

# Ruislip High School NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

## NEW THEATRE UNVEILED

**The new state-of-the-art, fully accessible theatre is performance ready.**



Our new theatre's stage can be configured in a huge number of ways - and the lighting rig covers such a wide area that we have options for performing in the round, traverse, end on and with a thrust stage. The sound and lighting is astounding - 'moving head' lights and a bluetooth sound desk give us so many options for types of performances and we are sure that this is going to elevate the culture of performance in our school.

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# HEADTEACHER'S NEWS



As another extraordinary academic year draws to an end I wanted to firstly express my thanks and appreciation to the entire Ruislip High School community for the way everyone has pulled together during such challenging times. The staff often comment on the number of times I have used the word 'unprecedented' over the past sixteen months, but we are truly living in unprecedented times and the way this community has responded to the adversity we have faced has made me exceptionally proud to be the headteacher of the school. I know many families received phone calls from senior leaders asking their children to isolate, often more than once. The support parents showed as school leaders carried out the test and trace procedures we never thought would be part of our role as teachers was very much appreciated.

When I wrote to parents on the 20th March 2020, the day the school closed for the majority of its students, I stated that although the building would remain closed, what it stood for would prevail. I had no idea just how true those words would prove over the coming weeks and months as the Ruislip High School community has pulled together to achieve far beyond what I thought possible when we went into lockdown.

There is no doubt that our students, in line with students nationally, have suffered from the disruption to education caused by the pandemic over the past two academic years. As much as I believe we have implemented a robust remote learning plan I believe passionately that there is no substitute to being in a classroom with a teacher. I do hope that home schooling will be consigned to history but would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and guardians once more for the role they played in supporting staff and students through the challenges of Google Classroom and remote lessons. There is no doubt that the role of Google Classroom as a platform will continue to expand as we use what we have learnt during these times to improve the educational experience for our young people. The evidence is clear that high-quality teaching is the best strategy to improve outcomes for students and I remain hopeful that next academic year will see far less disruption. We know that our children have the capacity to show enormous amounts of resilience and I have no doubt they will bounce back from what they have been through and go on to achieve great things at the school and beyond.

I would like to finish by thanking all the students and staff who have contributed to this newsletter. It is really quite remarkable that, with the restrictions we have had to operate under, so much has been achieved. As always, our sense of community shines through; we are a school both in, and for, our community and this crisis has shown just what a strong community we are and will continue to be. It is a privilege to lead this school and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole community for your continued support and wish you all a restful and well-deserved summer break.

*Gareth Davies*  
**Headteacher**

# YEAR 7 NEWS

Dear Year 7 students and parents/guardians,

I am sure many of you know that I will be working with your child going into Year 8 and hopefully work with them until the end of Year 11.

I am very excited to start a new journey with the year group as I have been trying to get to know students a bit better before the summer holiday. I have been impressed with many students, especially in lessons.

September will certainly be quite challenging for many students as we will be going back to our usual, Covid-free ways, for lessons and social time. This means students will have to move from lesson to lesson, and we will not have designated areas in social time. I believe this is for the best for current Year 7 students, as I think they have missed out on being around older students, learning how to conduct themselves in social time in particular.

I will be working very closely with Mr Rutter, who will remain their Assistant Head of Year, to make sure every student in the year group reaches their full potential, whether it is academically or pastorally.

I am really looking forward to working with you, parents/guardians, as a team, to support your child together the best we can.

From September onwards, please make sure to contact your child's form tutor or myself if you encounter any difficulties.

I wish you all a lovely, restful and safe summer.

See you in September,

Take care,

Miss Lucas.

# HISTORY NEWS

Firstly the department would like to recognise the incredible hard work and dedication that year 11 and year 13 students put into their May assessments earlier this term. In incredibly difficult circumstances it was truly inspiring to witness the perseverance and resilience shown by our exam year students and we would like to wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Furthermore it is excellent to see that sixteen of our Year 11 historians have joined the 'History A - Level' Google classroom and are busy working away at home in preparation for the next stage of their historical journey, covering topics from Dialectical Marxism to the roots of the Tudor Dynasty. The department is very much looking forward to welcoming our new A - Level students in September.

In other good news Ms Woodall has been in charge of a really exciting project with some of our year 8 students. Our school was selected as one of 10 schools to join the Ancestors Unknown project which introduces students to a new way of learning about identity, history, and the world around them. For approximately 10 weeks, the students engaged in lessons about family history research and other untold histories, including topics like "Rebellions in the Empire" and "Migrations to the UK". For the family history research lesson, the students completed an ongoing project to research their own histories. The students identified the subject(s) of their research, such as a grandparent, family friend, neighbour (anyone they consider family). Some of the activities they completed included an oral history interview, learning research skills, and documenting/sharing their story. Students interviewed family members who were born in England, Ireland, Lithuania, Jamaica, Ireland, Scotland, Poland, Egypt, Canada, America, Bulgaria, Italy, Nepal and Afghanistan.

Sadly we were unable to invite a Holocaust Survivor in to school to help year 9 with their understanding of the Holocaust this year. Due to this the department has worked closely with the Holocaust Educational Trust over the last few weeks in order to provide a high level of education and understanding. They have supplied some fascinating lesson materials for us to work with and the year 9 students have really engaged with the topic so far. They have approached the lessons with maturity and sensitivity and posed some thoughtful questions and observations on issues such as morality, equality and blame. Before the end of the school year we hope the students will have a greater understanding of the issues and be able to consider how we can all make sure that events such as these never happen again.

And finally I am delighted to say that for the first time in 18 months the history department is organising another foreign trip to the Battlefields in Belgium and France. The trip will be open to next year's Year 9 students and those students from the current Year 9 who sadly missed out on the opportunity this year. As part of the trip we will visit sites related to the First World War and will give students the opportunity to live and breathe some of the history that they study in the classroom. As a department we are aware of how much these trips have been missed by our students and cannot wait to start them again.

We would like to wish you all a restful break, and who knows, by the time you read this maybe the England Football Team will have made some more history at Wembley Stadium on July 11th!

# JAMES AIDOO INSPIRES



James Aidoo inspires students during Vanguard Learning Trust Equality Week.

Award-winning speaker James Aidoo was the keynote speaker in the Vanguard Learning Trust Equality Week, which took place from Monday 21st June to Friday 25th June. The event coincided with the UK's School Diversity Week, designed to celebrate diversity and equality in our school communities. All schools in the Trust collaborated to provide opportunities for students across all year groups to explore the theme of social injustice and cultural diversity.

Students took part in tutorial activities, workshops and a number of virtual presentations from guest speakers via Zoom. Key Stage 3 students also gave their ideas about how to make Ruislip High more inclusive. An example of their work is pictured.

James Aidoo spoke to all students live on screen about race and cultural equality. His key message to students was, "Anyone can strive to succeed regardless of their background. We should use our growth mindsets to expand our horizons, using our knowledge of facts to interpret the world using the three Rs - Responsibility, Reaching out and Reframing."

Other key speakers included Jessica Hamer (a diversity and inclusion researcher from King's College London) and Jake Austen (a former Ruislip High School student who is now a para athlete under the Checkmat Jiu-Jitsu federation). A wide range of topics was covered by each of the speakers including unconscious bias, disability and LGBTQ issues.



