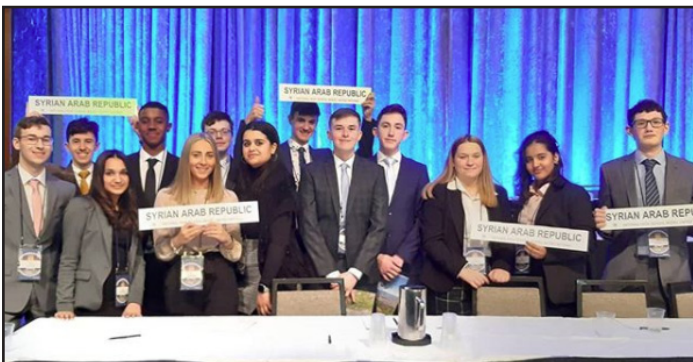


Ruislip High School NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

SIXTH FORMERS ENJOY UNITED NATIONS EXPERIENCE IN NEW YORK



Students after their first night of Model United Nations committees.

Fifteen Ruislip High Sixth Formers made the long trip to New York at the start of March in order to take part in the prestigious National High School Model United Nations in New York City. For five days, students had to take on the role of diplomats representing our assigned country in debates on a wide variety of topics - everything from child labour in tourism to the environmental impact of UN peacekeeping missions. This was made all the more challenging by the fact that we were there representing Syria, making alliance building that little bit harder!

Alex in Year 12 summed up some of the nerves students were feeling about the trip, saying "I was worried because the trip was really far away from home, and I was going to be spending a lot of time with people I didn't really know, and putting myself out of my comfort zone - but it was really good! Making lots of new friends and discussing world issues with them was great - and finally trying a Slurpee at 7/11 was definitely a highlight. I'd do it again in a heartbeat."

(story continued on page 3)



Students posing for a picture at Times Square, New York City.



Students in the General Assembly chamber of the United Nations.

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Model United Nations

Whilst in New York City, our students were pleased to find they had plenty of time to go sightseeing as well. Memorable trips included a sightseeing bus tour through the whole of downtown Manhattan, a trip to the headquarters of the United Nations, walking through Central Park and Times Square and viewing the iconic New York skyline from the top of the Rockefeller Center; as well as the very important visits we had to Hersheys World, Dunkin' Donuts, Bath and Bodyworks and numerous McDonald's restaurants. Perhaps most poignantly though, we also took the chance to visit the site of the 9/11 Memorial and museum. Politics and international relations are reshaped massively by such generational, era-defining historical events; so an emotional visit to the site of our era's most defining historical event was particularly enriching considering the reason for our visit to New York City.



Students posing for a picture in Central Park, New York City.

Ethan in Year 13 said *"I loved the opportunity to make friends with other students from across the world, and debate real topics that the UN deals with on a regular basis. I was also very pleased there was time set aside to take in the sights of New York City... especially when we eventually got to go to Dunkin Donuts!"*

It is worth ending by focusing on the Model United Nations event itself again and the outstanding way our students conducted themselves. When we set out to New York, so many of our students were nervous about what the trip would demand of them; nervous about discussing topics that they didn't feel well-versed in, talking to people they did not know, and, perhaps most of all, about speaking in front of others. As the event went on though, Ms Horton and myself were so proud of the way they grew in confidence, grew in knowledge and, ultimately, how they grew as people as a result of the experience they had. As Stephen in Year 13 put it, *"the trip was an amazing experience that I'll never forget."*

We look forward to taking our next group of students very soon on what must be the best trip I've ever been on myself!

Mr J Amos

Sixth Form Associate



Students waiting for the Opening Ceremony to begin.



Students outside the General Assembly chamber of the United Nations.

HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

I am very conscious that the Ruislip High School Spring Newsletter is being released whilst the school faces an unprecedented challenge in terms of the coronavirus pandemic. I believe it is a credit to the students and staff of the school that there were so many positive developments this term even with the escalating disruption. I have made the decision to publish this newsletter during these times as I believe that in these moments of hardship it is important to look back on what we have achieved as a community and what we are capable of when we all work together.

It has been a privilege to be involved in leading Ruislip High School over the past eight years but I can honestly say I have never been as proud of the whole school community as I have been over the past few weeks. Ruislip High School has always been, and will always be, a school both in and for its community, but what has been particularly apparent in adversity is the strength of our school community. I cannot speak highly enough of how the examination class students dealt with the news that this summer's examination series had been cancelled, while the way school leaders and all school staff created an atmosphere of calm amidst mounting uncertainty was something to behold. I would also like to highlight the role of parents/guardians in this community. I know all staff have been touched by the messages of support we have received from the parent community and this has been key in keeping morale high during these times of challenge.

When I became Headteacher of Ruislip High School, I could not have imagined a time where I would be writing my article for the Spring newsletter with the school closed to all but a minority of students. That is, however, the situation we find ourselves in and yet again I see the school community pulling together. I read with real pride this week the first edition of the student newsletter and it is great to see a thriving online community coming together. There are of course challenges ahead and we will all have to learn lessons over the coming term. I am convinced that our strong ethos and values will serve us well during these most challenging times and I am even confident we will be able to produce a summer newsletter that is full of remarkable achievements from the student, staff and parent community of Ruislip High School. In the meantime I believe we should celebrate all we have achieved this term both in school, in the wider community, and internationally. The term ahead may be anything but ordinary but I have no doubt that, as a strong, cohesive community, we will continue to 'reach for the sky'.

