

Ruislip High School NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES FOR RUISLIP HIGH STUDENTS

GCSE science students on TV with Professor Brian Cox

Ruislip High GCSE students discussed science with Professor Brian Cox live on BBC television on 17th October.

Six students representing Years 10 and 11 were invited as guests on the Victoria Derbyshire live show. They helped quiz world-renowned physicist Professor Brian Cox and his Radio 4 comedy 'Infinity Monkey Cage' partner, Robin Ince.

(story continued on page 3)



Longford Lectures

Fourteen of Ruislip High's Sixth Form students were invited to be the ushers at this year's Longford Lecture hosted by Channel 4's Jon Snow on Wednesday 29th November. The lectures, held as part of the Longford Trust's annual calendar, are always exciting and this year's speaker, British film director Ken Loach, was thought-provoking and challenging.

(story continued on page 3)

CONTENTS

Professor Brian Cox and Longford Lectures	Page 3
News from the Headteacher	Page 4
The University of Cambridge	Page 5
Good News stories	Page 6 and 7
Sixth Form news	Page 8, 9, 10 and 11
Maths News	Page 12
Year 10 news	Page 13
Year 7 news	Page 14
Year 9 news and Gardening Club news	Page 15
Year 8 news	Page 16 and 17
LRC news	Page 18 and 19
Music news	Page 20
Year 11 news	Page 21
English news	Page 22 and 23
PE news	Page 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28
Presentation Evening	Page 29
Geography news	Page 30 and 31

Continued from front page...

GCSE science students on TV with Professor Brian Cox

Professor Cox said, "It was wonderful to meet such great students." Robin Ince said "a huge thank you to your brilliant students".

Jo Adnit, the show's producer said, "I'm glad the students enjoyed it. They're a total credit to you and the school. On the way out, Brian said to me that he really enjoyed it! Success!"

Ula in Year 11 said, "An unforgettable experience!"

Tariq in Year 11 said, "An amazing opportunity!"

Mr Gould said, "Having coffee in the Green Room with Robin and Brian before going on air was so much fun. It is difficult to express how proud I was of the students. At their age, I certainly wouldn't have had the confidence to speak so well on national tv."



Longford Lectures

The Longford Trust is about giving second chances to people who have been in prison. One of their main projects is the Longford Scholarship programme, which has helped over 200 young people rebuild their lives through education after serving a prison sentence. The school was delighted when members of the scholarship programme, alongside Michael Palin, came and spoke to some Year 10 and Sixth Form students about their experiences in May 2017; it was an event all of our students found inspiring!

The students who ushered the November Longford Lecture were excellent ambassadors for the school, behaving with professionalism. After the lecture they were privileged to meet Jon Snow, Ken Loach and actor Freddie Fox. Brooke in Year 13 said, "Meeting Mr Loach was amazing. He is such a compassionate person and his films are truly inspiring; it was wonderful to hear him speak on current issues affecting our society."

Thank you and well done to all students for representing Ruislip High School at the event.



HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

At the school's recent Presentation Evening in November, our guest speaker, Suzy Stride, spoke to the audience about the importance of students being kind to others, developing the resilience to cope with failure and the openness to seize new opportunities. This made me reflect on our school's ethos and how we try to prepare students to be successful in their future lives.

I believe at Ruislip High School we create an ethos where students understand the importance of good manners; we reward and recognise students whose conduct reflects our school's values – respect, unity, integrity, self-discipline, learning, inspiration and perseverance – through our reward wheels and half-termly headteacher awards; and we advocate the importance of students coping with failure as an essential part of their learning. The recipients of the headteacher award this term are as follows:



Respect

21st September, 2017

Dylan Brooks	Year 7
Molly Gopinathan	Year 8
Victoria Pinfield	Year 9
Amy Murphy	Year 10
Ajay Mepa	Year 11
Meredith Austin	Year 12
Lewis Frost	Year 13

17th October, 2017

James Payne	Year 7
Cameron Patrick-Lothian	Year 8
Winta Mussie	Year 9
Mubashar Hameed-Naheed	Year 10
Mark Lewington	Year 11
Angelina Baiarda	Year 12
Caleah Kerr	Year 13

Integrity

14th November, 2017

Weronika Bromberg	Year 7
Dillon Steer	Year 8
Chloe Howe	Year 9
Craig Knight	Year 10
Nathan Reen	Year 11
Chris Land	Year 12
Khushal Pindoria	Year 13

12th December, 2017

Aziz Mohammed	Year 7
Lara Sinnott	Year 8
Archie Coulter	Year 9
Drew McGlashan	Year 10
Georgina Warner	Year 11
Marya Fayeq	Year 12
James Saunders	Year 13



During our student leader speeches as part of the Presentation Evening proceedings, several of the students mentioned how Ruislip High School has supported them to develop a growth mindset. Amber, Year 11 Senior Prefect, said: *'Everything you get out of Ruislip High School solely depends on your mindset. A growth mindset creates a diligence that is essential for success. You only have to look at Ruislip High School's motto of 'from grass roots to reaching for the sky' to see their belief in the growth mindset.'*

In terms of providing students with a wealth of opportunities, I am enormously grateful that I work with such a committed staff who provide students with so many different experiences on a day-to-day basis both in and out of the classroom.

I have now read the majority of Year 13 students' UCAS references. Whilst each student's statement is different, they all have one thing in common: they mention the different experiences Ruislip High School has afforded them, including trips, lectures, volunteering in school, competitions etc.

I believe J.K. Rowling's quotation reflects perfectly how as a school community we support and develop our wonderful students to be resilient learners: *'It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all – in which case, you fail by default.'*



YEAR 11 STUDENTS TASTE LIFE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Ten Ruislip High School Year 11 students joined a wider Hillingdon schools trip to the University of Cambridge on Tuesday 19th September.

The students spent the day at Robinson College, one of the university's 31 colleges. They listened to a sample academic lecture about the unification of England, a talk about applying to university and what living and studying in Cambridge is like. The Year 11s also had the chance for a question and answer session with current students of the college about their experiences. The day finished with students being given a guided tour of Robinson College. The visit proved very thought-provoking for the students, as they saw all of the exciting opportunities that a Cambridge education could offer them, and realised that, with continued hard work and perseverance, a place at Cambridge is achievable.

As one student said: *"I never imagined myself at Cambridge, but now I could see myself quite enjoying it here!"*

The school would like to thank Mr Peacock from the Geography Department for organising this trip.



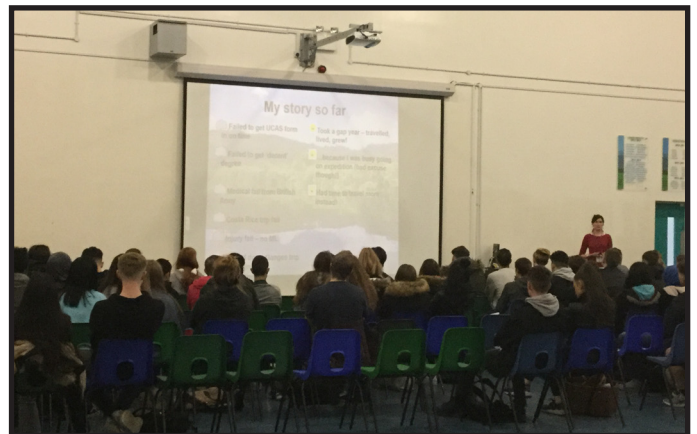
EQUALITY WEEK 2017

Ruislip High's first ever Equality Week took place during the week beginning Monday 13th November. This special event was organised by Mr Campbell, the school's diversity and equality co-ordinator, and had a focus on gender identity and sexuality.