Ms Poddar, Ruislip High's Diversity and Equality Coordinator said, "Our aim is to make Ruislip High even more inclusive for all students and staff in all aspects of diversity. Knowledge is power; events like Equality Week are a step forward for our students to gain that knowledge to be able to make informed and right choices in life. It was a pleasure to be able to host this year's event on a Trust-wide scale, which would not have been possible without the support of our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Coltman."

# YEAR 8 NEWS

What a year this has been for Year 8!

As I reflect upon one of the strangest years that I have ever been a teacher and my first year in charge of this Year Group, I am filled with a sense of pride about how the students have developed over the past academic year.

Perseverance is a Ruislip High School value that we often talk about, however this year I believe that all of us have had to show more perseverance and determination than ever before. We have had lessons in school, working from home and even a mixture of both simultaneously. We have had to be resourceful in order to keep education moving forward and I am proud to say that year 8 students have helped to facilitate this and are in great shape going into Year 9.

With the Year 9 Ambassadors being selected in the final week of term, I am confident that the Year 9 leadership next year will be fantastic and I look forward to working with them to help further improve the educational potential for the students.

Another thing that I'm looking forward to is doing activities with the Year Group that have previously been impossible, including trips! If all things go as planned, next year will see the students embarking on a number of trips including the Battlefields trip to France and Belgium and also the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. I am a passionate believer in the DofE award and look forward to taking the students camping, in many cases for their first time. It is an award that teaches students a range of skills and I look forward to promoting it more in the future. Life in the classroom next year becomes even more serious. Year 9 will start their first GCSE, Citizenship, which they will take in Year 10 meaning that they will secure their first GCSE before Year 11. Students will also be selecting their GCSE options later in Year 9 and this is a decision that will need plenty of discussion and consideration.

I wish all students a very happy summer holiday and, fingers crossed, look forward to welcoming people back to a more normal school setting in September.

Have a great holiday!

Mr I Elsby

Head of Year 8

# ENGLISH NEWS

## 'ROMEO, ROMEO, WHEREFORE ART THOU ROMEO?'

As we have not been able to take our classes to the theatre this year, we have brought the theatre to the classroom this summer term. Year 8s have been exploring different productions of Romeo & Juliet as part of their studies of the Shakespeare play, including productions staged at The Globe, National Theatre and the Baz Luhrmann film version. By studying the plays in performance, students are able to explore the choices of the writers, directors and actors in each adaptation, taking the play from page to stage for a more dynamic Shakespeare experience. Through exploring National Theatre resources, students are also able to learn about real-life roles such as director, actor, costume designer and production manager and consider the dramatic and language choices made in each adaptation.

## 'BEWARE, FOR I AM FEARLESS AND THEREFORE POWERFUL'

Meanwhile, Year 7s have been exploring the play adaptation of Frankenstein by Philip Pullman, perhaps best known for his Northern Lights trilogy, recently adapted by the BBC. This adaptation of Mary Shelley's gothic classic is the perfect introduction to the gothic themes and preoccupations of the Victorian era which we later encounter in the GCSE study of 'The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde.' Students have explored the scientific ethics involved in their viewpoint writing and classroom debates, written their own creative pieces and explored the dramatic techniques involved in adapting a gothic novel for the modern stage.

## CHECKING OUT ME POETRY



Year 9 students have started to explore 'Power and Conflict' poetry as they embark upon their study of the GCSE poetry anthology, including poems such as William Blake's 'London', Carol Rumens' 'Emigree', John Agard's 'Checking Out Me History' and 'Kamikaze' by Beatrice Garland. These poems will be revisited in Years 10 and 11 and compared with the other poems from the anthology.



Meanwhile, our exam classes in Year 10 and 12 continue to follow their GCSE and A-Level studies, with Year 10 completing their study of 'The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr Hyde' and Year 12 completing Tennessee Williams' 'A Streetcar Named Desire' along with their coursework.

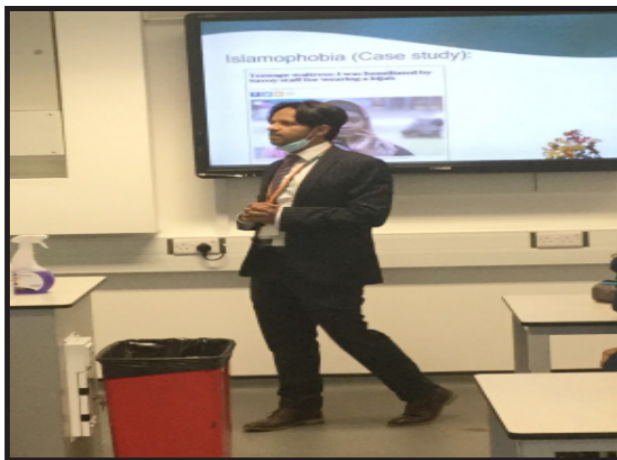


# YEAR 10 HILLINGDON HATE CRIMES WORKSHOP

Year 10 classes have been doing a workshop on "Hillingdon hate crimes" delivered by a representative from Hillingdon council every Monday and Tuesday for the past month. The aim of the workshop was to further promote community cohesion by taking a holistic approach to the issues relating to hate crimes. The workshop included the following topics :

- Definitions of hate incident and hate crime
- Different strands of hate crime
- Case studies
- How to report and who to report to.

A student from Year 10 said " The workshop was interesting , specially the case studies and group discussions about real life incidents, some of them that happened in Hillingdon". Ruislip High School is looking forward to continuing to work with the council next year in providing students with knowledge about equality, diversity and community cohesion.



# SIXTH FORMERS TAKE PART IN OXBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES PREPARATION COURSE

A group of students in Year 12 took part in the 'Lumina' Oxbridge Universities preparation course run by Harrow School. This was a fantastic opportunity for the Sixth Formers to learn about applying for courses at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. This year, the programme took place from Monday 5th to Thursday 8th July through a number of online sessions after school attended via Zoom.

One of the Year 12 students said, "Being part of the Lumina programme was amazing. We heard representatives talk from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, as well as other Russell Group institutions. In particular, I was interested to hear a talk from a Harrow School teacher about studying medicine at university. I'm now 100% sure I'll apply to study medicine at Oxford University. As well as learning more about the universities, we also got to experience several sample lectures from current university professors. Overall, it was an incredibly informative event."

Another said, "The Lumina program was an enriching experience for me as I developed a strong understanding on applying to Oxbridge Universities. Through the sessions I also learned how to conduct myself at an interview."



# YEAR 9 NEWS

As we draw close to the end of what has been a very challenging term for Year 9, it has to be said that each and every student has shown resilience, maturity and enthusiasm towards their education. The cohort really has stepped up to the challenges of not only Year 9 but also the prospects of moving into their first GCSE year. Whilst it is hoped that things will go back to some sort of normality in Year 10, students really have made an impression in the way they have faced this year and it has been so refreshing to see. Whilst there have been many stand-out achievements, events and activities taking place this term, here are a few of the highlights:

## HPQ

This term a number of our Year 9 students were invited to take part in the Higher Project Qualification. The HPQ is designed to help students broaden their thinking and provides the opportunity for students to pursue a topic or activity that they have a particular interest in.