Gareth Davies
Headteacher



STUDENTS TASTE FOREIGN CULTURES DURING LANGUAGES WEEK

The Modern Foreign Languages Department held its first ever Languages Week from 25th-28th February. The programme of events was primarily aimed at Year 9 students as they will be selecting their GCSE options this year. The MFL Department wanted to highlight the importance of taking a language at GCSE. Year 9 students were invited to attend the French, Spanish and/or Latin breakfasts which were held before school over three days. For the French breakfast, students were treated to croissants, pains au chocolat, crepes with Nutella and orange juice. Churros with chocolate sauce, potato omelette, serrano ham with toasted bread with tomato were on offer for the Spanish breakfast. For the Latin food experience, pancakes, yoghurt, grapes, dates and honey were on the menu. Students got into the spirit of things by dressing up over the three days with berets, Spanish hats and togas whilst tucking into their food. The breakfasts were led by the fantastic Year 10 MFL Ambassadors who all take at least one language for GCSE and who also created a quiz for the Year 9 students to take part in by testing them on false friends in French, Spanish and Latin. The winning pair won a two-course meal for two at Chiquitos, Cafe Rouge or Metro Italia who were kind enough to sponsor the language festivities. On the Friday after school a Latino dance lesson took place which was well attended with students from Years 7-10. They were taught a range of dance styles such as cumbia, raggaeton, salsa and merengue. The week was a great success and much fun was had by all.



Year 9 students enjoying the French, Spanish and Latin breakfasts and the Latino dance lesson.

STUDENTS ENJOY CINEWORLD REWARD TRIP

From Mr Stent, Senior Assistant Headteacher:

Qualifying for the reward trips at Ruislip High School is no easy task. Students must have three or fewer warning grids in their planner and no sanctions at all at After School Detention level or higher for the autumn term. It is with great pleasure that we congratulate the 515 students in years 7-11 (55% of the cohort) for meeting these criteria for eligibility!

On Friday 7th February, all students attending the reward trip were permitted to wear casual clothes for the school day and were then taken to the local cinema by Mr Askin to enjoy the feature film 'Dolittle', which had been released that day. Students and staff had a wonderful time, and the school is very thankful to Mr Askin and his team of volunteers for the excellent delivery of the trip. The following quotes demonstrate just how successful the trip was and how students value this long-standing tradition of celebrating success:



Ben (11A): "I really enjoyed my time with my friends on the reward trip at the cinema."

Davey (8S): "It was fun and the movie was enjoyable. I would definitely go again."

Husayn (7B): "I was really proud when Mr Davies spoke to us before we left about our achievement. I loved walking with my friends. It was a really fun day."

Iris (8S): "A great choice of movie and made me feel good that I did the right things this past term. A very enjoyable experience."



Students at the local cinema getting ready for the film 'Dolittle' to start.

GCSE HISTORY STUDENTS VISIT BERLIN

A group of keen History students from Ruislip High visited Berlin from Saturday 15th February to Tuesday 18th February.

The 60 students from Years 10 and 11 visited several sites linked to their GCSE studies. Key sites included the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the Holocaust Memorial and the Checkpoint Charlie Museum.



Years 10 and 11 students posing for a picture by Brandenburg Gate.



Years 10 and 11 students walking towards the Reichstag ready for their tour.

Students were accompanied by Ms Woodall, Mr Maud, Ms Horton, Mr Amos, Mr Karimi and Ms Harkin-Bullen.

Trip leader Ms Woodall said, *"As the capital of Germany, Berlin is a modern, vibrant city with a complex past. The people of Berlin experienced great turmoil in the 20th century, including the rise and fall of Nazism and the Cold War that emerged after 1945. I believe all of our students have gained a much broader and deeper understanding of Germany's history by visiting the actual sites where significant events of the past took place. The unexpected emotions and feelings that this experience evoked have provided a new awareness and meaning behind the printed words in the class textbook. It is a trip that both the staff and students greatly enjoyed and one that we will never forget."*

Luke in Year 10 said, *"My favourite site was the Olympic Stadium (Olympiastadion). It was intriguing to find out how it went from an Olympic Stadium to a battle ground to a football stadium. We had a big debate with Ms Horton about whether it should be used now for football!"*

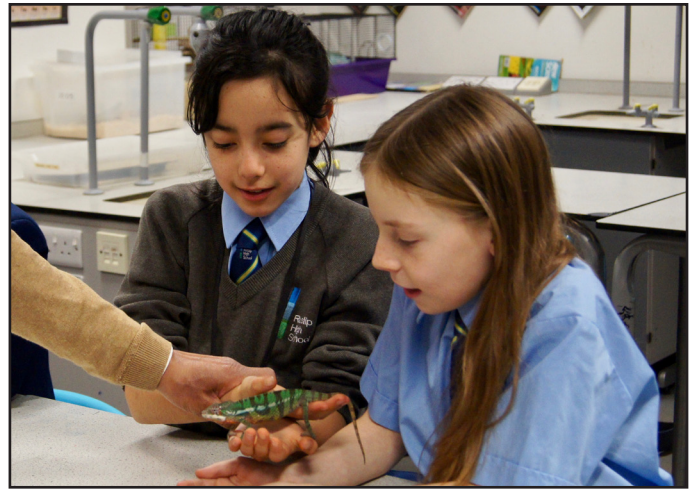
At the Sachsenhausen concentration camp it was unbelievable to learn more about the treatment some people experienced. The Holocaust Memorial was also interesting and emotional to explore. The trip led to a lot of historical debate and deeper understanding."