The week included events and tutorials aimed at different year groups. Highlights included:

- Talk by a guest speaker from the National Council of Women (Jenny Raw) with optional workshop.
- Assembly on 'toxic masculinity'.
- Tutorial activities discussing gender identity, gender stereotyping, and sexuality.
- Anti-bullying workshop by Diversity Role Models.

Another key event in Equality Week was a talk from Sanjay Sood-Smith from the organisation Stonewall. He spoke to all Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students on Thursday 16th November in the main hall. Sanjay is renowned for his appearance on Series 10 of The Apprentice and has previously worked in banking and finance. He is now a national campaigner for Stonewall, which promotes LGBT awareness (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender). Sanjay said; *"We aim for everyone to treat gay people with acceptance without exception. When I realised I was gay at the age of about 14 I was really scared and I thought something was wrong with me. It was a secret I was keeping from everyone. What we really want is acceptance from all. 'Gay' should not be used as a word meaning 'bad'."* Sanjay's presentation led to some interesting questions from the students which he happily answered.



SIXTH FORMERS WOWED BY SPACE MISSION LECTURE

Dr Shelia Kanani from the Royal Astronomical Society gave a lecture on her work on the recent Cassini Space mission to Sixth Form scientists on Wednesday 11th October. They were joined by Sixth Formers from other local schools (Queensmead and Harlington) and also several Year 10 and 11 students. Emma in Year 10 said, *"It was really exciting and interesting. I'm definitely going to look more into astrophysics as a career!"*



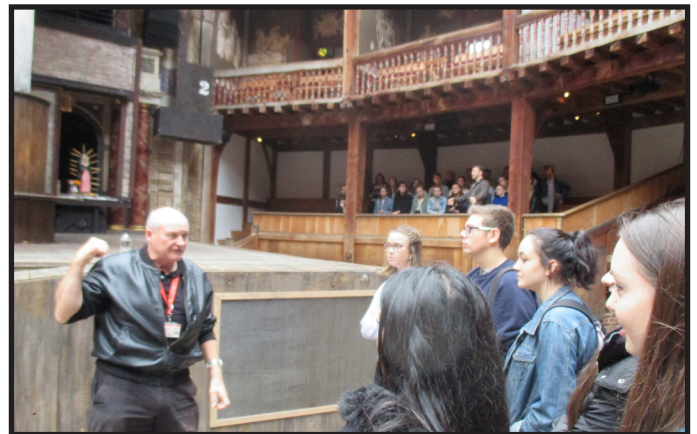
DRAMA STUDENTS VISIT THE GLOBE THEATRE

Eleven Sixth Form drama students visited the Globe Theatre in London on Friday 13th October as part of their drama A-level studies. Organiser Ms Hart said; *"They had a fantastic day. The students enjoyed an informative tour of the theatre, learning all about the theatre's history and original Elizabethan performance conditions. The group then had some time to look around the exhibitions before watching the hilarious 'Much Ado About Nothing'."*

Student quotes:

"I loved the staging and I really enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere." – Kianaat (C62)

"The performance of Benedick was perfect and just how I imagined the character to be." – Phoebe (C66)



BORIS JOHNSON'S SIXTH FORM TALK

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson delivered an interesting presentation to Ruislip High's Sixth Form on Friday 24th November. The MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip spoke in the main hall for about an hour during Period 5. His address discussed issues such as the international response to the crisis in North Korea. He then took questions from the students on topics including Brexit, the increasing world population, the UK's sale of arms to Saudi Arabia and his father's appearance on 'I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!'



Jordan, Year 13, commented: *"it was a great opportunity to hear Mr Johnson speak"* and Alex, Year 12, said that *"I was really impressed with his oratorical skills."* Mr Johnson has visited Ruislip High previously to visit lessons across the school, and the school also awards his bestowed prize, The Boris Johnson Prize for Latin, every year at Presentation Evening. The school would like to thank Ms Horton, Head of Year 12, for organising this event.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Sixth Form students have continued to prove themselves as a hard-working and committed cohort, who are keen to contribute to their Sixth Form community.

The Sixth Form students are never afraid to get involved in whole-school events such as the annual Theme Day. This year's theme was 'Integrity', based on a scenario where Mr Ryan and Mr Randall had travelled through time in a broken time machine. They needed to meet famous people from history and help them to make decisions using their integrity. The Year 13 students assisted brilliantly in tutor groups for the younger years throughout the day and their efforts were much appreciated by staff.

Enrichment Opportunities and Trips

Ruislip High has also launched an Enrichment programme for the Sixth Form, led by Mr Karimi as Enrichment Co-Ordinator. So far, there are: budding public speakers in Debating Society; journalists producing the school magazine, the Ruislip Eye; human rights activists working hard in Amnesty International Society; famous footballers of the future in the Ruislip High School First XI; future CEOs in Business and Finance Society; fitness gurus in Healthy Living Club; psychologists in Psychology Club; and cultural capital champions in Culture Club. Thank you to all the tutors, who give up their free time to run these societies. Thanks also to Mr Peacock in his role as Student Leadership Team Co-ordinator, ensuring that the fantastic Student Leaders are organised and committed to the life of the school.

Model United Nations Experiences

In tutorial time, students have been preparing to participate in a Model United Nations General Assembly focusing on finding solutions to the issue of North Korea. To inform their negotiations, they have had visits from Dr Jim Hoare, the British diplomat who set up the British embassy in North Korea, and Boris Johnson, the Foreign Secretary and our local MP. Students were extremely interested to hear what these high-calibre visitors had to say, with Jordan Marajh, Deputy Head Student, saying that *"it was a great opportunity to hear Mr Johnson speak"*.



Linked to this, 14 lucky Sixth Form students have been chosen to attend the National High School Model United Nations General Assembly in New York City next March. Following a rigorous application process, the school has qualified as one of the international schools to be invited to the event.

Students who attend the trip will spend five nights in New York City (6th - 11th March 2018), staying at the Hilton Midtown Hotel. During the daytimes, they will participate in a Model United Nations General Assembly. Model United Nations (MUN) is a student simulation of the proceedings of the United Nations (UN). Students, referred to as delegates, are assigned a country to represent in one of the UN's numerous committees with pre-set topics to debate. They research the background of their country, their country's position on the topics at hand, and prepare notes on possible solutions to the problems faced. Students then convene at Model UN conferences, which range in size from 100 to 5,000 delegates, to debate their assigned topics with students representing the other UN member states. Much like the real UN, the goal is to identify solutions, by negotiation and consensus, on which many countries can agree. In the evenings and on the first day, students will have the opportunity to sightsee in New York City.

Held at the UN Headquarters as well as the Hilton Midtown Hotel, the National High School Model United Nations (NHSMUN) is the world's largest Model UN conference, with hundreds of schools and thousands of delegates attending from around the world. NHSMUN is known

for its diverse, prestigious attendees, its world-class staff, and its engaging debates of proven quality. NHSMUN provides students with opportunities to interact with high-profile, relevant UN representatives including an in-person visit with diplomats from the countries the delegates are representing. The simulation ends with a special session at the UN Headquarters, where students are seated in the General Assembly Hall that has hosted many of the most prominent heads of state from the past few decades. Delegates discuss the final resolutions on the floor of the UN.

Ms Horton and Mrs Ohana are looking forward to making their return to the Big Apple!

Post-18 Success!

Year 13 have been working hard on their UCAS applications and many students have had a great amount of success already. Amongst the success stories are:

- Jordan (C67) and Alex (C66) who recently attended interviews at either the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge respectively
- Joseph (C67) who recently attended an interview to study Medicine at Hull York Medical School and has secured an interview at the University of Manchester
- Michelle (C61) for accepting an unconditional offer to study English literature at the University of Birmingham
- Sam (C63) who was offered a place to study history and politics at every institution he applied to, including several Russell Group universities
- Milly (C63), Liam (C65), Ruby (C62), Izabela (C65), Shannon (C68) and Emma (C65) all receiving at least one unconditional offer amidst their university choices.

