

Ruislip High School NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

STAR STUDENT EMILY DELIVERS MESSAGE ON 'SUCCESS' AT PRESENTATION EVENING 2019



Guest speaker, Emily Fishman

Ruislip High's most prestigious event of the year, Presentation Evening, took place on Thursday 14th November.

It is always a very special and formal occasion when the school welcomes the families of prize winners to celebrate their successes during the previous year.

The guest speaker was Emily Fishman, the first Ruislip High student to attend an Oxbridge University. Emily joined Ruislip High School in 2007, and is now a history teacher at Latymer School in Edmonton.

(story continued on page 3)



Year 9 students perform a vocal solo of 'Read all about it' originally performed by Emeli Sandé



Senior Head Student, Daniel (Year 13), with The Worshipful the Mayor of Hillingdon, Clr David Yarrow and Chair of the Governing Body, Clr Eddie Lavery

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Presentation Evening

Emily said in her speech, *"I always saw school as a place of opportunity. Sometimes, life was hard, especially when I was diagnosed with scoliosis, a curvature of my spine, in 2008. I had to have two major spinal surgeries which were very painful. However, I kept going when I got back to school and worked as hard as I could. My teachers at Ruislip High recognised that I could maybe get into an Oxbridge University. I am grateful to them for helping me apply. Studying at Cambridge University was a fantastic and rewarding experience."*

Success means different things to different people. Whatever you want to do – lawyer, footballer, journalist, astronaut - be resilient and prepared to work hard. Failures will happen but you have to keep going. If you fall off the ladder towards success, it's all about getting back on the ladder. Don't waste the opportunities this school gives you."

Students in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 were nominated by staff to receive a tutor or a subject award, which is a great achievement with only two prizes per subject in each key stage and two prizes in each tutor group, on offer. A few students were also privileged to receive a bestowed award, which are prizes endowed to the school by previous members of staff, students or local dignitaries. Many of these individuals attended the evening to see their prizes being awarded and to hear the reasons the student has been chosen for their special prize. As well as student prizes, three members of staff were honoured for their efforts and achievements, going above and beyond for the students and the staff.

Assistant Headteacher Ms Cotton, who hosted the event, said, *"There is an immense feeling of pride in acknowledging and celebrating the many achievements of our students who have demonstrated continued hard work to fulfil their high aspirations."*

The event featured a review of the year by Headteacher Mr Davies, as well as a number of student musical performances including a piano solo by David in Year 8.



The Year 7 Choir perform 'Count on Me' composed by Bruno Mars

HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

One of the real highlights of the autumn term is the annual community event held at Ruislip High School and hosted by the school's sixth formers. This year we were delighted to host over a hundred guests from the local community and the atmosphere in the atrium was something to behold. I was so proud of the sixth formers who were superb in the way they mixed with guests who were largely made up of senior citizens from the Ruislip community. The students had also decorated the school atrium and served food and drink to our visitors.

In my assemblies to students at the start of this academic year I showed the picture below of this area of Ruislip in 2005 before the school was built. I know it was the vision of the founders of the school that it would grow to become a school at the very centre of the community. I believe this is what Ruislip High School has become and it is a privilege to lead such an organisation. I was struck at the community event just what strong ambassadors our students were for the community ethos of the school. I often use the phrase that we are a school both in and for the local community and it was great to see a shining example of that in practice.



Image from Google maps from 2005 showing the school site before it was built



Sixth Form students at the annual Christmas community event

The evening itself also included a performance of the school's Christmas production: 'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas' in the Main Hall. The production was a pantomime written by, Ms Horton, Head of Sixth Form and included students and staff in the cast. The performance was without doubt a big hit and I was particularly struck by the comments made by a member of the audience who made the point to me that we must have a real atmosphere of trust in the school for staff and students to be able to perform so well together. I thought it was a lovely comment and am so proud to be the Headteacher of a school where staff and students work in partnership in order to '*reach for the sky*'.

Gareth Davies
Headteacher

ANIMAL CLUB

Animal Club takes place for Year 7 and 8 students every Tuesday after school in the Science Department. Students spend time learning about, caring for and entertaining our resident animals; Pandora the hamster, Salt and Pepper our gerbils and Noodles the corn snake. Last week the students experienced a welcomed visit from some exotic guests including a Leopard Gecko, Panther Chameleon and a Red-Eyed Tree Frog. The students had a fantastic time handling and quizzing Science Educator Ayub Khan about his animals and broadening their understanding of the natural world.



Students admire a Panther Chameleon

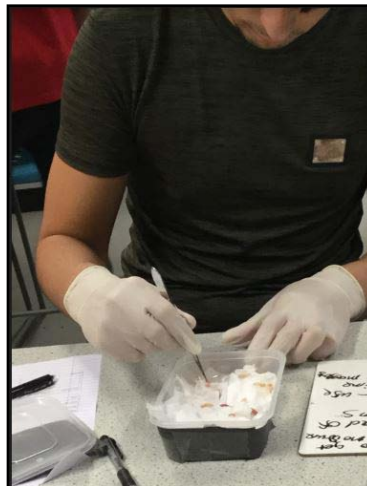


Science Educator, Ayub Khan, shows students a Leopard Gecko

MAGGOTS MAGGOTS AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE!

Year 13 completed their final required practical to meet the practical endorsement section of the A level Biology course. They were given complete autonomy to plan an investigation into the effect of an environmental variable on the movement of an animal using either a choice chamber or a maze. Students had to plan, consider health and safety and analyse results using statistical analysis.

They had to research and cite sources to support research and conclusions – a job well done team Biology!



A level Biology students completing their final practical

BARCELONA TRIP

18th October – 21st October 2019

Thirty eight students, made up of Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Spanish students visited Barcelona during the October half-term for four days. The group stayed in Salou, a beachside resort about an hour from Barcelona. On the first day students spent the afternoon in Tarragona, a picturesque town thirty minutes away from Salou. There they viewed a Roman Amphitheatre and spent time in the old town in small groups. In the evening students had dinner in a typical Spanish Tapas restaurant to sample some of Spain's culinary delights. On Saturday students visited Barcelona for the day. This included visiting the FC Barcelona Camp Nou Stadium, visiting 1992 Olympic Stadium and finally taking a cable car up to Montjuic castle, where students ate their picnics and got to take in the most amazing panoramic views over Barcelona. In the evening students got to explore the hotel and use the swimming pool. On Sunday students spent a full day at PortAventura theme park followed by the last evening exploring the town of Salou collecting specific information about the area all in Spanish. The students worked in teams and completed the task with much enthusiasm. On the last day students visited El Poble Espanyol which is fourth-most popular tourist attraction in Barcelona. Students discovered the architectural diversity of Spain by walking around 117 full-scale replicas of Spanish famous buildings.



Students pose for a picture in Salou



GCSE Spanish students at FC Barcelona Camp Nou Stadium

Quotes from students:

'The Barcelona trip was a once in a lifetime experience for me and the other 37 students. Our taste buds were widened at the tapas restaurant and eyes were exposed to the beautiful sights of Spain. My favourite part was when we went on the cable cars and saw the whole of Barcelona. Thank you to Ms Matias and the other staff for this amazing and by far my favourite trip.' **Skyla**

'I really enjoyed the Barcelona trip because it was my first time going abroad with my friends. It was really fun going around the different places and going to the beach in the evening and enjoying the scenery. The food was great and I loved the tapas. The views from the cable car were amazing. I just had a great time overall.' **Shadi**

'The Barcelona trip was an amazing experience. Definitely the best school trip! I had loads of fun with my friends and spoke to people I probably wouldn't have spoken to before. We went to some historic, fun and interesting places. My favourite part was when we did a team activity on the beach where we had to speak Spanish to the locals and collect information. My group won so we got rewarded with ice-cream and magnets. I would 100% recommend any students doing Spanish to go on the trip.' **Chiyana**

'The Barcelona trip was fantastic! I loved trying all the new foods and tapas. It was amazing how we could practise our Spanish in challenges in preparation for our GCSE.' **Hannah**

YEAR 8 NEWS

Since returning in September, Year 8 have successfully made the transition from being the youngest in the school to being visible role models for our new Year 7s. In lessons, they are as equally exemplary; displaying incredible focused engagement and creativity which makes the Year 8 team very proud.