Alfie in Year 10 said, *"My favourite part was when we went to the Reichstag seeing the mix of old and new parts. We also went to the glass dome on top of which was an incredible piece of modern architecture. We had a great view of the city from there! All the history was very interesting too, and the trip was very beneficial for my studies."*

Head of History Mr Maud said, *"It was wonderful to engage in so many historical conversations – our Ruislip High students love a debate! The students showed great interest in all the sites we visited and also real empathy with the lives of people in the past."*

THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT TURNS TROPICAL

Since returning after the Christmas break, students have welcomed several new visitors to the Science Department; these include two White Tree Frogs and two Leopard Geckos as well as a visiting Chameleon or two. Year 7 and 8 students in Animal Club have been busy learning how to care for these animals and have undertaken long-term independent research projects on an aspect of the rainforest that they are passionate about. Linking to the new lizard residents, many students chose to focus on species found within the rainforest and their survival in the tropical climate. Students in the older year groups have attended mini-workshops where they have been introduced to these tropical animals and participated in high level discussions regarding the role of rainforest ecosystems and new species discoveries in the development of modern medicine as well as the associated benefits and ethical issues. The insightful comments of the students throughout these sessions, as well as their care and enthusiasm towards the animals, is truly impressive.



Students interacting with the visiting Chameleon at Animal Club and in the school Atrium.

SPECTROSCOPY IN A SUITCASE (SIAS)

Royal Society of Chemistry visits Sixth Form students

On Thursday 6th of February our Year 12 and 13 Chemistry students attended an event run at Ruislip High School by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). The RSC brought along and demonstrated to our students the use of an infrared spectrometer; an analytical machine used for identifying unknown organic molecules. Sixth form Chemistry students need to understand the use of IR spectroscopy as it sometimes features in their A-level exams.

The session was of great benefit to all who attended, enabling them to gain invaluable first-hand experience of IR Spectroscopy, a technique not usually available in schools.

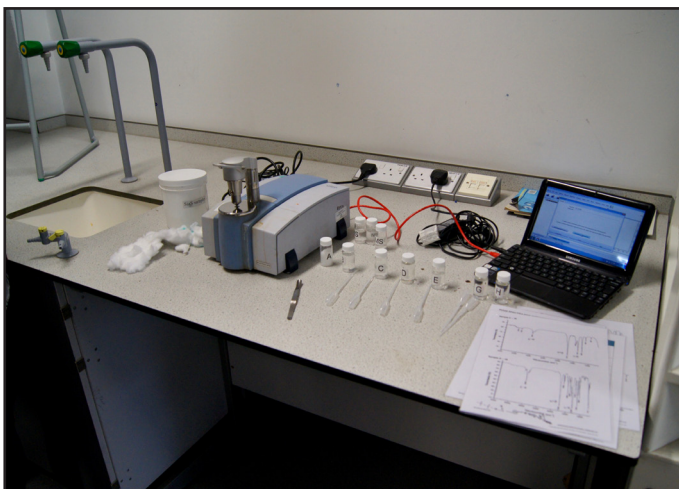
Some quotes from our students who attended: -

"Seeing something we learnt in theory happen in the practical world was really useful for our understanding of the topic." Suakshi

"An insight into degree-level practical chemistry that was hands on and in depth." Robert

"A fun and unique experience. It was very enjoyable doing the analysis work and solving the puzzles." Jack

Special thanks to the RSC and students from UCL (University College London) for making this opportunity available to our sixth formers.



Infrared spectrometer and sample for analysis.



One of our students running a sample through the spectrometer.



A demonstration of the technique used.



Our students working on interpreting the results of the analysis.

SAFER INTERNET WEEK

10th February 2020- 13th February 2020

On 11th February schools across the nation celebrated Safer Internet Day. The theme this year was 'Together for a better internet'. At Ruislip High we understand that the internet and social media have become an integral part of our students' lives. It is important that students know how to use the internet safely and we spent a week - from Monday 25th February to Friday 1st March - discussing topics related to the theme through exciting tutor activities. During scheduled assemblies our Digital Leaders spoke to different year groups about what can be done in order to make a difference using a student voice. Staff also shared a new top tip every day through digital display boards and students spent KS3 Computer Science lessons thinking about the importance of having a voice on the internet and making the right decision when being online.



Digital Leaders speaking to students about safer internet usage.

As a school we are proud to say that we continually share weekly messages on how to keep our students safe online via the digital display boards around the school as well as sharing this information with parents on a weekly basis via the Parent Bulletin.

Ms Carstens

RHS Digital Leaders



Daniel Parry



Amy Murphy



Kevin Beqari



Portia Lawrence



Ramez Walizada



Cody Shiner

It is with great pleasure that we would like to introduce our 'RHS Digital Leaders'.

These students have been selected by the Senior Leadership Team in collaboration with Heads of Year as the best candidates for the roles.

Congratulations!

Ruislip
High
School

CAREERS WEEK FEATURES EVENTS FOR YEARS 7-13

Students from Years 11 - 13 took part in the annual Careers Fair in the main hall on Thursday 6th February. The school hosted volunteers from a variety of different companies, further education providers, and independent careers advisors. Students had time to be able to talk to all of the volunteers and gain a better understanding of the wide range of opportunities available to them.

Organiser Ms Brown said, *"It was great to see a number of former students also in attendance, who were able to offer advice for our current students, including having a back-up plan and how to follow their passion."*



Alumni students posing for a picture when they visited Ruislip High School as part of the annual Careers Fair.

Year 9 and 10 students were also able to attend the Careers Fair during their break time, and many students took up this opportunity. They were able to ask a variety of questions, while collecting a lot of free stationery!

