

# Ruislip High School NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021

## LORD RANDALL'S AMAZING GIFT FOR THE LRC



Not only did the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) receive a fantastic new makeover recently, we have also had a wonderful surprise donation from Lord Randall, allowing us to purchase a selection of wonderful new books for the LRC. These included books on climate change, a topic which Lord Randall is very passionate about, to help educate Ruislip High School students on such an important cause.

(story continued on page 4)

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# HEADTEACHER'S NEWS



I am writing this end of year message with a great sense of déjà vu; last year I felt the whole school community had gone to extraordinary lengths to deal with the ongoing pandemic and that 2021 would bring a brighter future and a return to a degree of normality at least. Sadly, 2021 has not seen the return to normality that I had hoped for but what it has shown is the Ruislip High School community continues to pull together and to show that great strength can be born from adversity.

I could not be prouder of the resilience our students have shown at dealing with the events of the past twenty months. Shortly before the half-term holiday I had to return many of the COVID control measures that had helped keep our community safe last term. I was worried that parents, staff and students would be weary of the return to what is undoubtedly an imposition on the day-to-day life of the school. I needn't have feared as the response of the whole community has been magnificent and the students in particular have shown maturity beyond their years in understanding that, at times, public health considerations have to supersede education. As a lifelong advocate for education, I do not find this easy to say but I can assure parents and students that I, along with the staff of the school, will do everything in our power to support our students through whatever challenges 2022 will bring.

As always there has been much to celebrate at Ruislip High School this term and this newsletter is a fitting tribute to all that the school community has been able to achieve despite living with the restrictions that have been in place for the majority of the term.

Last summer saw the completion of a number of capital projects that we as school leaders believe will improve the educational experience of our student body. I have talked much about our brand new state-of-the-art sixth form centre that opened its doors to the largest ever cohort of sixth formers in our history in September 2021 and I am delighted that the new building has been such a positive addition to our school. The summer break also allowed for the refurbishment of our Learning Resource Centre (LRC) which is in the very heart of the school building. To add to this exciting new space, I am delighted that friend of the school, Lord Randall, kindly made a generous donation of books to the school and his presentation of these books can be seen on the cover of this term's newsletter.

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWS



A real highlight for me this half term was being involved in our Trust-wide maths challenge that was organised by our very own Mr Ladhani and involved Year 6 and 7 students from across our Trust competing in a virtual maths event. It was a highly competitive and enjoyable experience and, although the RHS team was not ultimately victorious, the team did the school proud and the event was a real celebration of the values of the Vanguard Learning Trust.

I have been touched over the past academic year at just what a caring community we belong to. Despite the challenges we have faced, the community has managed to raise a large amount of money for our designated charities. I am delighted that we have this week been able to send substantial sums of money to the Michael Sobell Hospice, Breast Cancer UK, Motor Neurone Disease Association and Cancer Research UK. In total the school community has donated over £10,000 to these extraordinary causes. These charities have particularly poignant links to the school with Michael Sobell doing such valiant work locally while Breast Cancer UK was the chosen charity of the husband of Nadira Morris, a much loved former assistant headteacher at the school who sadly passed away earlier this year. The link to the messages we received from our chosen charities can be found [here](#).

Finally, I would like to thank the whole school community for the character that has been demonstrated over the past twenty months. There is clearly a great deal of uncertainty regarding what lies ahead in January but I am certain of one thing, that the Ruislip High School community will rise to any challenge that it is faced with and will emerge from this pandemic as strong a community as we ever have been.

*Gareth Davies*

**Headteacher**

Continued from front page...

# LORD RANDALL'S AMAZING GIFT FOR THE LRC

After taking part in the ALCS Westminster quiz, which tells Parliamentarians what kind of writer they would be and illustrated some of the challenges writers face, Lord Randall was awarded £100.00 worth of book tokens, which he kindly donated to Ruislip High School. This allowed Mrs Austen, LRC Manager, to buy fifteen books, one of which was a signed copy by the author. We would like to say a big thank you to Lord Randall for such a kind gesture, which is very much appreciated by all.



## YEAR 7 NEWS

Dear Year 7 students and parents/guardians,

Year 7 have thrown themselves into life at Ruislip High School. Despite some nervous faces on their first day in September, it has been excellent to see students settle in and make new friends as well as old friends reunited.

The year group are showing that they are fully embracing our ethos and values. It is always wonderful to receive feedback from staff who teach Year 7. In particular it is clear to see that we have a cohort of polite, hard working and enthusiastic individuals.

Year 7 are establishing their school community through the Year Team Council. Students ran, voted for and elected their Year Team Council representatives who will be the voice on behalf of their peers at YTC meetings held throughout the year. The YTC are preparing for their first meeting and it is clear that the representatives chosen are responsible, charismatic and ready to take on the responsibility.

**Miss Loizou.**

# ECO HUB

Climate change is one of the biggest issues we are currently facing. It is up to all of us to work together to create new and inventive solutions. We started to think about what we as a school can do to help tackle this incredibly important problem.

Originally our initial idea was to construct a greenhouse for our school, producing fresh food for our school canteen in an attempt to reduce the carbon footprint created by food transportation. We then spoke to our head teacher about our project and he encouraged us to be far more ambitious with our goals.

After a few meetings with Mr Davies, and lots of brainstorming, we decided to expand our project: to not only create a greenhouse, but an eco hub in our school. We planned to include our initial idea of a greenhouse but with lots of other components. We wanted to include a biodiverse green area and pond, as well as a classroom near the area where students from local primary schools and science classes at Ruislip High can actively participate in environmental lessons. We also discussed with Mr Davies the idea of including a beehive. Bees are incredibly important to the growth and maintenance of ecosystems, so they would be the perfect addition to a biodiversity zone. We were thinking about having a variety of honeybee, so we would be able to sell the honey in our local area, as local honey has many different health benefits.

After looking at the old sixth form area behind the PE changing blocks we decided it was the perfect location for our eco hub. The area already had lots of features that we could use in our plan, like a pond and a large biodiverse green area. We were incredibly excited at the prospect of our idea becoming a reality.

In July we took part in a 'Dragons Den' style competition as part of the Vanguard Trust. It was an inter-school competition where each school presented their ideas on how to make their school more sustainable. There were lots of different people who were part of the 'Dragons', including Lord Randall, several of the school governors, councillor Eddie Lavery, and representatives from local wildlife and environmental organisations.

We listened to the other schools' incredibly creative pitches, including a news report style pitch put together by Vyners School, and a board game style idea from Ryefield Primary School. It was incredibly enjoyable not only being able to share our ideas, but to listen to other schools' inventive and unique solutions to very similar issues.

We did receive funding for this project; however due to the ambitious nature of our idea we are planning to apply for larger scale funding from projects like HS2 who have pledged to give back to the local community. We learnt lots of things from this project, we were given ideas and suggestions by the panel

# ECO HUB (CONTINUED)

of Dragons who were all incredibly enthusiastic about our idea.