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

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

Year 8 Silver Cup

At the start of term, students in Year 8 took part in the hotly contested Year 8 Silver Cup. Seeing all forms competing against one another to see who would be crowned champions for the term. Entry to compete in the cup was based on the students needing to have a positive Keep It Positive score for the week which pleasingly, nearly all students managed to do. Each tutor group took part in a different team building activity each week with 8B eventually claiming overall victory and as such, the Silver Cup itself. This was an enjoyable experience for all involved and Year 8 cannot wait for this to begin again in the new term!

Headteacher's Award:

Safwan, 8B, Alexia, 8C and Shrivya, 8A, all managed to win The Headteacher's Award this term; successfully embodying the school's ethos and values. They received their awards for 'making excellent starts to Year 8', 'always going above and beyond to help others' and 'for being extremely kind and considerate towards other students'. The three students have had a meeting with Mr Davies to receive their awards and should all be extremely proud of their achievements this term. Keep it up guys!

Sports News

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

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

Another further mention must go to Rosaleen in 8S who became a 3-time British Champion in Rhythmic Gymnastics last month. If this wasn't enough of an achievement, Rosaleen has also recently been chosen for the National Squad. Well done to Rosaleen for all her efforts and achievements both in and outside of school. It is an honour to count her among our students in Year 8!

Mr Alexander and the Year 8 Team.

ENGLISH LITERATURE BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

A group of Ruislip High students has taken part in an English Literature Battlefields trip run by University College London and the Institute of Education.

The visit took place from Sunday 3rd November to Wednesday 6th November 2019, led by Ms Keenan, Head of English.

The Year 10 students taking part were Yasmin (10W), Jamie (10W), Skylar (10W) and Ronan (10S). They were able to read and engage with the poetry, prose and drama of the First World War in the locations which inspired them, a truly unique opportunity. The group from Ruislip High was joined by students and teachers from other schools including Douay Martyrs, Haydon and Bishop Ramsay.

In Belgium, the students visited Lijssenthoek cemetery to find out more about the role of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; the Memorial Museum Passchendaele to explore trenches, dug-outs and the life of ordinary people at war; Essex Farm in Ypres, the inspiration behind 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae; Talbot House and the death cells and shooting post in Poperinge to find out more about military discipline, including a performance of RC Sherriff's First World War play 'Journey's End'.



Students taking part in the English Literature Battlefields trip run by University College London and the Institute of Education

On the second leg of the trip in France, students visited the places which inspired Wilfred Owen's 'The Sentry' and 'Exposure'; they visited Moreuil Wood to explore military strategy and the role of the cavalry, and finally stopped in Compiègne where the armistice was agreed.

Following this trip, students will work with other schools on a Remembrance Legacy Project.

EQUALITY WEEK

The annual Equality and Diversity Week was celebrated at Ruislip High School this year between 18th November, 2019 to 23rd November 2019. This year's focus was gender identity which provided opportunities for all year groups to develop a healthy understanding of gender identity through tutorial activities, and a talk from a guest speaker from the LGBT charity organisation "Just Like Us". During the talk the guest speakers spoke about the 'gender spectrum' and made students aware of how each individual may feel differently about their gender identities. They also spoke about their own life experiences which the students found very engaging. During tutorial activities the topics of homophobic/transphobic bullying were further covered.

YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 have almost completed their first full term at Ruislip High School. They are the first full cohort to wear our brand new uniform and they certainly wear it with pride. I am so proud of the way the students have made their transition into High School and watching their independence grow day by day.

Theme Day

In the first half term students took part in their first Theme Day. They spent the day "off timetable" taking part in a series of challenging tasks with a focus on building resilience. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Spelling Bee

Ruislip High School took part in an inter-school spelling bee this term. Our representatives were Dillon (7A) and Katie (7B) who both proved to be fierce competitors. Unfortunately the overall winners were from Field End Primary School but Year 7 were in agreement that the winners were very inspiring indeed.

Presentation Evening

The Year 7 choir were very moving at Presentation Evening. They performed in front of a large crowd with grace and maturity. Their maturity and confidence continue to shine through.

Paris 2020

The annual trip to Paris was launched this term. A record number have signed up to the trip. I am pleased to announce that there are 165 students who are going on the trip in July.

School Production

Lots of Year 7 students made their stage debut as part of the ensemble for the Ruislip High School pantomime. The students involved showed their commitment by attending regular rehearsals. They were spectacular in their performances.

Ms Loizou

Head of Year 7

COMPUTER SCIENCE



Computer Science Parents' Support Evening was held on 31st October 2019, 4-5 pm. This evening was aimed to give information to parents on how to support their child at home including resources that can be accessed free online. In addition, Parents were informed about the curriculum content for KS3 and the rationale behind it. Parents also were able to try out the various software including Flowol and Python. The next Support Evening will take place on 30th January 2020.

Ms Poddar and Mr Davies with parents at the Parents' Support Evening

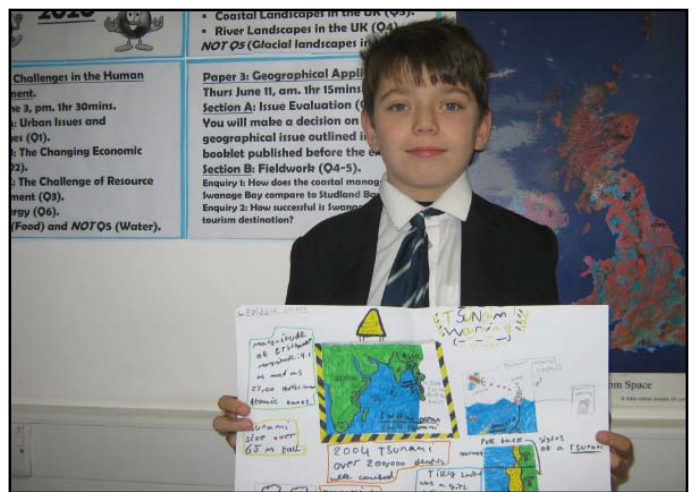
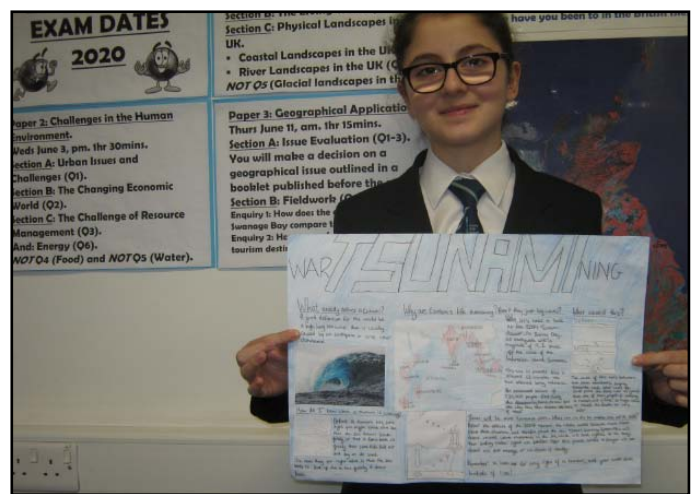
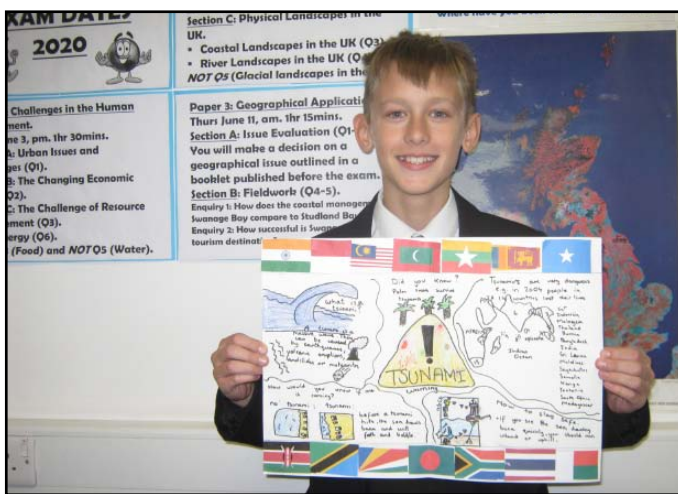
GEOGRAPHY NEWS

