

Ruislip High School NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

RAVI SINGH INSPIRES STUDENTS

On Friday 24th February, 2017, Ravi Singh spoke to students from Year 10 and Year 12 about Khalsa Aid, an international non-governmental organisation, which aims to provide humanitarian aid in disaster areas and civil conflict zones around the world. The organisation is based upon the Sikh principle of: '*Recognise the whole human race as one*'; it was founded by Ravi in 1999 and recently was the subject of a BBC programme called 'The Selfless Sikh'. The students maturely engaged with the extremely serious content matter, including the plight of the Yazidi community in northern Iraq. As Ravi lives locally, he has also agreed to return to Ruislip High in the foreseeable future to speak to the other year groups.



Ravi emailed the following message afterwards:

"Although our focus is delivering aid around the globe, I strongly feel we must engage with the next generation to build a better world. The world has become a very small place with the introduction of internet but sadly it also has become very challenging. We must create an atmosphere of acceptance and tolerance if we are to strengthen our communities and this has to start at a very young age."

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RAVI SINGH INSPIRES STUDENTS

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Dr Lecky, Headteacher, commented afterwards:

"It was a pleasure and an honour to meet a local hero. I believe his humanitarian work is an inspiration to us all as it give us hope for the future. I was very proud of our students' maturity as they listened attentively to his talk which dealt with challenging subject matter."



Student quotations:

- *"I was blown away by what Ravi Singh has done for those people. It's so inspirational."*
- *"The talk inspired me to always be positive around others and to never hate as hate will always make matters worse. By being positive and good to others, we can change the world."*
- *"Absolutely moving. We need more people like Ravi Singh in the world."*
- *"I think it was truly amazing to sit back in my chair and agree with every single word that was being said. All I could think was 'this is what we need to change the world'."*

HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

I am delighted to share with parents the names of the students who have been recipients of my headteacher's award this term for the school's values of self-discipline and learning for the first and second half terms respectively:

Self-discipline

16th January, 2017

Piotr	Year 7
Devin	Year 8
Chelsea	Year 9
Ethan	Year 10
Suvichha	Year 11
Harriet	Year 12
Sultana	Year 13

2nd February, 2017

Yasmin	Year 7
Amit	Year 8
Nabiha	Year 9
Niamh	Year 10
Charlotte	Year 11
Izabela	Year 12
Grace	Year 13

Learning

6th March, 2017

Luke	Year 7
Gabriela	Year 8
Suakshi	Year 9
Amber	Year 10
Emily	Year 11
Adele	Year 12
Wahed	Year 13

23rd March, 2017

Lottie	Year 7
Rishley	Year 8
Gemma	Year 9
Muna	Year 10
Tarun	Year 11
Sophie	Year 12
Lauren	Year 13

I am very grateful to these students for their exemplary conduct and motivation to contribute to our school's ethos and community, and I trust their parents are suitably proud.

This term the school has continued its commitment to broaden students' horizons which includes hosting talks from a number of outside speakers and workshops from a range of organisations.

I was particularly struck with Ravi Singh's presentation to Year 10 and 12 students on Friday 24th February, 2017. I know the whole audience was moved by his presentation in particular his charitable work in Iraq with the Yazidi community. His message of tolerance and kindness was very powerful. The BBC programme made about his work – 'The Selfless Sikh' – was aptly titled considering the personal risk he takes to try to make a difference in refugees' lives where hope must be essential for their existence. I know his talk helped us all to consider the importance of charitable work; we encourage our students to do voluntary work in the sixth form and our Year 11 students to participate in the Year 11 National Citizen Service programme over the summer. I know the students benefit enormously from these opportunities especially the development of their self-esteem and sense of responsibility as a good citizen.



SUZY STRIDE VISIT

Suzy Stride was invited to visit Ruislip High School on Wednesday 1st February 2017 to talk to the Year 12 and 13 politics classes.

Suzy was a student at Dr Lecky's previous school, The Grey Coat Hospital. She was brought up in Tower Hamlets and was the only student in her year to secure a place at Cambridge University where she read geography. She was involved in youth and community projects in Cambridge and remains a keen football player.

Suzy used to work for a charity tackling social exclusion and unemployment in East London. She is focused particularly on diverting young people away from crime and into education and work. For almost ten years, Suzy has worked with young people and families from some of the poorest estates in the country running programmes to tackle unemployment. She passionately wants to give people the opportunity to meet their hopes and aspirations.



Suzy said about her visit to Ruislip High School: *"I loved meeting amazingly bright and engaged students. I can definitely see some future leaders coming from the classes I met. A fantastic school, with so much opportunity for its students, with staff that are passionate and inspiring."*

She is very passionate about having the right policies to ensure all young people whatever their background can fulfil their potential. Suzy was selected to be Labour's Parliamentary candidate for Harlow in 2011.

In 2011 she worked as a policy advisor to Baroness Jan Royall who led the Policy review on "What makes Politics Count for Young People".

The students commented afterwards:

Year 12 students:

- *Motivational, inspiring, the new and improved Theresa May!*
- *Motivational and hell-bent on getting young people involved and engaged in politics.*
- *Finally, a politician focused on the youth!*

Year 13 students:

- *Having listened to Suzy I believe she has inspired me to get involved more with politics and that your upbringing should not determine how well you do in life.*
- *The talk has further strengthened my view that a normal young person can make a difference and change the way our country is run. It has given me hope that if more people are like Suzy, positive change can be brought around.*
- *Suzy's speech was empowering, helping to establish my vision of a political system supported by the public, instead of being attacked without any rational reason.*

Dr Lecky said: *"I am really proud of Suzy's commitment to increase young adults' engagement in politics. I always knew she was an individual who would try to make the world a better place and, listening to her speak to our sixth form students, I was so impressed with her dedication to inspire the next generation."*

BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

By Robert, 9D

The Year 9 trip to France and Belgium in February half term was a general educational trip intertwined with our history topic on the First World War.

The trip gave us varying experiences: visiting remote battlefields, memorials and cemeteries; visiting the Belgian town of Ypres (site of a prolonged, bloody battle in WW1) where we attended the Last Post ceremony; visiting the mines and tunnels under Arras; and of course the day out to the French capital, Paris.

Visiting the preserved sites at Sanctuary Wood and Vimy Ridge gave us a raw, personal experience of the trenches we had learnt so much about. It gave all history students a real insight into the lives of the soldiers on the Western Front.

It was an enjoyable trip as we got to spend time with our peers as well as visiting interesting new places. We were also given responsibility when there was free time for us to explore on our own.

Overall, it is a trip that we will never forget.



DEBATING COMPETITION AT BRUNEL UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday 8th February, four Year 12 students competed at the Institute of Ideas Debating Matters competition at Brunel University. The students involved were: Joshua, C68, Aaron, C61, Jordan, C67, and Jonathan, C67.

The Ruislip High team competed against Ravensbourne School for the motion that our online activities should remain private.

In their second debate, the team competed against Uxbridge College for the motion that prisoners should not have the right to vote.

The opponents were regional debating finalists meaning the students were up against the strongest competitors. The debate organisers congratulated the Ruislip High team, stating that the debates were the closest fought debates they had seen to date in the competition. They praised the maturity of the Ruislip High team's arguments and the judges were also particularly impressed with the students' knowledge of current affairs and human rights.

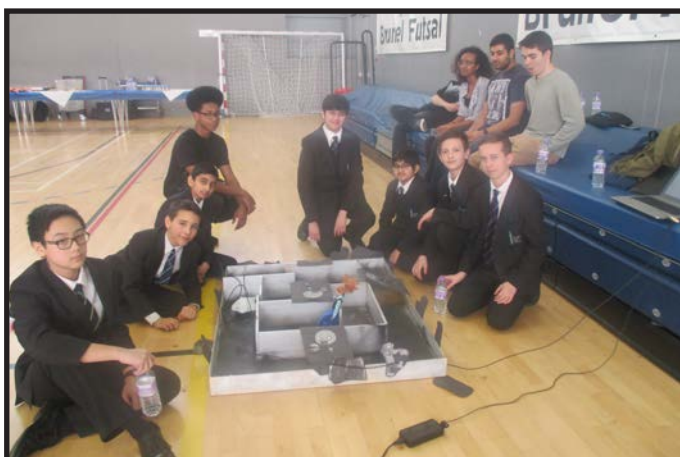
Overall, this was a fantastic experience for the Year 12 students as it developed their public speaking skills as well as their knowledge of current human rights issues.

BRUNEL UNIVERSITY ADOPT-A-BOT COMPETITION

Students attending the Above and Beyond Coding Club went to the Adopt-A-Bot competition finals at Brunel University on Tuesday 28th March 2017. In this competition they were required to program a robot through a scenario, build a Wiki page and design a scenario, which they have been working on since November.

They won the Best Adopt-A-Bot Demonstration Award and were each gifted with Amazon Vouchers and Brunel University goody bags. They demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout the event and made Ms Poddar very proud. Well done to all the students involved.

Devin said: *"It was a fun day and it was great to see other schools' projects too."*



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Year 13 Post-18 Success

Despite the pressure of their upcoming final exams, Year 13 students have continued to serve as excellent role models for the lower school.