Although in the early stages of the project, the current Year 9 HPQ group has thrown themselves into choosing their topics and beginning their initial project research. The group, led by Mrs Ohana, have chosen a range of exciting and challenging topics from: exploring zero emissions travel; the media's portrayal of the LGBTQ+ community; the reliability of human memory and exploring the link between mental health and music. The next stage for the group will be to complete their research over the summer, before getting started with writing an analytical report or creating an 'artefact' - which this year range from a young adult novel, a video game and a play!

This is the second year RHS has run the Level 2 HPQ and we are incredibly excited to see how all of the projects develop over the next academic year.

## Sustainability Project

Currently 5 students are preparing for a unique opportunity to pitch a sustainable idea, to reduce the carbon footprint of the school in a Dragons' Den style competition. This exciting competition against other schools in the Vanguard Trust. If successful in their pitch to the Dragons, the students will hopefully win funding for the school to implement their idea.

## Preparing for Year 10

Year 9 took on the task of choosing their GCSE options this term. Each and every student has taken the time to carefully choose their options which shows that the cohort are ready to take the jump into KS4.

This has been further evidenced by the large number of students who are already attending revision sessions that are being run by members of staff and it has been noted on several occasions just how many students are taking the time after school to take advantage of these invaluable sessions.

## Special Mentions

A special mention must go out to all students who took part in the inter-form Football tournament but in particular the students in 9F who won the competition for the second year in a row, narrowly beating 9B. Let's see if they can make it three years in a row in Year 10!

# DRAMA NEWS

Drama at Ruislip High School has looked rather different this school year, with much of the lessons taking place in the classroom instead of practically in the Drama studio. This however has not dampened spirits, with students of all key stages displaying creativity and confidence in the work that they have produced.

## **GCSE/A-Level Success**

Students in both GCSE and A-Level Drama finally got the chance to perform their scripted & devised performances. Despite needing to maintain social distance, the work that was created showed so much talent and dedication. Both Mr Alexander & Mr Randall were thoroughly impressed with the level of work that had been created; especially given the disruption to the school year

## **Little Women Production**

The phenomenal cast of Little Women are very excited to finally perform the play in November. The Year 12 students first read through the script when they were in Year 10 so this play has been a long time in the making. Rehearsing in the new theatre in the Sixth Form Block has been an invigorating experience - the amazing new resources in there have added so much to this seemingly cursed production. This is a brand new adaptation featuring some fantastic live music arranged by Miss Nastou, Mr Owen and the talented Year 10 music students.

## **School Pantomime Auditions**

This term saw live auditions taking place for the long awaited return of the Ruislip High School musical. Last year the department were unable to put on this production so it goes without saying that next year's production is going to be well worth waiting for! Students of all key stages turned up to audition, with an unbelievable plethora of talent on show. It has been rumored that this production will be the best one yet!

# SCIENCE NEWS



The summer term has been as busy as ever for the science department with all year groups in the school preparing for their PPE assessments at different times. We said goodbye to our Year 11's just before half term and as Year 11 bubbled in science, the corridor went extremely quiet for a while. Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have worked really hard being taught in 'normal' classrooms instead of science labs. The students' hard work and resilience is demonstrated by some great assessment results with the majority of students in Key Stage 3 working on or above their expected progress, so well done from us!

Year 11 leaving has been bittersweet because although it's sad to see them go, their departure has allowed students to get into the labs to do some really exciting stuff. The science staff have been super keen to get our students back into practical skills and the fun of it all! With COVID precautions allowing, different classes have visited the corridor to take part in a variety of lessons. Many Year 7 and 8 classes have dissected chicken wings, used microscopes to make scientific drawings and done food tests (see photos below). Year 9 and 10 have done some GCSE required practicals such as osmosis in biology, made copper sulphate crystals in chemistry and in physics used electrical equipment to find specific heat capacity.

We are really focussing on careers in science this term and further ahead. In recent weeks we have had some external speakers. Two physics interns, Marcelo and Leanne, have joined us for four weeks. Marcelo is an ex-student of Ruislip High; both interns are studying Physics degrees at university and have spent time in classrooms supporting with lessons. They gave a talk on university life to year

9 and 10 classes. Tom Hasselholdt, an NHS biomedical scientist, joined us to present to some classes about life in a hospital lab working with microbes. He shared his experiences of working through the pandemic and running new type rapid COVID



tests for patients throughout the hospital. RHS students were really engaged and asked some great questions of our visitors. The 6th form scientists have not been left out: Dr Bhatt gave a medical talk to students in year 12 and other colleagues of his are on hand for help and advice in the future.

We are getting extra curricular activities back up and running. The animal club has been running every Wednesday this term (see photos below), Year 7 and 8 students take turns to look after the animals while completing a project about animal enclosure and habitats. We have three snakes and white tree frogs at the moment. In future, there are plans for RHS to become an eco hub so watch this space.

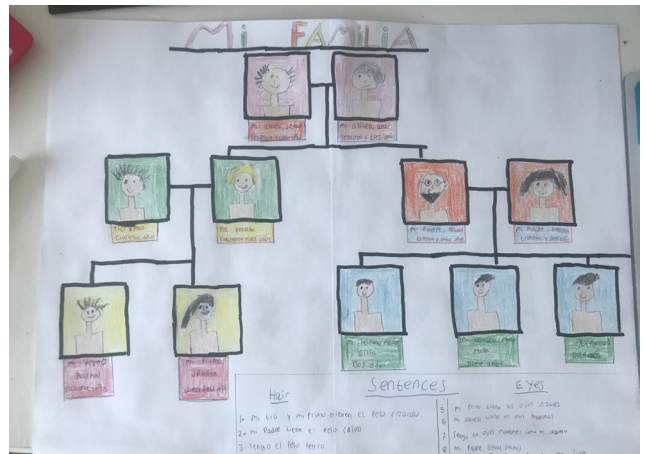
# MFL NEWS

## Mrs Bisland

This term, Year 7 students have been describing members of their family. They have been using vocabulary relating to family members, physical descriptions and they have been using verbs in the 3rd person! As part of this topic, some year 7 classes created their own family trees and they also sold their siblings and best friends on E-bay!

Great work Year 7!

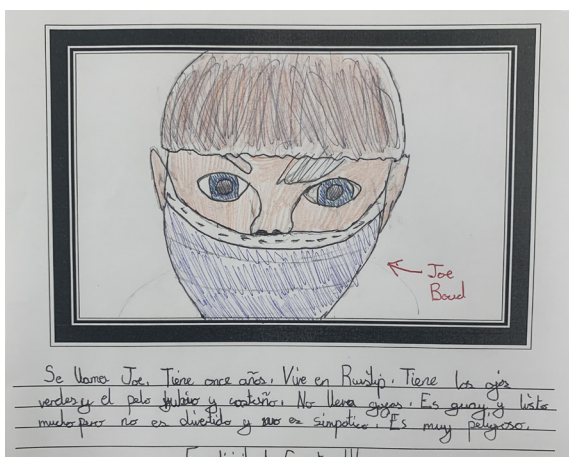
This term Year 9 have been working on Children's Rights and they have been looking at vocabulary relating to this topic. Year 9 got creative and made posters displaying the vocabulary they have been learning. Well done Year 9!



