Undoubtedly, as the summer term approaches our attention will turn to the various celebratory events which take place to mark the end of secondary school for this cohort of students. We look forward to welcoming the students to the beautiful Denham Grove Hotel on Thursday 26th June where we will hold the highlight of the year - Year 11 Prom. Before then, Year 11 will reflect on their journey at Ruislip High School in a Celebration Assembly followed by ice creams and shirt signing with staff.



# YEAR 11 NEWS

(CONTINUED)

There is, however, the GCSE exam season to complete before these celebrations can take place, and I am confident that this year group will continue to show the resilience and drive needed to succeed when they begin in early May. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Year 11 parents and guardians for their continued support for the school, and their child, as the end of Year 11 draws ever closer.

Mr Sills  
Head of Year 11



# MFL NEWS



From Tuesday 25th February to Monday 3rd March, 2025, Ruislip High School celebrated its 5th annual Languages Week and the first jointly run Languages Week with our sister school Vyners.

The week kicked off on Tuesday 25th February, 2025, with Year 9 enjoying a talk from Steve Eadon, a former coach for Arsenal Football Club. During his time at Arsenal, Steve managed the award-winning 'Arsenal Double Club' languages project, using football as a tool to inspire young people to learn new languages. During the talk, Eadon shared with students the importance of languages and how they can open doors in their future careers. Year 9 left the assembly inspired, having had the chance to ask Eadon thoughtful questions about his experiences.

Jacob, Year 9 said: *"My favourite thing about Languages Week was the speaker as he showed how languages can open doors in your career and made me less hesitant to pick it as a GCSE."*

After school, over 100 students signed up to watch Disney's Jungle Cruise in Spanish. The following day this event was repeated for 50 students – but this time in French! During both screenings, students tucked into free popcorn donated by CineWorld.

Anna-Karina, Year 7 said: *"The thing I most enjoyed about Languages Week 2025 was watching "Jungle Cruise" in French, as it made the experience both entertaining and a fun way to immerse myself in the language."*



On Wednesday 6th February, all Year 7-9 students studying French were treated to a theatre production, performed entirely in French. The play, *Prendre sa Revanche*, followed two antique dealers trying to fool customers by passing off fake artefacts as real. Students found the play funny and were pleased with how much they could follow the production.

Mahi, Year 8 said: *"I enjoyed the Spanish play. It was very funny and I liked how the actors interacted with the audience."*

# MFL NEWS

## (CONTINUED)

On Friday 28th February, the Year 9 Languages Breakfast was hosted by the Year 10 Language Ambassadors. The event was attended by 132 students and the event was a fantastic success. Students enjoyed an array of French and Spanish food, ranging from croissants to churros. In addition, students took part in a code breaking task using their language skills to try and win one of the four Amazon vouchers up for grabs.

Kelsey, Year 9 said: *"It was a fun experience and I had been waiting for the Languages Breakfast since I heard about it in Year 7 so it was really nice to actually take part."*



Throughout this week language themed activities were planned in lessons across the school, to demonstrate to all students the influence of languages across the curriculum. On Monday 3rd March, Languages Week concluded with students in Years 8-9 who study Spanish, enjoying a theatre production performed entirely in Spanish. The play, Primera Cita, gives the audience a hilarious insight into two teenagers, Carlos and Maria, preparing for their first date. Students thoroughly enjoyed this hilarious production in particular when Ruislip High school students were plucked from the audience to take part in the play.

Megan, Year 9 said: *"Languages Week has opened up so many opportunities for all of the students. We got to experience different cultural activities which aren't normally available. We are all so grateful. It was the highlight of my year!"*



# YEAR 12 NEWS

It is a real pleasure to write this end-of-term update as Year 12s continue with their successful journey into Sixth Form life. I have been very impressed with the diligence of the students. They are 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 applications. Year 12 students' attendance has continued to be fantastic and this shows how dedicated they are to achieving their dreams and goals. It has also been wonderful to see students and parents during the Parents' Evening on 13th February with a phenomenal attendance of 96.5% and a positive atmosphere.

The Access Project trip to Bath University was an educational visit aimed at inspiring and motivating students from underrepresented backgrounds to consider higher education. During the trip, students explored the university campus, attended workshops and lectures, and interacted with current students and staff. The visit provides insights into university life, including academic opportunities, student support services, and extracurricular activities. The goal is to help students envision themselves in a university setting, build confidence, and make informed decisions about their future education.