Year 13 students have been working hard on their plans for the future; many students who have had a great amount of success already. In terms of university places, Year 13 have had a great amount of success in terms of students receiving offers from the prestigious Russell Group universities. Some of the success stories are listed below:

- Hattie Simmons and Eddie Honein-Gonzalez have both been offered places to study at the University of Cambridge from September. Pending their A-level results, Hattie will be reading geography at Girton College and Eddie will be reading natural sciences at Robinson College. Both students also received offers from all five of the universities they applied to.
- Matthew Fishman has been offered places to read geography at the University of Durham, the University of York, the University of Exeter and the University of Southampton
- Wahed Morad has been offered a place to read law at the University of Exeter
- Catherine Whitehouse has been offered a place to read politics at the University of Southampton. She also received offers from all five universities she applied to.
- Amanda Oleszek has been through a gruelling round of interviews to receive offers to read pharmacy at several Russell Group universities, including King's College London and the University of Manchester
- Olivia Hanson-Smith and Alison Glumac have both been offered places to read psychology at the University of Southampton. Alison was also successful in receiving offers from every university she applied to.
- Carys Westall has been offered a place to read American studies and English at the University of Nottingham, as well as being offered a place at all the other universities she applied to
- John Boundy has been offered a place to read drama and theatre studies at the University of Warwick
- Grace Or has been offered places to read law at King's College London, the University of Manchester and University College London
- Kostadin Portic has been offered places to read biochemistry at the University of Warwick, King's College London and Queen Mary University of London
- Ben Fernandes has been offered a place to read software engineering at the University of Glasgow
- Lauren Finnigan has been offered places to read history at the University of Southampton and the University of Birmingham. She was also successful in receiving offers from all five universities she applied to.
- Ryan McShane has been offered places to read politics at the University of Leeds, the University of Warwick and the University of York. He was also successful in receiving offers from all the universities he applied to.
- Ayan Warsame has been offered a place on the competitive science and engineering foundation programme at Queen Mary University of London

In terms of students who are not applying to university, the season for applying to apprenticeships has just begun. The sixth form team are supporting students through this process with tailored one-to-one support from their Head of Year. An early success has been the Deputy Head Girl, Tara Rendell, has secured an interview with the highly competitive Sky Broadcasting company for an apprenticeship in television production.

The school is confident that more success stories are still to follow!

Inter-form Debating

This year has seen the inaugural inter-form debating competition, which takes place in Wednesday tutor time. Forms go head to head in front of the entire sixth form and a panel of senior members of sixth form staff. The first round results were as follows:

Demeter v. Artemis: "This house believes the voting age should be lowered to 16." The winners were Demeter.

Hermes v. Chronos: "This house believes that in some cases, democratic decisions should be reversed." The winners were Chronos.

Apollo v. Athena: "This house believes that there should be a national maximum wage." The winners were Apollo.

Poseidon v. Prometheus: "This house believes that recreational drugs should be legalised." It was a draw!

On points score, the four teams through to the semi-finals at the time of writing were Apollo, Prometheus, Poseidon and Chronos.

The sixth form is looking forward to the semi-finals and the finals! All rounds contribute points to the overall house competition 'Ultimate Form'.

Post-18 Parent Information Evening

On Thursday 9th March, Year 12 parents were invited in to hear about the support on offer for all sixth form students, as they begin to think about their life beyond our school. The talk consisted of information about UCAS, the university application process, apprenticeships and Year 12 experience. If parents were unable to make the event, a copy of the evening's presentation can be found on the VLE.

New York Trip

Sixth form students are really looking forward to their Easter trip to New York and Washington DC, accompanied by Mrs Turner, Ms Horton, Mr Alexander and Mr Pritchard. Highlights of the visit include, but are not limited to: the Empire State Building, Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, NBC Studios, famous sites used for filming television shows and films in New York City, the Broadway show *Groundhog Day* and a visit to the National Mall in Washington. The school trust that this will be an enriching and enjoyable trip for the sixth form students who attend.

Easter Egg Hunt – Tuesday 28th March

Sixth form students were delighted to welcome students from local primary schools one afternoon for the first ever Ruislip High School Easter Egg Hunt! Teams of Year 6 students were led by a sixth form captain to hunt the grounds for hidden eggs left behind by that pesky Easter bunny. Prizes were awarded to the Year 6 student who designed the best Easter basket and the team who demonstrated the best team work skills at the event.

Aaron in C61 said: *"The hunt was really fun and it was a great opportunity for Year 6 to come and get to know some of us, ahead of them joining us in Year 7 next year."*

We hope all the students involved had an egg-cellent time!



BADMINTON CLUB

The last Eclipse Badminton Tournament of the academic year took place on Friday 24th March. All the players demonstrated their impressive skills during the matches, showing flexibility when needed. Their determination to win was in abundance, especially Mark Lewington who raised his game to produce a gold medal after winning a bronze medal in the February tournament. The gold medal winners will each receive one of the Eclipse Trophies for their form tutor to retain until the next final in October. Their names will also be engraved on the Eclipse Tournament Shield.



Gold Medal

Mark, 10B
Daniel, 10B

Silver Medal

Adam, 9C
Matthew, 10C

Bronze Medal

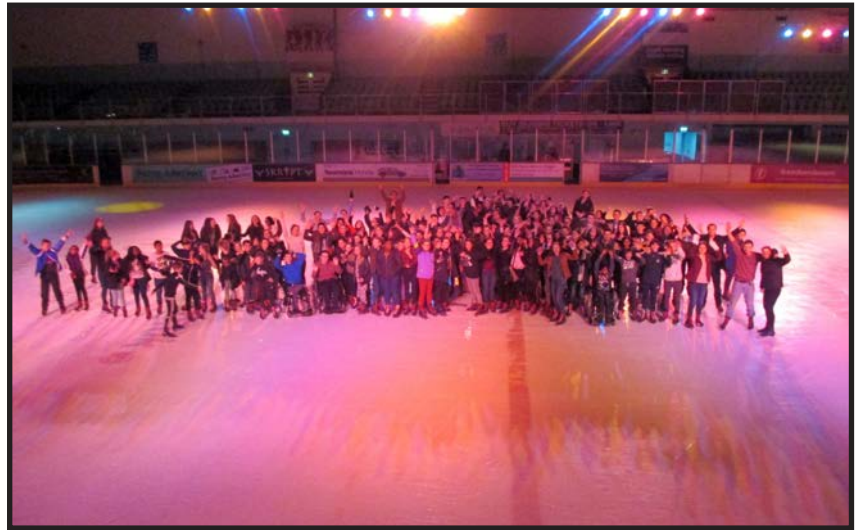
Ella, 10S
Tamara, 9W



ICE SKATING REWARD TRIP

On Friday 3rd February 2017, 188 students from Years 7-13 celebrated their amazing success in the autumn term with a trip to the Guildford Spectrum, where they enjoyed a private ice disco!

Students were allowed to attend their afternoon lessons in casual clothes, and were whisked away to the ice rink on double-decker buses! At the Spectrum, students were free to enjoy the whole session with their friends, requesting their favourite songs and skating the night away (with mixed success!).



On behalf of the students, I would like to thank the following staff for volunteering to attend the trip and for ensuring that the event ran smoothly: Ms Cotton, Ms Smart, Mr Peacock, Mr Maud, Mr Elsby, Ms Winer, Mr McManamon, Ms Lucas, Ms Mulqueeny, Ms Hill, Mr Smithson, Ms Cullen, Mr Alexander, Mr Askin, Ms Hart, Ms Gouws, Ms Loizou, Ms Barlow, Mr Maclean, Ms Horton, Ms Hunter, Ms Cooney and Ms Edwards

Mr Stent
Head of Year 9

COOKING CLUB

It was always lovely to arrive at the food room on a Wednesday after school to be greeted by a group of eager Year 7 and 8 students asking: "*What are we cooking this week? Can I go and meet the Year 6 students when they arrive?*"

The cooking club ran for six weeks and was a transition project with some of Ruislip High's feeder schools, Lady Bankes, Ruislip Gardens, Sacred Heart and Field End.

The students began with leek and potato soup, then beef tacos and blueberry muffins. The ingredients for these simple, healthy recipes were supplied by Ruislip High School and each student took the finished dish home to be enjoyed with the family. Ms Smart helped to demonstrate different cooking skills and Ms Stoodley was there to remind the enthusiastic students washing up is as important as the cooking!

Everyone had a fantastic time; it was wonderful to see the Ruislip High students interacting with the Year 6 students and showing a great team spirit.

Ms Stoodley

"Cooking club was so much fun to do. I loved helping the younger students and teaching them how to cook simple yet amazing dishes for them to take home and enjoy with family. This club is helpful and educational for us and the primary school students."
Freya, 8A

DRAMA NEWS

Year 7

Students have been enjoying exploring this term's scheme of work *The Lost Valley* where they consider how to create a new society. By focusing on teamwork students investigate different methods of problem solving. Students must use teamwork skills to create, build and exist in a new society.

Year 8

This term has been spent exploring mask work and acting technique. Students have been using Trestle theatre company masks to create performances focusing on movements and gestures.

Year 9

Students began the year studying the text *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell and exploring how the social, historical, political and cultural context impacts the actor's character development. Students focus specifically on the themes of class divide and deception to explore key theatrical concepts of subtext and motivation as well as considering theatrical presentation, how to stage a practical performance. Year 9 students are now studying Physical Theatre.