Year 7

This term, students have studied atlas skills and the UK's longest river, the Severn. They have also considered how best to manage flooding risk in the UK. The final Year 7 topic of this term has been map skills and the British Isles. The map skills topic will be assessed in the Year 7 exam in February 2020. Students will aim to show their skills understanding map symbols, grid references, scale, direction and height. A good website to practise on is www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone. As with all Geography assessments, students will be given a personal learning checklist (PLC). In January, students will start the 'Cold Environments' topics, which includes some of the best stories in geography – the 1953 ascent of Mount Everest and the 2011/12 Race to the South Pole!

Year 8

Here are some photos of Year 8 students showing their autumn term work on tsunamis.



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 help people living in coastal locations be forewarned should an event of this magnitude ever happen again. Year 8 students have also taken an interest in the volcanic eruptions in New Zealand in December 2019.

Year 9

Year 9 students started the term learning why countries are in different states 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 9s moved onto study South America and Brazil. They learnt about the social history of Brazil, and how the population is made up of people from different backgrounds around the world. They learnt about the colonisation of Brazil in 1500 by the Portuguese, and the modern day economy of Brazil where industries such as cattle farming are significant to the country's income. This was linked to the ongoing issue of Amazon deforestation.

Year 10

One of the main topics in GCSE Geography in Year 10 is 'Living World'. A large number of students have started GCSE Geography in Year 10 (117 students). The four classes are focussing on the three topics of the Paper 1 exam 'Living with the Physical Environment'. Students could 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 Paper 2 'Challenges in the Human Environment'. For Paper 3 'Geographical Investigations', students will carry out fieldwork on the residential field trip to Swanage in July 2020. We are pleased that over 100 Year 10 students are taking part in what will be Ruislip High's 11th visit to Swanage!



Here is a photo of Luke in Year 10 helping with a starter activity on the value of tropical rainforests

Year 11

The five Year 11 GCSE Geography classes spent the first few weeks of this term writing up their fieldwork enquires following their field trip to Swanage in July 2019. They have learnt many new data presentation and analysis techniques. Year 11 students have three exams to prepare for in summer 2020. Updated 'Megabook' revision guides, written by the department, will be handed out at Year 11 parents' evening on 23rd January 2020. They will also be shared electronically via Show My Homework.

Year 12

The new Year 12 A-level class of 15 students 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 2020. 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 2020.

Year 13

Year 13 students have been making strong progress towards their two A-level exams: Paper 1 Physical Geography and Paper 2 Human Geography. They have also completed their coursework projects based on their field trip to Norfolk in June 2019. Mr Alison and Mr Peacock are now busy marking the projects and the teachers are already impressed by the students' ingenuity, creativity and levels of analysis!

MR BEEZY INSPIRES STUDENTS AT THEME DAY 2019



Students pose with motivational speaker, Mr Beezy

The school's annual Theme Day took place on Thursday 17th October. As usual, for this special event, students experienced a range of activities different from the usual timetable. The school theme this year is 'Learning' and the event involved students in Years 7-10.

The key-note address was delivered by motivational speaker Mr Beezy. He delivered presentations to all students, including those in Year 11 who were taking part in a special revision day for English, Maths and Science.

Aleena in Year 9 said, *"Mr Beezy told us that in order to be successful in life, overcoming obstacles and working hard is part of the process. His key point was 'No grind, no glory'."*

There were fun physical workshops, with Year 7s doing Bollywood dance, Year 8s trying wheelchair sports, Year 9s taking part in street dance, and Year 10s experiencing Parkour.

Serena in Year 9 said, *"Doing street dance was probably the best thing about Theme Day this year. It was a new skill to learn, very fun and enjoyable!"*

Theme Day 2019 was also based around Crystal Maze-style tutor activities, with students taking part in challenges based in Medieval, Aztec and Futuristic zones.

Ciara in Year 9 said, *"The best part for me was the Medieval Murder Mystery we did as part of the tutor activities."*

Aziz in Year 9 said, *"My best moment was how we had to work together on the 'protect an egg' challenge in the Future zone. We all had to work together to achieve our goal."*

The Sixth Form also had a busy day away from the usual timetable, with Year 12s having a university experience day at the University of Reading or Royal Holloway, University of London. Meanwhile, Year 13s had a post-18 day making plans for when they have completed their A-levels.



7A taking part in the egg drop challenge as part of the Futuristic tutor activity



Year 8 students trying wheelchair sports

STUDENT AND STAFF CAST PERFORM 'THE GRINCH WHO STOLE CHRISTMAS'

Ruislip High's Christmas production was much enjoyed by large audiences on Wednesday 11th December and Thursday 12th December.

'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas' was an all-singing, all-dancing, modernised version of the Dr. Seuss classic, adapted by Ms Horton and Mr Randall and directed by Mr Alexander and Ms Loizou. It featured stellar performances from students and staff alike.



The cast of 'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas'



Students and staff performing during the Christmas production

Ms Horton said, *"I have been so impressed with the enthusiasm, professionalism and adaptability of the student and staff cast over the rehearsal and performance period. In a set of challenging circumstances involving a high amount of absence on one of the performance dates, the cast rose to the occasion and provided a great evening of entertainment for all."* Jesang in 9F, who played Coach Quadricep, said, *"I enjoyed the process of rehearsing the play because everyone was friendly to each other and we laughed a lot. The script written by one of the teachers was very funny and the teachers were very supportive throughout the creative process so I would like to thank them all – Mr Alexander, Ms Horton, Mr Randall and Ms Loizou."*

Aziz in 9F, who played Mr Finch, said, *"It was just an amazing experience to be a part of. I would like to thank Headteacher Mr Davies for being part of our play too. I will also not forget Mr Elsby – I salute him for playing multiple roles in our play when a few of the cast were ill on the second night. All the teachers gave up so much time to help put the play on, including giving up their break times – thanks to them all for their commitment and energy."*

Student cast: Emily King, Zoe Jallaly, Iris Butler, Emma Vereja-Granja, Oliwia Michon, Brooke Harrison, Florence Stevenson, Dhanvi Morzaria, Olivia Lea, Jessica Carter, Dillon Kavanagh, Amelia Sulewska, Katie Buckingham, Pearl Patel, Adam Harabi, Luke Ebden, Vince Himer, Libby Simpson, Lila Parry, Parveen Bansal-Calvete, Joe Sakhi-Moore, Georgia Pittaway, Maika Bryan-Acitores, Rowan Hayden, Cody Shiner, Florence Dutton, Natalie Bianco, Alexia Samoila, Cerys Barber, Erica Nenova, Lauren Byrne, Jiya Rai, Keela Elliott, Lily Tajiki, Aziz Masood, Jamie Roberts, Jesang Limbu, Jennie Ward, Bishan Virdee and Dario Arnold.

Staff cast: Mr Elsby, Mr Amos, Mrs Keenan, Mrs Austen, Ms Flynn and Ms Hill.

SIXTH FORMERS VISIT 10 DOWNING STREET



Mr Amos, Ms Purkis and Year 12 Politics students outside 10 Downing Street

Ruislip High Sixth Formers stood outside 10 Downing Street on a Year 12 Politics study trip on Tuesday 15th October.