## Ms Matias

This term, Year 7 spanish students have been learning about physical descriptions. Not only have they learnt how to describe themselves physically but also their personalities too! Students have really enjoyed this topic especially when they were able to describe their peers using the third person singular in a Wanted poster. They were all very excited to share what the excellent writing they produced. All the posters were of an excellent standard and here is a small selection.

Superb work Year 7s!



## Miss Lucas

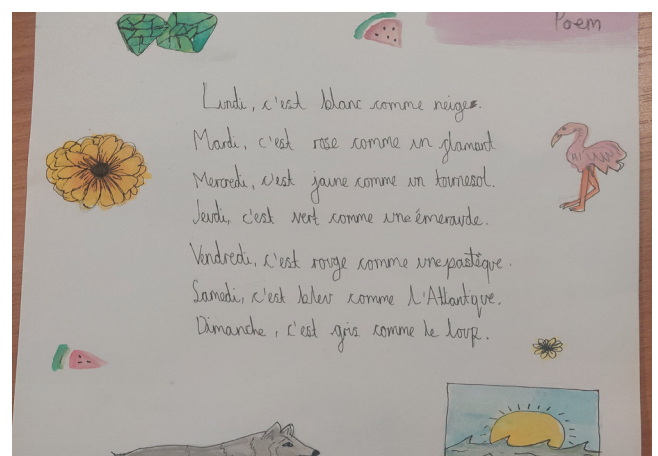
This Term, Year 7 students experimented with French language and got creative!

To consolidate the vocabulary they had learnt about days of the week and colours, and to find new words on their own to build their confidence in learning, Year 7 students were asked to write short poems in French and to ornate their poem with drawings representing the new vocabulary they had independently found.

It was wonderful to see all students getting involved in this creative process and to take charge of their own learning. It was a beautiful display of resilience from all students!

Here are a few examples of the "chefs- d'oeuvres". It was really difficult to choose as all of them could have been proudly shown in the Newsletter this Term!

Well done to you all!



# YEAR 10 NEWS

Dear Year 10 students and parents/guardians,

I am sure many of you already know that I will not be working with you next year, as Mr Alexander is taking over while I will be working with current Year 7 students going into Year 8.

To Year 10 students, I would like to say that it was an absolute honour to be your Head of Year for the past three years. You have shown so much resilience through difficult times and I know you are on the path to success next year.

Keep on being who you are, as you are becoming beautiful human beings. I will miss you greatly but I am still around if you need anything.

I wish you a wonderful and safe summer.

See you in September!

To Year 10 parents/guardians, I would also like to say that it has been an absolute pleasure to work with you. You have been so supportive and understanding through the years and I really believe students are lucky to have parents/guardians who care so much about their education and well-being. I really hope to see you in school next year, when school events hopefully resume.

I wish you a lovely and restful summer,

Take care.

Miss Lucas

# GEOGRAPHY NEWS

The Geography Department is excited to be looking ahead to two residential A-level field trips planned for 2021-22. In October 2021, the department is taking the Year 13 A-level group to the Norfolk coastline to undertake field studies for their coursework project. This visit has taken place every year since 2012, with the exception of 2020 due to the pandemic. Then, in June 2022, the department will run the same trip for four days with the new Year 12 class starting their Sixth Form studies in September 2021. Naturally, all trips are subject to ongoing changes in the pandemic regulations. The department also hopes to run a trip for GCSE students, with the location still to be confirmed.

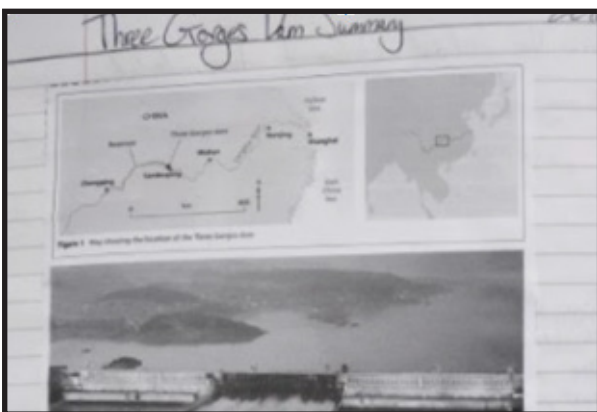


Photos from a previous A-level field trip - Year 12 students in Norfolk, June 2019.

## A-level Geography

Sixth Form geography students have continued to go 'above and beyond' with their studies. The department has been very impressed with the level of revision undertaken by Year 12 and 13 students for the summer term 2021 assessments. For example, the Year 12 exam has included four

of the six A-level topics. These are Hazards and Coastal Systems and Landscapes (for physical geography); and Changing Places and Resource Security (for human geography). Photographed here is an example of some excellent A-level notes. Abigail in Year 12 has studied the Three Gorges Dam as an example of renewable energy and fresh water security in China.



## GCSE Geography

Students across the eight GCSE Geography classes have continued to dive into each topic. Year 10 students have already completed four of the eight GCSE topics (The Challenge of Natural Hazards, Living World, Physical Landscapes in the UK, and Urban Issues and Challenges). In the Urban Issues topic, students have investigated the importance of Rio de Janeiro within Brazil, South America and on the world stage. Here you can see a screen-shot of detailed notes written by Arshia in Year 10.