Students in Year 7 had a taste of the real world when they took part in Natwest MoneySense Workshops on Wednesday 5th February. They worked in groups to research and present a fully-costed mobile phone plan for a mobile of their choice. It was clear that students got a lot out of the workshops, developing their investigating, budgeting and decision-making skills, with some students even extending their knowledge of how phones work. This included learning about micro-SD cards and what a megapixel is. They also heard about the difference between 3G and 4G technology.



Year 7 students taking part in the Natwest MoneySense workshop.



Students at the annual Careers Fair in the main hall.

MUSIC NEWS

Earlier this term the Year 11 GCSE music students completed their live performances. They performed a variety of solo and ensemble pieces ranging from Corinne Bailey Rae's 'Put your records on' to Gedike's piano solo 'Miniature in D minor'. The standard was extremely high and students delivered some high quality musical performances.

LEARNING SUPPORT DEPARTMENT VISITS CIVIC CENTRE

The Learning Support Department took four students to an inclusive employment fair organised by Hillingdon Borough Council at The Civic Centre on Thursday 30th January. The fair is held annually and is aimed at helping students with additional needs look for suitable employment and post-16 education. At the fair there were stands from Uxbridge College and Orchard Hill College as well as employers who offer internships for people with learning needs or disabilities such as The Marriott Hotel and The Hilton Hotel. The London Borough of Hillingdon Council had a stand informing students about possible apprenticeships with them and 'Dynamic Training', who offer supported apprenticeships.



Students visiting the employment fair organised by Hillingdon Borough Council.

There were also stands that support families who have children with SEND such as SENDIASS and SEND Family Support, as well as youth clubs from DASH and HACs. Overall, the Ruislip High students gained an insight into possible career and study paths that are accessible to them and knowledge of support available. If you would like any help or further information about any of the organisations mentioned, please contact the Learning Support Faculty at Ruislip High School via office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

SOCIOLOGY Q&A

Year 12 Sociologists invited our Headteacher, Mr Davies, to a Q & A session on Wednesday 4th March during Period 2. They have been studying a range of issues within the sociology of education in preparation for Paper 1: Education & Methods in Context.

The preparation involved each student preparing a question they had researched, as they wanted to move from textbook answers to finding out about reality. Lily did a great job of hosting the event and keeping Mr Davies on track. We think we now have enough evidence to suggest that one of Mr Davies's passions is educational policy and all it entails.



Headteacher, Mr Davies, speaking to Year 12 Sociologists.

The following issues were dealt with through a range of questions:

- Funding Formulas, League Tables, Parental choice, Academies, Comprehensive v Grammar and selection, Free Schools and Role of Government.

We would like to thank Mr Davies for taking the time out of his busy schedule; it was a really informative session.

Sociology is a subject which is very much about society and the way we live together. As students are finding out, this is never more relevant than today.

Mrs McLoughlin and Year 12 Sociology

YEAR 8 NEWS

Year 8 has had another incredible term this term! During the first assembly of 2020, the cohort discussed New Year's resolutions and it has become quite clear that many of theirs were to continue the success from the Autumn half term!

As Head of Year 8, it is always a pleasure to be inundated with positive emails from members of staff wishing to voice their joy at how well Year 8 students are doing. This positive praise is shared each week during HOY assembly and it is a joy to see the look on students' faces when their name or class is read out for going above and beyond during the school day.

Here is a brief overview of all the amazing things that Year 8 got up to this term:

Winter Reward Trip

Year 8 students joined other year groups in good numbers again for the Winter Reward Trip that took place at Cineworld in South Ruislip on 14th February. Students got to see one of the first nationwide screenings of Robert Downey Junior's Dr. Doolittle! The students who were chosen for the trip worked tirelessly all term to gain their places so it was amazing to see such a large turn out from Year 8. This is evidence of how well the year group is doing.

Another reward trip will be organised in the summer term so if you want to enjoy a fun day outside school, keep your attendance high and your warnings low!

Year 7 & 8 Festival – March 2020

This year saw the theme for the Year 7 & 8 festival transform Ruislip High School into a mini version of our nation's capital; with students from Year 8 creating stalls inspired by many of the famous landmarks from London. The amount of work that students have invested in the creation and running of their stalls deserves the utmost admiration. A special mention must go to Ms Carstens and 8C for the incredibly delicious cocktails that they made, inspired by London's Shoreditch area. Another mention must go to Ms Holland and 8B who created a very entertaining murder mystery which was very well received by students and parents alike.



Year 8 students running their stalls at the Year 7 & 8 Festival.

We would like to give special recognition to 8C, who raised the most money in the whole school during the event.

The evening as a whole was incredible to see and it was yet another opportunity to witness the great unity and community spirit that the year group possesses.

Mr Alexander
Head of Year 8

Special World Book Day Edition

With spring almost upon us this is a good opportunity to reflect on all the fantastic events the LRC has been fortunate enough to be involved in this term.

One of the most exciting events for the LRC is World Book Day, an event that is celebrated worldwide. Students in Year 7 are encouraged to come to school dressed as a favourite book-related character. A record number of Year 7 students were dressed in costumes as well as a large number of staff, much to the delight of the students.



Year 7 students and staff displaying their costumes as part of World Book Day 2020.

The costume parade and assembly were held in the atrium of the school where students paraded in their costumes and many prizes were awarded.

Mr Davies agreed to be one of the judges, along with Miss Loizou (Head of Year 7) who came dressed as 'Medusa', Miss Hunter and Miss Cooney (the Family Liaison Officers), who all did an outstanding job of judging the costumes and choosing the winners which was a difficult task!