The Brilliant Club Scholars Programme is an initiative to support and challenge academically gifted students from underrepresented backgrounds. It provides opportunities for students to engage in university-style learning and develop critical thinking, research, and writing skills. Scholars work on a university-level project with a PhD tutor, participate in seminars, and gain exposure to higher education through campus visits. The programme aims to inspire and prepare students for university life, helping them to reach their full academic potential. In the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme, students are graded and assessed based on their completion of a final assignment related to the university-level project they've been working on. The assessment involves a written piece, often a research report or essay, which is marked by their PhD tutor. The students' overall performance is evaluated on criteria such as research skills, critical thinking, depth of analysis, and the clarity of their writing. Additionally, students receive feedback throughout the programme to support their development, with grades reflecting both their engagement in the seminars and the quality of their final submission.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support of the school and the students and wish you a restful Easter break. I am so proud to be the Head of Year and go through the journey with the Year 12 students and see them flourish to their full potential.

Miss P Vora  
Head of Year 12



# YEAR 12 MODEL UNITED NATIONS TRIP

After a professional application process, eight ambitious Year 12 students travelled to ACS Hillingdon International School on Wednesday 19th March, 2025, to partake in a realistic simulation of a United National General Assembly. Each student was allocated a country (ours included Costa Rica, Fiji and Jamaica) to research and represent on the day.

Two global issues were selected for discussion: the geopolitical situation in Western Sahara, and the international housing crisis. The depth and accuracy of the students' research was impressive, and this knowledge was clearly demonstrated in their lobbying with other countries. Despite less formal preparation than the other students present, the students excelled in their discussions and negotiations, and Matthew Banks even raised a 'Point of Information' in front of the entire conference.

The Ruislip High team got stuck into proceedings, and ensured they matched the confidence and determination shown by many other country delegates. They really were admirable in this way, and we are all very proud of their efforts and skills.

Voting procedures concluded the debates, and one even led to a complete tie, with 42 countries in favour of, and 42 countries opposed to, the resolution proposed by 'Morocco'.

The day concluded with an address by the Canadian representative for the International Maritime Organisation, who gave an insightful talk into life as a diplomat. During his talk he shared with students some of the skills most desirable in this field: the ability to listen, discern people's true intentions, and communicate with tact and approachability.

Daniel, Year 12, who attended the day, said: *"The day was a completely new experience and very useful for getting an insight into the conduct of nations negotiating with each other on different topics. All in all it was very enjoyable!"*

Mrs Rickards, who led the trip, said: *"The students were extraordinarily professional, proving to us and themselves that no matter how unfamiliar an environment may be, they have the skills to learn, and excel at whatever they put their mind to."*

All in all, the experience was an escapade into unknown waters that the students took to with very impressive speed and success, showcasing what they have to offer the wider world, when the time comes to step out into it.

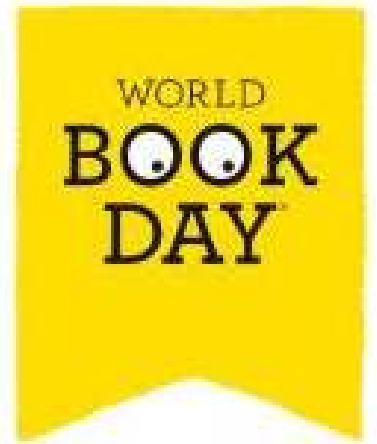


# LRC NEWS

World Book day was a bit different this year! The English department produced a slide show showing different staff across the school reading, displayed on digital screens, so students were able to see what books staff were reading and could question staff about the books.

It was great to see so many staff on display with their chosen book, which helps encourage students to pick up a book and start reading themselves. Reading is so important and helps improve vocabulary and memory, which will help learning in general.

Students from all years were also given a book token each, which gave them the opportunity of either getting a World Book Day book for free or £1 off another title.



## **'Sit back and relax'**

Since the LRC introduced beanbags for students to sit on in the 'Silent reading corner', during break and lunchtimes, the LRC has become more popular than ever. Students have been taking full advantage of somewhere quiet, to be able to escape from the school day and sit and unwind with a good book.

A massive thank you to all the parents, guardians and students who have kindly donated books to the LRC over the years. It has been amazing receiving so many books and the students love getting new titles to read; it also means students are able to exchange the new books awarded from the book vending machine, for a donated book once read, meaning students never have to buy a book again.



**Please do keep book donations coming in, it helps ensure the LRC remains fully stocked especially as so many Ruislip High students and staff love to read !!**

# LRC NEWS

(CONTINUED)

## LRC Stationery shop

It has been exactly a year since the LRC Stationery shop was first launched. It is a chance for students to redeem reward wheels collected through the year in exchange for stationery items needed for P1 check and vital for the school day. This is still as popular as ever with students taking full advantage of being able to reduce the amount of equipment check warnings received.