This was part of a trip to the Houses of Parliament led by Mr Amos and Ms Purkis. Whilst there, the 12 students were taken on a tour and given time to watch debates in the House of Commons regarding the subjects of racism in football and political prisoners in Catalonia.

After the Parliament tour, students had a question and answer session with Lord Randall, the former Uxbridge and South Ruislip MP, along with a workshop on law-making.

Students were also lucky enough to visit Downing Street and to take a picture outside the most famous front door in the world!

Politics teacher Mr Amos said, *"Visiting Parliament is a vital part of studying politics, and it was my pleasure to take such a fantastic group of students. Hopefully the experience of visiting Parliament and 10 Downing Street live long in their memories; I expect to be invited back when one of them becomes Prime Minister!"*

SIXTH FORM EXTERNAL SPEAKERS PROGRAMME

The External Speaker Programme is an important part of Sixth Form life at Ruislip High. Visitors are welcomed to school to speak to Year 12 students along the theme of the 3Cs (careers, culture and current affairs). The majority of talks take place during Period 5 on Wednesdays and they are an official part of the Sixth Form timetable.

In the autumn term students have had talks from Matt Segal (Frederick's restaurant, Islington, pictured); Jeff Markham (Cardiac Risk in the Young, pictured); the National Citizenship Service; Richard Miles and Anthony Obeng-Manu (Mace construction); and Adam Runacres (a PhD student from UCL speaking about anthropology).



In the spring term, speakers booked so far include Robin Launder (Humanists UK) and Alex Sparrowhawk (Terrence Higgins Trust). The school would appreciate hearing from any parents or guardians who have suggestions for visitors who might be prepared to speak to the Sixth Formers. Please contact Mr Alison via office@ruisliphigh.org.uk

SPELLING BEE

Ruislip High School, as part of the Vanguard Learning Trust, hosted a spelling bee (spelling competition) event on the afternoon of Thursday 5th December.

The school welcomed two contestants and a support team from the other VLT schools (Vyners and Ryefield), as well as three additional local primary schools (Lady Bankes, Ruislip Gardens and Field End). All contestants were in Year 6 or Year 7. The spelling theme was 'countries and cities'.

Many congratulations to Field End Junior School for winning the event! The two Field End contestants, Zoya and Julie, stayed in the competition until the final round. Zoya was the final student to spell a word correctly, with 'Azerbaijan'.

Before then, the competition had lasted over an hour and had seen students correctly spell several tricky words. These included Mogadishu, Nairobi, Lilongwe, Sierra Leone, Paraguay, Prague, Brussels, Tehran, Jakarta, Hanoi, Manila, Switzerland, Kabul, Nicaragua and Honduras. The overall standard of spelling was superb.

The second place school was Ruislip Gardens (with contestants Alina and Abdullah), and the third place school was Lady Bankes (with contestants Hiyah and Dexter). In this event, the primary schools beat the secondary schools! Maybe the secondary schools will prevail next time! Prizes and certificates were handed out by Ruislip High and Field End governor John Garner.



Ruislip High School students taking part in the Spelling Bee event

YEAR 9 CHOIR



The Year 9 choir has had a very busy term with successful performances at Presentation Evening (Read all about it by Emili Sandi) and the Vanguard Christmas Concert (Oh Holy Night). The group meets once a week to work on vocal technique and their performances continue to be very impressive indeed. It is very unusual to have a group of individuals who harmonise so naturally and beautifully together and Mr Stent is determined to ensure they continue to develop and grow as an ensemble.

The Year 9 choir at the Vanguard Christmas Concert

LRC NEWS

With Christmas almost upon us it is a perfect time to reflect on all the wonderful activities the LRC has been involved in this year. One of the first events of the year, which is always a favourite amongst the majority of students and staff, is the ever popular 'World Book Day', a day devoted worldwide to celebrate books and to highlight the importance of reading.

On the day there is always a buzz amongst Year 7 students as on this day the whole of Year 7 are allowed to come to school dressed in costume as a favourite book character. It is always such a popular event, with the majority of Year 7 students taking part and also a large number of staff, much to the delight of the students. As with previous years the tutor groups compete for best dressed tutor group. It is fantastic to see so many students and staff participate and the huge effort which goes into the costumes, many of which are homemade.

The students also get the opportunity to parade around the atrium showing off their costumes for the judges who have the painstaking task of deciding the winners, who get presented with a prize. World Book Day is always an extremely rewarding day. The LRC team enjoy seeing all the excited, smiling faces on the day and look forward to hosting another World Book Day event in 2020.

24 Game

Hot on World Book Day's heels is another exciting event, the ever-popular 24 Game, an annual event hosted by the LRC and the Maths department, which sees a number of selected students from local secondary schools come to Ruislip High, to compete in this challenging numbers competition.

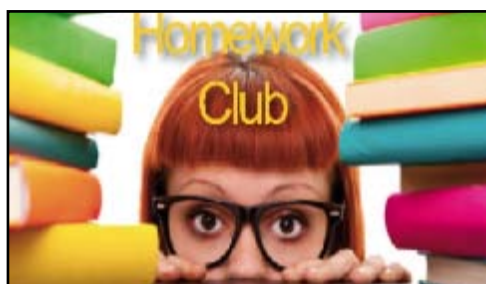
It is an exciting event with an amazing atmosphere as the students all race to find the solution aim to win first place.

The LRC looks forward to another exciting event in 2020!!



Half-price Scholastic Book Fair

Because of the amount of business Ruislip High has generated from previous Scholastic book sales, the LRC can offer a half-price book fair in the second week of December, another favourite amongst students and families. These book sales are a fantastic opportunity for the school to acquire new books for the LRC, as for every book sold, the LRC receive a percentage towards new books, which is a great way of raising extra revenue and more books for the students to enjoy.



'Above and Beyond LRC Homework Club'

The LRC after-school homework club is still as popular as ever with students from all years who take advantage of the extra time and facilities after school to stay and complete homework, especially now the LRC has introduced brand new Chrome books and ongoing help from Teaching Assistants, who sit and support students with homework.

'Golden Thread lessons'

A brand new project the LRC have been involved in this term is the new 'Golden Thread' reading lessons. Each tutor group from Years 7 and 8 spend one lesson each month in the LRC to enjoy a lesson devoted to reading and then completing a book-related task at home. It has proved that reading is so important because it helps develop the mind, broaden the students' use of vocabulary and understanding the written word. It also helps the students to develop language skills and learn to listen, an invaluable skill that will help in later life. Because it has been so popular and well-received by the students, teachers and parents, the Golden thread lessons will continue in 2020.

A Big Thank You from the LRC

The LRC wishes to thank the following people for the ongoing commitment and dedication shown to helping out in the LRC:

The LRC student helpers: Sophie Ford, Ellis Watson, Kyle Morse, Rebecca Hodgen, Rory Femandes, Hodman Bishar, Chanel Clarke, Max Moulders, Lucas Carter, Toby Briscoe, Avantika Palat, Amelia Sulewska, Divya Krishnakumar, Olivia Lea, Edward Taylor, Bismah Ali, Katie Doll, Tia Assi, Vashika Dinesh Kanna, Emily King and Aylar Khatibi.

The LRC staff helpers: a massive thank you to the wonderful LRC staff team, Mrs Kotak, Mr O'Neill and Mrs Nurmohamed who regularly help and support in an extremely busy LRC on a daily basis, which also includes helping students with homework as part of the LRC after-school homework club. The LRC Lunchtime Supervisors: Mrs Crowther and Mrs Dowsett for helping to organise the LRC and who patiently shelve the books daily.

The IT team: Mr Morris and Mr Porther who are always on hand to help the LRC with any IT issues.

The Publications Officer, Miss Hale, who prints all the LRC publications; the Finance Department: Mrs Wilks, Mrs Kettle and Mrs Evans who process all the LRC orders. The reception staff: Mrs Knight, Mrs Turner and Mrs Manjdadria for putting through all the calls for the LRC.