Some of the winners are listed below:

Best dressed boy - Luis (7S) as Paddington Bear;

Best dressed girl (joint) - Vashika (7F) and Eshal (7B) as the suffragettes;

Best duo - Joanna (7A) and Avantika (7A) as Alice in Wonderland characters;

Best trio - Andreea (7W), Aimee (7F) and Alicia (7F) as Cat in the Hat characters;

Best group - Aahana (7B), Dhanvi (7A), Erica (7S), and Olivia (7S) as Jack the Ripper and his victims;

Best tutor group - 7C

World Book Day at Ruislip High was a great success!

The 'Above and Beyond LRC homework club

The LRC homework club held after school is still going from strength to strength with students from all years taking advantage of the extra time and facilities to remain in school to complete homework. An added bonus is the LRC having the chrome books/computers available for students to use and Teaching Assistants who stay after school to work with the students, assisting with homework.

Missing Books

Although a large number 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 look at home to see if there are any books belonging to the LRC, as the cost of replacing these books is extremely high. Any book found should be returned to the LRC and placed in the returns box.

'Golden Thread lessons'

Following the success of the 'Golden Thread' reading lessons, the LRC continues to deliver the lessons to each tutor group from Years 7 and 8. Students spend one lesson each month in the LRC devoted to reading and then completing a book review. As a school we believe that reading is extremely important because it helps develop the mind, broaden the students' use of vocabulary and understanding the written word; it also helps the students to develop language skills and learn to listen, an invaluable skill that will help in later life. The Golden Thread lessons will continue through the school year.

A Big Thank you from the LRC

The LRC wishes to thank the wonderful team of students and staff who regularly help out in the LRC each week; the continued help and support from everybody is very much appreciated.

Mrs Austen
LRC Manager

ALEX WHEATLE VISIT

Year 11s hear from inspirational author, winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize

Author Alex Wheatle gave a special assembly talk to Year 11 students on Friday 24th January. Wheatle is the author of several novels, some of them set in Brixton, where he grew up. His novels include *Brixton Rock* (1999) and *Straight Outta Crongton* (2017). One of his novels, *Crongton Knights*, is currently being turned into a play by the same theatre company that adapted Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses*.

Wheatle's life story, with a background involving time in social care and prison, demonstrated to students the power of resilience and overcoming hardship to find your talent and achieve your potential in life.



Author Alex Wheatle speaking to Year 11 students during assembly.

Ms Keenan, Head of English, said, "Alex Wheatle's visit was perfect timing, just after Parents' Evening when students received their PPE results, as a reminder that adversity can be overcome and that the power of language and literature can transform lives. I hope that students were able to reconnect with the purpose of reading not just as a passport to success in exams, but as a passport to other worlds, to creativity and connection with others, and to many opportunities in life beyond school."

YEAR 10 NEWS

The spring term has been a busy one for Year 10 with a focus on Sixth Form transition and the exciting opportunities the future holds. Students have enjoyed tutorials designed to inform them of the Sixth Form offer and how, with hard work, they can aspire to take full advantage of the amazing courses and options available at Ruislip High School and beyond. This has been a really positive term for Year 10.

Here are just a handful of examples that our year group should be very proud of:

Reward Trip

On 7th February, 44 out of the 89 Year 10 students who were eligible for the Winter Reward Trip attended a special screening of 'Dolittle' at Cineworld, South Ruislip. The students snacked on popcorn and put their feet up for a well deserved break in recognition of all their exemplary conduct during the winter term. The students were a credit to the year group and I am sure we will see many more of them on the Summer Reward Trip!

Year 10 Study Club

Key Stage 4 Study Club has continued to be a success at Ruislip High School this term. In total 269 pieces of outstanding work have been completed by Year 10, which in turn will equip students with the knowledge and skills they require to achieve their full potential in the summer of 2021. Students are expected to work hard at home on tasks but this does give them an opportunity to receive expert advice on topics they are struggling with. For the coursework-based subjects, the Study Club has provided students with a productive environment to ensure they stay on top of their deadlines.

Year 10 Enrichment Trips

Ms Woodall was really impressed with the Year 10 students on the Berlin trip. She commented that *"Students were excellent. They displayed the 'Ruislip Values' throughout the tour and they surpassed expectations in terms of their punctuality, their listening and following all of the rules"*. Students were lucky enough to visit a range of cultural and historical attractions all over the city such as the Olympic Stadium and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. Students showed incredible endurance over the few days and Mr Karimi recorded that the staff and students covered a distance of 19km on the Monday when they visited Hitler's bunker.

I would like to thank the History department for running the trip - Ms Woodall, Ms Horton, Mr Maud - and also to thank Mr Karimi, Ms Harkin-Bullin and Mr Amos for generously volunteering their time to help out on the trip.

Theatre Company Visit

Year 10 Drama students were lucky enough to have 'Hotbuckle Productions' theatre company come in and perform their adaptation of Tess of the D'Urbervilles. They use Brechtian and Meyerhold techniques to tell classic stories, and the cast stayed behind to answer our questions about life as an actor and how you go about devising such a complex story.

The following students' quotes show what a great experience this was for them:

Cathrine (10B) - *"This was really beneficial in our understanding of physical and Brechtian theatre."*

Cody (10F) - *"I loved how talented the cast were and how interesting they made the story."*

Mia (10B) - *"I loved the way they used the set and lighting to tell the story too."*

Year 10 Parents Evening

Year 10 Parents' Evening was an extremely informative and encouraging evening for our students, which took place on Thursday 5th March. 92% of parents and guardians attended the evening and met with subject teachers, receiving feedback on what has been going well and what steps they need to take to improve as we head towards Year 11. We would like

to thank all the parents and guardians who attended, as the evidence is clear that a strong partnership between home and the school is a significant contributor to realising stronger outcomes for students.