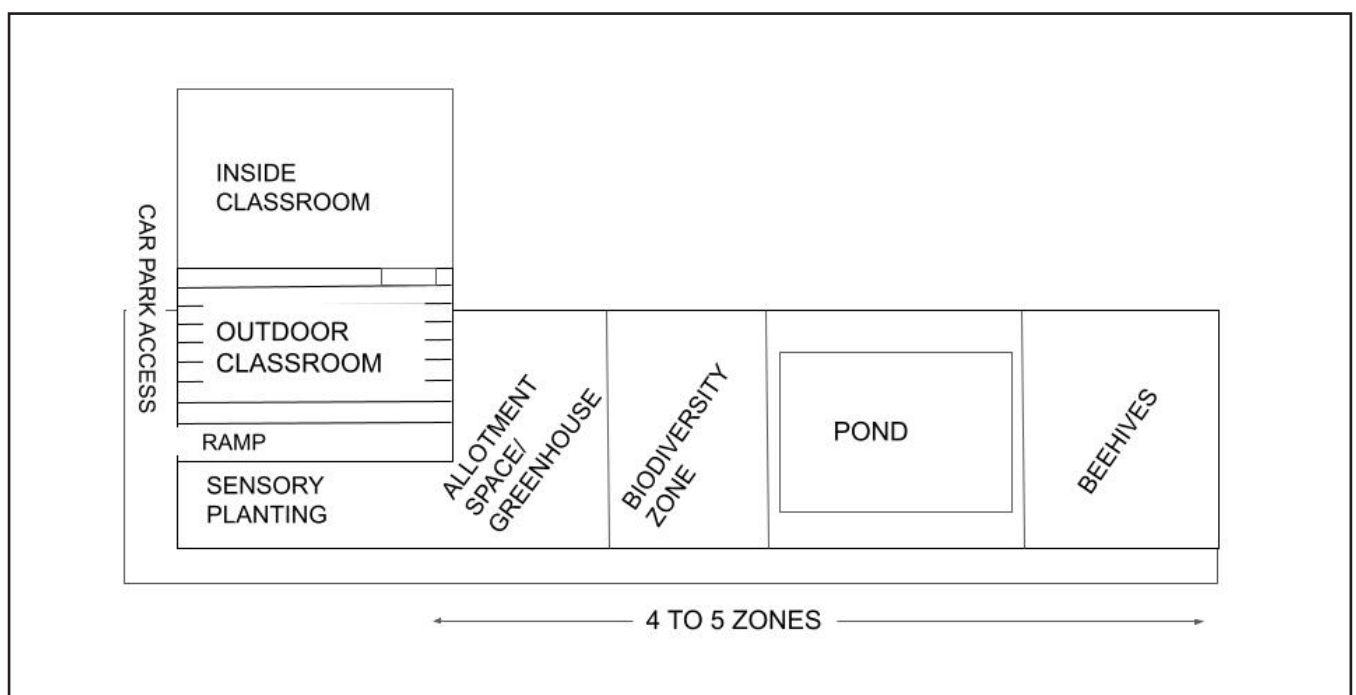
One of the Dragons was a member of ACS International School. They have recently created a beehive in their school so we were invited to visit, to learn more about the process. Our first trip was unfortunately cancelled due to unforeseen COVID-19 related circumstances. However we weren't fazed by this and we were eager to rearrange the trip.

On Monday 29th November we visited ACS International School in Cobham. We spoke to the teachers in charge of the program and we learnt a huge amount about the process and work involved in creating a beehive.

After visiting their grounds where they kept the bees, we asked lots of questions about their project. So far they have been incredibly successful and have three beehives at their school. They only recently started the project in March this year and were even able to produce over 10L of honey this year. We were shown all the necessary equipment and what all of it is used for. We also had a look at the area where the bees were kept, and how this was made suitable for bees as well as students. Seeing the reality of a project like this made us incredibly excited to get back to school and get to work on our own beehives.

Seeing a school able to make their idea a reality inspired us to take the next steps in our own project. We cannot wait to see where it takes us next!

**By Alexia S 10C**



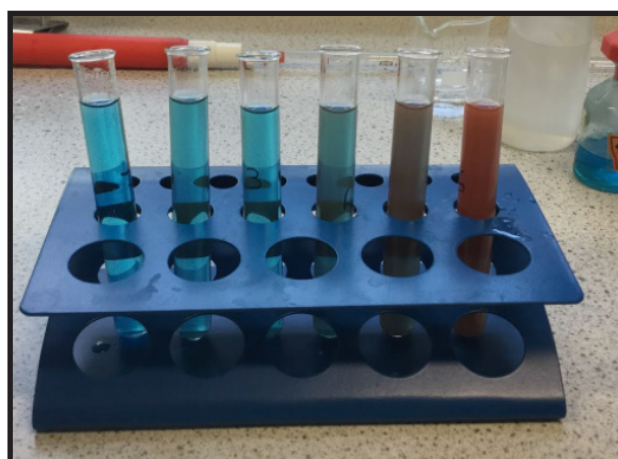
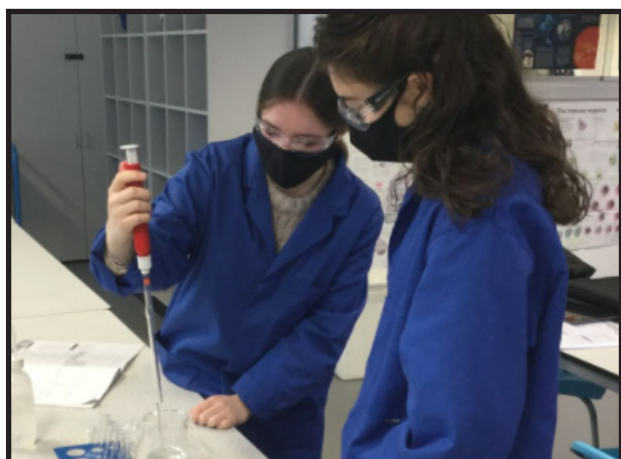
# SCIENCE NEWS

The Science Department has had a great first half term at Ruislip High School. We were given the keys back to our laboratories after a year of very limited practical work due to Covid-19 safety measures.

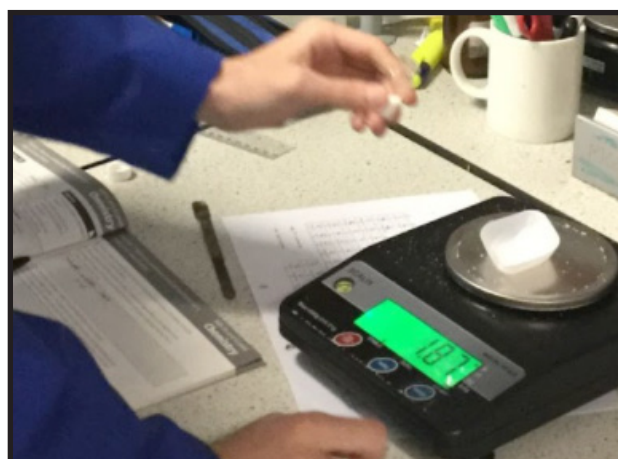
Students in Year 7-11 have enjoyed a variety of both teacher demonstrations and whole class practicals this term which has enhanced both their understanding of the science curriculum but also made the lessons more engaging and enjoyable!

The Year 12 and 13 Biology, Chemistry and Physics A-level students have had the opportunity to complete a number of the required practicals that have to be assessed in order to grant them their practical endorsement at the end of the course.