Year 10 GCSE Drama

Year 10 has been working really hard this term on section C of the component 1 exam: Live theatre production. Drama students attended a trip to see *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* and have been using the performance to explore the play practically and prepare written responses to exam questions.

Year 11 GCSE Drama

Congratulations to all Year 11 students for working so hard on their controlled assessments and obtaining a really good set of results for their Unit 1 and 2 exams. The hard work is nearly over and the final Unit 3 practical exam is on Wednesday 3rd May. Students have been working really hard rehearsing for their final performance. Thank you to parents/guardians for their continued support helping students to learn lines/prepare for their Unit 3 performance, which is worth 40% of their final grade.

Year 11 GCSE Drama Easter Holiday Rehearsal Schedule:

Wednesday 5th April 2017

Ms Hart's Drama class from 10:00am – 3:00pm

Tuesday 11th April 2017

Mr Alexander's Drama class from 10:00am – 3:00pm

The daily diet Easter revision information is on the VLE for more drama tasks to help prepare for the Unit 3 exam.

Year 12 A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

Year 12 students have completed their study of set text 1 *Antigone* and produced an impressive set of PPE results for their January exam. The devised performance took place on Tuesday 21st March. All students involved showed great focus and dedication.

Year 13 A2 Drama and Theatre Studies

Students have been working hard on their set text study of Marlow's *Doctor Faustus* in preparation for their Unit 4 written exam. Well done to students for an impressive devised performance for the Unit 3 Practical Exam.

Extra-Curricular Drama

Theatre Visits

Antigone

The Sixth Form drama students enjoyed a visit to central London on 1st February to see the UCL production of *Antigone*. Year 12 students are studying this as one of their set texts for component 1 and Year 13 students are using it for their unit 4 live theatre review.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

Most of the Year 10, 11 and 12 drama students enjoyed the West End musical performance of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* on Wednesday 1st March. Everyone really enjoyed the trip.

Extra-Curricular – Arts Evening

Well done to all those students who performed a preview of extracts from the school production *Grimm Tales* on Tuesday 7th March.

GRIMM TALES

The school production of *Grimm Tales* took place on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March, with two evening performances as well as a performance to Year 5 and 6 students from local primary schools. A cast of forty Ruislip High students took part in a trio of short plays, *Ashputtel*, *Hansel and Gretel* and *Rumpelstiltskin*, directed by Ms Hart, Ms Eccleshall and Mr Alexander respectively.

With a deliberately “dark and twisted” theme, as the Brothers Grimm are known for, it was a chilling and thrilling production which the school is very proud of.



Cast member Kyle (7B) said, “The first night went really well. The transitions in particular were very smooth. I made some mistakes in the afternoon performance but I got over it for the first evening. I’m really looking forward to the final night now.”

Jessie (8F) said, “We did much better on the night than in the dress rehearsal. It all went to plan. We started rehearsing at the start of January so it’s been a long wait but we all loved it.”

The cast

Nathan, 10C
Mike, 10C
Ellie, 10F
Reem, 10B
Ellie, 10W
Georgia, 10B
Goncalo, 10D
Tom, 10S
Laura, 10F
Amber, 10D
Jamie, 9F
Dario, 9F
Thiviyaa, 9W
Marwa, 9W

Jessie, 8F
Liberty, 8D
Aleksander, 8D
Amelia, 8D
Tara, 8W
Isabella, 8C
Olivia, 8F
Chanel, 8F
Aaron, 7D
Kyle, 7B
Skyla, 7C
Skylar, 7W
Amy, 7C
Sophie, 7A

Olivia, 7D
Laurelle, 7B
Molly, 7B
Catherine, 7B
Lottie, 7F
Ellis, 7B
Rebecca, 7B
Sophie, 7W
Chloe, 7W
Lucy, 7D
Becky, 7D
Luke, 7B



LET'S THINK SCIENCE GAMES

On Friday 17th March, twenty-seven Year 7 students visited Ruislip Gardens for the morning. The students were finalists in the Year 7 Let's Think Science competition.

The design brief had been as follows:

**A variable is 'something that can change' and its values are 'how it changes'.
The challenge is to design and make a game that teaches Year 6 students about variables and their values.**

The Year 6 students from Ruislip Gardens thoroughly enjoyed playing the games. It was wonderful to see how impressed the Year 6 students were with the standard of the games and how the Year 7 Ruislip High students were role models and ambassadors for the school.

The overall winners were announced at the Year 7 Celebration Assembly.

Joint first place:

Cody, 7F

Akos, 7S

Joint second place:

George, 7D

Yasmin, 7W

Joint third place:

Ramez and Piotr, both 7A





Ruislip High Students

"It was really fun. I enjoyed teaching the Year 6 students about variables and values so they could understand them better." George, 7D

"I really enjoyed making our game; it was really fun and a great way to teach others about what we had learnt." Akos, 7S

"We really liked working in a group to create a game to share with other students." Olivia and Lucy, 7D

"We spent a lot of time on our game and it was lovely to see other students having fun whilst playing it." Kayleigh and Molly, 7B



Ruislip Gardens Students

"The rules on the games we played were easy to understand and really entertaining." Vasi, Leah, Chloe and Joseph, Year 6

"It was very enjoyable and we had a lot of fun; we laughed a lot!" Izzy, Tallula, Dylan and Younos, Year 6

"The games taught us some very useful information about variables and values in an exciting way." Jacob, Klevi, Amalie and Isabelle, Year 6

ENGLISH NEWS

'Shout out to Macbeth' – Young Shakespeare Company visit to RHS

On Thursday 9th March, Year 11 students were lucky enough to participate in a *Macbeth* workshop run by the Young Shakespeare Company. A team of professional actors performed key scenes to bring Shakespeare's classic tragedy to life. By breaking down the play into a series of fast-paced moments, the actors enabled students to appreciate the drama of *Macbeth*. The actors focused on key turning points and dramatic scenes, such as the meetings between Macbeth and the witches, the moment Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost and the final battle between Macbeth and Macduff. Students were also invited to participate in the activities to engage them in the dramatic and language techniques employed by Shakespeare and to explore the emotions and motives of the characters at different points in the play. While we do share various film interpretations and video clips in class to explore different interpretations of *Macbeth* and bring the play to life, there is no substitute for live performance of Shakespeare, and we were all hugely privileged to be able to enjoy this from the Young Shakespeare company on Thursday. Here's what the students had to say:

"It was an entertaining way of learning Macbeth." Jaimini, 11W

"The repetition of the key quotes and the detailed focus on the key scenes helped me to remember the important parts of the play. The actors performed and discussed the scenes which was helpful and analytical." Asly, 11C

"It was interesting to hear from another point of view, rather than a teacher or another student." Amit, 11A

"The YSC brought Macbeth to life in an engaging way, which considered how the text can be interpreted from different angles and got students to think carefully about how Shakespeare used language to reveal character's motivations. I loved it!" Ms Turner

"It was great! I didn't want to leave to go to my next lesson!" Miss Hill



Further links and resources

See the Young Shakespeare Company's work with *Macbeth*: <http://youngshakespeare.org.uk/macbeth/>

Key scenes performed by actors - BBC Shakespeare Unlocked - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/bsdCx8bV7F3NBX5N67YdZc/macbeth>

BBC Bitesize Class Clips - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zwws39q/resources/1>

A revision video in which Little Mix's 'Shout out to my ex' becomes 'Shout out to Macbeth' (!) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXPVS-n8-0o>

World Book Day success!

Yet again the English department found success with their costumes on World Book Day as they went with a Roald Dahl theme to bring home the winnings! As well as being the overall winners for Best Staff Group, there were individual triumphs too: Mr Randall won the Best Individual Male prize for his portrayal of Miss Trunchbull and Mrs Hill took the prize for Best Individual Female as the BFG, while the best staff duo was again from the English department with Ms Oladjins and Ms Cullen triumphing as Willy Wonka and an Oompa Loompa. Teaching lessons in character is always enjoyable and the department loved seeing the Year 7 students in their World Book Day outfits celebrating their favourite thing, reading, all day long.



Accelerated Reader

The English department is continuing to run Accelerated Reader (AR), a fully developed reading intervention to help some of the Key Stage Three students maximise their reading potential. With the positive energy and enthusiasm displayed by all of the students, the department is very proud of the individual and collective progress made by Accelerated Readers this academic year. Based on the STAR test results last term, the average improvement of students taking part from the first test in July 2016 to the most recent test in February 2017 is over twenty-one months.

BBC Radio Two 500 word short story competition

Students in Years 7 and 8 have been writing original 500 word stories in response to the BBC Radio Two short story competition. Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall will be the Honorary Judge, reading and debating the top fifty stories with the author panel. The winning entries in this national competition will be read live on the radio by a celebrity to an audience of up to ten million listeners in May.

Up for Debate

Year 9 students have begun learning about the art of formal debate through a scheme of work planned by PiXL in conjunction with The Noisy Classroom. As part of the plan to raise the standards of oracy across all year groups, three lucky students will eventually be chosen to form Ruislip's debating squad and compete against other schools. The regional heat will take place on 19th April at Alleyn's School in Dulwich. The department is currently looking for three Year 8 students to come along and watch the debates in preparation for next year and two Year 10 students to come and be volunteer judges.