Travel and Tourism and Sport Exams

The students studying 'Travel and Tourism' and 'Sport' both sat their assessed unit in January. We were very proud of the students' conduct and attitude throughout the entire process for each exam.

Mr Askin and Mr Randall

Head and Assistant Head of Year 10

YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 have had a fantastic spring term. They have shown their sense of community and unity as they worked together on events like the Ruislip High School Festival of Culture and World Book Day.

RHS Festival of Culture



7S enjoying activities at the Olympic Village as part of the RHS Festival of Culture.

Year 7 were so excited to take part in our annual festival of culture. During the planning stage, anticipation was high. Tutor teams worked really well together, buzzing with excitement as they shared ideas and worked together. Every tutor group represented a different part of London and all it has to offer. I know all tutor groups took their research seriously and they were all able to learn a lot about their chosen area.

When the big night arrived our students couldn't have made the school any prouder. Year 7 proved themselves to be great ambassadors of the school. Each and every stall was a huge success and it was a joy to walk around.

World Book Day

World Book Day is always a highlight in the RHS calendar. Students in Year 7 were invited to dress up as their favourite literary, film or comic book character to celebrate literature and reading. It was an amazing sight to see Sherlock Holmes, Jack the Ripper, Dorothy Gale and so many other characters walking through the school.

The students took part in a costume parade in a special World Book Day assembly and the best costumes were judged by Mr Davies, Ms Loizou, Ms Cooney and Ms Hunter.

Mrs Austen was thoroughly impressed with the students' efforts and said that '*this was the best World Book Day yet!*'.

Ms Loizou

Head of Year 7

YEAR 9 NEWS

It is somewhat strange to write this newsletter in the current context but it is also fantastic to look back on the great things that Year 9s have done and achieved this term. Here are a few things to keep in mind and celebrate!

Parents' Evening

It was amazing to start the new year with Parents' Evening and to hear the fabulous feedback from so many teachers. You obviously have had a great first term and it is really important that you now capitalise on it during the school closure. Even if it seems quite far away now, Year 10 is actually right around the corner for you and you need to make sure that you keep your grey cells busy!

I would also like to thank parents for coming and for supporting the school in our effort to provide the best possible education to the young people in our care. I am extremely grateful as a Head of Year to be working with parents like you, actively engaged in their children's education and personal development. Thank you.

The Battlefield Trip - February Half-Term

The trip to the Battlefields has always been one of my favourite times of the year, but it was made even more special this year by taking my own year group. Needless to say we had a wonderful time learning and spending time together when it was still a frivolous possibility. The respect and deference shown by students during the trip made all of us really proud, and the patience and kindness they had for each other reminded me that all of them are on their way to become extraordinary people. Well done and thank you Year 9s; I am really looking forward to our next trip together!

GCSE Options

Unfortunately, Options Evening could not take place for our students and families this year but I am confident that the subject assemblies and Year 10 and 11 students coming to tutorials have helped students to start thinking about their choice of options. My advice to you remains the same: pick subjects that you enjoy and/or you are good at. You will spend two intense years working towards your qualification and it will make your life a little easier if you are studying subjects you are passionate about. I obviously want you all to pick Latin so I can teach you, but I know I will have to share...!

If you have any questions about options, make sure to contact me and Ms Davison through dedicated email address options2020@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

School Closure

It was certainly quite a shock to see the school close and to realise that most of you had gone before I could say goodbye. However, even if we are living through challenging times, I am happy to know we are all doing our best to keep each other safe and educated. Our school community is still very strong and I have seen a lot of fantastic work from Year 9 students. They have also shown a great deal of patience, resilience and unity while working remotely.

I think it is very important to try to look out for positivity in any given situation. I have always admired the strength, discipline and determination of the British people and society in times of crisis. I am now full of admiration and proud to see these qualities developing within my year group.

I am convinced that we will come out of this better, stronger and even more unified. But for now, we need to readjust our lives and slightly redefine our purpose. The core of our purpose remains unchanged however: students should keep on learning and trying to thrive, parents will do their best for their loved ones, and I am there to support you all if and when you need me.

I miss you all and I am really looking forward to seeing you again. Be kind to yourself and to others.

Miss Lucas
Head of Year 9

YEAR 9 STUDENTS PAY RESPECTS DURING BATTLEFIELDS EXPERIENCE

Thirty-six Year 9 students took part in the annual Battlefields trip over half term from Sunday 15th February until Tuesday 18th February. This trip has taken place every year since 2009.

The Year 9s visited the following key sites associated with World War I: Talbot House in Poperinge, The Arras tunnels, Tyne Cot cemetery, Langemark cemetery, Essex farm cemetery, the Thiepval Memorial, the Vimy Ridge trenches, Newfoundland Park, the 'Sunken Lane' no-mans' land area, and the Sanctuary Wood trenches.

Students also enjoyed a day trip to Paris where they went up the Eiffel Tower and spent some time shopping in picturesque Montmartre.

Students attended the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, where three students laid a wreath representing Ruislip High. The students were Caitlin (9A), Daniel (9A) and Arshia (9W).

On the last day, students had a minute's silence at the Ring of Remembrance at Notre Dame de Lorette. Students were accompanied by Ms Lucas, Ms Vora, Mr Cahill and Mr Elsby.