The students have impressed us with their enthusiasm but also their outstanding behaviour.



The pictures above are from Year 13 Biology A-level students completing their biology required practical 11. The students were collecting data to enable them to plot a glucose calibration curve and then using their results to work out how much glucose there was in three unknown solutions of urine

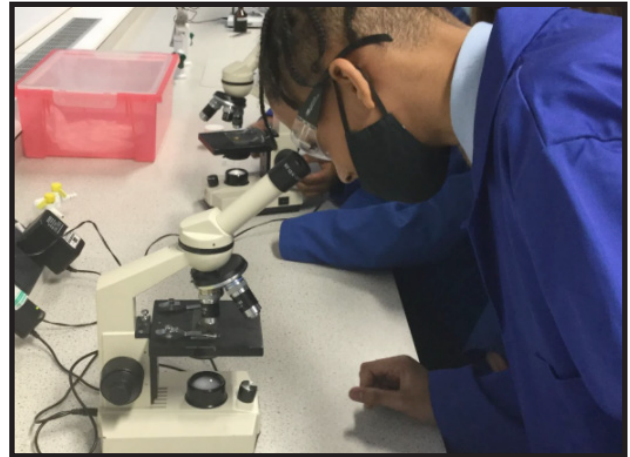
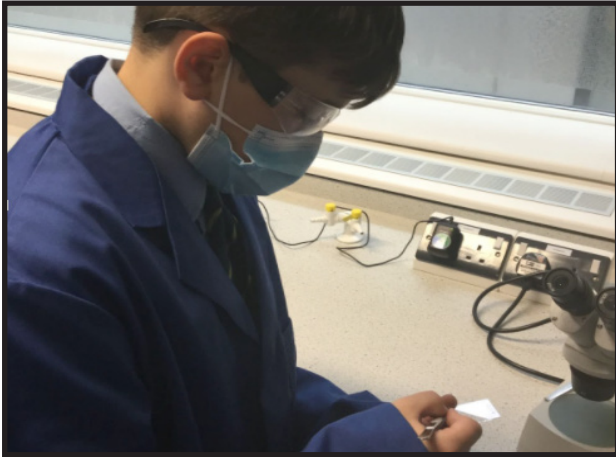


The pictures above are showing a Year 12 Chemistry A Level class completing their required practical 1.



# SCIENCE NEWS (CONTINUED)

The students had to make a standard solution and conduct a titration to establish the unknown concentration of a sodium hydroxide solution



These are showing a Year 10 combined science class making onion cell and cheek cell slides. The aim of the experiment was to be able to describe how to make a specimen slide, focus the light microscope to see the object and then to identify the main cell structures that could be seen.

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# BUSINESS STUDIES NEWS

Year 11 Business Studies students have had a really productive term completing the R065 coursework unit. This meant that they were compiling primary and secondary research, analysing this research, designing product ideas, testing these ideas with the target audience by doing focus group feedback and then using all this information to design a final product for a carefully selected target audience. A financial analysis and risk assessment for their product had to be carried out in order to make a decision whether their idea was going to be financially viable. I am amazed at how resilient the Year 11s have been and I am very proud of each student.

Year 10s have made a brilliant start and I am extremely excited to see what HAT designs students will be coming up with following the research that they have been doing.

# DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AMBASSADORS



During half term our Gold Ambassadors attended their pre-assessment expedition in Wiltshire. Even the cold October weather did not dampen their spirits as they pulled together in their teams to get through the four days and three nights with smiles on their faces. Congratulations to them all!

Emily: *"The overall experience of the practice expedition was amazing. Although the trails were challenging, the memories we made as groups will last a lifetime. The challenges we faced at camp and whilst walking allowed us to bond more as a group*

*and strengthen friendships with people we don't usually spend time with. We are all really looking forward to the trip to Wales next year."*

Sophie: *"The practice showed us that we are able to rely on our team mates for help and support when needed. It also tested our ability to be able to use bearings to help us decide what routes we need to take and helped strengthen our ability to choose routes that we were comfortable with and being able to use our surroundings to help identify where we were on a map."*

Ali: *"I thoroughly enjoyed the practice because it was a good opportunity to hang out with friends and get closer with people in general."*

Vim: *"I enjoyed being able to spend time with my friends as well as pushing myself to complete the pre-assessed expedition."*

Oliver: *"I really enjoyed the expedition. It was good fun, camping and everything. Our group was very organised and we worked well as an efficient team, the leaders were very entertaining and helped teach us many different skills. Taught us many things like how to read a map which was very beneficial during our hike. Overall it was enjoyable and I am waiting for the assessed expedition."*

# EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STUDENT COMMITTEE

The Equality and Diversity student committee at Ruislip High school has been working hard this term to make Ruislip High an even more inclusive place to be. They have contributed some excellent ideas about the upcoming Equality week in June , as well as how to raise awareness amongst peers about preventing homophobic, bi and transphobic bullying. Katie B 9C says - *"I like being part of the equality committee because it gives me an opportunity to make a difference and raise awareness about issues vulnerable groups face."*

If you would like to make a difference and be part of the student committee please contact Mrs Poddar in C209 any day after school or ask your form tutor to send her a message.

We also celebrated the Black History Month at school in October. This was done through assemblies, in curriculum areas and during tutor time. Students learned about the origins of Black History Month, famous black people and the Black Lives Matter movement.

This year's theme was "Proud to be" and to celebrate it a poetry competition was held for all year groups. It was amazing to see some excellent work, especially from Year 7s. Their topic was "Diversity". It was an extremely hard decision to choose the best three from the wide range of beautiful and expressive poems. Please see the winners below. We are working on ideas to include these poems as part of our school display.

## **Year 7 Poetry Competition Winners**

Harley B - 7C with "People make assumptions"

Jamie E - 7C with "Being different is a true gift"

Oscar P - 7C with "Acceptance"

# HISTORY NEWS

As always the History department has thoroughly enjoyed teaching a varied and wide-ranging set of topics and skills to Ruislip High School's historians this term.

## Year 7

The new Year 7s have worked hard to acquire the skills needed to understand chronology, anachronism, bias and interpretations. Through the study of a new topic on Lindow Man the students have had the opportunity to become history detectives by investigating the body in the bog. The students have greatly enjoyed this, Kai M said "I enjoyed learning about Lindow Man and what happened to him as it is a mystery where you think something at the start but at the end it's completely different. The idea of the mystery leaves every lesson on a cliff hanger and you can't wait for your next lesson to find out more". Kaityln L commented "During the lessons on Lindow Man I learnt about the difference between what I know, what I can infer and what I can guess. I think these skills will be very useful in the future".

## Year 8

Year 8 have been getting to grips with the significant changes made to England during the Tudor reign. They have engaged extremely well with an essay on the changes brought to England by Henry VIII; we have been bowled over by their understanding of cause and consequence which can be seen in the logical and fluent writing produced in their historical writing books. As well as writing essays the students have had the opportunity to write and perform their own role plays about Henry VIII. 8C were thrilled to dress up in the department's historical costumes!