Students' records aren't altered, the rewards still stay on the system, it is only spendable points which decrease. There is even a 'skip the queue pass' available and prom tickets/yearbooks for the older students in Year 11.

The new system allows students to order via the Tutor during tutor time, which Mrs Austen (who also manages the shop) delivers. There is also an opportunity for parents/carers to order online, on students' behalf.

**Students can visit the shop between 8:15am-8:30am or after school daily: 3pm-4pm.**



## The LRC Above and Beyond Clubs

The LRC Above and Beyond Clubs are now extremely popular, increasing in numbers weekly, and attracting students from all year groups across the board. They get together to either read, play different games, from board games to online, complete homework/revise, or sit and discuss books and recommend books to read and ones to avoid !!

The most popular club by far is Games Club on a Friday, the only day the library is not a quiet environment, especially as there are usually 30-40 students in attendance! What better way to end the week than play a game with friends in the LRC!

## The LRC After School Clubs Opening Times:

**Tuesday 3pm-4pm:** Homework/Silent reading

**Wednesday 3pm-4pm:** Homework/Silent reading

**Thursday 3pm-4pm:** Booktok Club

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



# LRC NEWS

(CONTINUED)

## Thank you

A massive thank you has to go out to all the students who give up their free time to volunteer in the LRC during break and lunch.

Huge thanks too to the Duke of Edinburgh students who stay and help after school and the Sixth form Ambassadors who come and volunteer each week. The help offered from all the students is invaluable and is very much appreciated.

Wishing everybody a very 'Happy Easter and Spring break'.

'Happy Reading'

Mrs Austen LRC Manager





# YEAR 13 NEWS

This newsletter marks the end of the Spring Term for the Year 13s. The students have continued to work hard over this term, have received their final predicted grades and students have now started receiving University and Apprenticeship offers from some of the top institutions in the world. Students also celebrated being part of the Sixth Form community with a highly successful bowling trip in London! It's important to recognise and establish a work/ life balance, as soon they won't have a moment to spare!

As we move into the Summer Term, Year 13s are going to need to keep up the hard work, they will need to continue to revise and prepare for final examinations before continuing their lives in post 18. In order to be as successful as possible, they will need the support and guidance of their friends, their parents and carers. We wish them all the best in the term to come and in their exams and we look forward to celebrating with them in the summer. Good luck!

Mr Elsby  
Head of Year 13

## SIXTH FORM GUEST SPEAKER NEWS

As the summer exam season approaches, supporting our students' mental health is more important than ever. On Thursday 20th March, 2025, we were delighted to welcome James Peterson, a mental health expert, to speak to Year 13 about maintaining good mental health during the challenging exam season. James delivered an engaging and informative talk, focusing on the importance of making positive choices such as taking regular stress breaks, getting enough sleep, and incorporating exercise into daily routines.



The session provided students with practical strategies to manage stress and maintain their well-being, equipping them with tangible tools they can use in the months ahead. Following the session, students shared how helpful the talk was, with many expressing that they felt better prepared to manage the pressures of exam season.

Mia, Year 13, said: *"Preparing for exams can sometimes feel overwhelming, so the talk was really useful, as we came away with practical ideas we could use to help with keeping our cool during exams."*

Looking ahead, we're excited to welcome James back next month to speak to our Year 12 students, ensuring they also have the support and guidance they need. We understand that the exam period can be a stressful time, and we're committed to helping our students maintain a balanced and healthy approach to their studies.

# ART, CRAFT & DESIGN NEWS

## THE CREATIVE CORNER

### Art Club

During Art club students have been working with clay. They began by researching ideas and finding imagery to inspire their clay designs, we looked at artists who create sculptures based on delicious treats, cultural cuisine and enlarging the everyday items into sculptures.

Students then set about making their clay cake sculptures. The majority of students had very limited experience working with clay which can be quite a daunting, yet exciting experience, whilst it is soft and easily manipulated students found this to also be a challenge as they had to find new ways to add strength to their work. Whilst working individuals have learnt how to apply the score, slip, stick method to help join slabs of clay which made up the sides and then creating a removable lid with texture and decoration to create beautiful designs!



### 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. 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 nice to see lots of luxurious pieces of artwork that I had only ever seen online!"* Luka

*"It was very different from what I expected. There was such a range of artwork, new and old, as well as lots of different styles and medias"* Keria





# ART, CRAFT & DESIGN NEWS

## Textiles workshop

Some of our year 9 students got the opportunity to take part in a Textiles workshops with the 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 here career so far as well as being taught some textile techniques that they then built up in layers whilst being inspire by her 'Brick Lane' series.