Festive Fun!

Throughout December, Year 12 and Year 13 were involved in a variety of festive activities focused on the local community. Firstly, each tutor house collected non-perishable food items, which were donated to local Hillingdon food banks.

Then, on Wednesday 13th December, members of the local community joined the Sixth Form students for the third sixth form Community Christmas event. Guests attended from a variety of community led ventures, which work hard to support Ruislip's senior community. This included The Tudor Club, Ruislip Baptist Church and St. Paul's Church in Ruislip Manor.

The event began with the Sixth Form Production of 'A Christmas Carol' which was well-received and thoroughly enjoyed by both guests, students and staff members in attendance. This was followed by a delicious festive buffet, served to guests by the Sixth Form students. The evening ended with a guest favourite: the Christmas sing-a-long, which both guests and students got enthusiastically involved in. Overall, the evening was a huge success, summed up best by Head Student, James Lewington: "The evening was a brilliant way to connect with the local community and we all enjoyed sharing our Christmas spirit!" Well done to all of the Sixth Formers who participated in the event and helped to make it a memorable evening.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Sixth Form Production: A Christmas Carol

'Come now and know us better, man!' For the second year running, the Sixth Form teamed up with members of staff to perform a play. Written by Mrs Ohana, the play was a modern adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale of redemption.

Once again the stars of the show were the Sixth Form students, in particular Maya (C66) who played the lead role, Abigail Scrooge. It was no mean feat, as Maya appeared in every scene, but held the show together with her acting talent and professionalism. Other highlights included the very talented Hannah (C62) as Beth Cratchit, who performed a stunning and moving solo; Zach (C67), as the Ghost of Pop Star Present, who delighted audiences with his character's extended monologue about himself; and finally, Lottie (8F) who performed as young Abigail, but also performed several incredible dance solos in the performance.

Of course, the staff gave it their all with Mr Elsby playing the dastardly Mr Russell, a strict teacher from Abigail's past and Mr Randall, who played an older Tiny Tim...the YouTube sensation. The experience was best summed up by James (C61) who told us: *"This is my second year being part of the Sixth Form production cast. We have worked so, so hard – but it has all been worth it and I have loved every second of performing this week! In particular, I really enjoyed performing at the Christmas Community event, as our guests made a fantastic, lively audience."*

The production was performed across three evenings, on Tuesday 12th December until Thursday 14th December. Each performance was phenomenal and really showcased the amazing talent we have at Ruislip High School! A huge thank you to all of the staff who helped make the production a reality: Mr Alexander, Ms Hart, Ms Horton, Ms Loizou and Mrs Ohana.



Full cast and crew below:

Beth Cratchit	Hannah (C62)	Old Joe	Daniel (C61)
Patrick	Maia (C61)	The Business People	Luke (8B), Amy (8F), Rachel (9W), Chanel (9F), Lilia (7W), Ciara (7F), Hannah (9W), Lottie (8F), and Aaron (8D)
Abigail Scrooge	Maya (C66)		
Fred Scrooge	James (C61)		
Jacob Marley	Mr Maud	Tim (adult)	Mr Randall
Suki Hollingsworth-Sandringham		Backstage Crew	
	Lucy (C63)	Directed by...	Mr Alexander, Ms Hart, Ms Loizou & Mrs Ohana
Lucy	Hannah (9W)	Written by...	Mrs Ohana
Paul	Aaron (8D)	Produced by...	Ms Horton
Abbie (child) & Solo Dancer	Lottie (8F)	Choreography by...	Miss Marsh and Harriet (C65)
Mr Pearson	Mr Randall/Ms Keenan		
Mr Russell	Mr Elsby	Set Design...	Amber-Leigh (C67), Charlotte (C65), Eglah (C65), Klaudia (C63), Amrita (C61), Rebecca (C68), Sunatda (C65) & Anna (C67)
Mrs Fezziwig	Ms Loizou		
Abbie (young adult)	Emma (C66)	Costumes...	Leah (C65), Charlotte (C67) & Angelina (C65)
Peter Fezziwig	Aaron (C61)	Hair & Make-up...	Hager (C64) & Louise (C68)
Holly Scrooge	Michelle (C62)		
Tony Blaze	Zach (C67)	Front of House	Sophie (C61) & Chris (C61)
Branch Manager	Berzin (C61)		
Tim Cratchit	Sam (8S)		
Joy	Heather (C61)		
Trevor MacDonald	Adon (8D)		

MATHS NEWS

Key Stage Four Hillingdon Maths Challenge Winners

This year the annual Key Stage 4 Hillingdon Maths Challenge was hosted by Bishop Ramsey School on Wednesday 15th November. The competition took place after school from 4pm to 6pm.

The Ruislip High School team was made up of two Year 10 students, Victoria (10A) and Thiviyaa (10W) and two Year 11 students, Yug (11F) and Sebastian (11A).

The challenge consisted of two rounds which were very different, requiring the students to call on their number knowledge, problem-solving and teamwork skills. It was an amazing atmosphere and it was clear the students thoroughly enjoyed it!

In addition to a fantastic competition Ruislip High School came joint 1st with St Helen's Girls School to take home the trophy. This is such a fantastic achievement for the students and the school as it's the first time Ruislip High has won the competition.



World Maths Day

This year World Maths Day fell on Sunday 15th October.

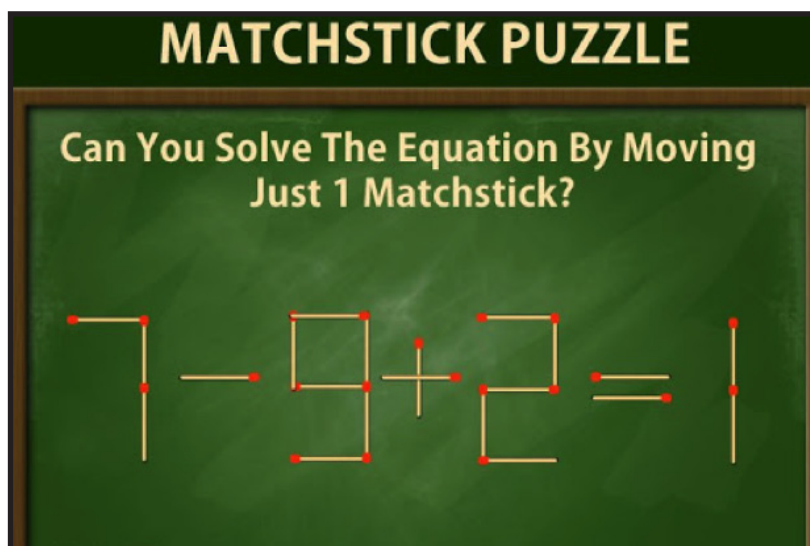
The students at Ruislip High celebrated by taking part in a mathematical puzzle challenge. All of the maths lessons on the Monday kicked off with a logic puzzle activity; there was a choice of two puzzles, one aimed at Key Stage Three students the other at Key Stage Four and Key Stage Five students.

The students worked in pairs and Ruislip reward wheels were on offer for those who completed the activity the fastest. The logic puzzle activity received positive feedback, from both students and staff, who enjoyed the collaboration and peer guidance elements of the activity.

With maths being such an integral part of every subject, these two puzzles provided reasoning opportunities and allowed the students to ask probing questions.

Numeracy Challenge

Please try the following numeracy challenge puzzle at home with your family and when completed return to Miss Finnigan for a Ruislip Reward Wheel. One lucky entry will receive a small prize!