# HISTORY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Another new topic introduced this year has been the study of Black Tudors. Our students have found this fascinating. Kiya D commented "I really enjoyed the Black Tudor lessons as they are not as commonly known as other Tudors like Henry VIII. It is important to know and realise that people of colour were around way before the slave trade and that they were not always slaves. I learnt that one of Henry VIII's instrumental guards, John Blanke, was black and that there was a black salvage diver called Jaques Francis who dived to recover valuable items from the Mary Rose. These lessons really helped me to understand the lives of Tudors of colour".

Joseph B said "I thought the Black Tudor lessons were interesting and relevant to our lives nowadays. They inspire all people of colour and helped us to understand that Black Tudors were not slaves. These lessons have shown that there are many misconceptions in history and education can correct these misconceptions."

Layla D wrote "Being part of the Black Tudor lessons was an interesting experience. Even though I already knew about Black Tudors and people of colour, to learn about it in depth was very intriguing and I believe a necessary part of our curriculum. It definitely changed my classmates and my mindset towards people of colour in history as most of us tend to draw our knowledge of black people in history to slavery."

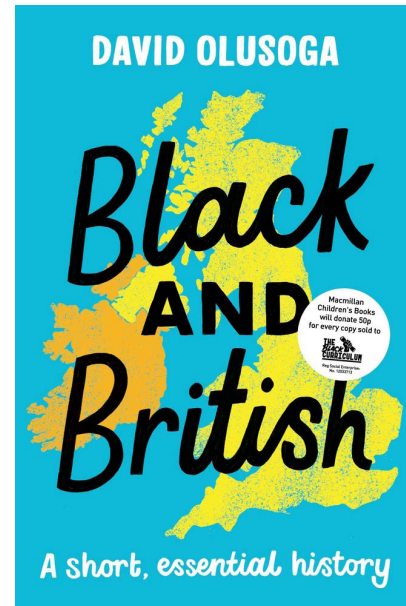
## Year 9

The Year 9 students have been on an historical journey through the Industrial Revolution. The students have tackled source analysis and have been able to write about the content, nature, origin and purpose of primary sources for working conditions for children in the factories. To support the students' study of the Victorian period we have read sections of David Olusoga's award winning book Black and British: A Short, Essential History. The students have enjoyed reading this expertly written narrative which has exposed them to history that has previously been ignored or overlooked.

More recently the students have started an enquiry into the mystery of Jack the Ripper which has culminated in them answering the question "Police mistakes were the most important reason that the police were unable to catch Jack the Ripper in 1888." How far do you agree with the statement?

## Year 10

The four new Year 10 classes have been working extremely hard to get to grips with the complex issues in post-war Germany, the rise of Hitler and life in Nazi Germany. Through regular exam question practice the students are honing their skills of analysis and have already shown us that they are critical thinkers with excellent powers of reasoning.



# HISTORY NEWS (CONTINUED)

We have been wowed by their hard work and enthusiasm and we are all looking forward to this continuing throughout their GCSE journey.

## Year 11

The Year 11 students have been working very hard in preparation for their PPEs. They have been working hard to revise 'Weimar and Nazi Germany' and 'Anglo-Saxon and Norman England' under the expert guidance of their teachers. Many have been engaging in some of the online learning activities provided and all of them have been extremely focussed in the classroom. The students have enjoyed lots of different revision strategies including completing exam questions and receiving live marking, working in small focused revision groups, quizzes, crosswords, 'GCSE POD' and creating their own flashcards.

## A level

Mr Maud and Ms Horton have been very impressed with the dedication and hard work of our Sixth Form students. The new Year 12 class have embraced the step up from GCSE and are already producing some really high-quality historical enquiries on topics such as 'Henry VII's Foreign Policy' and 'The effects of WWI on the political landscape in Russia'. There has been a real emphasis on wider reading and as such the students have been reading challenging articles and books by various different historians such as Orlando Figes and Richard Pipes.

Our Year 13 historians' writing style has gone from strength to strength with many students writing several essays every week in order to prepare themselves for their January PPEs. In this photograph you can see Mr Maud teaching the cause of State Terror in Stalinist Russia. The next few terms will see the students tackle topics such as 'Stalin's Role in WWII' and 'Interpretations of Elizabethan Foreign Policy' and then the examination preparations will begin in earnest.



# BIMA DIGITAL DAY

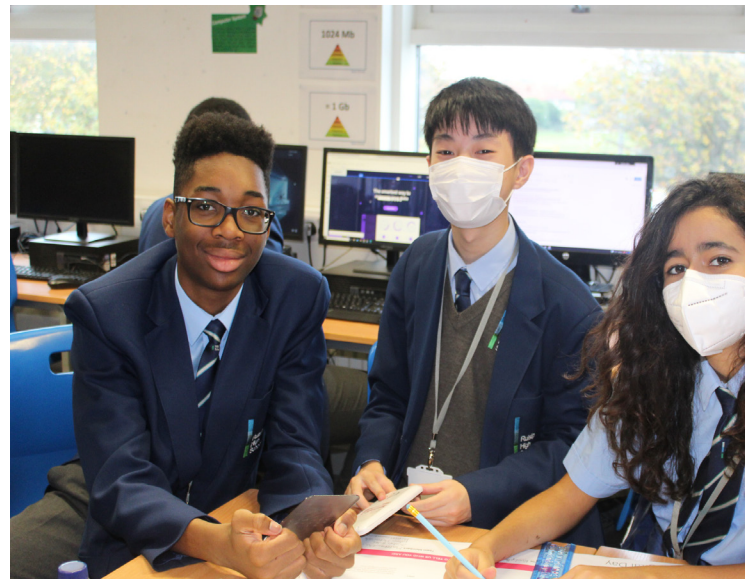


BIMA Digital Day is a one day programme for 11-16 year olds to provide an insight into a world of digital careers. Students compete in a sponsored, nationwide digital challenge for a chance to win £500 cash for their school and some fantastic prizes for themselves.

On 10th November 2021, Year 10 computer science students participated in a Dragon's Den's style competition for BIMA Digital day for a full day of workshops. The aim was to produce a digital product using technology for **WWF(World Wide Fund for nature)**.

This year's brief was: "How can we use technology and digital solutions to make it easier for people to understand the true environmental footprint of products and services, allowing households, schools, universities and businesses to make choices that are good for the planet?". All students participated enthusiastically and came up with some innovative ideas in the short period of time that they had, not only to produce the pitch for their classmates but also to research, design and deliver those ideas.

Some fabulous ideas included creating a VR city game to test and calculate carbon footprints, games and websites to educate about how we can contribute positively to reduce carbon footprints and make better choices. The winning team of the day consisted of the following students - Cameron, Kerrar, Prem, Raid and Imaan . They came up with three separate digital products as part of their main entry: a website called, "Environmental Footprint Tracker". This winning entry will be forwarded to the BIMA team where it will be judged by a team of experts. The final results will be announced in mid January so watch the space....