Huge appreciation to you all and The LRC wishes everyone a fantastic holiday and looks forward to another exciting school year ahead.

Mrs Austen
LRC Manager

JACK PETCHEY



Kavindu at the Jack Petchey prize giving ceremony

We are very proud to say that on 14th November 2019, Kavindu received runner-up in the Jack Petchey Outstanding Achievement Award – Panathlon's top annual honour for competitors in London and Essex. He attended the prize giving ceremony at John Lewis in Stratford along with students from other schools, who had participated in The Panathlon Competition. All the students had been nominated by their school for showing outstanding commitment to sport. The award was presented by Liz Johnson, a Paralympic Gold medal winner and the Operations Director for Jack Petchey Foundation.

When Kavindu started at Ruislip High School in 2015 he had already been taking part in Panathlon for many years with his primary school, Coteford Juniors. It was through Coteford that Ruislip High School got involved in Panathlon as they were keen for him to carry on his successes so we have Kavindu to thank for being part of this incredible yearly event which allows students with disabilities to take part in a sporting competition.

Over the years Kavindu has won many medals for taking part in the wheelchair slalom, beanbag throwing, polybat and races. His enthusiasm has no bounds and he has been an incredible member of the Hillingdon team.

Kavindu said "I was really proud to get the award and have enjoyed taking part in the Panathlon over the years."

YEAR 10 NEWS

The Autumn Term has been the start of a new journey for Year 10 with a huge focus on the beginning of their GCSE Options. Students have embraced the challenge head-on and have shown great character and resilience at this early stage. This start is very encouraging and we look forward to seeing what the next term brings on this journey.

Here are just some of the things our year group should be very proud of for this term:

Theme Day

On 19th October, Year 10 students joined the other year groups to celebrate one of the most important Ruislip High School values: learning.

Students were entered into the Crystal Maze and had to complete a series of challenges to escape. Year 10 worked as a year group, as forms and as individuals - sharing some great ideas and strategies throughout the day. Cathrine, in 10B, showed particularly notable leadership in helping her team crack the case of the murder of Rickon the Jester.

The day culminated in the guest speaker Mr Big delivering an inspirational talk to the year group. It was fantastic to see our students' engagement and curiosity when they were given the opportunity to ask questions, and to see them take the message delivered forward through the term.

Sports news

It has been a good term for the Year 10 Sports Stars. The Year 10 boys' football team are through to the second round of the Middlesex Schools Cup despite a difficult league campaign. They drew 3-3 against Uxbridge High in normal time, but went on to win 4-2 in the penalty shootout; the photo below shows the boys' unity during the shootout.

Christmas Pantomime

The Christmas Pantomime is always a feature of this term but was a higher mountain to climb without Mrs Ohana, Ruislip's answer to William Shakespeare. The play, based almost entirely on "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas", was set in Ruislip High and featured the talents of a number of Year 10s but Cody, 10F, stood out as 'Mr Nelsby', as did Jennie, 10C and Luke, 10B, - who played "Mr Nandall" with excellent, if unforgiving, accuracy. Rowan, 10A, was the glue that held the cast together. Ellis, 10B, and Oliwia, 10A, completed the Year 10 cohort in the play which was a great success.

Year 10 Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Cathrine, 10B, represented Ruislip at the Speak Out Challenge Regional Finals this term. Not only was her speech one of, if not the most, politically and socially important of the evening. She was exceptionally brave, sharing some very personal information with a large audience. Her performance was praised individually by the representative by the Speakers' Trust and Cathrine was incredibly unlucky to miss out on going through to the next round. She has set the bar very far for the next year group coming through.

Year 10 Study Club

This term has seen the start of the Key Stage 4 Study Club. This has proved to be a huge success. In total over 400 pieces of outstanding work have been completed. Each piece of completed homework has a positive effect on the students' knowledge needed for their GCSE exams. If a student does not complete their homework then it is compulsory they attend. However, the club is open to anyone who needs a space to complete work. It has been a pleasure to see so many Year 10s take advantage of this, particularly Sumeet, 10F and Shaurya, 10D, who attend on a weekly basis. It is no surprise that both students are performing at the highest standard in all of their subjects.

Year 10 Enrichment Trips

Year 10 have been extremely lucky with the opportunities presented to them this term. A number of educational trips have been organised by various departments and it was great to see so many students taking advantage of this opportunity to extend their learning outside the classroom. The Year 10 team would like to thank Ms Keenan for organising the English Literature Battlefields trip, Ms Matias for organising the Barcelona trip and Ms Lucas for organising the Rome trip.

Year 10 Citizenship PPE

This term has also seen Year 10 sit their Pre-Public Exam for Citizenship. The year group have had formal exams in the hall in previous years, however, this is the start of the preparation for what is to come in the next couple of years. Mr Askin was really proud of how the year group conducted themselves during these two days and the school procedures were followed perfectly.

Year 10 'Prison!Me!No!Way!' Day

50 Year 10 students took part in educational sessions from the organisation 'Prison! Me! No! Way!' (PMNW) on Wednesday 4th December. PMNW is a charity-based organisation which visits schools to raise awareness of prison life and the real-life mistakes inmates have made which resulted in incarceration. The day involved two 1-hour sessions. One focused on a talk from an ex-prisoner who shared her experiences with the students. The other session involved the students getting to see what a real life prison cell feels like, built inside a specially adapted vehicle.



This charity has been used by several other local schools and has been highly recommended to help students reflect on the privileges they enjoy in their day-to-day lives. Luke, 10B, said, "It was very inspirational and guiding about what happens if you make the wrong choices in life. I was lucky enough to get to have a conversation one to one with Julie (ex-prison officer) about my future and she was very helpful".

Exciting Times Ahead

The Year 10 team are extremely excited about the spring term when there will be various opportunities for our Year 10 students. The Year 10 BTEC Sport and BTEC Travel and Tourism classes will sit their exam units in January before starting on their other units. We hope all these students will take some time during the two week break to prepare and give themselves the best opportunity to perform well. Students will also begin their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. A large number of Year 10 students will also attend the school's annual Winter Reward Trip at the beginning of February.

We hope you all have an enjoyable, restful and deserved winter break.

Mr Askin, Mr Randall and the Year 10 team.

YEAR 9 NEWS

It has been a long and challenging term for our Year 9s but they can be very proud of everything they have achieved so far.

We are extremely happy to say that most of Year 9 students have been incredible role models for our new Year 7 cohort, in social time and during lessons.

The stakes are high this year, as students will be choosing their GCSE options very soon, but if we believe the feedback we are receiving from teachers, the vast majority of the year group is on its way to success.

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

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

Theme Day: Learning

On the 17th of October, Year 9 students joined the other year groups to celebrate the essence of school: learning.

We can safely say that students had a great day and that they really enjoyed all the Crystal Maze activities organised by Ruislip High teachers, as well as the street dance workshop.

We believe Year 9 showed a lot of resilience on the day, having to tackle many challenges and this says a lot about their personalities and the kind of people they are becoming.

It is really wonderful for all of us to be reminded that learning is fun and absolutely essential to our development and to our lives. It was a fantastic day and we simply cannot wait for next year.

Vanguard Trust Christmas Concert

We are extremely proud to say that Ruislip High School has chosen five students of our year group to represent the school in the second edition of the Trust's Christmas Concert.

We are very disappointed not to be able to attend, as the girls had absolutely blown everyone away when they performed at Presentation Evening.

Well done Caelan, Charlotte, Emily, Keira and Libby! Your hard work and dedication to performing force respect from all of us.

Christmas Panto

We would like to congratulate all the Year 9 students who took part in the Christmas production this year. We had the highest number of students from the year group ever, and this is showing how more and more engaged our students are with the school community.

The panto was extremely funny, the actors were great and the costumes and décor just magnificent! When in the audience, it is really hard to contemplate the amount of work and after-school hours that have been put in, and we really respect our students who have committed to it to the end.