YEAR 10 NEWS

As the new students in Key Stage 4, Year 10 have made a great start to the year, with most students stepping up to the challenge that this move entails. The large increase in workload has been taken in their stride and there is a lot of high-level work being produced by these students across the faculties.

It has been great to see so many Year 10 students involved in Above and Beyond clubs, not to mention those who participate in extra-curricular activities with external groups.

Year 10 Football

The Year 10 football team has made a fantastic start to the year. In the borough cup they have won both their games, beating Queensmead 11-0 and Vyners 8-0. In the National Cup the boys made it through to round 4 for the first time, before losing on penalties to St Joseph's (Croydon) in a fantastic game of football.

The boys are looking ahead to their remaining borough games after Christmas with the hope of a run to the final.

Year 10 Netball

The Year 10 netball team have shown great commitment, returning as the senior team of the school. Their results so far have been mixed, with a number of good wins against two Vyners teams (both 7 - 0) and Haydon (14-2), though they were held to a draw against Bishopshalt (3-3).

The team now have a break until late January, though training continues for skills improvement.

Jack Petchey Foundation

The staff and students once again made their nominations for students throughout the school for those who are hardworking, help and inspire others.

Well done to the following students whose dedication and attitude toward their lessons and their peers have seen them recognised: Fionnuala (10S), Saul (10F) and Kacey (10A).

Congratulations to all those who were nominated! Winners are difficult to decide when the field is so strong.

Speak Out!

On Monday 4th December a group of Year 10 students participated in the Speak Out Challenge, also run by the Jack Petchey Foundation. A BBC journalist came to Ruislip High for the day to coach the students on public-speaking skills, including voice, body language, and expression. Those involved were a credit to the school and a number of students, who found the whole prospect very daunting at the start of the day, were able to give a well thought-out speech in the final session.

For showing exceptional progress in the course of the day, Highly Commended went to Courtney (10A) and Jayden (10F).



Due to time constraints, the winner and reserve from the training had only one day to prepare before heading to the Hillingdon Regional final at Vyners School on the 5th December.

A massive well done to Tamara (10W) for the brilliant performance she put on and a big thank you to our worthy reserve Thivyaa (10W) for being there in support, ready to go on if needed.

Of Tamara and Thivyaa, the organiser of the event said, "They are such kind and inspiring students. It was a real pleasure to meet them both."

YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 have made a fantastic start this term at Ruislip High School. On their first day in September, there were lots of nervous faces and anticipation of what was to come. By the end of the day it was clear that some firm friendships had already been made and students were talking enthusiastically about their first lessons in high school.

The year group have shown that they are fully embracing the Ruislip High School ethos and values. As Head of Year, it is delightful to receive mentions from staff about how well Team Green are settling in. Mentions from staff include: "Year 7 are so enthusiastic" and "What a great year group – they are so hard working". I have also been impressed with the commitment to learning happening in the Year 7 lessons I have observed around the school.

Year 7 are certainly making their mark on the school community. The Year 7 Year Team Council (YTC) have attended their first meeting where they have been vocal about their ideas about the school. The YTC representatives have already shown that they are great ambassadors for not only their year group but for Ruislip High School. They wear their badges with pride and listen carefully to their peers' opinions to make positive changes in school. They also enjoyed the refreshments in the meeting – I'm not sure I have ever seen biscuits disappear so quickly!

One exciting event that Year 7 took part in this term was our annual Theme Day. The theme this year was 'integrity'. Students were asked to prepare, as a class, a debate to save Mr Randall and Mr Ryan who were trapped in the future in a dystopian society. During the debates students were engaged, articulate and extremely passionate. As judge, it was very hard to decide who the winning teams were as it was like sitting in a real court case! Students also took part in a physical activity which involved learning skipping skills. The instructor paid the year group great compliments, saying that they were a dynamic bunch of students who were able to work well as a team.



Assistant Head of Year, Mr Ladhani launched 'Attendance Superstars' this term. All students wear a star shaped badge reflecting their current attendance. These range between gold, silver and bronze. Students have been very competitive about their attendance and I know that they have worked really hard to keep their attendance figures high. At the start of the new term in January, all students will be issued with a gold badge with attendance being reset – I am hoping that all 180 students still have a gold badge by the end of next term.

During our annual Presentation Evening, the Year 7 Choir sang to a vast audience of prize winners, parents, staff, governors and special guests to the school. The audience were treated to a rendition of 'Fight Song'. Their talent was electric. Every student in the choir sang with passion and really gave it their all. By the end of the song there wasn't a dry eye in the building! They were very moving and as a Head of Year I was left feeling extremely proud.

Miss Loizou, Head of Year 7

YEAR 9 NEWS

It's the end of the first term for the Year 9 students and what a term it has been!

I am proud to inform parents that the students started off the year in fine form. They have taken to their Year 9 studies with great enthusiasm and this has resulted in some brilliant grades for the students just before the holidays.

In sports news, the students have tried extremely hard and represented the school in a variety of sports including football and netball. Whilst not always victorious, one of the reasons that watching the Year 9 students is so enjoyable is that they play with honour and, win or lose, play with dignity! I would encourage you all to come and watch some of the events next term!

The Year 9 Ambassadors have truly led the way in terms of representing the year group. Students have been asked to do a variety of tasks from helping to clean up the community to showing guests around the school at various events. In the new year staff will be appointing two new ambassadors to the team - something to be excited for over the break!

In extra-curricular news, the Year 9 students have the highest ever uptake of students for the

Duke of Edinburgh award. With over 70 students signed up, there has been lots of volunteering and new sports happening and I look forward to the camping stage when it happens.

The inter-form competition was fierce this year with a battle between 9D and 9W going down to the final day. This term the award was secured by 9D after both 9D and 9W received three Headteacher awards each.

During a term with a lot of change and transition, the Year 9 students have handled themselves with great maturity and continue to have a thirst for learning that is ensuring that they will achieve some fantastic results in their GCSEs. Their GCSE Options Evening is on Thursday 11th January 2018 and I look forward to seeing you all there to get feedback about how your children are getting on now and to look to start deciding what they will go on to study in the future.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2018.

Mr Iain Elsby
Head of Year 9

GARDENING CLUB

In 2012, 100 trees were planted and named after Ruislip High School as part of Hillingdon council's plan to plant a wood on the former RAF Uxbridge site to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

On Friday 22nd September students from the school's Gardening Club visited Jubilee Wood, created in 2012, and were invited to take part in the planting scheme. The students had a great time planting flowering bulbs and plants. Thank you to Mrs Kotak for supervising the visit.

Student quotes:

"I had an excellent time and I got to meet lots of people including the Mayor. I also saw some brilliant fish and water scorpions." Toby, 10B

"I loved it because there was lots of nature and it was a fun experience. It was also nice meeting the Mayor for the first time." Isabella, 9C

"It was a great experience where I got to have fun and get involved in helping the environment." Jessie, 9F



YEAR 8 NEWS

What another great start to the year for the Year 8 students! Since they have been back, they have demonstrated a fantastic sense of unity and have been amazing role models to the new Year 7 students.

In lessons, they are still incredibly focused, engaged and creative and are making the Year 8 team very proud.

Well done to all of you. Keep it up next term!

Here are just some of the things the year group should be very proud of.

Theme Day: Integrity

On 20th October, Year 8 students joined the other year groups to celebrate one of the most important Ruislip values: integrity.

Students were propelled into a dystopian future where people were rating each other with an app. The opportunities and lives of people were then defined by their social rating. The aim of the day was to get two unfortunate teachers, Mr Randall and Mr Ryan, back from this terrifying future.

To do so, Year 8 students took part in a range of activities, involving story-telling in the Roman times, building a time machine and dancing Bollywood style to burn enough energy out to activate the machine. The day culminated in the re-enactment of their beloved teachers' trial, with Mr Askin playing the part of the judge. It was fantastic to see the students getting passionate about human rights, freedom of speech and self-determination. All students were engaged and fought well with words, but a special mention goes to 8A, 8F and 8W who won the debates with flying colours!