*"Running the BIMA digital was an educational experience not only for the students but also for me; it was great to see the Year 10s think of some awesome ideas to make a positive a impact on the environment."* **Mrs Poddar**

*"I liked working with my group by contributing with my ideas and then bringing them to life."* **Kimaya**

*"It was an excitable journey of learning new ways to protect our environment."* **Parveen**

*"It was a fun day, doing something different than what we do usually".* **Cameron**

# VLT MATHS CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 20th October 2021, Ruislip High School hosted the very first Vanguard Learning Trust Maths Challenge between six schools. The schools involved were: Field End Primary School, Hermitage Primary School, Ruislip High School, Ryefield Primary School, ACS International Schools and Vyners School.

The challenge took place remotely with students in the comfort of their own classrooms competing against other schools in teams of four.



The Maths challenge consisted of five different rounds which involved topics such as the 24 game (where you have to make 24 using the four numbers given using only the four operations). Have a go at one below:

The other rounds were a combination of the UK Maths Challenge questions, Financial Mathematics and Problem Solving.

The competition was closely contested with the Gold Medal being won by Vyners School. The Silver Medal was awarded to Hermitage Primary School and the Bronze medal was jointly awarded to Field End Junior School and Ruislip High School.





# YEAR 12 NEWS

It is a real pleasure to write this end-of-term update as Year 12 have settled into Sixth Form life so successfully. I have been very impressed with the diligence of the students. They are really taking ownership of their work and academic progress, and this maturity is pleasing to see. It is highlighted by the fact that so many Year 12 students are already combining their academic studies with progress towards researching and preparing for their post-18 application.

It has also been pleasing to see Year 12 involving themselves in the wider life of the school. All students have been participating in one of our eight enrichment clubs on Tuesday Week A afternoons, and a number of students have auditioned for the school's Christmas production, which I am sure will be as well-crafted and entertaining as previous editions despite its postponement.

On Wednesday 20th October, Year 12 became the first whole year group since the pandemic to go on a trip! Half of the year group visited the University of Reading, and the other half visited Royal Holloway University. Students received talks on how to apply to university, and heard from student ambassadors about what university life is like. They also had the chance to go on tours around the campus of each university. Both trips were extremely valuable, with many students commenting on how they feel that they have a far better understanding of university, what it entails and how to apply. The conduct of students was exemplary on both trips, and they were a pleasure to run.

As I look forward to the Spring Term, I see a plethora of academic, super-curricular, volunteering, mentoring and enrichment opportunities for Year 12 students. In particular, students will have the opportunity to apply to be on the 2022-2023 Student Leadership Team, which will be a great opportunity for them to boost their confidence and leadership skills, and to give back to the school. I am excited by the enthusiasm with which students have already undertaken to conduct further research into their chosen fields in order to strengthen a future post-18 application, and look forward to furthering these discussions with them in the Spring Term.

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

Yours sincerely

**Mr B Peacock**  
Head of Year 12

# GEOGRAPHY NEWS

## A-level Geography

The Geography Department is pleased to have organised an A-level field trip in the autumn term. This was the first Ruislip High residential trip after the lifting of pandemic restrictions and the group was lucky to enjoy super weather for October. A group of 16 Year 13 students took part in the three-day trip to Norfolk. The aim was to study coastal change and for students to collect data for their independent coursework projects.

Students visited seven key sites from Great Yarmouth to Cromer. Fieldwork sites included Bacton, which has an important gas terminal receiving one-third of the UK's supply. Here, students were able to see the results of a recent 'landscaping' project which has added 2 million cubic metres of sand artificially to help protect the coastline.

Sophie in Year 13 said, *"The field trip enabled us to apply our knowledge from the classroom into a real-world experience. We were also able to find out what people really think about where they live regarding coastal erosion and compare this with our prior knowledge."*

Some of the best moments were when we had to keep a 30-metre tape measure under control with the strong winds and having to run with it so it didn't get stuck in the sand!

The Youth Hostel was a great place for us to stay. The accommodation and food were really nice and it was a good place for us to have our social time as well as evening study sessions."



# GEOGRAPHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

The Year 13 students have spent part of the autumn term presenting their data and writing up their projects, before moving on to the final A-level units of Global Systems and Global Governance, and Water and Carbon Cycles.

Meanwhile, Year 12 students have made a superb start on the Hazards and Changing Places topics. Year 12 students will enjoy a similar A-level field trip to Norfolk over four days in June 2022.

## GCSE Geography

The four new GCSE Geography classes in Year 10 have been investigating current issues such as the COP26 meeting in Glasgow. This relates directly to the GCSE course where climate change mitigation is part of the syllabus in the Challenge of Natural Hazards topic.

### COP26 in numbers

The 26th 'Conference of the Parties' climate summit is being held in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November

#### Who will be there?

**25,000**

delegates from  
200 countries



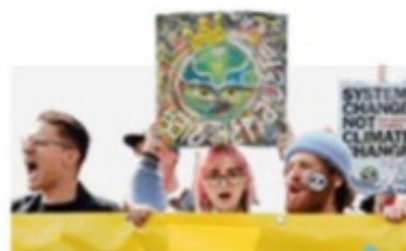
**10,000**

police officers from  
across the UK



**100,000**

people expected  
to protest



A field trip for Year 10 students is planned for July 2022 when they will visit Barton on Sea and Hengistbury Head on the south coast.

Year 11 students were well prepared for their pre-public exams in December. Teachers helped students revise via the 'Megabooks', which contain top tips, learning checklists, and a summary of each lesson from Year 10 and 11. The department has also significantly added to the bank of past exam papers available on Google Classroom.

## Year 9 Geography

Year 9 topics have included South America and Brazil. Students have investigated the important role of the Amazon Rainforest in meeting the COP26 climate targets, and why this vast area is known as “the lungs of the Earth”.

As part of the International Development topic, Year 9s have learnt about indicators of development through making Top Trumps cards. Students moved on to evaluate the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals which aim to boost global development statistics by 2030. Year 9s also studied the work of Hans Rosling and the Gapminder website which aims to promote a ‘fact-full’ understanding of the world. Students considered the key question, “Is the world doing better than I think it is?” You can find out more at [www.gapminder.org](http://www.gapminder.org)

### Here are 12 countries and one overseas department and capital cities of all of them

- Brazil : Brasilia
  - Uruguay: Montevideo
  - Chile: Santiago
  - Paraguay: Asunción
  - Bolivia: La Paz
  - Peru: Lima
  - Ecuador: Quito
  - Colombia: Bogota
  - Venezuela: Caracas
  - Guyana: Georgetown
  - Suriname: Paramaribo
  - French Guiana: Cayenne
- 
- The Angel falls, in Venezuela, is the tallest waterfall in the world, at 979m.
  - 60% of the forest is in Brazil
  - The largest city in Brazil, is São paulo.
  - Llama’s are the most famous animal in South America
  - The Iguassu falls are in Brazil/Argentina
  - The Andes are in 7 countries
  - French uiana is part of France



# COMPUTER SCIENCE NEWS

In Year 7 Computer Science we've spent time learning how to stay safe online; how to create a secure password as well as how to use Google Classroom.

In Year 8 KS3 Computer Science we have been busy learning how Binary numbers work! I have been extremely impressed with how far students have come this half term.

The Year 9 Computer Science students have all developed their Flowol skills further and I was blown away by the amazing work produced and that the Year 9s are always up for a challenging task.