*"Layla and her work were in inspiration. It was fantastic to wee what opportunities a Textiles Degree can give you"* Salma

*" I really enjoyed trying out new practical skills and really enjoyed looking at the different and creative work she has made"* Eliyas

*"It was nice to see how Textiles is part of everyday life and how you can use it to get jobs in the future"* Eric

*"It was really enjoyable to try techniques and materials to experiment with texture and colour"* Etna





# RHS Gallery

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







Year 8  
Graphics



Year 9 Textiles





# KEY DATES

- **Monday 7th April: Year 9 Battlefields trip returns**
- **Tuesday 22nd April 2025: Summer term begins**
- **Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd April: Year 12 mental health presentations**
- **Wednesday 23rd April: Year 9 British Library trip**
- **Wednesday 23rd April: Year 7 residential trip information evening**
- **Thursday 24th April: Year 7 STEM workshop**
- **Thursday 24th and Friday 25th April: Year 11 French/Spanish GCSE speaking exams**
- **Friday 25th April: Year 8 STEM workshop**
- **Monday 28th April: GCSE PE moderation day**
- **Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th April: Year 11 French GCSE speaking exams**
- **Tuesday 29th April: Year 9 STEM workshop**
- **Tuesday 30th April: Year 7/8/9 STEM workshop**
- **Thursday 1st May: Public exams start**
- **Thursday 1st May: Year 10 parents' evening**
- **Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd May: Year 11 art exam**
- **Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd May: Year 11 Spanish GCSE speaking exams**
- **Monday 5th May: Bank holiday**
- **Monday 5th May: D of E silver pre-assessed expedition**
- **Monday 5th May: Deaf awareness week**
- **Tuesday 6th May: Parent voice meeting**
- **Wednesday 7th May: VLT cookery competition**
- **Wednesday 7th to Friday 9th May: Year 13 art exam**
- **Monday 12th May: Mental health awareness week**
- **Monday 12th May: Year 12 Spanish trip to Vyners**
- **Friday 23rd May: Last teaching day for Year 11/13**
- **Friday 23rd May: Year 7 PGL trip leaves**
- **Friday 23rd May: Year 11 Celebration Assembly**
- **Friday 23rd May: Half terms ends**
- **Monday 2nd June: Half term begins**
- **Monday 2nd to Friday 6th June: Year 12 PPEs**
- **Monday 2nd June: Careers month begins**
- **Monday 9th to Friday 13th June: Year 12 work experience week**
- **Sunday 15th June: Year 12 geography trip leaves**
- **Monday 16th June: Year 10/12 Globe Theatre trip**
- **Wednesday 18th June: VLT table tennis competition**
- **Wednesday 18th June: Year 12 geography trip returns**
- **Friday 20th June: Year 10 Science Museum trip**
- **Friday 20th June: Year 12 speaker: Danny Beales MP**
- **Monday 23rd June: RAG week**
- **Monday 23rd June: Year 10 geography trip**
- **Tuesday 24th June: Parent voice meeting (remote)**



# KEY DATES

- **Wednesday 25th June: Year 7 Westminster Abbey/Portrait Gallery trip**
- **Thursday 26th June: Year 13 Leavers' assembly**
- **Thursday 26th June: Year 11 and Year 13 proms**
- **Friday 27th June: D of E silver assessed expedition**
- **Monday 30th June: Year 12 post-18 applications day**
- **Tuesday 1st July: Careers month ends**
- **Tuesday 1st July: Sports day**
- **Tuesday 1st July: Year 12 Oxford Brookes trip**
- **Tuesday 1st July: Year 6 transition day**
- **Tuesday 1st to Friday 4th July: D of E gold expedition**
- **Thursday 3rd July: Wimbledon trip**
- **Friday 4th July: LSF coffee morning**
- **Monday 7th July: Year 8 HPV vaccinations**
- **Tuesday 8th July: Sixth form induction day**
- **Wednesday 9th July: VLT Year 7 oracy competition**
- **Wednesday 9th July: Year 12 history trip**
- **Thursday 10th July: Year 12 Talk the Talk**
- **Thursday 10th July: Summer play**
- **Friday 11th July: Year 10 media studies trip**
- **Wednesday 16th July: Summer music soiree**
- **Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th July: Year 8 Tower of London/Natural History Museum trip**
- **Friday 18th July: Term ends at 12pm**