It was a fantastic day and students really enjoyed learning about integrity in such an imaginative way.



Getting busy for the Festival of Cultural Integrity

To follow up from Theme Day, Year 8 students have been starting to work on their stall for the brand new event: the Festival of Cultural Integrity. Every form in Year 7 and Year 8 have chosen a country to represent on the evening and will organise activities and sell food or objects related to the country of their choice. Sick of the rainy weather? Travel to Italy with 8A or Australia with 8D. Feeling like exotic, spicy food? Then take a detour by the Caribbean with 8S, or to Mexico with 8B. Do you want to work on your creative skills and hip shaking? The Hawaiian stall of 8C is where you want to go. If, however, you would rather keep it local, 8F and its "Coastal Towns of Britain" stall will provide all the comfort you need.

The students are working really hard to make this event a great celebration of cultural differences, so please come and join the party on 6th February!

Sport News

All of the Year 8 teams have been working very hard since the beginning of the school year and, as hard work always pays, they have been very successful.

Well done to all of the students, and thank you for wearing and defending the colours of Ruislip High School with so much pride and respect.

The PE department would also like to congratulate Guilbert (8A), Akos (8S) and Anna (8S) for their participation and great performance at the Borough of Hillingdon Athletics Tournament. The three Year 8 runners reached the finals of the competition, demonstrating great skills and sports(wo)manship.

Another mention has to go to Cameron (8D) who represented Great Britain in Poland for the Gymnastics World Championship. Well done Cameron for all the effort and achievements in and outside school.

Christmas School Production

The Year 8 team would like to congratulate the five very talented Year 8 students who were chosen to take part in this year's wonderful "A Christmas Carol" Panto.

Amy (8F), Lottie (8F), Sam (8S), Aaron (8D) and Luke (8B) have been working extremely hard to help produce the show and entertain the audience. They also have been praised for their fantastic team-spirit and good humour.

Well done Year 8 and thank you for representing the year group so positively.

Christmas Card Competition



Year 8 staff are delighted to announce that the year group has won the Christmas Card Competition again this year.

Noémie (8W) deserves a gigantic round of applause for all her efforts and beautiful work of art.

Year 8, let's try to take it all and win all the whole-school competitions this year!

Miss Lucas, on behalf of the Year 8 Team.

LRC NEWS: HIGHLIGHTS

With Christmas approaching it is a great time to reflect on another exciting, jam-packed year in the LRC. Due to its perfect location in the central part of the school, the LRC is booked by a vast amount of teachers across the curriculum for lessons and events, allowing students to use the vast space, laptops and projector and of course the hundreds of resources to hand.

There have been lots of fantastic events, some new and some existing in the LRC this year:

The chess tournament: an event with students from all years participating.

Yu-Gi-Oh tournament singles and doubles: this involved a group of very enthusiastic Yu-Gi-Oh fans playing against each other for the ultimate title.

Maths 24 game: this took place in the LRC hosted by the Maths department with several local schools taking part with the hope of winning the top spot.

End of term student quiz with many teams of students pitching against each other to win some amazing prizes.



Scholastic book fair



As in previous years the LRC has ran some very successful Scholastic book fairs; this is a great opportunity for students and staff to purchase new books, stationery and resources, some at discounted prices. Fortunately due to having some very successful fairs, Ruislip High School is rewarded by being allowed to sell new books and resources at half the retail price.

The half price new book and stationery fair was held in the LRC from Monday 11st – Friday 15th December with many books, stationery and resources available at half the retail price.

It was available to students during the school day and parents/guardians who visited after school from: 3:00pm – 4:00pm Monday – Thursday and 2:35pm – 4:00pm on Fridays.

Accelerated Reading Success

Accelerated Reading is still going from strength to strength under the direction of Mrs Nieldzielska, with the support of the LRC Manager, Mrs Austen; the group of chosen students attend Accelerated Reading on a daily basis in the LRC, to participate in supported reading, which the students are then quizzed on. The results are amazing with the majority of students scoring 100%. In the last assessment all the students showed an increase in their reading age.

Above and Beyond after-school LRC homework club

The LRC after-school homework club continues to be extremely popular, with vast amounts of students from all years attending.

The students who regularly attend can take advantage of the extra time and remain after school to complete homework, especially as the LRC has many computers and laptops available and teaching assistants (TAs) to support.

The LRC Homework Club is open every evening after school: 3:00 – 4:15pm Monday – Thursday and 2:35pm – 4:00pm Friday.

'Game, Set and Match'

As well as the hundreds of books/magazines in the LRC there are also a large number of board games available for students to play during break and lunch. This is extremely popular in all year groups, with many students interacting with each other in healthy competition.

'Brand new Stationery shop open for Business'!

As part of the 'Tycoon in schools' school project, a free national enterprise competition, which

aims to encourage the UK's budding entrepreneurs to get involved in business, the LRC has teamed up with a group of Year 10 Business Studies students and launched a brand new stationery shop called 'Bits and Bobs'. The shop is based in the LRC and is open every day before, during and after school.



The shop sells a range of good quality stationery items at cheap prices, including Period 1 check packs which include: exam pencil case, pencil, four coloured pen, glue stick, eraser, 30cm ruler and a whiteboard pen for £5.00 for a large filled pencil case or £4.50 for a small filled pencil case.

Items for sale:

Pencils 15p, erasers 20p, pens 50p, four colour pens £1:50, glue sticks 50p, rulers 50p, post-it notes: small 20p, large 50p, clear pencil cases: small £1:00 large £1:50, highlighters 50p, whiteboard markers 75p, scientific calculators £5:00

Coming soon: USB Sticks, Revision cards

If there are any items 'Bit and Bobs' currently do not sell but students would like, please inform Mrs Austen in the LRC.

A Big Thank you: The LRC is such a busy environment and values all the help and commitment shown by some dedicated students at Ruislip High School. A number of the students across the years give up their free time on a daily basis to help out in the LRC, before school, during the school day and after school. A big thank you to the following students for all the hard work.

Year 7: Matthew Beattie, Sean Burns, Lily Palmer, Callie Gigg, Musawer Shir Ahmad, Ben Drussell, Lola Malecaut, Darcy May, Derin Ozer, Jacob Tait, Cerys Barber, Sergio Carcellar-Castillo, William Gunn-Gooderham, Cyprian Trzeciak.

Year 8: Luke Ebden, Kyle Morse, Ellis Watson, Monica Powar, Molly Gopinathan, Catherine Max-Grant.

Year 9: Hodman Bishar, Sophie Ford, Emily Chaveli, Alfred Chung, Hollie Fox, Satya Irrinki, Chanel Clarke.

Year 10: Sivathanushan Sivanathan, Sofyah Hussein, Ellie Collins

Year 11: Jack Evans, Aoibhin Eldrett, Saraneyaa Gobi, Thomas Cooney

Also a big thank you to all the LRC staff who help in the LRC. Thank you for your continued loyalty, hard work and commitment Mrs Kotak, Mr O'Neill, Mrs Hudson, Mrs Crowther, Mrs Dowsett and Miss Flynn who covers the LRC in my absence.

Christmas Joke:

'What do you call Santa Claus when he stops moving?

'Santa Pause'



The LRC wish you all a fantastic Christmas and new year and look forward to another busy school year in 2018.

Mrs Austen
LRC Manager

MUSIC NEWS

The music department were extremely proud of the students who performed at the school's annual Presentation Evening earlier this term.

