

GCSE DRAMA TRIP TO THE SAM WANAMAKER THEATRE

"It was inspiring to see such a complicated story told so engagingly. It was great to see the skills we learn in school performed in real life."

Alexia, Year 11



Image above: The GCSE Drama students outside The Globe theatre

On Wednesday 11th January, 2023, the Year 11 GCSE Drama students headed into central London to watch a performance of 'Hakawatis: Women of the Arabian Nights'. This new play, focused on the power of storytelling and reimagined ancient tales from the perspective of strong and unapologetic women.

The Year 11 GCSE Drama cohort are currently working on their own practical pieces, which will be examined later in the spring. Having the opportunity to go and watch a live production at this time is incredibly valuable; the students can see their subject in action and gain inspiration from techniques they've now seen used on stage.

Alexia, Year 11, said: "It was inspiring to see such a complicated story told so engagingly. It was great to see the skills we learn in school performed in real life."

Beyond gaining an insight into the subject in a real world context, the class also enjoyed the themes of the play and that women were put front and centre. Giselle, Year 11, told us: "It was really empowering to see a story about women freeing themselves. It was complex, but entertaining."

Thank you to Mr Randall and Mr Sills for accompanying the students to the performance. We are certain it was a worthwhile experience and has enhanced the students' passion for the subject. As Liberty, Year 11, summed up: "Girl power!"



HILLINGDON HEALTH SURVEY

The Hillingdon School Nursing Team supports the health and well-being of our young people in Hillingdon. They want to ensure that the school community remains healthy and receives the right support when it is needed. In order for the team to identify any young people's health needs as early as possible, the Hillingdon Nursing Team are asking all Year 9 and Year 12 students to complete a short survey about their personal health.

If you have a child in Year 9 or Year 12, the link to the surveys can be found in the letters below. The survey should only take five minutes to complete and we would appreciate it if as many students as possible in these year groups could participate by the deadline of **Friday 10th February, 2023**.

[Year 9 Survey](#)

[Year 12 Survey](#)

CURRICULUM NEWS: ENGLISH



Image above: Some members of the English department sharing what they are currently reading

Throughout the English department, reading has always been at the forefront of our mind; we will take any opportunity to discuss books! However, we have been focusing on spreading this love of reading and reading for enrichment to our students with many exciting opportunities.

Since the start of this academic year, Year 7 students have been participating in a dedicated 'reading lesson' every week which focuses on developing reading skills through radial layout questioning and specific focus on reading domains. We started the year learning about the creation of villains in literature and we have now moved on to reading non-fiction sources about eating bugs! Year 7 students have been enjoying this new addition to their timetable and have noticed how the skills and texts they are reading are also linked to what they are studying in English.

Within the English corridor itself, reading is always expressed through displays and our digital signage. On the signage we now have pictures of what each English teacher is reading (sometimes with a selfie!) so students can actively see what we are reading; we have had many debates and discussions with students about our reading choices. Plus, each English classroom now has a bookshelf of our recommended reads so students always have access to much loved and exciting stories.

As a school we are thoroughly enjoying our reading journey and hope to keep growing and adapting to ensure all of our students can access the enrichment and love for reading they deserve.

Key Dates:

Date:	Event
Monday 30th January - 5:00pm-6:00pm	Friends of Ruislip High meeting (PTA)
Wednesday 1st February	Start of LGBTQ+ awareness month
Monday 6th February	Start of Safer Internet Week
Tuesday 7th February - 6:00pm-7:00pm	Parent Voice Group meeting
Friday 10th February	End of half term
Saturday 11th February	Trip to Berlin leaves
Saturday 11th February	Trip to Andorra leaves

School Updates:

Safeguarding updates:

Helplines: [click here](#)

Parent Factsheet - WhatsApp: [click here](#)

UK Safer Internet Centre - Coerced online sexual abuse information: [click here](#)

Is This Ok? Support Website: [click here](#)

National Online Safety - Parent Resources: [click here](#)

Letters Home:

Update to parents - 13.01.2023: [click here](#)

Berlin Trip - Information to Parents Letter: [click here](#)

Year 8 Parents' Evening Letter: [click here](#)

Year 13 Prom Letter: [click here](#)

Year 10 - GCSE Citizenship 'Making the Grade' Information: [click here](#)

Safer Internet Week Letter: [click here](#)

Out of School Opportunities (not linked to the school):

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

H4All website: [click here](#)

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