KEY STAGE 3

Year 7

Year 7 have just completed their exams, which consisted of a creative writing task similar to those they will have to complete for GCSEs. Having explored Shakespeare's last play, *The Tempest*, students are moving on to a more modern dramatic interpretation of a Mary Shelley classic, with Philip Pullman's play adaptation of *Frankenstein*.

Year 8

Having explored our capital city through the writing of authors such as Charles Dickens, Monica Ali and Zadie Smith in the 'London Through the Pages' unit, Year 8 students are now developing their grammar and rhetorical skills through a unit teaching 'Grammar for Writing to Argue'.

Year 9

After completing the Up for Debate unit, Year 9 students are now studying a range of Dystopian fiction, from Orwell's *Animal Farm* and *1984* to more modern classics like *The Hunger Games*. They will then move on to studying the Shakespeare classic *Romeo and Juliet*.

ENGLISH NEWS

Continued...

KEY STAGE 4

Year 10

Year 10 have been getting to grips with their GCSEs and enjoyed studying two of their Literature set texts: *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by R.L. Stevenson and *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley. They have also honed their writing and analytical skills as they studied for paper one of the English Language exam. They will sit a practice Paper 1 in April. Year 10 have got to grips with the new grading system in English too; they now receive numbers from 9-1 with 5 being the equivalent of the top third of the old C grade.

Spoken Language is a separate endorsement for English now and Year 10 students all prepared individual speeches on a wide range of subjects. The department was very proud of the maturity and eloquence of the students as they gave their presentations and their deft handling of questions from their classmates.

Year 11

Year 11 students have now completed the course for both English Language and English Literature GCSE and are spending every lesson revising and practising the skills they need to succeed this summer.

KEY STAGE 5

Year 12

English Language

English Language students have been investigating how language is used to influence readers. They are starting to get used to their key terms now and enjoying being language investigators. The students have also started to explore the topic of language change. Discussions have centered on such things as neosemy (the changing meaning of words) and the emergence of "World Englishes" such as Hinglish and Singlish.

English Literature

English Literature students are currently preparing for their exam on Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and on the poetry of Shakespeare's younger contemporary John Donne. They are now writing their notes and drafts for their coursework comparing a twenty-first century novel and a twentieth century novel.

Year 13

English Language

Students have now finished the course for the exam and are revising Child Language Acquisition and Language Change. They are also putting the finishing touches to their coursework; students have investigated a range of topics including: how advertisers use language to persuade an audience; how football and rugby referees differ in their choice of language; and how politicians use language to assert their power.

English Literature

English Literature students have finished studying all the examination texts and are now revising them, as well as tackling a range of unseen prose and poetry.

YEAR 11 NEWS

PPEs... More PPEs

Students sat their full Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) before the winter break. All students displayed an excellent effort and were praised for their amazing attitude throughout this exam period. They treated these exams seriously and were given a taste of what is to come in the summer.

Since returning from the winter break, students have sat a follow-up PPE in both English and Mathematics. Once again, the Year 11 students showed maturity and dedication to their studies.

Winter Reward Trip

Students with exemplary behaviour were invited to the annual winter reward trip to Guildford Spectrum to celebrate their success with an ice skating disco. Students who attended the trip had a great time on the ice skating to their favourite songs as well as some pop classics! Many of the Year 11 students on the trip also took full advantage of the refreshments available at the Spectrum.

Macbeth

Year 11 students were treated to a performance of GCSE set text, *Macbeth*. The Young Shakespeare Company (along with Year 11 students' imagination) transformed the main hall into Shakespeare's Scotland to perform key scenes from the text. The actors were great and encouraged the students to participate and interact with the performance by asking them questions and allowing them to vote on how characters should perform key scenes. It was certainly entertaining to see the famous banquet scene played with a Macbeth who was channelling Arnold Schwarzenegger. There was a lot of positive feedback about the performance from students who have said:

"It was good...and different. I enjoyed the different ways that they interpreted the text."
Emily, 11B

"Lady Macbeth with a Russian accent was very funny." Bora, 11S

"Seeing the play live really helped me to understand it more." James, 11S



Preparation for Prom

The anticipation for Prom (Thursday 29th June) is building amongst the year group. The students are on tenterhooks to find out the chosen theme and preparations are underway to raise money to make Prom an event to remember!

Invitations will be sent out to the students soon... Watch this space!

GEOGRAPHY NEWS

The Geography Department is excited to be planning two new field trips for the summer term of 2017 to help students achieve highly in the new GCSE and A-level Geography specifications. The locations are similar to previous successful visits but the activities will be very different.

Firstly, from Friday to Monday, 23rd - 26th June, the Year 12 A-level Geography class will be visiting the North Norfolk coast. Here they will plan their own inquiries on the extent to which the coastline is managed in a sustainable and integrated way. Key fieldwork locations will include Cromer, Bacton, Happisburgh and Sea Palling. Students will stay at Sheringham Youth Hostel and be accompanied by Mr Alison and Mr Peacock. Here's hoping for good weather!



Soon after, from Monday to Wednesday, 3rd - 5th July, the Year 10 GCSE Geography students will visit Swanage in Dorset. In previous years, students have undertaken a study of the River Wey to produce a coursework project. However, with the new GCSE students will instead sit an examination to assess their fieldwork. They are required to carry out two fieldwork investigations. For the physical geography study, students will compare the coastal management of Studland Bay to Swanage Bay. For the human geography study, students will investigate the land use of Swanage. As with previous years, the students will also visit sections of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site including seeing Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door.

The students will stay at the Chatsworth Centre, and be accompanied by all four Geography teachers (Mr Askin, Ms Mulqueeny, Mr Peacock and Mr Alison) alongside several other staff as there are nearly 100 Year 10 students taking part!

Year 13 A-Level Geography

The Year 13 A2 Geographers have been working towards their final two exams. The department has been impressed with the way students are rising to the challenge of thinking synoptically through considering aspects of all the units studied in their essays. This is crucial for top grades at A2 Level. Students are preparing for their final two exams, Unit 3 'Contested Planet' on Monday 5th June (worth 60% of the grade) then Unit 4 'Geographical Research' on Friday 9th June (worth 40%). All the past exam papers are available on the VLE. Start revising now! We wish all the students successful futures after seven years at Ruislip High.

Year 12 A-Level Geography

The Year 12 Geographers have been working their way through the very interesting units of the new AQA A-level. Mr Peacock has taught 'Natural Hazards' and 'Coastal systems and landscapes', while Mr Alison has delivered 'Resource Security' and 'Changing Places'. Please read the summer term newsletter for lots of pictures from their field trip to Norfolk in June (see above).

Year 11 GCSE Geography

The GCSE controlled assessment coursework produced by the Year 11s in the autumn term about the River Wey has now been marked. This was based on the field trip to Dorset last July. Year 11 students have two exams in May: Unit 1 (Physical Geography) on Monday 22nd May and Unit 2 (Human Geography) on Tuesday 6th June. Both exams are worth 37.5% of the overall grade, with the coursework project making up the remaining 25%.

Year 11 students should revise six topics in detail:

Unit 1 Physical Geography: Restless Earth; Water on the Land; Coastal Zone.
Unit 2 Human Geography: Population Change; Changing Urban Environments; Tourism.

Students should revise these topics using their folders as well as the revision task documents for each topic on the VLE. The VLE also contains all the past exam papers.

Year 10 GCSE Geography

The department is looking forward to taking the Year 10 GCSE Geographers on a residential field trip to Swanage, Dorset, in July (see above). Over the course of this term, Year 10 students have been working hard on the second and third of the Year 10 topics, 'The challenge of natural hazards' and 'Living World'. In particular, students and teachers have enjoyed learning about a new case study: Svalbard, the most northerly inhabited place on Earth!

Year 9 Geography

Firstly, Year 9 completed their study of South America by investigating the reasons behind deforestation in Amazonia. They also looked at the impact of tree felling on indigenous tribal groups. Year 9 then studied the Geography of sport. Here, students have focused on the Olympic Games and studied several past Olympic legacies with regard to how they have made a difference to their host cities. Year 9 students then studied globalisation and how the world is increasing connected through trade and the movement of people. They learned about Nike as an example of a globalised company, and considered to what extent they are a 'globalised' person in what they wear and eat. Year 9 students' final topic of the term has been about superpower geographies, considering which are the world's most important countries and why.

Year 8 Geography

Year 8 students have studied the Geography of Japan as an example of a developed country. They have studied its history and unique culture, and examined why it has become such an economically successful country despite a severe lack of space and available natural resources. Year 8 then moved on to study the world's changing population. Their tasks included drawing a graph to show the world's growing population, creating a population pyramid for the UK and studying China's one-child policy. Following this, Year 8 students have been learning about the geography of energy, in particular learning the story of the USA's Hoover Dam.