Hannah (C62) and James (C61) were the first to perform and delivered a superb vocal duet which exuded flair and charisma. Hannah sang a second time during the evening as part of the school choir singing the well-known song 'Beautiful' featuring a solo by Ralitsa (10C). The audience were highly impressed by the moving piano solo, 'Kiss the Rain', performed by Cerys (9W) which was directly followed by Michael (11C) singing and playing the guitar to the tap footing 'Love Yourself'.

The final performance of the evening was by the Year 7 choir and they treated the audience to a rousing rendition of 'Fight Song'. The choir sang with musical precision and Caelan (7A), Santhula (7A), Libby (7S) and Vharsan (7C) executed their solo parts with style and confidence.



STUDENTS TAKE PART IN CERN SYMPOSIUM

Ruislip High students took part in the CERN Symposium event on Thursday 16th November. CERN is the European Organisation for Nuclear Research and students attended as part of Ruislip High's programme to engage girls in Physics. The event took place at the Science and Technology Facilities Council in Oxford, where schools across the country came together to present their own research projects.

Ruislip High students have been testing the alpha, beta and gamma radiation from soil samples across the UK. Despite being the youngest students there, Hannah (Year 12) delivered a brilliant speech, presenting alongside Reem (Year 11), Ella (Year 11) and Aiobhin (Year 11).

This research was presented to a lecture room full of students and professors. The students were so excited to be there and enthusiastically networked with the professors to hopefully be involved with future projects which could potentially lead their research to be published in academic papers.

The full list of students taking part were: Hannah (Year 12), Isobel (Year 12), Saraenyaa (Year 11), Ella (Year 11), Ula (Year 11), Reem (Year 11), Ivy (Year 11) and Aiobhin (Year 11). Science teacher Ms Chahwala said, "Our students were phenomenal and we're very proud of their presentation and certificate!"

YEAR 11 NEWS

Year 11 students have really stepped up to the challenge of their GCSE exams this term by completing their Pre-Public Exams (PPEs). Most students have done themselves proud with their effort and commitment to their studies. The challenge of the work has greatly increased but, with this, so has their thirst for knowledge. Whilst there have been many stand-out achievements, events and activities taking place this term, here are a few of the highlights:

Preparing for Pre-Public Exams (PPEs)

Year 11 students have come back to school after summer and really hit the ground running. They have already demonstrated how committed they are to being successful by attending revision sessions that are being run by members of staff.

Theme Day

Ruislip High School hosted another successful Theme Day this term with a focus on the theme of 'Integrity'. Year 11 students were extremely passionate about every task and were particularly impressive during the public-speaking tasks where they voiced their views both articulately and contextually. As well as showing off their presentational skills, Year 11 students were also able to test their agility in the parkour activity. Students threw themselves into what proved to be an energetic and exciting activity.



Panathlon Champion!

The Panathlon Challenge is run by the Jack Petchey foundation. Over 500 schools across the country take part in 'mini Paralympic' multi-sport competitions for secondary or primary school children, along with dedicated football, boccia and swimming programmes. Year 11 students James Hillier and Samantha Holland took part in the Panathlon, with Samantha being awarded the very prestigious prize of the Jack Petchey award for contribution.



Scholars Programme

This term a group of committed Year 11 students have been studying with a PhD tutor as part of the Scholars Programme. The programme so far has included a trip to Oxford University during which the group heard from current Oxford students and staff, had a tour around Pembroke College and completed various study skills sessions. The students will be working alongside their tutor over the next few weeks to complete a piece of scientific writing at undergraduate level. The group have devoted a lot of time to their studies and meetings and should be very proud of all of their dedicated hard work.

ENGLISH NEWS

Key Stage Three

Year 7

Yet again the English department has been impressed with the quality of work produced by Year 7 for their autobiography unit. From September, the students have been reading a wide range of autobiographies and creating their own 'autobiographies of the future'. They have also been extending their wider reading and comprehension and revising key grammar skills as part of the autobiography booklet created for students.



Since autumn half term, the Year 7 students have been plunged into the murky world of political conspiracy as part of the new unit studying Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar'. The students are learning to identify rhetoric as a persuasive technique and analyse language, a skill that they will carry throughout their school years. In the spring term, students will be studying a range of famous speeches, from Michelle Obama, to Martin Luther King Jnr.

Year 8

Year 8 students have used their reading of Susan Hill's 'The Woman in Black' in the first half-term to inspire analysis of language features and forms. They have since spent this half term studying the features of the gothic horror genre in preparation for their own terrifying tales of the macabre.

Coming up in the spring term, students will explore a range of texts on London, from Blake and Dickens to Zadie Smith, in the 'London Through the Pages' unit.

Year 9

Showing excellent promise as the leaders of their key stage, all of Year 9 have been introduced to the new GCSE specification through a unit of work on the book and film 'Rabbit Proof Fence', producing some excellent research project homework on the historical context of the 'Stolen Generation' in Australia. Since half term, students have read and studied the classic text, 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck, exploring symbolism and structure. Their sensitive understanding of context and content has meant the analytical essays produced in response to this text have been thoughtful and detailed, showing them to be ready for the challenge of the next few school years.

Coming up in the spring and summer terms, students will be exploring dystopian fiction and Shakespeare's timeless tragedy, 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Key Stage Four

Year 10

Embarking upon their GCSE studies with dedication and determination, Year 10 students started the year with a drama text, reading J.B Priestley's 1945 play 'An Inspector Calls'. As the play was set in 1912 but written in 1945, students have explored the social and historical context of both time periods in addition to studying dramatic techniques and exploring how the author creates dramatic tension through the use of language and structure.

Since half term, students have been exploring the Robert Louis Stevenson classic 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde': the perfect introduction to the Victorian Gothic style, to which their Year 8 reader 'The Woman in Black' paid homage. Their interest in the Victorian context of the novella has been notable and students' analytical essays are already showing great promise.

In the New Year, students will be introduced to the English Language Paper 1, one of two Language papers they will take in Year 11.

Year 11

Following on from the results achieved by last year's GCSE cohort, Year 11 students have shown maturity and dedication to their studies in preparation for the summer challenge ahead. In Year 10 students covered Robert Louis Stevenson's 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde', 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B Priestley and English Language Paper 1 and the 'War and Conflict' Poetry anthology.

This autumn term, students learned to compare 19th century and modern non-fiction writing in the Language Paper 2 and have been exploring the dramatic and murderous Shakespeare tragedy 'Macbeth'.

After the December PPEs, students will complete their studies on 'Macbeth' and then move on to revising all the course content in preparation for the summer exams. As there is no coursework and the exams are closed book, memorisation and revision up to the exams will be key, alongside exam skill preparation.

Key Stage Three

Year 12 English Language

The students have spent the first half term learning the content of the two units of work they will be examined on: Textual variations and representations and Language Diversity and Change. The students have taken part in debates around Language and how it relates to gender, ethnicity, region, age and social status. With Ms. Winer, they have been learning advanced grammar and exploring audience positioning and advertising through time.

Year 12 English Literature

In English Literature, students have been studying 'A Streetcar Named Desire' as well as a range of poetry from the Elizabethan era to the present day. Their novel reading has focused so far on 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles' and 'Atonement'.

Year 13 English Language

Year 13 students have been studying the development of children's speaking, reading and writing and analysing how language has changed over time for the forthcoming A2 examination.

They have also been completing their own fascinating coursework investigations. They are investigating topics of their own choice which include: the way propagandist language was used during WWII, the language used in children's story books and an investigation into language used to represent disabled people. They have also completed their own original writing pieces, ranging from political opinion pieces to short stories.

Year 13 English Literature

Year 13 English Literature students have been reading and analysing 'The Duchess of Malfi' and comparing it with 'A Streetcar Named Desire'. They have also been revising 'The Tempest' in preparation for their upcoming PPEs. Next term they will need to learn a lot of quotations from both of these plays.