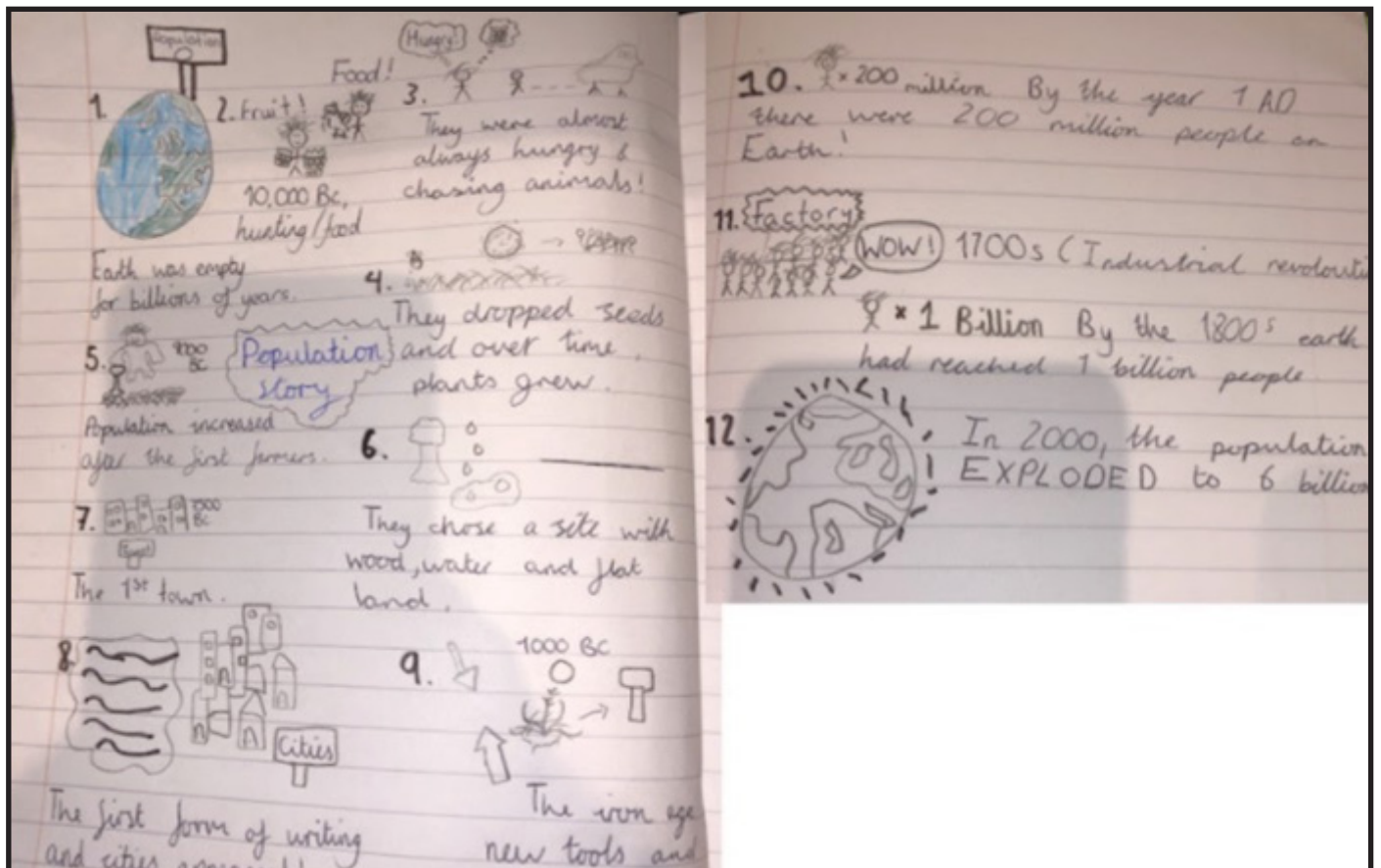
# Key Stage 3 Geography

Students in Years 7-9 have continued to show inquiring minds. Year 7 students have covered the Cold Environments topic where they have studied Mount Everest, glaciers, and the race to the South Pole in Antarctica. Year 7s have also shown their map skills in the Year 7 Exam.

Year 8 topics have included population. Students have learnt how the world population reached 7 billion in 2011 and is set to continue rising. However, Year 8s have also considered which countries have falling populations and why this is the case.

Year 8s have also studied energy resources. They have seen how the energy mix of the UK is changing, for example Drax power station is now burning more biomass wood pellets to generate electricity than traditional coal. Students have also learnt through stories, for example about how the USA built the Hoover Dam in the 1930s to provide electricity and water for cities such as Las Vegas.

Year 9 topics have included 'Superpower Geography', in particular investigating which countries challenge the USA as the world's most important country. This has included a focus on the BRIC countries - Brazil, Russia, India and China. The final topic of term for Year 9s has been the growth of the tourism industry. Students analysed historic maps to show the development of key tourist resort



Joe in 8F tells the 'population explosion' story.

# TRAVEL AND TOURISM

The Travel and Tourism department is pleased to report that students have made excellent progress with their coursework and examined units.

## Year 10

Following the postponement of their Unit 1 - "The UK Travel and Tourism Industry" - exam in January, Year 10 students have been completing their Unit 2 - "UK Travel and Tourism Destinations" - coursework. This has included making itineraries for holidays in the UK to suit the needs of specific customers.

## Year 11

Year 11 have completed the final unit of their Travel and Tourism course: Unit 3 - "The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience" throughout the lockdown. All students completed the course before half term, and several managed Merit, Distinction or Distinction\* grades. This is extremely impressive given the level of disruption they have experienced during the two years of the course.

## Year 12

Year 12 have finished learning the course content for Unit 1 - "The World of Travel and Tourism". Their exam in that unit this summer has been postponed but, following an internal assessment, students will move to the next coursework unit: Unit 3: "The Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism".

## Year 13

Students completed their course by working hard towards Unit 2: "Global Destinations". This has seen them develop their understanding of the positives and negatives of different types of transport, as well as what makes a successful travel itinerary. They concluded their studies by sitting a 1 hour internal assessment as part of the grading process this summer.

**The department would like to congratulate its Year 11 and Year 13 students in particular for all of their substantial efforts over the past two years.**

# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE NEWS

Students have been very busy completing coursework and working hard both in lessons and remotely this year.

As part of our work on a range of psychological theories we have looked at the work of Bowlby and his work on attachment theory. To look at this from a vocational angle, students were issued with an egg and required to look after it over the half term period. Each egg was individually stamped and so would need to be returned intact after the half-term.

Students were also required to provide a range of experiences for the 'egg' that covered physical, intellectual, emotional and social developmental experiences. Students documented this in an egg diary.

Year 10 took on the challenge and despite a few casualties many students returned their egg in one piece and produced creative and inspired journals. Whilst enjoying their experience they also learnt a lot about responsibility and attachment.

'I didn't know I could actually become so attached to an egg'' Madison P

'It was great fun' Lucy A

'My family loved meeting my egg' Isabelle L

## Year 12 HSC

Enjoyed a visit to the new LSF wing in the new building. They were able to see all the equipment and resources available to students who work there. Ms Ware very kindly gave up her valuable time to explain in detail the purpose of the equipment and the resources that are available and how the referral process works.

Many HSC students are hoping to pursue a career in this area. It was an invaluable experience; thanks also to the teaching support staff: Ms Hunter, Ms Cooney and Mrs Deacon, who provided an insight into their role.

We hope to continue the links and develop a vocational partnership through to the next academic year.

# Sociology

Well done to all our hardworking students who without doubt have embraced a new subject at A Level.

It's been an interesting year where students have had to employ their sociological imagination. Sociological imagination is the capacity to shift from one perspective to another. To have a sociological imagination, a person must be able to pull away from the situation and think from an alternative point of view. It requires us to "think ourselves away from our daily routines and look at them anew".

The sociological imagination, a concept established by C. Wright Mills (1916-1962) provides a framework for understanding our social world that far surpasses any common sense notion we might derive from our limited social experiences. Mills was a contemporary sociologist who brought tremendous insight into the daily lives of society's members. Mills stated: "Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both".

This term has been the perfect opportunity for Year 12 to reflect back on subject choices and look ahead to writing their personal statement. Grace B writes:

I would say I expected sociology to just be a general study of society such as social relationships, however it actually allows for you to develop a deep understanding into the cause of major social problems such as gender & ethnic inequalities and the ways in which these are currently trying to be solved in modern society.

I would definitely recommend the subject to other students as it is applicable to everyday life and everything around you, meaning you can have a broad understanding of our society today. It also relates to many concepts within life and your future and therefore supplies you with transferable skills and understanding for whatever you want to pursue later in life.