Year 7 Geography

Year 7 students have been learning about cold environments. They have learnt about the world's mountain ranges, glaciers and the conquest of Everest in 1953. They then studied the world's only continent with no permanent inhabitants: Antarctica. They learned about its wildlife, the 1911/12 race to the South Pole, and how the continent is being looked after today under the Antarctic Treaty. In the second topic of the term, 'Settlement', students have studied the history of Ruislip through looking at historical maps of the local area, and learnt about why and how it has grown. In May, about 130 Year 7s will be observing coastal Geography as part of the residential trip to the PGL centre on the Isle of Wight, seeing the famous chalk Needles.

Mr Alison

Associate Assistant Headteacher of Humanities

HISTORY NEWS

It has been another busy term for the historians at Ruislip High School.

Key Stage 3

Year 7 have been busy focusing on the lives of people in medieval England. The students have been finding out about how William the Conqueror altered the landscape of England and how this still affects our lives today. They are currently working on an exciting project to make a model of a castle for which there will be some exciting prizes given out. Year 8 have been getting to grips with historical interpretations and performed admirably in their exam paper considering it was their first attempt at this type of question. In lessons they have been focussing on the renaissance period and finding out about the technological advances in this period through discoveries about the planets, the solar system and the human body. Year 9 have been engaging wholeheartedly with the history of the twentieth century. The students started by investigating the causes of 'The Great War' and are currently finishing off their investigations into what life was like for soldiers on the Western Front. As part of this investigation they will be writing trench diaries from the point of view of soldiers in the war. To further enhance their understanding of this topic, thirty-five Year 9 students braved the winter weather of northern France to go and visit some of the locations that saw heavy fighting in the war. Ms Cullen's exciting article on this trip is well worth a read for more details. Thanks to Ms Cullen for leading the trip and for Mr Stent, Mr Smithson and Miss Hill for their invaluable support and assistance on the ground. More importantly students will finish the term with their Year 9 exams that will include GCSE style questions on all of the topics they have studied so far this year! Good luck Year 9!

Key Stage 4

Year 10 have now completed the first topic of the new style GCSE and have been positive and focused throughout. The new GCSE specification is really testing the students' skills of source analysis and interpretation and many lessons have been tailored around these invaluable transferable skills. The students are now fully engrossed in the origins of the Cold War and are currently learning about how and why the USA and the USSR came to be so suspicious of each other after WWII. After the Easter holidays, they will have their biggest challenge to date and will be taking on two exams that both fully incorporate all of the skills necessary to do well in the new GCSE. Good luck with your Easter Revision!!

Year 11 are now entering the final straight of a gruelling history marathon with only a few elements of the course left to finish. The students have been investigating popular protest in Britain in the twentieth century and how and why people protest and to what degrees of success.

The students have been given a plethora of revision materials and will hopefully engage fully with the Easter Daily Diet tasks that have been set for them. Now is the time to show what you are made of Year 11. Be resilient, work hard and earn the success you desire!

Key Stage 5

The two Year 12 classes have again been proving their capabilities as able and inquisitive historians this term. They have been continuing their studies on the Tudor Dynasty and the Russian Revolution and have been thoroughly analysing what makes quality historical writing using the works of Orlando Figes and Richard Pipes. Furthermore, 100 years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, they have been writing articles on how Lenin should be remembered with some fascinating results. Keep up the great work Year 12.

In a similar vein, to Year 11, Year 13 students are now reaching the end of a long and intriguing study into the Communist Revolution in Russia and the changes the Tudor dynasty made to the British landscape. Students are now finishing off both of the topics and looking forward to the final straight and tackling their two exams each lasting 2 hours 30 minutes in June. Best of luck Year 13!

LATIN GCSE

Year 11 students prepare for Latin GCSE exam

For the first time in the fruitful history of Ruislip High School, fifteen students are getting ready to sit their Latin GCSE exam which will include Latin language and civilisation. The Romans used to think that fortune only favours the brave ("audentis fortuna iuvat"), so fortune should favour these very courageous, hardworking students who seized the opportunity to learn the language and history of the founders of our culture and values.

However, we think that the word "fortune" implies that our destiny is somewhat out of our hands, that an undefined power has the last word, and it would be very unfair to our dedicated students to assume so. We cannot stress enough how passionate our Latinists have been in the past two years. They never gave up, however tired, stressed or overwhelmed they were with homework or coursework; they never admitted defeat when the language was getting harder to comprehend. If resilience had a face, it could look like every single one of them.



So instead of mentioning fortune, we will quote one of the most famous Latin poets to best describe the spirit of our Latinists.

Virgil, in his *Aeneid*, describes how Juno, queen of the gods, is very determined to see Troy destroyed. In wanting so, she has to fight against a number of other gods and many unforeseen events but nothing would deter her from succeeding and Virgil has her say: "*Flectere si nequeo superos, Acheronta movebo*" which translate to "If I can't bend the will of heaven, I will move hell". This is exactly what our incredible students have done since they first entered a Latin class and to these students we would like to say one last thing: success is in sight, victory is yours. Will you take it?

Miss Lucas

ARTS EVENING

The annual Arts Evening took place on Tuesday 7th March, featuring student performances from across the Creative and Expressive Arts Faculty. Attractions included music in the atrium, poetry corner in the canteen, and gymnastics and trampolining in the sports hall. Thank you to all parents and students who attended.

A special mention goes to some students for their incredible musical performances, particularly Jai, Year 8, with his original composition 'Obsessions' and Daisy, Year 10, who sang 'Unfaithful' and 'Best Mistake'.



LRC NEWS

2017 has been an exciting year so far!

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is having another busy year including:

World Book Day

This is one of the highlights of the year and by far the busiest time for the LRC. On Thursday 2nd March, Year 7 students celebrated World Book Day, an event celebrated by a vast number of schools around the world. It was particularly special this year as World Book Day celebrated its 20 year anniversary.



On the day, the majority of students and staff came to school dressed in costume and participated in a costume parade with several prizes awarded for:

- Most original costume boy/girl: Ethayn, 7B, who dressed as a fairy and Carla, 7D, who came as the White Witch from *Alice in Wonderland*.
- Most original costume duo: Akos Guld and Pharell O'Connor-Mitchell were *Men in Black*.
- Most original costume trio: characters from the Harry Potter series - Keira Ewings, Hannah Harrison and Jennifer Ward.
- Best dressed group: characters from *Through the Looking Glass* - Carla Belfiore, Kerry Mortimer, Bethanie Williams, Louise Williams and Jessica Ballard.
- Best dressed tutor group with most students in costume: this was awarded to 7A

Students and staff commented on the fantastic atmosphere and on how much effort people had put in with costumes; definitely a hard one to beat next year!



The World Book Day Treasure Hunt Quiz

At the end of World Book Day a number of Year 7 students joined the LRC for a treasure hunt inspired quiz. Students had to find clues in the LRC and then answer film and book-related questions. Students had great fun searching for clues and then answering the questions.

Game 24

On 9th March, the LRC and the Maths department hosted the exciting Year 7 Maths 'Game 24 challenge', with a record number of students from local secondary schools in attendance. This is the eleventh year that Ruislip High School has hosted the competition and there was a fantastic buzz in the air and friendly competition between the fourteen schools. The aim of the game is to make 24 out of the four numbers given. The competition includes three rounds each containing ten questions of increasing difficulty. The winning schools were:



First Place: Bishophalt A
Second Place: Northwood
Third Place: Bishophalt B

Hillingdon Book of the Year 2017

The 'Hillingdon Book of the Year 2017' is approaching fast. This year students from the Accelerated Reading group will be attending the event. After reading a selection of short-listed books, students will team up with other schools on the day and will be given props and a mentor to help them prepare a short production; this will be performed on the day in front of the six authors, the library service and the Mayor who will then judge the top three best performances and award prizes. The competition will be held at the Middlesex Suite, Uxbridge Civic Centre. The students are already busy reading the books and will choose their favourite to perform on the day.



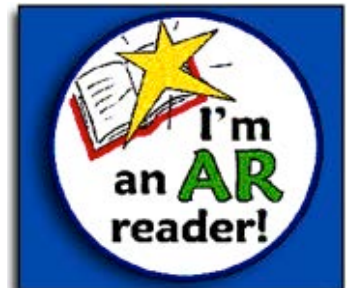
Scholastics Book Fair

Following a hugely successful book fair last year where the LRC received several free books, the LRC will be holding a book fair again the week beginning Monday 24th April 2017. Students will have the chance to visit the book fair throughout the day during break and lunchtime and parents will be able to visit the fair after school from 3:00pm – 4:20pm and have the opportunity to purchase several titles and resources at discount prices. The LRC will again have the chance of being given several free books for the LRC. The school hopes to see as many parents as possible at the fair.

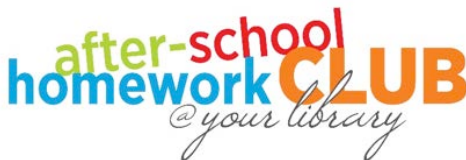
Accelerated Reading Success

Accelerated Reading (AR) is continuing to go from strength to strength under the direction of Mrs Scanlon and Mrs Austen. Many students are benefitting from attending AR on a daily basis and the LRC now has over 3000 AR titles to choose from which the students can read and complete quizzes.

Well done to all the students who attend AR every day; the recent test results were outstanding, and it is proves that AR is definitely making a difference.



Above and Beyond after school LRC homework club



The LRC homework club continues to be extremely popular with a number of students from all years taking advantage of the extra time to remain in the LRC after school to complete homework. Students have the use of computers and support staff are on hand to help.