PE NEWS

It has been a very good term in PE this autumn. Ruislip High School entered all available competitions for the term, including Year 7-13 boys' football leagues and Middlesex Cup competitions, and Year 7-10 girls' netball leagues. In addition, Ruislip High has participated in the following annual borough competitions: handball, cross-country and badminton. On top of that, there have been the usual clubs taking place before and after school to ensure it has been a term full of participation and competition for all.

Football

Year 7

The Year 7 football team has made a brilliant start to their time at Ruislip High. With over 35 boys at training each week it has been a difficult job to select a team for each of the games. In the borough competition the Year 7 students have won two and lost one, finishing second in the group and qualifying for the quarter-finals of the cup competition. The boys also made it through to the last 16 of the Middlesex Cup before losing a tight game to a strong Cardinal Wiseman team.

There have also been B team fixtures, and there is more to look forward to after the Christmas break.

Year 8

The Year 8 boys have had a tough start to borough competitions, but have shown great spirit and commitment in every game.

Year 8 Football Squad: George (8D), Sonny (8W), Nikolas (8F), Liam (8C), Olayinka (8W), Guilbert (8A), Pharell (8S), Alfie (8C), Adam (8F), Daniel (8F), Luca (8D), Joshua (8F), Georgi (8F)

Year 9

The Year 9 football team have had a good term with high points coming in the Middlesex Cup and notably a 10-0 victory against local rival Vyners.

Year 9 Football Squad: Damien (9F), Ryan (9C), Amit (9C), Toby (9A), Haydon (9C), Kye (9F), Jack (9F), Tom (9B), Oliver (9F), Gene (9F), Hekmat (9C), Joshua (9F), Callum (9C), Ryley (9A), Oliver (9C)

Year 10

The Year 10 football team has made a fantastic start to the year. In the borough cup they have won both their games, beating Queensmead 11-0 and Vyners 8-0. In the National Cup the boys made it through to round four for the first time, before losing on penalties to St Joseph's (Croydon) in a fantastic game of football.

The boys are looking ahead to their remaining borough games after Christmas with the hope of a run to the final.

Year 10 Football Squad: Joe (10F), William (10B), Warsame (10F), Aaron (10F), Jamie (10F), Jacob (10F), James (10S), Thomas (10F), Matthew (10F), Daniel (10S), Myles (10C), Brandonne (10S), and Kyle (10C).

Year 11

The Year 11 students have lost the two games they have played so far this season. Unfortunately, their season was cut short due to unforeseen circumstances. In the New Year the school are hoping to get more fixtures.

Year 11 Football Squad: Harvey (11W), Sebastian (11B), Freddie (11B), Yug (11F), Sam (11W), Kian (11F), Kyle (11F), Mohamed (11F), Joe (11B), George (11A), Jack (11F), Jack (11W), Helcias (11W), Curtis (11S), Alfie (11C), Frankie (11D), and Casey (11A)

1st XI

The first ever Ruislip High School 1st XI team has been established and entered the Middlesex league. Three fixtures in and it is a mixed bag of results with a loss, a victory and a draw so far.

1st XI Football Squad: Daniel (C63), Jack (C68), Joshua (C62), Cameron (C67), Liam (C62), Hyaris (C68), Joe (C64), Hugh (C64), Thomas (C65), Samisek (C64), Rawn (C64), Duke (C61), Ethan (C63), Brandon (C66), and Donaldo (C68)

Netball

Year 7



Year 7 squad: Hannah (7A), Caelan (7A), Jodie (7S), Grace (7S), Kallie (7F), Lola (7A), Alisha (7S) and Martina (7S)

Year 8 squad: Lottie (8F), Hannah (8F), Skyla (8C), Chloe (8W), Cody (8F), Catherine (8B), Amy (8F), Heather (8S), Yasmin (8W), Becky (8D), Nancy (8A) and Keira (8W).

Year 9

The Year 9 netball team has made a great start to the season, with excellent team morale and commitment to matches and training sessions. The squad is: Isabella (9F), Maya (9F), Lily (9S), Chloe (9S), Amy – captain (9C), Kamila (9C), Charlotte (9F), Liberty (9D), Hibo (9B) and Janet (9B).



PE NEWS

Year 10

The Year 10 team has had another good year so far, showing great attitudes and perseverance with a mixed bag of results. This year has also seen an exciting new netball kit being made available for the senior team. The squad is: Kate (10A), Leah (10D), Suakshi (10B), Christina (10C), Danielle (10C), Amaris (10S), Nabihah (10D), Ruby (10D), and Tamara – captain (10W).



All Netball fixtures and results

Date	Against	Year group	Location	Score
Thursday 28 th September 2017	Vyners	7	Home	13-3 (L)
		10		24-16 (L)
Thursday 5 th October 2017	Tournament	10 tournament	Vyners	Vyners C 7-0(W) St Helens A 3-0 (L) Haydon 2-1 (L) Vyners B7-0 (W) Bishop Ramsey 4-2 (L) Northwood College 5-1 (L)
Thursday 9 th November 2017	Swakeleys	8	Home	11-1 (L)
		9		18-6 (L)
		10		12-2 (L)
	Bishop Ramsey			
Wednesday 15 th November 2017	Haydon	10	Home	14-2 (W)
	Bishopshalt	10		3-3 (Draw)
	Bishopshalt	9		8-3 (L)
Tuesday 28 th November 2017	St Helens	9	Away	17-1 (L)
		10		9-3 (L)
Thursday 14 th December 2017	DMS	7 and 8	Away	
	Bishopshalt			
18 th January 2018	Oakwood	7	Home	
Tuesday 30 th January 2018	Swakeleys	7	Away	
Wednesday 31 st January 2018	Northwood College	8 and 10	Away	
Thursday 1 st March 2018	Tournament	9	St Helens	
Wednesday 7 th March 2018	Tournament	7	St Helens	
Monday 12 th March 2018	Tournament	8	St Helens	

Cross-Country Borough Competition

Huge congratulations to Luke (9D) who won the Year 8/9 boys race at the Hillingdon cross-country Championships. Ruislip High will now have seven students going on to represent Hillingdon at the Middlesex cross-country Championships.



Year 7 boys



James (7F) 7th, Jamie (7B) 14th, William (7C) 21st, Makar (7W) 33rd, Vharsan (7C) 58th, Jacob (7A) 65th and Mustafa (7F) 67th.

Year 8/9 boys

Luke (9D) 1st, Toby (9A) 8th, Amit (9C) 21st, Joshua (9F) 28th, Akos (8S) 32nd and Guilbert (8A) 37th.



Year 7 girls

Kallie (7F) 26th, Grace (7S) 48th, Charlotte (7W) 71st, Jessica (7A) 75th, Anjali (7S) 80th, Libby (7S) TBC and Jodie (7S) TBC.



PE NEWS

Year 8/9 girls

Aleeyah (9F) 3rd, Anna Guld (8S) 4th, Amy (9A) 27th, Charlotte (9F) 30th, Isabella (9F) 38th and Maya (9F) 52nd.



Year 10/11 girls

Rosie (10A) 3rd and Kacey (10A) 8th

Badminton Borough Competition KS3 Badminton Tournament

The Year 9 students represented Ruislip High School at the Key Stage Three badminton tournament at Harlington School. The team represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating exceptional sportsmanship, teamwork and determination.

All of the students made it to the semi-finals, with Gene (9F) winning gold in the boys 'B' singles competition and Kye (9F) winning silver in the boys 'A' singles tournament.



Team: Gene (9F), Kye (9F), Jack (9F), Oliver (9F), Katerina (9B), Tania (9C), Isabella (9F), and Charlotte (9F).

PRESENTATION EVENING 2017

Presentation Evening 2017 was held in a specially decorated sports hall on Wednesday 8th November.