# PE NEWS

## Ruislip High School Sports Day

The PE department will be running a different type of sports day this year. All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will take part by competing in three different events each PE lesson between 28th June - 9th July. Students will be trying to run as fast as they can over short and long distances as well as doing a variety of throwing events and relay races. Students will be trying to gain as many points for their form group. Students who have the best time or distance for each event will receive a medal and winning forms will receive certificates.

Results will be published to students and parents in the final week of term.

## Inter-form Sports Evenings

Over the last term the PE department has put on a number of netball and football interform competitions for Years 7, 8 and 9 for both boys and girls. These interform competitions have been a great success with over 70 students participating for Year 7, over 55 for Year 8 and 45 for Year 9. Well done to all students who signed up and took part in these events.

## Results of the Competition

Year 7 Girls Football - Winners 7D/F

Year 7 Boys Football - Winners 7W

Year 8 Netball - Winners 8S/B

Year 8 Football - Winners 8C

Year 9 Football - Winners 9F



# Field End Sports Day - June 2021

On Tuesday 8th June and Wednesday 9th June 10 Year 10 BTEC PE students went to Field End Primary School to assist with the running of their sports day. Over these two days the students ran a number of different sporting activities where they could score points for their house and these included football, basketball, hockey and obstacle courses. They also assisted with the setting up and running of the Relay race, 60m sprint, 200m sprint and Hurdle race. Well done to the following students who were involved in this event:

- Laura P
- Anjali M
- Tasnim M
- Lily P
- Matthew F
- William GG
- Jamie A
- Darcy M
- Oliver C
- Luke A

## Middlesex Cricket Coaching

This half term some students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have had the opportunity to receive cricket coaching from Middlesex Cricket.

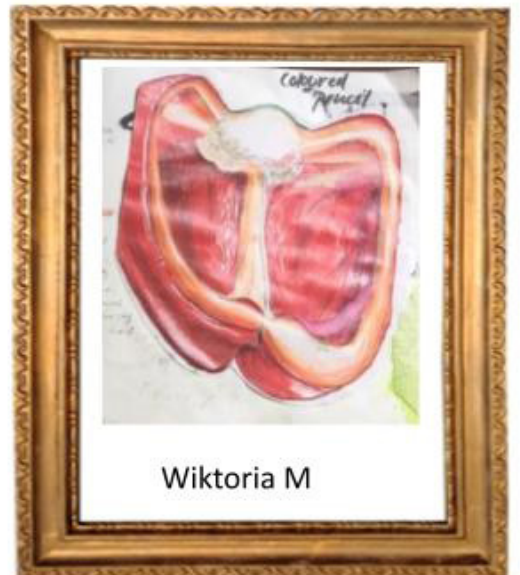
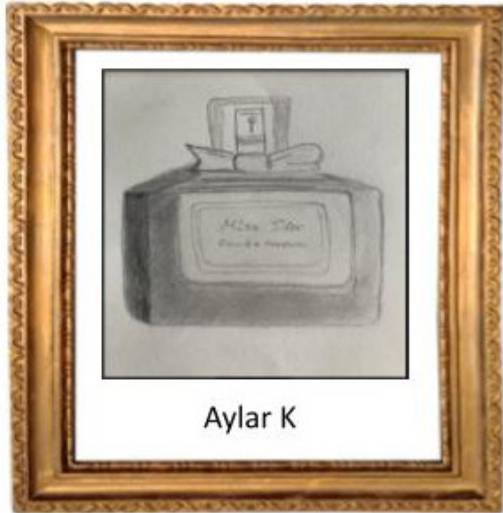
Teighan in (7F) said "I really enjoyed it, the game was really fun and we won."

Grace in (7F) said "The drills were really fun and we learnt how to bowl."

Richman (7F) said "I liked how the coach explained what to do and she gave us challenging drills to try, so we learnt lots."



# RHS ART GALLERY





Joe B



Jasmyn M



Chloe O



Ruby S



Joe B



Maya R



# YEAR 11 NEWS

The summer term marked the end of Year 11's journey through the lower school. As they get ready to embark on their next stage of life, we are delighted that the majority of the year group are remaining at Ruislip High School to begin their A-Level studies. For those who are leaving we wish you all the best and we look forward to hearing how you are getting on in your own individual pathways.

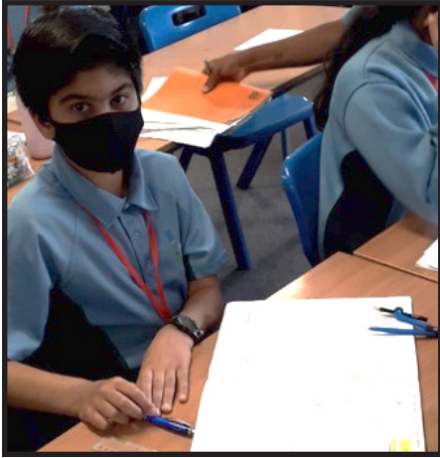
The last two years have been much harder than anyone could have anticipated when Year 11 started studying for their GCSEs in September 2019. With the global pandemic and school closures, Year 11 persevered and made it to the end. This is something that has filled the school community with pride and admiration. The levels of resilience that the whole year group has shown has been truly inspirational.

The last term of Year 11 has also been a challenging time for the students and staff. With so much uncertainty over the exam process, Year 11s once again rose to the challenge. They started the term in preparation for their formal assessments and finished it with a Maths and English formal assessment on Thursday 27th May. The whole way through this period their self-discipline once again shone through. The year group were able to say goodbye to their Key Stage 4 journey in the right way and we could even manage a couple of socially distanced celebrations between form groups. Students also enjoyed the annual tradition of shirt signing before they left the school.

Well done Year 11 and have a fun-filled and safe summer.

Mr Askin, Mr Randall and the Year 11 team

# MATHS NEWS



One of our focuses in the Maths department is to be able to demonstrate to students how Maths is used and applied in the everyday world.

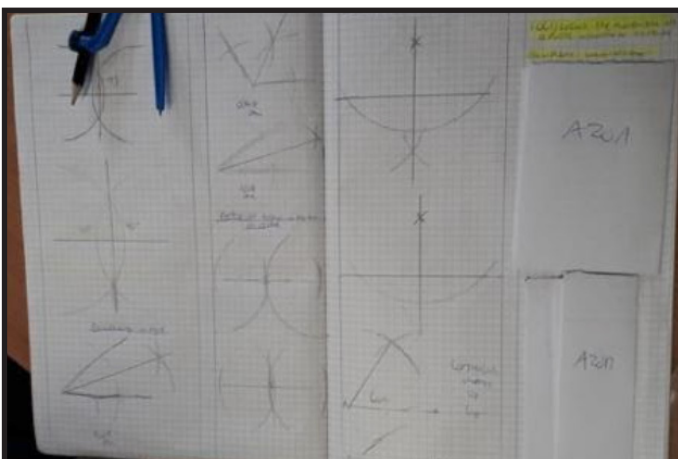
Year 7 students were encouraged to use their construction skills to construct various angles and bisect perpendicular lines. Once students were familiar with terminology such as “perpendicular” and “angle bisector”, they were able to construct triangles and hexagons using a compass.

This lesson provided students with an opportunity to make links to other topics (Geometry and Shape). Not only did the lessons help students improve their construction skills, but also showed them a different side of maths. Here are some photos of students in their lesson and some of their work.