You have definitely deserved a break!

We would also like to thank all the parents who came to support students, sometimes bringing back-up with them! We feel it is really important for families and friends to celebrate the success of their loved ones.

We would like to wish you all a wonderful break, a merry Christmas if you celebrate it, and we are looking forward to seeing you all in January for Parents' Evening and for new challenges and successes!

Miss Lucas and the Year 9 Team.

YEAR 11 NEWS

6th Form Is Coming!

As I write this letter, the prefects are holding a meeting around me to organise the end of year arrangements. The year seems to be flying past, the PPEs have just finished and the students are awaiting their results which, in turn, will lead to their predicted grades. The past four years have gone by in a flash and now I'm having more and more conversations with students about what they want to study at 6th form, where they are aspiring to go to University, and what careers they will go on to embark upon. It makes me extremely proud to have seen the students grow into the young men and women that they are now. As parents and carers, you should be proud too.

The students have recently gone through one of the most stressful periods of their academic careers and have handled themselves admirably. On January 23rd, you will come into school for Parents Evening where students will receive an envelope and find out how they did! We're excited to welcome you into school again!

In a term that has been exhaustingly busy, it is important that the students take some time off over the holidays to relax, rejuvenate and be ready for the most important term and a half of their academic careers to date!

Miss Horton has been working with the students on their sixth form applications and we're excited to host the largest cohort to date in the brand new extension to our school. Congratulations on all your hard work so far Year 11 and enjoy the holidays, get your rest and I'll see you in the New Year!

Mr Elsby
Head of Year 11

YEAR 12 STUDENTS EXPERIENCE A DAY AT UNIVERSITY



Year 12 students at Holloway University

Year 12 students enjoyed university 'taster' days on Thursday 17th October. Half of the year group visited the University of Reading, while the other half visited Royal Holloway, University of London.

During the trips, students received talks about what university is like, how to apply and how best to prepare for a strong university application.

They also had the chance to meet and ask questions of current undergraduate students at each university, and to have a guided tour around each campus. Organiser Mr Peacock said, *"The students were a credit to themselves and the school, and many came away from the day impressed with the university opportunities that await them."*

TRAVEL & TOURISM NEWS

The new Year 10 Travel & Tourism class have been working hard towards their Unit 1 exam in January, which tests their knowledge of the fundamental concepts and theories in the subject. The department wishes them every success in what will be the first external exam of their Key Stage Four years.

The Year 12 Travel & Tourism class have enjoyed settling into the brand new specification, and students have produced numerous impressive pieces of coursework towards the completion of their first unit. The department has been particularly impressed with the dedication and care that Aimee Embleton, Rosie Hickey, Annabelle Keatley and Ella Magan have put into their work.

The Year 13 class have been busy making proposals for Travel & Tourism businesses. Particularly impressive have been Jack Taylor's football tours business idea and Caitlan Clough's Thames Cruises business. The Year 13 students have been enjoying presenting their excellent business proposals in class.

The department wishes the best of luck for the Year 10 students sitting their exam in January, and looks forward to seeing all of its students continue to impress in 2020!

Mr B Peacock and Ms A Mulqueeny

YEAR 13 CRIMINOLOGY CONFERENCE AT FRIENDS HOUSE CENTRAL LONDON



Year 13 students attending the Criminology Conference

Year 13 Sociologists attended the 2019 Criminology conference on Wednesday 4th December at Friends House near Euston. There were a number of students also studying sociology, psychology and criminology from other schools and sixth form centres.

Students attended a series of interactive lectures including, 'Hate Crime in the Cyber World', by Dr Irene Zempi and 'Domestic Violence & Abuse and the Criminal Justice System', from Dr. Lyndsey Harris. Both of these lectures covered content that students are currently studying and provided statistical and very useful contemporary links. Students also enjoyed a lecture on lie detection where we learnt that we really aren't very good at detecting deception and when people are lying.

The students were fascinated to hear from two speakers who have experienced extended prison sentences. The 'Mafia Princess', Marisa Merico, talked about her experiences as one of the youngest members of the mafia. Noel 'Razor' Smith gave an extraordinarily vivid account of how a delinquent child from south London became a professional bank robber.

'A brilliant day and I learnt so much', Lucy C, Year 13

*'A really interesting day that covered so many aspects of what we have been learning about during our A Level lessons, I would really recommend this day to Year 12's'.
Rebecca Year 13*

VOLCANO HIKE ENJOYED BY STUDENTS AS PART OF TRIP TO ROME AND POMPEII

GCSE Latin and Geography students enjoyed an incredible trip to Rome and Pompeii from Saturday 19th October to Wednesday 23rd October 2019. One of the highlights was when students got to hike up Mount Vesuvius volcano near Naples, which has its summit crater at 1,281 metres above sea level. This is the volcano which famously erupted in 79AD destroying the Roman towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Thirty-six students from Years 10 and 11 saw several famous sites of the Italian capital such as the Colosseum, the Pantheon, the Spanish steps, the Forum and the Trevi fountain.

The group then moved on to Sorrento. From there, they visited Pompeii, Herculaneum and climbed Mount Vesuvius volcano. Students were accompanied by Ms Lucas, Mr Elsby, Mr Cahill and Ms Hill.



Students visit the Colosseum



GCSE Latin and Geography students on their visit to Pompeii

Trip leader Ms Lucas said, *"We had a wonderful time in Italy where we were blessed with excellent weather. I was really impressed by the students' energy as we had planned to see and visit lots of places. It was very full-on. I hope the trip will give students the will to travel more in the future and to be curious about the world. Thank you to all our students for their impeccable behaviour and attitude throughout the trip."*

Callum in Year 11 said, *"It was one of the best school trips I have been on. It was a very good experience and I'd recommend this trip to younger students who are thinking about going in the future. Also, all the teachers helped make it a well organised and enjoyable trip. Everything we saw was stunning."*

SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS EVENT

Year 10 heard from experienced journalist Peter Bale in a specially extended assembly on Tuesday 19th November. Peter was representing the Speakers for Schools 'Creative Careers' programme. He explained how he has worked around the world for several newspapers, the news agency Reuters, as well as the American news provider CNN. The focus of Peter's talk was to help students to think more critically about the news as well as social media content. In addition, he explained how to get into the career of being a journalist or work in the media in general.

PE NEWS

Hillingdon Schools Cross-country Championships

Congratulations to all the students who took part in a very wet and cold day. The annual event which takes place at Vyners School A40 playing fields was on Friday 15th November. There were many stand out performances from the day across a range of year groups. A special mention to Luke E in Year 11 who has only just returned from injury and ran a superb race to place second. Anna B in Year 7 also had a fantastic race placing 3rd in her first secondary school competition. All students who placed within the top 6 will go on to be selected to represent Hillingdon at Middlesex School early next year.

Boys

Year 7

Finlay A (7W) 69th
Alexander L (7W) 12th
Reuben M (7C) 8th
Joe K (7C) 7th
Akshat D (7C) 30th
Keon O-M (7C) 27th

Year 8/9

William L (8C) 22th
Alfie J-G (8W) 23th

Year 10/11

Luke E (11D) 2nd
Amit Si (11C) 6th
Akos G (10S) 13th

Girls

Year 7

Anna B (7B) 3rd
Alic P (7S) 37th
Emily B (7W) 44th

Grace T (9S) 33rd
Libby W(9S) 35th
Anastasia V (8B) 50th
Giselle (8F) 51st
Lily P (9A) 39th
Mia P-V (8W) 37th

Year 8/9

Katlyn M (8A) 17th
Imogen H (8A) 19th
Chloe M (9B) 18th

Year 10

Anna G (10S) 4th

Netball

All teams have made a good start to the season, however there are still lots more games to be played after Christmas.