The LRC Homework Club is open every evening from:
3:00 pm - 4:20pm Monday – Thursday
2:35 pm - 4:20 pm on Fridays

Missing Books

Although a large amount of overdue books have been returned, there are still many past their return date despite numerous reminders. It would be very much appreciated if all parents/guardians would have a good look at home to see if there are any books belonging to the LRC as the cost of replacing these books is extremely high. If books are found, they should be returned to the LRC and placed in the return box.



Numeracy intervention

The Numeracy Intervention Programme continues among the lower school students with certain students receiving extra Maths support on either a one-to-one basis or in a small group setting.

This year the Numeracy Intervention Programme has been extended to higher year groups. Year 11 revision sessions currently run every Wednesday after school to give GCSE students the best chance possible of achieving their target grades or beyond. During the sessions students practise exam techniques and past topics are refreshed.

The Year 13 students are also benefitting from extra input as they are encouraged to attend Year 12 lessons during their free periods. This is further supplemented by pre-school morning sessions covering all A-level topics.

UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

On Thursday 2nd February ten Year 9 students sat the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge exam. This challenge is aimed at students in Year 11 or below in England and Wales and Ruislip High students in Year 9 Maths Club. The challenge involved answering twenty-five multiple choice questions in one hour and was sat in the main school hall under normal exam conditions. The top 40% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3. Five students achieved a bronze award and two students achieved a gold award. A significant improvement on last year's results.

The following students achieved a bronze award: Adam, 9C, Thiviya, 9W, Fionnuala, 9S, Suakshi, 9B, and Jothinila, 9B .

Victoria, 9A, and Adam, 9A, who achieved gold certificates have also been invited to sit the Grey European Kangaroo papers taken by pupils from over thirty countries worldwide. What a fantastic achievement – well done!



World Pi Day

Pi Day is observed on 14th March each year because of the Ancient Greek mathematician Archimedes' first rough approximation of pi as being 3.14. A few years later, Archimedes was able to calculate a much better approximation of pi.



People celebrate Pi Day in a variety of ways; most of them include eating pie (as pi and pie are homophones) and discussing the relevance of pi. At Ruislip High the students learnt more about Pi and the historical facts surrounding this mysterious number.

The Inter-Borough '24' Game Competition

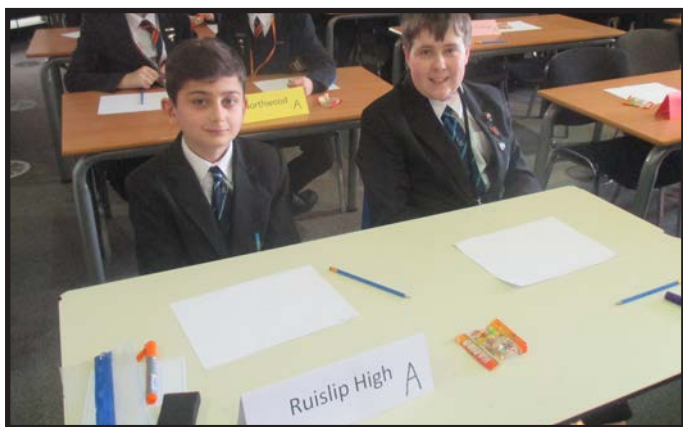
Ruislip High School hosted the annual '24' Game Maths Competition on Thursday 9th March after-school in the LRC (Learning Resource Centre). Year 7 students from twelve other local schools took part.

The aim of the game was to use all four numbers given (by adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing) to make 24, eg. 1, 3, 4, 7 could be $(4 \times 7) - 1 - 3$.



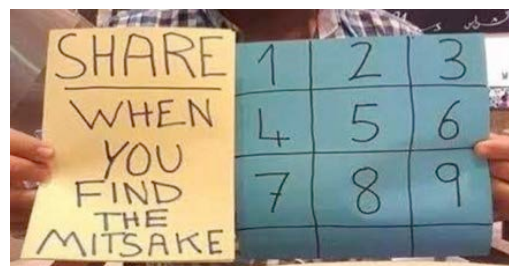
There were three rounds, including double digits, fractions and decimals with each round increasing in difficulty. As the competition got underway, there was a real air of competitiveness as each team of two whispered suggestions of the solutions to each other. Ruislip High was represented by Adon, 7D, Luke, 7B, Yasmin, 7W, and Shadi, 7W.

Bishopshalt School came first and third with Northwood School coming second. Everyone had an enjoyable time with some students asking if they could compete again next year!



World Maths Day

World Maths day was celebrated on the 15th November 2016 and 1st March 2017. Students took part in problem solving numeracy puzzles that have stumped the world on social media. With over 94,000 reactions, 400,000 shares, and plenty more comments can you solve the puzzles?



Albert and Bernard just become friends with Cheryl, and they want to know when her birthday is. Cheryl gives them a list of 10 possible dates.

May 15	May 16	May 19
June 17	June 18	
July 14	July 16	
August 14	August 15	August 17

Cheryl then tells Albert and Bernard separately the month and the day of her birthday respectively.

Albert: I don't know when Cheryl's birthday is, but I know that Bernard does not know too.

Bernard: At first I don't know when Cheryl's birthday is, but I know now.

Albert: Then I also know when Cheryl's birthday is.

So when is Cheryl's birthday?

UK Maths Challenge

On Thursday 23rd March four Ruislip High students attended the Regional Final Team Maths Challenge competition at Preston Manor School, Wembley. The competition consisted of four different mathematical question rounds including a group round, shuttle, relay and cross number.

Ruislip High competed against twenty-six schools including some of the most prestigious independent schools such as Harrow, University College School London and North London Collegiate School. At lunch time Ruislip High was featuring in the top six schools and by the end of the day we positioned 11th overall. Maths teacher Ms Finnigan said, "I couldn't have been prouder of the Ruislip High School team as they performed exceptionally as a team all day."

Students: Victoria (Year 9) Thiviya (Year 9) Haig (Year 8) Charlotte Woosnam (Year 8).

The students commented how fun and challenging the competition was and that they cannot wait to return next year! What an incredible achievement and an enjoyable day had by all.

MUSIC NEWS

The Year 11 GCSE students have been extremely busy rehearsing for their final practical performance exam. The repertoire covered by the students displayed a wide range of musical styles and genres from Chopin to Nirvana.

The recordings will be sent to the exam board later this term to be moderated.

Silver and a Gold challenges

This year, the music department has launched an initiative aimed at raising the attainment of students through the setting of challenging extension tasks. Each topic covered has a silver and a gold challenge which is designed to support and extend the learning of the student within the given topic.

Year 7 and 8 students have responded incredibly well to the initiative, with students completing many of the tasks. Mr Stent and Mrs Coltman are very pleased to congratulate Katerina, 8B, for completing all of the silver and gold challenges for the whole year – a very impressive achievement!

Arts Evening

Mrs Coltman and Mr Stent were extremely proud of the students who performed at the Arts Evening on Tuesday 7th March. The atrium was once again filled with music performed by students from every key stage. It was wonderful to hear talented students performing a wide range of music and it was particularly pleasing to see the younger students performing their first solos to a live audience.

The list of the performers:

Aimee, 10F	Rachel, 8W
Aleksa, 10F	Jennifer, 7C
Abbie, 10W	Rachel, 8W
Saraneyaa, 10S	Chloe, 8S
Daisy, 10F	Elizabeth, 8C
Ella, 10S	Maya, 11B
Sara, 10F	Dylan, 9W
Michael, 11B	Jai, 8C
Sophie, Year 13	Amy, 9C
Emily, 11C	Katerina, 8B
Lily, 11B	Sofyah, 9W
Zariel, 11S	Hannah, 11S
Cerys, 8W	



PANATHLON

On Friday 17th March 2017, following the success of the first round, six Ruislip High students joined students from other Hillingdon schools to compete in the West London Final of this year's Panathlon Challenge, at St Mary's University, Twickenham.

James P, Year 11; James H and Samantha, Year 10; Kavindu, Reece and Satya; Year 8, all took part in individual sports as well as relay races.

The results:

- James H and Kavindu won Gold medals for the wheelchair slalom event and runner-up medals for the beanbag throw;
- James P, Samantha, Reece and Satya all won Gold medals for table cricket;
- Reece also won a Gold medal for the long jump and a silver medal for shot put;
- James Payne earned a runner-up medal for Boccia and Samantha won a silver for Javelin.



As always the highlight of the day was the exciting relay races in which students of all abilities took part. All the Ruislip High students took part and put maximum effort into winning the extra points for the team.

Overall the Ruislip High students helped the Hillingdon team to come joint first in the West London Final but unfortunately because Merton borough achieved more Gold medals overall than Hillingdon, they won the honour of going through to the plate championships.

All six students showed remarkable sportsmanship and enthusiasm on the day and were very proud to represent Ruislip High and the Borough of Hillingdon.

More information about Panathlon can be found on the website. www.panathlon.com

Quotes from students

"It was amazing!" Kavindu

"It's a great thing to be a part of." James P

James Hillier made up a poem about his experience:
As you've been told,
we needed more golds,
but it is alright,
we've been congratulated through the night.