The Maths Department has been especially impressed with the resilience of our Year 9 students. Year 9 students have been practising A02 style questions more often in maths lessons. A02 questions are about reasoning, interpreting and communicating mathematically. They involve making deductions to conclude from mathematical information. This has allowed for more in-depth discussions within lesson time.

Training for a maths exam is a bit like training for a big running race – you can’t just read about the theory; you need to do as much practice as possible. This is why practising past papers is the number one tip for revising for a maths exam.

Some examples of students’ work can be seen below.



# BUSINESS STUDIES AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

## KS4- Business Studies

Year 10 Business Studies students have had a really productive term completing the R065 coursework unit. This meant that they were compiling primary and secondary research, analysing this research, designing product ideas, testing these ideas with the target audience by doing focus group feedback and then using all this information to design a final product for a carefully selected target audience. A financial analysis and risk assessment for their product had to be carried out in order to make a decision whether their idea was going to be financially viable. I am amazed at how resilient the Year 10's have been and I am very proud of each student.

## KS3- Computer Science

In KS3 Computer Science we have been busy learning how to code various programs using Python Turtle through the online platform Replit.

All KS3 Students are working really hard towards achieving their Bronze or Silver certificates. Well done to those who have achieved this already!

"iDEA is an inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, which is an international award winning program that helps students develop digital, enterprise and employability skills for free. "

Well done to a big number of students who have achieved their Bronze certificates.

A special well done to Richman K in 7C for getting his silver certificate!


## KS5 - Computer Science

A level computer science students are having fun learning about GUI programming using Python's tkinter module. Elliot G has started working on the Noughts and Crosses game, an example of code is below. Of course it's work in progress as the students never give up and have high expectations for themselves!

```
def brp1():
    botright.configure(text = p1)
    change_player()

topleft = Button(app, text = "-", activebackground = "pink", command = tlp1)
topleft.grid(row = 0, column = 0, padx = 10, pady = 10)

topmid = Button(app, text = "-", activebackground = "pink", command = tmp1)
topmid.grid(row = 0, column = 1, padx = 10, pady = 10)
```



# YEAR 12 NEWS

Year 12 students have shown excellent resilience, determination and maturity this academic year; they not only rose to the challenges of remote learning last term but they have also impressed their teachers with their outstanding effort and achievement since returning to school. Year 12 students have worked extremely hard in preparing for their recent PPEs and I am confident that their results will reflect their excellent preparation.

I have also been very impressed this term with the proactiveness of many Year 12 students in applying for online work experience opportunities. Many students have already been successful in securing online work experience placements linked to their desired post-18 subject area, enabling them to demonstrate their enthusiasm for their chosen post-18 course, as well as the transferable skills they have acquired as a result of these experiences, in their personal statements and cover letters.

For the remainder of the term, students will be writing the first draft of their university personal statements or their apprenticeship cover letters and tutors will be providing feedback on these. Students will be responding to their tutors' feedback and completing the first draft of their personal statements or cover letters by the end of term.

I am also delighted to announce that, following a competitive application process, our student leadership team for 2021-2022 is complete and can be seen on page 31.

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 enjoyable summer break when it arrives.

Mr B Karimi  
Head of Year 12

# YEAR 13 NEWS

Reflecting on the past two years with Year 13, two themes immediately come to mind. While the first is the wholly unanticipated nature of the last 15 months, the second is the extraordinary resilience and calm determination of the year group. The purpose and motivation of the students has remained consistently strong, culminating in a diligent revision effort for the summer assessments in May. The way that the year group has coped throughout the pandemic has made me extremely proud to be their Head of Year.

Regarding post-18 options, it has been very pleasing to see that all students who applied for university have received at least one offer, with several students receiving offers from all five of the universities that they applied for. This is testament to the effort that students have been putting into the groundwork and evidence for their applications since the start of Year 12. Several students who have applied for apprenticeships and other employment have also received offers.

It seems a long time ago that the Year 13 students were starting Year 12 in the pre-pandemic days of autumn 2019. Memories abound of the university trips, open evenings, presentation evening and community Christmas event. While events since have taken a different turn, the students have still shone, through a combination of their dedicated remote learning and mature approach to being the first year group to use our new Sixth Form centre. We are still hopeful at the time of writing that we will be able to hold a live Leavers' assembly for the students on Thursday 22nd July, COVID-19 cases permitting. Should we be unable to, a Leavers' assembly will take place on Zoom on that date.

It has been a pleasure to work with this wonderful year group over the past two years. I am looking forward to congratulating them on their achievements at results day on Tuesday 10th August 2021, and wish them every success in the future.

Yours sincerely

Mr B Peacock  
Head of Year 13

# SIXTH FORM NEWS

It's been another action-packed term for Ruislip High's Sixth Form. Firstly, we said goodbye to our wonderful Year 13 students, although they have been engaging with remote learning specific to their chosen post-18 option via specialist Google Classrooms. This meant that Year 12 were finally able to move across into the E-wing and enjoy its wonderful facilities, including the newly-opened sixth form cafe.



## The RHS Reach Pathway

The RHS Reach Pathway is a new programme designed to stretch and challenge students who attained highly at GCSE before entering our Sixth Form. Eight of our Reach Pathway students participated in Harrow School's Lumina Programme this July, designed to support them to make competitive applications to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. We are on track to have the highest number of applicants for elite universities that Ruislip High School has ever had, and look forward to what the next year will bring!



Additionally, twelve of our students participated in The Scholars Programme and graduated in May 2021. This programme takes place over a term and students are taught in a style replicating that of an elite university. They build towards writing an undergraduate-level essay; our students learned

from Joe da Costa of King's College, University of London, about the early modern Portuguese empire. They achieved an outstanding set of results, with eight students attaining a 2:1 and four students attaining first class honours; 100% of our participants attained a 2:1 or higher. This was markedly above the national average of 70%. This led to all twelve of the students being contacted by the University of Bath to offer them a lower grade requirement for their university place, should they apply to the University of Bath. We are incredibly proud of all twelve students and what they have achieved.

The participating students were: Hannah F, Jessie B, Rishley P, Damian M, Portia L, Haydn B, Charlotte W, Charlie J, Hitul P, Abigail K, Abdul S and Katerina R. Haydn explained, "participating in the Scholars Programme was eye-opening - it helped me to understand more about how university works, and I felt really proud of myself that I had managed to complete the course even though it was a real challenge because it was at university level!"

### **Admissions for September 2021: another record-breaking year**

We are set for our largest ever total cohort in the sixth form as of September 2021 thanks to increased application and acceptance numbers for the second year in a row. Our incoming Year 12 cohort are working hard on their induction and transition work which will make the jump from Year 11 to Year 12 easier. Some excellent work is being produced!

### **New Student Leadership Team**

Having had a record number of applications and a competitive application and interview process, we were delighted to appoint the new Student Leadership Team (in full below). With what is now a much bigger team, we are very keen to see them take on a much more active role in the school community than in previous years; student leaders have been on tour throughout breaktimes and lunchtimes since they were appointed in order to support the creation of a calm, safe and welcoming atmosphere at social time. Many of the student leaders will be leading on exciting projects that will reach the lower school next academic year, so watch this space!