The event started with opening remarks from Cllr Eddie Lavery, Chair of the Governing Body, before a review of the year delivered by Headteacher, Dr Martina Lecky. The guest speaker was Suzy Stride, who works for the London-based youth and community charity, TransformUK. She has also stood as a parliamentary candidate. In a very enthusiastic and inspiring address, Suzy told the students to play a part in life and not to 'hide behind the stage curtains'. Suzy also said:

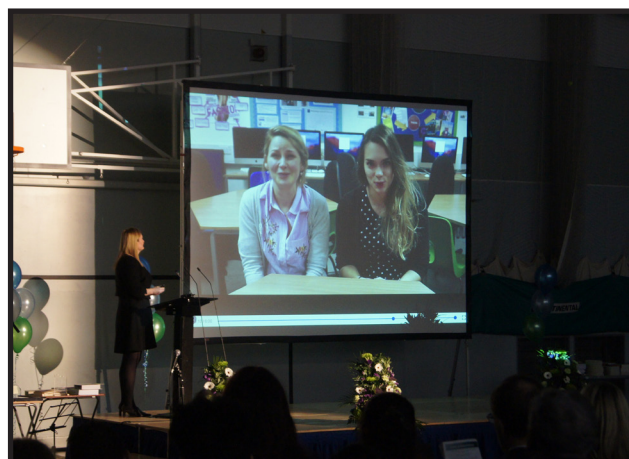
"I won't let fear grip me. Even if something scares you, do it anyway. Don't listen to the bullies or the critics. Don't let those people hold you back. There is no such thing as failure. That only builds resilience and grit. We all experience knock-backs.

It's also important to be kind and to serve others, doing things for other people. Stay grateful and don't be a complainer. Successful people are not complainers.

Avoid comparing yourself to others. No-one else can be you. Don't ever box yourself in – you have no idea what you're capable of."

Musical highlights at Presentation Evening included Michael (Year 11) singing 'Love Yourself' and the RHS choir singing 'Beautiful'. Furthermore, during the presentation by the Sixth Form Senior Head Student and Senior Deputy Students, James, Jordan and Zach respectively, broke into a self-penned rap about school to the tune of 'Fresh Prince of Bel Air'!

The school would like to congratulate all the prize winners and thank all the parents, governors and staff who attended.



GEOGRAPHY NEWS

The Geography Department has changed the look of its classrooms this term with four special new displays. The displays look back over the past eight years of residential field trips that the department has run for GCSE students (to Dorset) and A-level students (to Norfolk). See below for a picture of the colourful display in room D208. The other Geography classrooms (D209, D211, D212) all have new displays along the same theme but each with different photos from the field trip photo archives!

The department also created a new corridor results display for the 2017 exams which proudly shows the department's best ever A-level Geography results (85% A*-C including three grade As and one grade A*). Please see below for a photo.



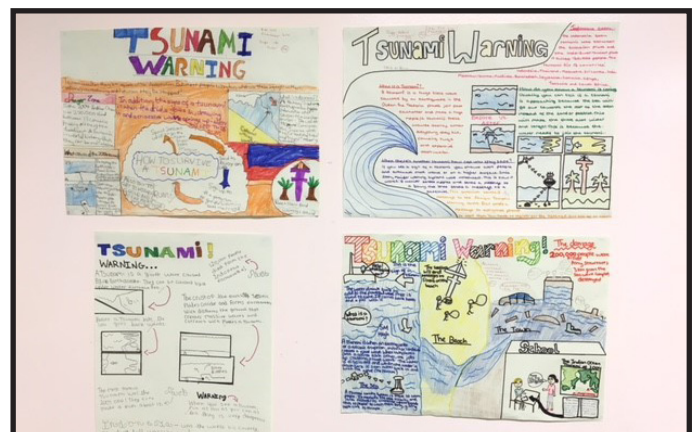
Year 7 Geography

Year 7 students have made an impressive start, studying atlas skills and the UK's longest river, the Severn. The final Year 7 topic of this term has been map skills. Students have become proficient map readers, being able to recognise symbols, use grid references and understand scale. They can also use distances and direction to describe routes. The map skills topic will be assessed in the Year 7 exam in February 2018.

Year 8 Geography

In the first half term, students studied the Earth's tectonic plate movements and the effects of ongoing volcanic eruptions on the Caribbean island of Montserrat. In the second half term, Year 8 have learnt about the causes and effects of earthquakes in the USA. They then studied the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and how efforts are being made to make sure people living in coastal locations are forewarned should an event of this magnitude ever happen again.

Here are some photos of some amazing tsunami warning signs made by Year 8 students.



Year 9 Geography

Year 9 students started the term by studying why countries are in different states of development. They particularly enjoyed playing the Trading Game, through which they learnt about how a country's imports and exports can affect its overall level of development. Students then carried out a detailed assessment on why shanty towns exist around Cape Town in South Africa, and how these can be improved over time.

Year 9 are now studying South America, focusing on Brazil. They have studied the history of Brazil being colonised by Portugal, and why four million slaves were used in the past to cut sugar cane. They have also learnt about some of the key issues facing the country today, such as the burning of rainforest to provide cattle pasture to meet world demand for beef.

Year 10 Geography

A record number of students have started GCSE Geography in Year 10 (135 students). The five classes are focusing on the three topics of the Unit 1 exam 'Living with the Physical Environment' (the Challenge of Natural Hazards, the Living World and Physical Landscapes in the UK). Students should start revising now for their Year 10 exam using their PLCs (personal learning checklists). Year 10 students will then move on to the three topics of Unit 2 'Challenges in the Human Environment'. For Unit 3 'Geographical Investigations', students will carry out fieldwork on the residential field trip to Swanage in July 2018.

Year 11 Geography

The four Year 11 GCSE Geography classes have spent much of this term writing up their fieldwork enquires following their field trip to Swanage in July 2017. They have learnt many new data presentation and analysis techniques. Year 11 students have three exams to prepare for in summer 2018:

Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment. Tuesday 22nd May 2018, pm. 1hr 30mins.
Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment. Tuesday 5th June 2018, pm. 1hr 30mins.
Unit 3: Geographical Applications. Monday 11th June 2018, pm. 1hr 15mins.

The department has created several new GCSE revision resources for the new AQA specification, stored in the 'My Drive' area of Show My Homework.

Year 12 Geography

The new Year 12 A-level class is studying the Hazards unit with Mr Peacock and the Resource Security unit with Mr Alison. The end of unit assessments will take place in January 2018. Students will then study Changing Places and Coastal Systems and Landscapes, as well as statistical skills, before the four-day residential field trip to Norfolk in June 2018.

Year 13 Geography

Year 13 students have been making strong progress towards their two A-level exams.
Unit 1: Physical Geography. Monday 4th June 2018, am. 2hrs 30mins.
Unit 2: Human Geography. Friday 8th June 2018, pm. 2hrs 30mins.

Similar to GCSE Geography, full revision guides will be published in early 2018 and also added to the 'My Drive' area of Show My Homework. Good luck with your revision!

Mr Alison
Associate Assistant Headteacher of Humanities

SPRING TERM DATES

Tuesday 2nd January - Thursday 29th March, 2018

- **Tuesday 2nd January, 2018: INSET day**
- **Wednesday 3rd January, 2018: First day of term**
- **Thursday 11th January, 2018: Year 9 Options/Parents' Evening, 4:30pm – 7:00pm**
- **Thursday 25th January, 2018: Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4:30pm – 7:00pm**
- **Tuesday 6th February, 2018: Year 7 & 8 Evening, 5:30pm – 7:00pm**
- **Thursday 8th February, 2018: Year 12 Parents' Evening, 4:30pm – 7:00pm**
- **Monday 12th to Friday 16th February, 2018: Half term**

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



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