Trip leader Ms Lucas said, *"It is my fifth time going on the Battlefields trip and I would not have missed it with my year group. We had a beautiful time together, commemorating WWI soldiers of all backgrounds and celebrating peace. Year 9 made me so proud, being so mature, kind and respectful. I could not have dreamt of a better team of students and staff to go with!"*



Students commemorating the Ring of Remembrance at Notre-Dame de Lorette.



Year 9 students Daniel, Caitlin and Arshia representing Ruislip High at the Menin Gate Memorial.



Students exploring at the Sanctuary Wood trenches.



Students visiting the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

YEAR 12 NEWS

Notwithstanding the global circumstances beyond our control, Year 12 have had an excellent term. This started with a strong performance in the January assessments. Since then, I have been very impressed in recent weeks with the proactiveness of many Year 12 students in applying for work experience for the week beginning Monday 13th July. Many students have already been successful in securing work experience placements in banks, schools and research groups to name just a few.

The beginning of March saw several Year 12 students participate in the Model United Nations General Assembly trip to New York, during which they excelled as public speakers and represented the school superbly. It has been a privilege to hear some of their accounts of such an exciting trip.

March has also been exciting for Year 12 as they step up to become the new student leaders of the school. Following a competitive applications process, we are delighted to announce that the Head Student for 2020-2021 will be Emma, and that the Deputy Head Student will be Alex. The full team can be found below:

Head Student: Emma

Deputy Head Student: Alex

Student Head of Year 7: Alfie

Student Head of Year 8: Alicja

Student Head of Year 9: Courtney

Student Head of Year 10: Lily

Student Head of Year 11: Natasha

Head of Mentoring: Jamie

Head of Communications: Hajfra and Rachel

Head of Volunteering: Mark

Meanwhile, students are continuing their in-depth research into their post-18 options. I have been very impressed during 1:1 meetings with the clarity that so many Year 12 students are starting to develop regarding their post-18 options. The work that they have been doing would not be possible without the support of the superb Sixth Form Tutor Team. I would therefore like to extend my thanks to them for all of the advice that they give students on a daily basis.

It has been a privilege to work with Year 12 this term. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Year 12 students and their families a restful and productive break.

Mr B Peacock

Head of Year 12

SIXTH FORM SPEAKERS

As part of the Sixth Form extra-curricular timetable at Ruislip High, Year 12 students hear from an external speaker every two weeks. The talks are based on the theme of '3Cs' – Careers, Culture and Current Affairs'. The majority of talks take place during Period 5 on Wednesdays in the main hall.

This term the students have had talks from visitors including: Robin Launder, Humanists UK; Raj Kohli, Chief Superintendent, Met Police; Abdallah Abbas (a former Ruislip High Deputy Head Student) speaking about studying medicine at University; and Sue Hunter, Positive Voices (HIV charity).



Raj Kohli speaking to Sixth Form students during assembly.

Abdallah Abbas is now in his second year studying medicine at University College London. Abdallah said, *"It's so much work studying medicine but it's all so interesting and a great area to study. Did you know that there are over 20 different muscles in the forearm? I'm not sure what area I will specialise in but I might eventually become a GP. My advice to do well in your A-levels is to do as many past exam papers as you can. There's no better way to get used to what the exams are like and to hone your skills and knowledge."*

Raj Kohli, who has been a police officer for more than 30 years in London, told students about crime trends in the capital and also how to reduce the chances of being a victim of crime. He said, *"Although it's a tough job and you face difficult and sometimes harrowing situations, I would not change my job for the world. Serving the community and helping make the streets safer is a great privilege. I think it's an excellent career choice."*

PANATHLON COMPETITION



Ruislip High students posing for a picture at the Panathlon competition.

The Learning Support Faculty took nine students to compete in the first round of the West London Panathlon competition on Tuesday 14th January. The event took place at Featherstone High School, Southall.

Kavindu (Year 11), Freddie and Lily-Mai (both Year 9), Nikolaos (Year 8), Joe, Florence, Rhys, Ollie, Rehan (all Year 7), took part in multi-sports as part of the Hillingdon Team.

Kavindu, Joe and Florence won Gold medals for polybat. Kavindu, Freddie, Rehan and Rhys won Gold for powerchair slalom and Freddie won Silver in the self-propel slalom. Nikolaos, Florence and Lily-Mai won Bronze for new age kurling.

As always the climax of the day was the relay races, held at the end, where students of all abilities take part. Freddie was a star and managed to do all eight laps by himself as well as taking part in the mixed relay and power chair relay.

The presentation was tense as the winners were announced: Hillingdon came first and are now through to the West London Championship.

PE NEWS

Middlesex Cross-country Championships

The following students were selected to run in the Middlesex Championships which took place at Harrow School on Thursday 23rd January 2020.

Year 7 boys

Joe (7C) 53rd
Reuben (7C) 60th
Alexander (7W) 63rd

Year 7

Anna (7B) 45th

Year 10 boys

Luke (11D) 20th
Amit (11C) 33rd

Year 7 Rugby Festival

The Year 7 rugby team entered a rugby festival at Queensmead school. They played three games in which they won two and lost one. They competed excellently in cold conditions and with continued training, they will go from strength to strength. Particular mention to Reuben (7C) and Oliver (7C) who co-captained the side and provided tactics before the game. This enthusiasm is well received by Ruislip High School and shows a strong love for sport and PE.

The squad players included:

Reuben (7C), Jack (7B), Oliver (7C), Arnav (7B), Sam (7F), Tyler (7A), Ethan (7A), Oliver (7F), Luke (7C), Giovanni (7W), Venkatesh (7S), Cameron (7S), Matthew (7D), Ryan (7S) and Jeremiah (7S).