Head Students - Hannah F and Abdul S

Deputy Head Students - Emily P and Elizabeth P

Head of Year 7 - Katerina R

Deputy - Abigail C

Head of Year 8 - Tania B

Deputy - Jessie B

Head of Year 9 - Amelia M

Deputy - Devin R

Head of Year 10 - Damian M

Deputy - Hodman B

Head of Year 11 - Suheyb A

Deputy - Maya P

Head of Joining Students - Riapreet K

Deputy - Mia T

Head of Mentoring - Rishley P

Deputy - Zainab T

Head of Events - Amy F

Deputy - Jack A

Head of Volunteering - James H

Deputy - Aliza A

Joint Heads of Equality and Diversity - James M and Winta M

Head of Communication - Charlie J

## **Congratulations to all of the new team!**

### **Raising & Giving Week**

Led by the school's Student Leadership Team, the school's annual Raising and Giving Week took place between Tuesday 29th June and Friday 2nd July, which raised over £800 for the school's three chosen charities for the year: Michael Sobell Hospice; MND Association; and Cancer Research UK.

The sixth formers organised a series of events and activities during lunchtimes across the week for students of all years, which included penalty shoot-out competitions and football and netball tournaments, as well as a Year 7 treasure hunt after school. In addition, there was also a quiz for students and staff that took place via Zoom on Thursday 1st July. The quiz, hosted by Mr Amos and

Mr Randall asked contestants to cover topics as diverse as Live Aid 1984, to players sent off for Wales in this year's Euros. Staff also took part, paying for cakes and other treats that had been baked by our Student Leaders and paying for our sixth formers to wash their cars.

Organiser Mr Amos, Assistant Head of Year 12, said, "I'm pleased to say RAG Week 2021 has been an overwhelming success! It was great to see our sixth formers doing such an amazing job in leading the events across the school and to see such high levels of enthusiasm from the rest of the school community. Thank you also to all the parents and students who donated via ParentPay. It's been a fantastic week and we're already looking forward to next year!"





## **Model United Nations General Assembly trip, March 2021**

Planning is well under way for the sixth form trip to New York for the Model United Nations in March 2022. The trip is primarily focused around taking part in the activities as part of the Model United Nations conference, but also allows students to spend a significant amount of time sightseeing in New York too. Initial levels of interest in the trip are already incredibly high and we are excited to be able to share more details with interested students in the near future.



**We're pleased to announce that Mrs Poddar, our Sixth Form Associate, has been appointed as the Assistant Head of Year 12 starting in September 2021. She has written an update on three key areas of our thriving sixth form:**

### **Enrichment**

An important part of RHS Sixth Form super-curricular provision is our enrichment programme which runs fortnightly. This goes beyond the work undertaken in the academic curriculum by offering a programme of activities to enhance academic development and stimulate intellectual curiosity in all students. Some of the exciting enrichment clubs being offered for next year are -

- Student Leadership Team Development
- Fantasy Football Club
- Future Skills & Wellbeing Club
- Advanced Science Club
- Current Affairs Club
- Sociological Imagination Club
- The Psychology of Mental Health Club

In addition to the above, Year 12s also have the option to complete an Extended Project Qualification on a topic of their choice.

For September 2021, the enrichment club sign up structure will change to enable students to sign up for a different club every term. This means that our Sixth Form students will get the opportunity to experience three different areas of enrichment in a year!

### **VESPA**

This academic year saw the launch of the VESPA coaching programme with a small group of students, to support them with their academic progress and well being. The key principle of the VESPA programme is that attitude, self-belief and self-awareness of one's own goals are essential to being an effective and successful sixth form student. The majority of students reported feeling the benefits of improved academic results, motivation and attitude to learning. One participating student put it succinctly when they said that "discussing targets helped break down the work into smaller goals to meet till the next meeting with Mrs Poddar, leading to a higher productivity level". Due to its success,

we will launch the VESPA programme to a larger group of students from September 2021 so that more of our students can benefit from this targeted, bespoke support.

## **Equality and Diversity in the Sixth Form**

Cultural diversity in classrooms has never been more important in education than today, especially in schools. Schools are one of the first places where students learn about tolerance and are taught to respect the differences in ethnicity, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity and ability of their peers.

It is even more effective if the message comes from one of their own. I am very happy that next year we have two new student leaders, James and Winta, to promote the values of equality, diversity and inclusion across the whole school. They will work very closely with student year group leaders, lower school equality leads and teachers. Watch this space for exciting news in this area! In addition to that, I am delighted that over 20 of our RHS Sixth Form alumni community have signed up and agreed to be guest speakers and mentors for our student body. I believe that their varied backgrounds, experiences and insights will be invaluable in inspiring our students to "reach for the sky" as our Ruislip High motto aptly says.

**We are very proud to have a specialist Sixth Form Learning Mentor, Ms Costick, working in our sixth form, who acts as a full-time learning and careers coach for our students. For September 2021, we have expanded our team and appointed another Sixth Form Learning Mentor to work alongside Ms Costick, so that more students can benefit from this extra level of personalised support. Ms Costick has written the following update:**

### **StudySupport/StudyPlus**

Students on StudySupport or StudyPlus have dedicated time in the Sixth Form study room, receive tailored subject work from their teachers and personalised support from Miss Costick (Sixth Form Learning Mentor). In addition, the students have a weekly 1:1 mentoring to discuss their progress, set targets and plan out the week ahead. It has been great to see the StudySupport students using the new study room and making progress with their subjects and Post-18 applications this half-term!

### **Post-18 support from our Sixth Form Learning Mentor**

As the Year 12 students begin to prepare for their Post-18 applications, they have all been provided with a Post-18 handbook to support them throughout the process. The handbook details everything from deciding on a subject area, the various post-18 pathways to how to write a successful application. The Year 12s also have access to the resources from Aspire by UpReach, encouraging students to aim high and consider all of their options once they have finished their A-Levels. This included an assembly about the different career opportunities as well as tips from current university students on how to be successful and what to consider when applying for university or an apprenticeship.



### **Want to find out more about our Sixth Form?**

Please visit the sixth form section of our school website, where you can find our fortnightly publication 'Sixth Form Focus' which provides an insight into life at RHS Sixth Form!

# AUTUMN TERM DATES

## Friday 3rd September - Friday 22nd October 2021

**Monday 6th September: Year 7 testing**

**Tuesday 7th September: Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 testing**

**Tuesday 7th September: Start of term for Year 7**

**Wednesday 8th September: Start of term for Year 10, 11, 12 & 13**

**Wednesday 8th September: Year 8 & 9 testing, [click here for information](#)**

**Thursday 9th September: Start of term for Year 8 & 9**

**Thursday 16th September: Success in Sixth Form evening - 5pm-7pm**

**Monday 20th September: Success in Year 13 evening - 5pm-7pm**

**Thursday 30th September: Year 6 Open Evening - 5pm-8pm**

**Thursday 21st October: Year 9 Parents' Evening - 4:30pm-7pm**

**Monday 25th October: Half term begins**

For the full term dates for 2021-22, visit the website, [www.ruisliphigh.com](http://www.ruisliphigh.com)



Ruislip  
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