Training will remain on the following nights for students:

- Monday-Year 7 and 8 (After school)
- Monday-Year 10/11 (Lunch)
- Tuesday-Year 9 (After school)

Up and coming matches:

- Year 7 and 8 Queensmead-14th January 2020
- Year 7 and 8 Northwood College-27th January 2020
- Year 7,8 and 9 Northwood School- TBC
- Year 9 and 11 Bishop Ramsey- 5th February 2020
- Year 11 Vyners, Haydon and Doauy-TBC

Year 11 Versatility Tournament

Students from Year 11 took part in a netball tournament at Vyners School on Monday 23rd September.

The Year 11 students really enjoyed their first taste of netball for the academic year. The versatility tournament requires the players to play in a variety of positions which are selected through a lucky dip style. The students played 3 closely fought games, losing two and winning one.

Miss McGuigan said, *"It was lovely to see the Year 11 girls having fun and being tested by playing in different positions today".*

Evie G (11W), Lily T (11S), Isabella R (11F), Charlotte W (11F), Amy D (11C), Chloe H (11D), Liberty R (11D) and Maya P (11F).

Year 10 Netball team



Year 10 Netball Team

Hannah H (10F), Lottie B (10F), Amy S (10F), Chloe H (10W), Keira E (10W), Yasmin D (10W), Skyla B (10C), Skylar H (10W), Cody S (10F).

The Year 10 Netball Tournament which was held at Vyners School was a fantastic event. The team played closely fought matches and played fantastically only with 7 players due to a number of of them being unwell and unable to attend. The team drew against Bishopshalt, lost against Vyners, drew against Queensmead and lost against Northwood College. Well done to the team for being flexible in playing different positions and supporting one another as always.

Year 7 Netball Team



Year 7 Netball Team

Kayla C (7S) GK, Alice P (7S)GS, Ruby G (7D)-GA, Anna B (7B) GA/C, Aahana K (7B) GD, Sunaina R (7D) C, Emily N (7W) C, Bethany W (7D) GD.

Year 8 Netball Team

Klea B (8B), Mika B (8B), Alexia S (8C), Shannon P (8B), Nisham L (8A), Freya S (8A) Imogen B (8C), Annabelle B (8F).



Year 8 Netball Team



Year 9 Netball Team

Year 9 Netball Team

In their first game of the season the girls lost to a very strong Queensmead and Northwood College. After Christmas the team will play Northwood School and Bishop Ramsey.

Grace T (9S), Libby W (9S), Caitlin W (9A), Tasnim M (9C), Amalie M (9B), Martina S (9S), Chloe M (9B), Sathuri S (9C) and Asha M (9S)

PE NEWS

Football

Date: Tuesday 14th October 2019

Venue: William Perkins School - Greenford

The year 9 football team kicked off their season in fine fashion, winning 10 - 4 against William Perkins in the Middlesex County Cup fixture. The Ruislip team that got to the final last year started their charge back towards the top with a new player at the heart of defence, Maiwand K, 9A, marking his first ever school football appearance with a goal on his debut. After a tentative start which saw Ruislip take the lead, it was clear that Ruislip were asserting their confidence on the pitch, and old routines began to fall into place. Jesang L scoring 4 goals will be a potent threat this year, alongside his attack partners Randy F (1 goal) and Kobe H (1 goal). Flynn D scored 1 goal and a handful of assists, but the surprise came from Player of the Match Charlie M, who added 2 goals in a tireless display.

The squad:

Tommy H, Harry D, Dhiren B, Maiwand K, Charlie M, Harry S, James P, Alfie B, Flynn D, Jesang L, Randy F, Kobe H, Joshua M, Jesse L and William S

Year 9 - County Cup win 4-2 vs Douay Martyrs School - Played at Douay Martyrs 14/11/19

In what is a traditionally tough and competitive game, Ruislip again showed their credentials by beating Douay Martyrs in the County Cup competition, aiming to get back into the final like last year. The year 9s are growing in confidence and are playing some lovely football. To Mr Rutter's delight, they are also managing and dictating game scenarios more effectively. Goals were scored by Jesang L x 2, Maiwand K and Will S. We move on to the Quarter Finals vs Isleworth and Syon to be played before January 18th. Next game is back in the league vs Haydon away on the 5th December. The boys will also be training inside on a Tuesday morning from now on.

Year 7 - League win at home vs Queensmead - Won 3-2 - 12/11/19

The year 7s kicked off their league campaign with a win against a good Queenmead side. Both teams, to their credit, played some excellent football, and I'm sure those who watched would say the same. Goals were scored by Micah, Joe and Max. All players deserve a pat on the back and can look forward to finishing their fixtures strongly. Next game at home to Haydon school on Tuesday 26th November.



Year 7 Football Team

Rugby

The year 8 rugby team were hugely successful in their first rugby festival, winning the majority of their games to come out on top. This was their first outing as a team and we look forward to more excellent performances in the future. The year 8s won the following:

- RHS 15 - Rosedale 0
- RHS 5 - Queensmead 5
- RHS 15 - Haydon 0
- RHS 20 - Park Academy 0

The players included in the squad were a credit to the school and the sport, with many being asked to trial at Ruislip Rugby club. Particular mention goes to captain Harry D (8S) who lead the team superbly, Owen D (8B) who drove and rucked his way through the field and William L (8C) with most of the tries. Connor W also attended despite being injured and assumed a coaching role; his knowledge and maturity was a testament to him and his desire for the sport. But all the following boys played their part in a hugely impressive display throughout:

Harry D (8S), Charlie R (8C), Davey H-S (8S), Will L (8C), George G (8S), Owen D (8B), Morgan C (8W), Harry C (8A), Charlie Mc (8S), Liiban M (8F), Brandon W (8C), Danny C (8S), Henry E (8W) and Freddie S (8A)

The Year 7s represented Ruislip High School in a rugby fixture versus Queensmead on Tuesday 19th November.

It was an excellent game of rugby where both schools demonstrated a good understanding of the sport. It was their first fixture this year and the boys will continue their rugby journey on Tuesday 26th November at the Ruislip festival.



Year 7 Rugby Team

Year 10 Football

The Year 10 football team have had a difficult season. They have lost all their league games to Haydon, Bishop Ramsey and Queensmead.

They enjoyed a good cup run with the most dramatic game being played against Uxbridge High School. Following a 3-3 scoreline at full time, it went to extra time where neither team managed to get a goal. It was left to penalties. Sonny L (10W) eventually scoring the winning penalty.

In the next round the Year 10 unfortunately lost to Twyford Catholic High School 5-3. Special mention to Pharell O-M who demonstrated one of the best individual performances for his team scoring some cracking goals.

Well done to all those that represented the school in the team. These included George S (10), Liam W (10), Georgi D (10), Josh P (10), Nikolas N (10).

YEAR 12 NEWS

The first term in the Sixth Form for Year 12 seems to have flown by, and I am delighted that so many students have made a success of it. The students have adapted well to the additional independence required of A-Level study and have, over time, worked out a study pattern that fits them well. I was delighted to see the November tracking reports, which showed that a great number of Year 12 students have already impressed their teachers with outstanding effort.

I have really enjoyed seeing the Year 12 students involving themselves in a wide variety of school events. Many of the students volunteered to help at both the Lower School and Sixth Form Open Evenings on 3rd October and 20th November respectively, and were superb ambassadors for the school at both. A number of students have also gone above and beyond by helping, with exceptional maturity, to host (front of house) the Year 13 information evening on 16th September and Year 13 parents' evening on 5th December. At the time of writing, we are approaching a week in which the majority of Year 12 students have kindly volunteered to give something back to the community by helping at our annual Sixth Form Community Christmas Event on Wednesday 11th December, where we invite members of the local community to join us for some festive cheer. Most pleasing of all was the chance to celebrate the success of so many Year 12 students as they received awards at the school's annual Presentation Evening on 14th November.