Football Results

Year 9

Vs Bishop Ramsey 1-1 draw

In what is always a tight game, both schools battled to a 1-1 score. The result saw Ruislip finish above Bishop Ramsey on goal difference in the league table. Player of the Match performance goes to Flynn (9A), who came on at half time and changed the game.

The squad players included:

Joe (9S), Harry (9C), Dhiren (9A), Harry (9F), Alfie (9A), James (9F), Dylan (9S), William (9C), Randy (9W), Kobe (9C), Jesang (9F), Jesse (9F), Maiwand (9A) and Flynn (9A).

Year 7

Vs Bishop Ramsey 3-3 draw

In what was a typical game of two halves, Bishop Ramsey stormed to a 3-1 lead at half time. Joe (7C) put in a Player of the Match performance to help his team back into the game with two excellent goals (the other coming from an own goal). Ruislip were very unlucky not to win the game.

Josiah (7S), Cameron (7S), Matthew (7D), Jeremiah (7S), Alex (7W), Joe (7C), Keon (7C), Max (7S), Micah (7A), Richard (7B), Ammar (7C) and Joe (7W).

Netball Results

Wednesday 5th Feb 2020 - Bishop Ramsey

Year 9

13-4 loss

We saw a hard-working performance from the girls during this match. Although they did not win they really came together, with Libby scoring four amazing goals.

Tasnim (9C), Ruby (9B), Sathuri (9C), Chloe (9B), Caitlin (9A), Grace (9S), Amalie (9B) and Libby (9S).



Year 9 Netball Team



Year 10 Netball Team

Year 10

6-6 Draw

This had to be the closest game of the season! The teams were matched goal for goal throughout. It was a star performance from Skylar (10C), with excellent marking and interceptions in the semi-circle.

Hanah (10F), Lottie (10F), Any (10F), Keira (10W), Yasmin (10W), Skyla (10C) and Sky (10W).

Tuesday 11th Feb 2020

Congratulations to the Year 7 netball team on a fantastic draw of 6-6 against Northwood School. Player of the match was awarded to Anna (7W).

Anna (7B), Aahana (7B), Florence (7C), Alice (7S), Emily (7W), Kayla (7S) and Anna (7W).



Year 7 Netball Team



Year 9 Netball Team

Wednesday 12th February 2020

Well done to the Year 9 netball team who played really well against Northwood School. Although the team didn't win their performance was superb and they have steadily made improvements throughout the year. The girls turn up to training each week without fail and show great support towards each other. Player of the match was awarded to Amalie (9B) for excellent interceptions.

Tasnim (9C), Ruby (9B), Sathuri (9C), Chloe (9B), Caitlin (9A), Grace (9S), Amalie (9B) and Libby (9S).

GEOGRAPHY NEWS

The Geography Department is pleased to show some more hard-working students enjoying their lessons! In the spring term we deliver some of the teachers' favourite topics, such as Cold Environments with Year 7s, and Superpower Geography with Year 9.

Year 7

Year 7 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 learnt 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.

Year 8

Year 8s 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 shortage of flat land and 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 from 1979-2016. 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 9

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 students then moved on to study 'Globalisation and Earning a Living', followed by 'Superpower Geography' where they compare the USA, Russia, India and China.

Year 10

These pictures show Jawad, Lucy and Cathrine with their Year 10 exam revision guides. Over the course of this term, Year 10s have been working hard on the second and third of the Paper 1 topics, 'The challenge of natural hazards' and 'Living World'. In particular, students and teachers have enjoyed learning about a particularly interesting case study: Svalbard, the most northerly inhabited place on Earth!



Year 11

These pictures show Jack and Ben from one of the Year 11 classes. The Year 11s are showing a wonderful attitude towards their revision period. Jack said, *"In this lesson we first made a revision knowledge organiser sheet for Paper 2C, then we did some revision quizzes on Kahoot using the Chromebooks. Our class loves Kahoot quizzes!"*



All students have revision guides written by the department, called the revision 'Megabooks'. These contain full personal learning checklists (PLCs) for each topic. The revision guides are also on Show My Homework under 'My Drive'.

Year 12

Here you can see some of the Year 12 Geography class researching the social and economic history of Detroit in the USA (Mark, Alex, Joe and Jacob). Joe said, *"A-level Geography has really met my expectations following GCSE. It's been really interesting and I've definitely developed my research and analysis skills."* The Year 12 Geographers have been working their way through four units of the AQA A-level. Mr Peacock has taught 'Natural Hazards' and 'Coastal systems and landscapes', while Mr Alison has delivered 'Resource Security' and 'Changing Places'.



Year 13

The department wishes all the students successful futures after seven years at Ruislip High.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

The Travel and Tourism department is pleased to report that all students are making excellent progress with their coursework.

Year 10

Year 10 sat their Unit 1 "The UK Travel and Tourism Industry" exam in January. The department is hoping for good results after the hard work of all students to prepare. The Year 10 students are now making excellent progress with their first coursework unit: "UK Travel and Tourism destinations".

Year 12

Year 12 have recently completed Unit 9: "Tourist Attractions", with some outstanding pieces of coursework being produced. The effort and detail put into Ella Magan's work was particularly impressive. They are now preparing for the new Unit 1 exam this summer: "The World of Travel and Tourism". The students have already conducted some outstanding research and revision for this.

Year 13

Year 13 have recently embarked on their final unit of the course: Unit 7: "European Destinations." A particular well done must go to Nicole and Caitlan, who have completed the course to top-grade standard ahead of schedule.



Ruislip
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