SAFEGUARDING WEEK

Monday 6th March was the start of the school's annual safeguarding week. This year tutorials, assemblies and various lessons all focused on a different aspect of safeguarding.

All parents were invited to an after-school presentation which focused on keeping children safe online.

Various external speakers delivered presentations to students, including the school's safer schools police officer, PC Don Cummings, and the borough lead for child sexual exploitation. Both of these presentations included a discussion relating to online safety.



Another presentation was on road safety. Students were shown a hard hitting video, which showed the dangers of careless and reckless behaviour and the impact that this can have. The borough road safety and travel officer also highlighted risks from the perspective of cyclists and passengers in cars who choose not to wear seatbelts. Domestic violence, grooming and unhealthy relationships were discussed in a further presentation.

All staff involved were very impressed by the sensible and mature manner in which the students conducted themselves throughout the week. The school would like to thank Mrs Coltman and Mrs Lewis for organising all the events of safeguarding week 2017.

SIXTH FORM EXTERNAL SPEAKERS

The Sixth Form External Speakers programme has been revamped over the course of this academic year, with the school welcoming a host of new visitors.

The Sixth Form team approached a wide variety of people and organisations, asking them to come and inspire our Sixth Form students with a talk based around one of the 3Cs of Careers, Culture and Current affairs.

The selection of photos show the different speakers. In the autumn term, the school welcomed Natalia Fricker from ActionAid, John Randall from the London Assembly, Judy Hackney from Oxfam, Frank Funnell from EngageCSR, Ian Browne from Liberty Human Rights and Andrew Grill from IBM. In the spring term, the school has been visited by Jeff Markham from Cardiac Risk in the Young, Ben Tooke from the Terrence Higgins Trust, Coralie Rose from RoadCasting, David Burford from the Institute of Actuaries, and Joshua Aldridge from the University of Law.



NEUROSCIENCE

On Wednesday 1st February, Jeremy Dudman Jones, Learnus, gave a lecture on neuroscience to 150 sixth form students at Ruislip High School (RHS). Students from eight Harrow and Hillingdon schools were invited to attend the lecture to support and extend their understanding of science and psychology A Levels.

Afterwards, Jeremy wrote to Dr Lecky: "May I thank you for the opportunity to speak at Ruislip High School last night. Might I say how impressed I was with the audience; attentive, welcoming and very engaging. It is so much easier to deliver these sorts of talks when those listening are so polite and tuned in. I was delighted that you were able to attract such a large number from such a wide range of schools and I now very much look forward to this possibly being an annual event. It is always a pleasure speaking to Post 16 students and you have a really inspiring group of young people at Ruislip High."

RHS students commented afterwards:

- The lecture was very engaging. I was particularly interested in the part about the development of neurons as you grow older
- The delivery was exciting and engaging. Very good audience interaction. The topics discussed were relevant to topics for the new psychology A Level specification
- Inspirational and insightful
- The speaker had great interactions with students which made the lecture really interesting
- The speaker used great analogies to make it easy to understand

Dr Lecky said: "Jeremy was inspirational. He managed to engage us all with the complexities of the brain and help us apply neurological research to our everyday lives. I hope this can be an annual event for students and staff."



SCIENCE WEEK 2017

A science treasure hunt, dinosaurs whose heads follow you around the room and all of the science staff dressed as famous scientists. That can only mean one thing – British Science Week 2017.

Science fever struck the week beginning 13th March as Year 7 and 8 had all of their science lessons replaced by activities designed to maintain their curiosity for a variety of subject areas outside the scope of their curriculum.

"We enjoyed the mind games lesson the most – we would never normally get a chance to learn about psychology and optical illusions in Year 7." – Students from 7W.

Students also had the chance to win prizes with the lunchtime treasure hunt on Tuesday 14th, which saw an overwhelming turnout. Debates ran throughout the week about famous scientists that each student had researched themselves. But perhaps the most interest was incited by the challenge to guess which famous scientist each of the science staff had come dressed as on Wednesday 15th, a task which sparked curiosity from all year groups.

"I enjoyed the debates, it was fun learning about different scientists that we hadn't heard of and arguing that they were the best."

"It was good to do something we don't normally do, we learnt new things about science without feeling like we were working."

"The treasure hunt was fun." – Students from 7A

All this scientific festivity was not confined to the labs. The English department looked at Galvani's famous experiment with frogs legs to supplement their studies of *Frankenstein* and Cultural Studies even managed to include quantum mechanics in a Year 7 lesson about the origins of the universe.

Thank you to all students and staff who participated.



SCIENCE WORKSHOP

At the Institute of Physics

On Tuesday 28th February, a group of Year 10 girls went to a science workshop run by the Institute of Physics at King's College London. The students spent the day carrying out several experiments, from modelling the solar system to making mini rockets.

"It was so much fun taking part in the experiments like using air pressure to increase the size of marshmallows! I learned that physics can lead to a lot of jobs and is more important than you think." Reem, Year 10

After this the students were placed into mixed school groups where they worked on their presentation skills. This culminated in the students demonstrating their chosen experiment, and explaining the science behind it, to a room full of people.

"It was a really fun day. There was a part where we had to present; at first I didn't want to talk, but I managed it and this has really helped with my confidence." Natalie, Year 10

All the girls were brilliant science ambassadors and showed great enthusiasm throughout the day, many of them taking the lead in their groups. The students took a lot from the workshop and are now planning to demonstrate several experiments to younger students during science club. They also plan to hold similar workshops in local primary schools.

VISIT FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC

On Thursday 23rd March, RHS hosted Dr David Woodman, Admissions Tutor at Robinson College (University of Cambridge), to speak to Years 10 and 12 about applying to University, and about student life in Cambridge. He spoke specifically about how students are taught in the unique Cambridge system and Ruislip High School alumnus Emily Fishman spoke about what life is like as a student at the University of Cambridge.

The students were all very interested in what Dr Woodman and Emily had to say, and asked a number of intelligent questions. It was clear that the students left the talks much wiser about what it is like to apply to and study at university.



Mr B Peacock (Teacher of Geography)

YEAR 9 NEWS

Three Year 9 students recently competed in the British Schools Karting Championship. In a tough competition against much more experienced opposition, the boys finished in a very credible fifth place out of eleven. The support and team spirit shown by the boys was a credit to the team and to the school.

"The school has given me a fantastic opportunity, doing something I had never done before."
Mitchel, 9D

"It was exciting and a great experience being part of a team." – Rhys, 9D



YEAR 7 NEWS

Congratulations to Year 7 students for working hard this term and generating a pleasing set of results for the Year 7 exams, which took place between Monday 20th and Friday 24th February.

Another successful Year 7 family learning evening took place on Tuesday 7th February. The new format received a very positive response and many students and parents enjoyed taking part in the subject challenges. Thank you to all students, staff and parents that supported the event.



Congratulations to all the students who won awards during the Easter celebration assembly. A special mention goes to: Lottie, 7F, Holly-Mae, 7A and Evie, 7W, who are making the most progress across their curriculum subjects.

I wish you all a very restful Easter break and I look forward to seeing you in refreshed and ready to work for the summer term.

Ms C Eccleshall
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8 NEWS

It has been another fantastic and busy term for the Year 8 students. It seems that the students' resolution for the New Year was to keep on being extraordinary!

It is starting to get boring to write the same compliments, the same praise, term after term but the Year 8 team likes that kind of boring!

Teachers praised students "viva voce" at parents' evening (23rd March), but here is a summary of achievements this term.

Winter reward trip

Year 8 students joined other year groups for the winter reward trip that took place at Guildford Spectrum on 4th February. Students built up the courage to pull on their ice skates and showed some amazing skills on the ice; it was great to see that most of them had improved since last year too! Needless to say, students had a lot of well-deserved fun.

Another reward trip will be organised in the summer term so if students would like to enjoy a fun day outside of school they need to keep their attendance high and their warnings low.

Youth Travel Ambassadors (YTA)

Ruislip High School's Youth Travel Ambassadors (Riapreet, 8A; Joe, Devin, Harveer, Haig and Kian, 8B; Jessie, Chanel and Constantina, 8F) attended the YTA Dragons' Den style event on Wednesday 8th March at Hillingdon Civic Centre. The students have worked very hard

to create a plan to make Ruislip safer when it comes to travelling, and they presented their research and project to the Dragons to bid for some funding. The YTA originally asked for £700 but the panel were so impressed by their scheme that they offered £900 instead!

The Ruislip High students were also the youngest candidates on the day and the school is proud of their dedication and sense of community. It takes a lot of courage and passion to speak publicly, in front of peers and professionals, and the Year 8 students did brilliantly.

Well done and thank you YTA team!

Safeguarding week – 6th - 10th March

Year 8 students had the opportunity to attend safeguarding talks and assemblies during which they learnt, or were reminded of, how to keep safe online, on the road and in their everyday life.

The Year 8 team would like to thank all the speakers who visited Ruislip High to talk to the students about very important topics.

During the week, Year 8 students also experienced different types of lessons that they enjoyed greatly. Thank you to the English department for organising the debates about "online shaming" and the Cultural Studies department who put the "Resilience Project" in place.