The Year 10 Computer Science students have settled in really well. Mrs Poddar and the Year 10 students participated in the BIMA Digital Day last week Wednesday on the 10th November 2021. BIMA Digital Day is a one day program for 11-16 year olds to provide an insight into a world of digital careers. The aim was to produce a digital product using technology for WWF (World Wide Fund for nature).

This year's brief was: "How can we use technology and digital solutions to make it easier for people to understand the true environmental footprint of products and services, allowing households, schools, universities and businesses to make choices that are good for the planet?". All students participated enthusiastically and came up with some innovative ideas in the short period of time that they had; not only to produce the pitch for their classmates but also to research, design and deliver those ideas.

Some fabulous ideas included creating a VR city game to test and calculate carbon footprints, games and websites to educate about how we can contribute positively to reduce carbon footprints and make better choices. The winning team of the day consisted of the following students - Cameron, Kerrar, Prem, Raid and Imaan. They came up with three separate digital products as part of their main entry, a website called "Environmental Footprint Tracker". This winning entry will be forwarded to the BIMA team where it will be judged by a team of experts. The final results will be announced in mid January so watch this space....

*"Running the BIMA digital was an educational experience not only for the students but also for me, it was great to see the year 10s think of some awesome ideas to make a positive impact on the environment"* - Mrs Poddar

*"I liked working with my group by contributing with my ideas and then bringing them to life."* - Kimaya

# COMPUTER SCIENCE NEWS (CONTINUED)

*"It was an excitable journey of learning new ways to protect our environment". - Parveen*

*"It was a fun day , doing something different than what we do usually" - Cameron*

Year 11 Computer Science students are working really hard at their coding skills.

The Business Studies and Computing team are extremely proud of our students and how hard they are working!

**Mrs Carstens**

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## YEAR 13 NEWS

Year 13 students have made an excellent start to the final year of their Ruislip High School journey. This year promises to be a challenging yet exciting year, and the start of the post-18 process symbolises this. During the first half-term, students have been working closely with their tutors, and the Sixth Form team, on their post-18 applications. They started the academic year with a series of tutorials and assemblies, outlining how to ensure success in the post-18 process. Students have also received support on how to apply for apprenticeships through a presentation delivered by the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools organisation. Sixth Form tutors, and the Head of Year 13, have all commented on the commendable aspiration and perseverance shown by Year 13 students throughout their post-18 application journey so far.

Students have also been working hard in preparation for their January PPEs and final external examinations. They have completed a tutorial programme on study skills to support them with revision techniques. They have also had tutorials on the sixth form WorkSmart programme. This programme has guided them through the process of creating a revision timetable with specific tasks to complete for each of their subjects. We are confident that students will use these strategies to prepare fully for their PPEs and external examinations.

# PE NEWS

## Rugby

This half term we have attended rugby festivals, hosted by Ruislip Rugby Club, for four different year groups. Year 7, 9, 10 and 11 have all had the opportunity to compete against some of the other local schools, whilst developing their rugby skills. All of the year groups performed admirably, demonstrating a number of the Ruislip High School values on the field.

A number of our students have been asked to train with Ruislip Rugby Club as a result of their performances, which is a great indication of the talent students at Ruislip High School possess.

## Girls Football

This term the year 7 & 8 girls football team played in their first competitive football game since joining RHS. The girls played in the National Cup against Parmiters school. Unfortunately, the girls lost the game 5-2. They all should be very proud of themselves. The girls who participated in the game had a great attitude throughout and put in 100%. Next term they will be participating in games against schools in the local area.



## Year 8

The boys played their first fixture this season against a very competitive Queensmead side, where Ruislip took a 2-1 victory. In an even game during the first period, the Ruislip high boys took control in the second half. Leading by example was captain Reece D (8F) with a dominant display. The boys took the lead through an excellent cross by Ralph T (8D) to set up Emilis V (8D) for the first. Another excellent debut display from Max B (8B) assisted the second goal to Sai M (8S). An overall controlled performance that was led superbly from the back three, with a player of the match performance from Adam D (8S). With so many younger brothers from talented past and present Ruislip High school alumni players, the future looks bright for this talented group.

## Year 9

The boys played their first competitive fixture against a strong Vyners side. In an enthralling and entertaining game, it was Vyners who took the win 4-3. This was a game where the Ruislip High boys should take many positives, and will learn for the future. There were many pleasing performances, most notably Max G (9S) playing in the middle alongside the talented Joe K (9C), who got the first goal. Special mentions also to Alex L (9W) being a rock at the back, and a very first debut after three years to both Ethan W (9A) and Venkatesh V (9S), with Venkatesh scoring two goals. More of the same from this determined group of players in the future.

# PE NEWS (CONTINUED)

## RHS Sporting Superstars

Many students have been in action in sporting events out of school. Below are some highlights from the past term.

### Swimming

Eve A (8D) has been swimming since Year 4 and is currently competing for Hillingdon swimming club. She trains 7 days a week.

On Saturday 9th October, 2021 Eve competed in a number of different swimming events at the London Aquatic Centre. She placed 2nd in the 50m Backstroke final (u12).

Brooke H (9C) also swims for Hillingdon Swimming Club. She swam in the 200m breaststroke, 100m front crawl and 200m backstroke. She swam extremely well achieving a number of personal bests and her best finishing position was 4th.

Keira B (8D) also competed at this event and placed 8th in the 100m Breaststroke (u13). The girls did exceptionally well in this competition which was against other swimmers from the other clubs in the south of England.





# PE NEWS (CONTINUED)

## Dance

Kyra H (8A)

Last month Kyra competed in the 'Soar Dance Competition' in Crawley against some of the country's best dancers. Her dance group 'New Prime' placed 1st in the group dance, 5th in her solo performance and 3rd in her duo.



## Football

Dexter O (8W) is currently signed as an U13 player at Tottenham FC. He was signed in May 2021 and has been taking part in matches and tournaments for the club for the past six months. Most recently he took part in a match against Reading FC where his team won 8-2. Dexter scored 4 goals and had 2 assists.

"As a 10 year old boy I experienced some disappointment when I wasn't picked for teams I wanted and experienced being released from Fulham FC. It's so important in life to keep going and working hard even when things don't go to plan. When this happened I went back to playing with my Dad's grassroots team and after a few months I was approached by Tottenham. My aspirations are to get a scholarship when I am 16 and in the future I would love to play for England. I have learnt that there will always be disappointments, and you can't let these get to you. Having a strong determination will always help you reach what you want in life".

# A-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONFERENCE

In November our A-level English Language students enjoyed a full day of all things linguistic at the English Language Conference hosted by the English and Media Centre. Students travelled with Ms Woolcock to Friends House in Euston where they heard talks from prominent linguists and researchers on areas of language study that are relevant to their A-level course.



Helen Sauntson from York St John University spoke on topical issues of language, gender and sexuality; Dr George Bailey asked students to consider how they use online language; and eminent linguist Jenny Cheshire gave a fascinating presentation on the history of Multicultural London English. It really was fantastic to see the students engaging with the language issues being discussed and enthusing about the ways in which they can use the knowledge gained from this conference to inform their own language investigations and linguistic studies. Mia, Year 13, said: 'This was a really great trip and gave us the opportunity to experience more for our A Level'.