It has also been a busy term for trips. The Year 12 students engaged maturely with the hard-hitting content in the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' trip on 25th November. In October, a highlight of the term came for the Politics class when they visited 10 Downing Street on a trip to Westminster. All Year 12 students participated thoughtfully in the Theme Day university trips to Reading and Royal Holloway universities on 17th October. Linked to this, during the course of the term it has been a privilege to meet with each Year 12 student individually to discuss their post-18 plans. I have been blown away by how organised and forward-thinking so many of our students are about their future, and am excited by the enthusiasm with which they have agreed to conduct further research into their chosen fields in order to strengthen a future post-18 application.

As I look forward to the Spring Term, I happily anticipate seeing the students excel in their January assessments, continue to take advantage of the multitude of extracurricular opportunities on offer and hope to see many apply to join the school's Student Leadership Team in February. I also look forward to meeting you all again at Year 12 parents' evening on Thursday 13th February.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support of the school and the students, and wish you a restful break.

Mr B Peacock

Head of Year 12

YEAR 13 NEWS

The autumn term has been an exciting term for Year 13 students. Students have been working hard throughout their post-18 journeys and the result of this hard work is that many students have now been offered university places by top institutions. 85% of students who have applied to university have already received offers; this is well in advance of the March deadline set for universities to respond to students' applications. A particular post-18 success story has been Stephen Graham's invitation to attend an interview at the University of Oxford to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics. At the time of writing, he is currently undergoing his third day of interviews!

Many students have also received offers from prestigious Russell Group universities. These are listed below:

- Amber Raja has been offered places to read History at the University of Sheffield, Newcastle University, Cardiff University and the University of Nottingham.
- Sebastian Markowski has been offered places to read Physics with Theoretical Physics at King's College London and Theoretical Physics at Queen Mary University.
- Daniel Parry has been offered places to read Computer Science or Computer Science with Cyber Security at the University of York.
- Jacob Dowson has been offered a place to read Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Queen Mary University.
- Conner Hogg has been offered a place to read Medieval History at Queen Mary University.
- George Wilson has been offered places to read History and Politics at Queen Mary University and modern history and politics at Cardiff University.
- James Armitage has been offered places to read Physics with Astrophysics and Cosmology at King's College London and Astrophysics at Queen Mary University.
- Saraneyaa Gobi has been offered a place to read Neuroscience at King's College London.
- Dev Makwana has been offered a place to read Physics at Queen Mary University and has also been invited to attend an interview at Imperial College London to read Physics.
- Jamie Sampson has been offered places to read Physics at the University of Sheffield, Queen Mary University and the University of Liverpool.
- Sara El-Khalidi has been offered a place to read Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Exeter.
- Kayleigh Holland has been offered a place to read Criminology and Psychology at the University of Southampton. She has also received offers from all 5 of her university choices.
- Lucy Corcoran has been offered a place to read Psychology at the University of Southampton.

Students who are interested in the employment or apprenticeship post-18 routes have also received one-to-one mentoring to support them in this process. They have had weekly one-to-one sessions with their tutors, guiding them through the process of creating job/apprenticeship shortlists, writing CVs and cover letters and working through application forms.

Students have also had an assembly led by an ex-Ruislip High School student, Brooke Shortt, on her university experience and her top tips for success in Year 13. This was a fantastic opportunity for Year 13 students to hear about the first-hand experience of a highly successful student and the importance of determination, resilience and hard work in Year 13. The talk also provided students with an account of life at university and the opportunities available for students who choose to study at undergraduate level.

Brooke wrote the following report on her post-18 experience so far:

"My first year studying Digital Film Production at Ravensbourne University was an intense but ultimately rewarding experience. When I first started I was filled with worries: "Will I make friends? Will I do well? Did I make the right choice?" All of those fears faded as fast as they arrived. Everyone has the same fears, so they are really understanding and friendly - so making friends isn't an issue and once I got into the work I realised this career is truly what I want to go into. My first term almost felt like an initiation task! I had to make four short films specialising in certain areas from sound design to post production. At

times it felt daunting and overwhelming but it helped me get an idea of what to expect from the course. From there on in, we had to make two more films that were longer, and more technically developed and challenging.

Progressing through the year, I realised I don't actually want to go into film as the course intended! The course prepares you to go into producing feature-length films while I want to go into more creative media such as music videos and short films that represent and give a voice to smaller social groups. The only exception to this would be working in VFX as that's what I currently specialise in. After university I plan to apply to work in Industrial Light Magic, a VFX house that specialises in sci-fi and works on the majority of Marvel films. However, my most successful work during my first year was in music and music videos. The stress of A-level media and making a music video nearly swore me off them, but university rekindled my love for working on them. Each music video brought new tasks and rewards, working in different roles from runner to spark to editor, and the scale of production increased each time to a mind-blowing extent! For example: the first music video I worked on, Virgo by Lola Lies, currently has 318 views, the second video Vibes by LORENZORSV has 5.6k views, while the most recent project I've worked on, Changes by Deno Driz has 2.7 million views! Each project I've worked on is greater in scale but gets more rewarding each time, and my experience with music videos has allowed me to branch out my work to live music such as filming gigs or live sessions. I was lucky enough to be asked to film a live session at Abbey Road Studios recently which resulted from my previous experience working in music media. Overall, my first year at university has been really successful, allowing me to make connections and get my foot in the door in a challenging industry in a way I never expected. I am so grateful for the opportunities and so far, am really enjoying my second year!"

In addition to this, Mark Huntington from A Star Future gave students an inspiring talk on the opportunities available for students to study abroad. This talk outlined the process of applying to study abroad, as well as the accounts and experiences of students who have completed such programmes in the past.

Beyond their academic studies, Year 13 students have also been involved in the Tutorial Takeover programme in the wider school. These students have led tutorials for Year 11 students on their experience of studying different subjects at Ruislip High School Sixth Form and the opportunities available to them at the Sixth Form. This has been well received by Year 11 students and Year 13 students have demonstrated that they are excellent role models for students in the wider school through their mature and competent delivery of this programme.

The autumn term came to a close with a highly successful Year 13 Parents' Evening. This was a fantastic opportunity for Year 13 students and their parents/guardians to discuss the progress of students so far, with their teachers. The continued support of parents/guardians, coupled with the hard work and determination demonstrated by the students, has enabled students to have a successful first term in Year 13.

Mr Karimi
Head of Year 13

ROYAL CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA

On Friday 6th December 10 students from Year 11 went to the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. We saw the third-year Acting students perform "Vernon God Little". The play was astonishing in its ambition and creativity, and all the RHS students saw what is required to become a professional actor. We were lucky enough to meet Catherine Alexander, the Course Leader for BA (Hons) Acting (Collaborative and Devised Theatre) who has worked extensively with Complicité and whose own company, Quiconque, have a show on at Edinburgh 2020. It was a great way to end the PPE fortnight, and the tour of the facilities was a fantastic insight into the world of the conservatoire style of learning. The 8.15am-3pm school day doesn't look quite so bad next to workshops and masterclasses from 9am-6pm and three hours of voicework in the theatre on a Friday night!

SPRING TERM DATES

Monday 6th January - Friday 3rd April, 2020

Monday 6th January, 2020: INSET day

Tuesday 7th January, 2020: First day of term

Thursday 9th January, 2020: Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4:30pm – 7:00pm

Thursday 23rd January 2020: Year 11 Parents' evening, 4:30pm - 7:00pm

Thursday 30th January, 2020: Computer science parent support evening, 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Friday 7th February, 2020: Reward trip

Thursday 13th February, 2020: Year 12 Parents' Evening, 4:30pm – 7:00pm

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February, 2020: Half-term holiday

Monday 24th February, 2020: Half term begins

Thursday 5th March, 2020: Year 10 parents' evening, 4:30pm – 7:00pm

Wednesday 11th March, 2020: Year 7 and 8 festival, 5:00pm - 7:30pm

Thursday 19th March 2020: Year 9 options evening, 4:30pm - 7:30pm

Friday 3rd April, 2020: Spring Term ends

For the full term dates for 2019-20, visit the website, www.ruisliphigh.com



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