The school production

It was a pleasure to watch the school production this term and to see so many Year 8 students setting such a fantastic example to the Year 7 students whilst also putting on a wonderful show. The production consisted of three different plays combined into one performance, which was gripping throughout. All those who saw the performance commented on how brilliant it was and remarked about the hard work, time and effort that the students must have put in to preparing for such an event.

Sport news

Well done to all the Year 8 athletes who continue to wear the Ruislip High colours with pride and dignity. There has been so many great achievements this term.

Table tennis

There was some good news from the Hillingdon Table Tennis Competition that took place on Friday 3rd March. The Year 8 team represented the school brilliantly, entering a full boys and girls team. Ruislip High made up half of the girls competition! Well done to Tom, 8B, Haydn, 8C, Maya and Aleeyah, both 8F.

Badminton

Well done to Gene and Kye, both 8F, for representing the school and the year group in the badminton London Youth Games after winning the Borough tournament just before Christmas.

Football

The boys' football team managed to break their 100% losing streak in some style with a 3-2 win that has taken them to the semi final of the football plate. Staff wish them all the best and hope that this winning streak can last for a couple of more games!

In addition, a huge well done to Chloe, 8S, who represented the U16 girls in the futsal tournament and helped the team win the Borough competition for the fourth year running!

Netball

Congratulations to all the girls who represented the year group this year in the school netball team. Year 8 have a vast array of talented young ladies who represent the school brilliantly and always display an exceptional attitude and team ethic in their games.

Miss Lucas, on behalf of the Year 8 team.

SPORTS NEWS

Girls Futsal

Ruislip High Schools U16 girls' futsal team won the Hillingdon girls' futsal final this term beating local rivals Haydon 4-3 to be crowned Hillingdon Borough champions for the fourth consecutive year. The game saw the girls come from behind three times and score the winner in extra time with seconds to spare!

The girls played seven games in total to make the final and won every game playing some outstanding football. Ms Barlow would like to say well done to this group of players who for the past four years have shown total commitment to girls' school football and have been a pleasure to work with.

Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 team played at the Borough Tournament on Tuesday 28th March. They beat Stockley by six tries to two in the first game, playing some very good rugby; the referee was very complimentary. Unfortunately the boys lost their other two group games against Vyners (4-2) and Uxbridge High School (3-1). Mr Randall was very impressed with the maturity the boys showed and the way they conducted themselves on the field.

The team:

Jai, 8C
Harrison, 8S
Nikel, 8F
Jonnie, 8C
Oliver, 8C
Haydn, 8C
William, 8B

Joshua, 8B
Toby, 8A
Hekmat, 8C
Ciaran, 8A
Helmy, 8C
Alfie, 8C

Year 9 Rugby

The Year 9 rugby team finished runners-up in the borough rugby competition on Wednesday 29th March. In their first games as a team, on a full sized pitch, the boys put in a determined performance but unfortunately lost to a strong Vyners team in the final.

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 boys are through to the semi-finals after their match on Thursday 16th March.

They defeated Harefield 3-2 in a tense quarter-final and thanks to some heroic saves from George, 7D, have progressed to the next stage of the competition.

Goals were scored by Georgi, 7F, with a well-placed chip into the top right corner, Sonny, 7W, with a short-range header from a deflection and Alfie, 7C, with an excellent finish. The boys played really well together and although they let in two goals late on in the second half they refocused and held on for the win with some great defending.

The team:

George, 7D - Man of the Match
Sonny, 7W
Joshua, 7F
Alfie, 7C
Liam, 7C
Daniel, 7F

Georgi, 7F
Bhuvan, 7F
Oscar, 7F
Nikolas, 7F
Guilbert, 7A

Year 8 Football

New coach, new fortunes for the Year 8 football team who won their first game of the season to move into the semi-finals of the borough plate competition on Thursday 16th March.

The boys put in a determined performance, battling throughout to hold on to win 3-2 at home to Douay Martyrs. Goals came from Gene and Hekmat x2

The team:

Amit, 8C
Haydn, 8C
Toby, 8A
Luke, 8D
Gene, 8F
Luis, 8F

Oliver, 8F
Jack, 8F
Tom, 8B
Joshua, 8B
Daniel, 8A
Hekmat, 8C

Year 10 Football

Some really good news about the Year 10 boys football following on from the amazing success of the girls team. They defeated Harefield 2-1 in the quarter-final on Wednesday 15th March progressing to the semi-final.

Goals were scored by Freddie, 10B and Frankie, 10D. The boys played really well together and didn't react to some taunting from their opponents; they concentrated on the game and deserved the win in the end.

The team:

Sam, 10W
Sebastian, 10B
Luke, 10W
Kian, 10F
Freddie, 10B
Curtis, 10S
George, 10F
Kyle, 10F

Freddie, 10B
Alfie, 10C
Matthew, 10A
Tom, 10W
Reece, 10D
Casey, 10A
Frankie, 10D
Jack, 10F

Year 11 Football

The Year 11 boys won their Middlesex cup quarter final 2-0 against what is considered one of the strongest teams in the borough - Haydon.

The boys were fantastic and fully deserved their victory. The Haydon teacher commented on how excellent they were as a team compared to his boys who played more like individuals.

The boys played their semi-final match against Barnhill Wednesday 29th March. They played brilliantly taking the game to 3-3 after full-time but unfortunately lost 3-2 on penalties.



The team:

Daniel, 11B
Daniel, 11W
Cameron, 11A
Kian, 10F
Jack, 11C
Byron, 11C

Samir, 11S
Hugh, 11W
Tom, 11D
Liam, 11B
Duke, 11S

SPORTS NEWS

First XI Football

The first XI football team put in a fantastic display to come from behind to beat Queensmead 4-1 on Wednesday 15th March, in what will be the last ever game for Ruislip High for some of the team. The boys showed determination and a real team spirit throughout to come out winners.

Goals were scored by Sam, C62, Jacob, C62, Hyaris, C68, and Dylan, C61

The team:



Luke, C68
Connor, C64
Joshua, C62
Sam, C62
Connor, C64
Hyaris, C68

Joe, C64
Runjib, C63
Dylan, C61
Jacob, C62
Sam, C63

London Youth Games

On Friday 3rd February the below students represented Hillingdon at the KS3 badminton first stage at the London Youth Games, held at Harrow Leisure Centre.

Daniel, 9S
Aaron, 9S

Gene, 8F
Kye, 8F



The students played a total of fifteen matches against three schools: Fulham Boys, Chelsea Academy and Dormer Wells High. The matches were a mixture of singles and doubles and the Ruislip High students won ten out of the fifteen matches played. This was a fantastic achievement as they were playing against some of the top players in the London area. The students were great ambassadors for Hillingdon and Ruislip High, displaying their individual talents, teamwork and sportsmanship. The highlights of the day were winning all five matches against Chelsea Academy and Aaron Palmer winning his singles match after trailing.

Even though the students won ten matches, unfortunately they will not be proceeding into the final stage.

Netball League Results 2016/2017

Year 7 Scores

Queensmead	4-3 win
Harlington	2-0 loss
Northwood College	15-2 loss
Haydon	8-2 win

Year 8 Scores

Queensmead	9-6 win
Harlington	11-1 win
Northwood College	8-5 loss
Haydon	5-5 draw

Year 9 Scores

Bishopshalt	10-2 loss
Swakeleys	16-13 win
Haydon	15-2 win
Vyners	9-1 loss
Douay Martyrs	17-2 win
Bishop Ramsey	9-7 loss
St Helens	11-2 loss
Northwood College	12-10 loss

Netball Tournament Results

Year 7 and 8

The Year 8 girls played really well in their borough netball tournament. They were in a really tough group and the games were extremely competitive.

Isabella
Amy
Maya
Kamila
Lily

Emily
Zoe
Charlotte
Aleeyah

The girls' attitude and effort was exceptional; they were a true credit to Ruislip High School. Unfortunately they did not reach the semi finals but they were a pleasure to coach all afternoon.

The Year 7 girls performed superbly placing fifth overall in the borough tournament. All the girls performed so maturely and really enjoyed their first experience at a Borough event.

Skyla
Cody
Becky
Lottie
Hannah

Yasmin ©
Chloe
Amy
Amy
Uel

Keira
Heather
Jessica

Year 9

The Year 9 netball team put in an excellent performance, placing third out of sixteen teams in the Hillingdon Borough Tournament. The girls missed out on going through to play in the final by one point (twenty-five in total). St Helens went through with thirty-two points and Bishop Ramsey with twenty-six.

Results from the day (pool B)

Bishop Ramsey	5-0 win
Swakeleys	6-1 loss
St Helens	5-0 loss
Barnhill	5-0 win
Northwood School	7-0 win
Uxbridge High	6-0 win
Vyners	5-0 win



Kate
Megan
Suakshi
Tamara
Amaris

Danielle
Leah
Ruby
Nabiha
Kayla

SUMMER TERM DATES

Tuesday 18th April - Wednesday 19th July, 2017

Spring term starts
Half term holiday
Spring term ends
Staff training/INSET day

Wednesday 18th April
Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
Wednesday 19th July
Friday 7th July

Parents' Evenings

Year 7
Year 10

Thursday 18th May
Thursday 22nd June

Trips and Events

Enrichment day

Friday 26th May

For the full term dates for 2017-18, visit the website, www.ruisliphigh.com



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