# SIXTH FORM SPEAKERS

The Sixth Form Speaker programme has continued in the autumn term. The school has been delighted to be able to welcome some of the speakers in person, presenting in the fantastic new Sixth Form Hall. Due to assembly restrictions later in the term, others have delivered live presentations via the Zoom platform with students watching and listening in classrooms.

The external speaker programme has been a regular part of the Year 12 timetable since 2016 and is organised by Mr Alison (Director of Humanities). Each talk is based around one of the '3Cs' of careers, current affairs and culture.

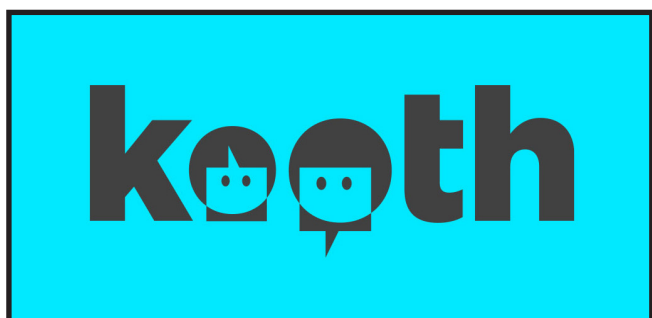
## **Stephen Hart and Sue Hunter from the Terrence Higgins Trust.**

Guest speakers this term have included:

- Sue Hunter and Stephen Hart from Positive Voices (Terrence Higgins Trust HIV and sexual health charity).
- Dr Onkar Sahota, GP and London Assembly member.
- Shaan Knan from GIRES (Gender Identity Research and Education Society).
- Claire Parsons from Kooth mental health support.

Kooth is an online mental health and wellbeing community which offers free, safe and anonymous support to users up to the age of 25. This is via an app, website and chat forums staffed by professionals.

Cody in Year 12 said about the Kooth talk, *"This was a really interesting talk from Claire. It's a serious subject but this talk over Zoom was fun as well to listen to as it had loads of visuals and video clips about the service. We found out that the Kooth app is available for anonymous help for our age group 24/7. We also found out that Kooth does Spotify playlists and is on Instagram too. The website and app offers support in so many areas of modern life to help out with stress and wellbeing. Thanks a lot for speaking to us!"*



# MUN TRIP

On the weekend of the 20th and 21st November, twenty-one Ruislip High School sixth formers attended the LIMUN: High School Sixth Edition Conference in person at King's College London's Waterloo campus.

Each of our students represented a different country on a wide range of diverse committees, debating a true plethora of different topics. For example, on the World Health Organisation committee, insightful debates were held on combating medical misinformation in the digital age, with our students representing countries as varied as Colombia, Ghana and Germany in this committee alone.

Whilst at the event, students had the chance to hear talks by an inspiring group of speakers, such as Kitack Lim, the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organisation, and Emtithal Mahmoud, a Goodwill Ambassador for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), who performed her inspirational poem Di Baladna (Our Land).

All of our students represented the school impeccably and it was a real privilege to be able to take them to such a prestigious event for the first time. A special mention must go out though to one of our students, Simon, who was given the Most Improved Delegate award on the London Platform for Change committee for his work representing the UK. We are very proud of Simon and all of our students for their contributions.



One of our students, Winta, commented as follows, 'The MUN experience was one to remember, teaching us skills like how to speak and write speeches with a solid point. It was excellent; I'd recommend it to all students.' Whilst another student, Devin, '...enjoyed discussing current affairs with different countries and students from other schools'.

Finally, it is important also to share some of the wider sentiments expressed by the organisers of the Conference in the Closing Ceremony. The students at the Conference, as well as all of the students in our school and around the world, truly represent the brightest hope we have for our shared future on this planet. As commented by one of our students, Riapreet, 'It was enriching to participate in democratic, youth-driven change.' Our students need only to stay passionate, idealistic and ambitious, and then they will be in a position to make this world a better place for us all.

# MFL NEWS

During the summer holidays a group of our current Year 8 and Year 9 students completed the Language Immersion Challenge by Routes into Languages. The students had a series of challenges that they could choose from which covered writing, reading and listening in the target language that they are studying. Challenges included finding out what languages their favourite celebrities can speak, listening to a Spanish song and writing about it and writing an email to their teacher in Spanish! We received some lovely emails about what students had been doing in the summer holidays! The students were awarded a certificate based on the number of challenges they completed. Bronze was awarded for 4 or more, Silver for 8 or more and Gold for 12 or more.



Well done to the following students who completed this task. Congratulations on your awards!

Mia H	8C	Silver Cert	10
Elena P	9S	Silver Cert	8
Ruby Q	8F	Bronze	5
Velizar G	9C	Gold	12
Ethan W	9C	Bronze	6

## THE CREATIVE CORNER

In true Ruislip fashion our students have had a fantastic and creative start to the new academic year and have been developing and expanding their skills after what has been an unusual couple of years. Our students have been working hard and have embraced new topics to create some outstanding work that can be found in the gallery section of our newsletter.

# THE CREATIVE CORNER

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Before the summer we had decided to run a photography competition and chose the theme of 'Growth'. We at Ruislip High believe in having a growth mindset and that we should always be continuing to grow , develop and work together to overcome any challenges. Over the last couple of years we have grown and developed and adapted so it seemed like the perfect fit for the theme this year! We had SO many entries, too many unfortunately to mention. But a big congratulations goes to our top two entries:



## WINTER CARD COMPETITION

As in every year we have a winter card competition and 2021 was no different and, as always, the students of Ruislip high school did not disappoint. Congratulations to our top two!



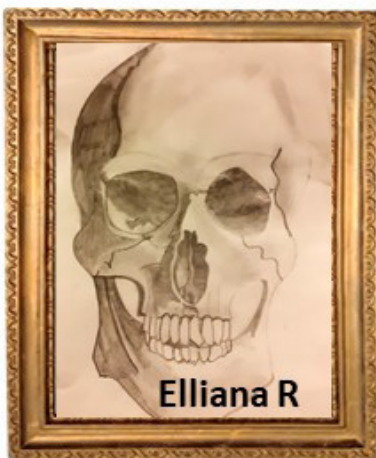
## ART COMPETITION

At the beginning of the term we launched an Art competition and chose the theme of 'Growth'. The winner of this competition will be working with the Art, Craft and Design department to create the front cover design for celebration evening:

# RHS ART GALLERY



*KS3:*



# RHS ART GALLERY

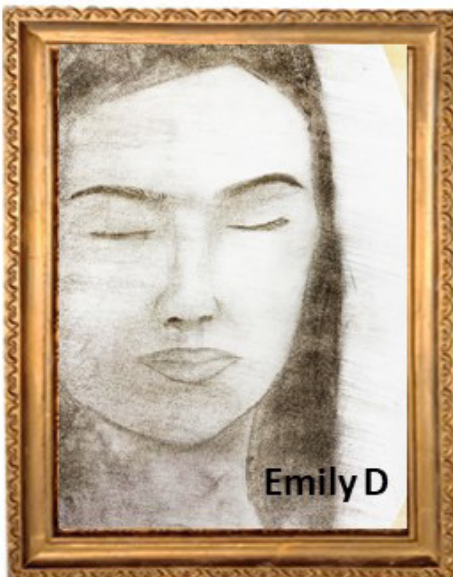
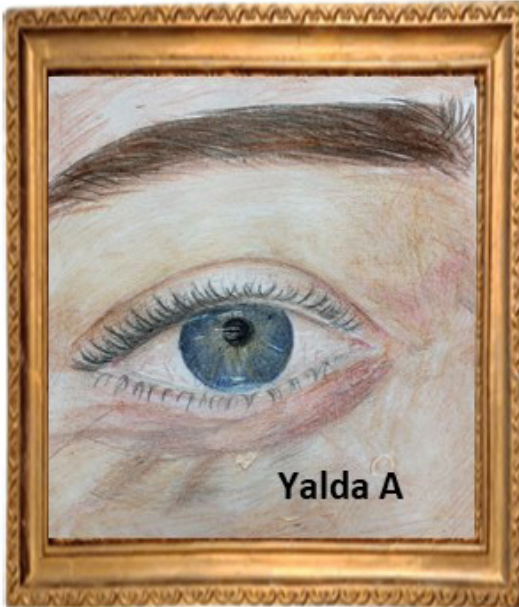
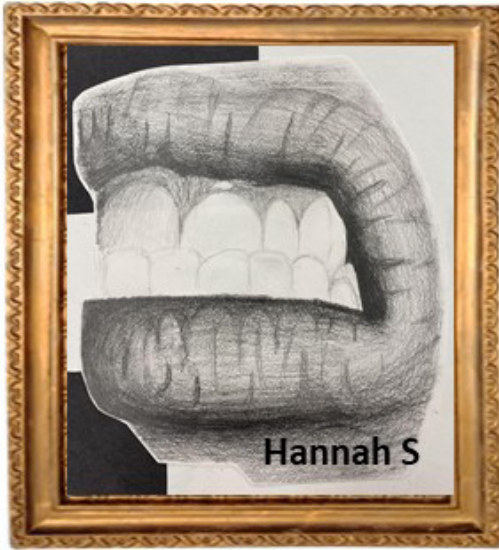
*Year 10:*





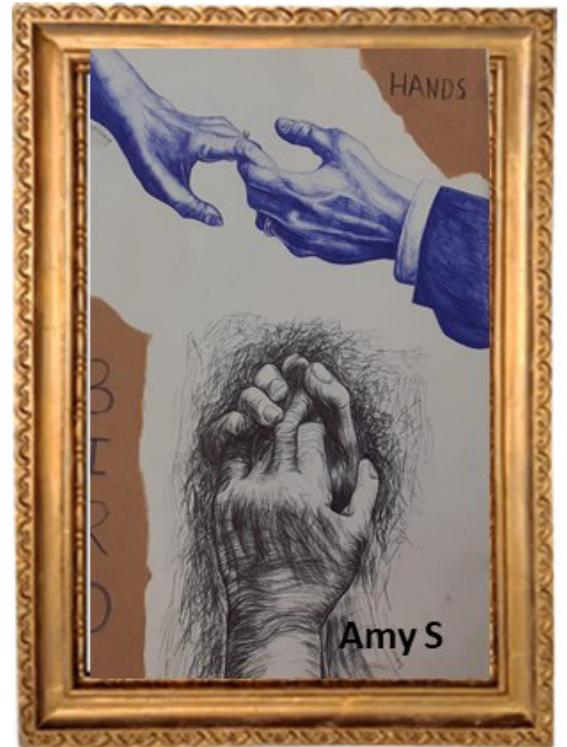
# RHS ART GALLERY

*Year 11:*



# RHS ART GALLERY

**KS5:**



# RHS ART GALLERY

KS5:



# YEAR 11 NEWS

It has been inspirational to see the mature approach so many of our students have shown towards their studies despite these unprecedented times. It has to be said that so many of the cohort really have stepped up to the challenge, showing determination and grit throughout! The challenge of workload has most definitely increased, but with this, so has the inquisitive nature of Year 11 in their quest for success. Whilst there have been many stand-out achievements this term, here are a few of the highlights:

## **Year 11 Prefects**

It was excellent to see the overwhelming response of Year 11 students wishing to apply to represent the school as Year 11 Prefects. This is again further testament to the incredible cohort of students that we have. Whilst it would have been easy to pick all of the students who applied, we had to finally narrow it down to the 13 successful students below. Congratulations to all of you on this amazing achievement!

Rohan K, Joe K, Luvai C, Eleanor C, Freddie S, Martina S, Keela E, Aziz M, Karina M, Tia P, Caitlin W, Faaris A and Daniel F.

In addition, to the above, further congratulations must go to Rohan K and Daniel F who successfully became senior prefects after a lengthy interview process which involved presenting their vision for the school to year 9 classes as well as an interview with Mr Davies and Mr Alexander.

## **Year 11 Pre Public Exams**

Despite much disruption over the past couple of years, the Year 11 cohort showed maturity and professionalism when taking their pre public exams this past month. It was inspirational to see how determined and focussed each and every student was not only during the exams, but equally in the build up. Many of the cohort took part in revision sessions, before and after school. Good luck to all students and please remember that if you didn't quite get the results that you wished for this time round, to use this as a stepping stone and something to work towards for the summer exams.

## **Academic Mentoring**

A group of Year 11 students have been involved in the first Academic Mentoring programme which has been designed to support students with their learning outside of the classroom to improve confidence, motivation and attainment in their chosen subjects.

Students have engaged extremely well in this programme which have involved remote tuition sessions, early morning revision classes as well as independent study sessions.

The Year 11 team would like to thank all students involved in this for their efforts and we hope this continues for the duration of Year 11.

# SIXTH FORM LEARNING MENTORS

## **Study Rooms**

For the first time, both Sixth Form study rooms have been in full operation since the E-Block opened, with the E3 study room used as a silent study space and the E2 study room as quiet, collaborative working. It has been excellent to see so many sixth form students using the space, not only if they are in a StudySupport session but also before and after school! We are really pleased to see just how hardworking and amazing our sixth formers are.

## **StudySupport and StudyPlus**

The StudySupport and StudyPlus programmes have resumed for the sixth form. Students receive additional support for their A-Level studies, including 1-2-1 mentoring sessions, tailored work and study skills supervision to ensure they are on track to achieve the best they can in their A-Levels.

# KEY DATES

Please note that some of these dates are dependent on government guidelines regarding COVID-19 safety measures and are therefore subject to change.

- **Tuesday 4th January 2022: INSET day (testing for students in Years 11 and 13)**
- **Wednesday 5th January 2022: Term begins for students in Years 7, 11 and 13 (testing for students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 12)**
- **Thursday 6th January 2022: All students return to school**
- **Monday 10th January 2022 - Friday 14th January 2022: Year 7 & 8 assessment week**
- **Thursday 13th January 2022: Year 10 parents' evening 4:30pm-7pm**
- **Monday 24th January 2022: Sixth form application deadline**
- **Monday 24th January 2022 - Friday 28th January 2022: Year 13 PPE week**
- **Thursday 27th January 2022: Year 11 parents' evening 3.45pm-7pm (no tutor time for students in Years 10-13)**
- **Friday 28th January 2022: Winter reward trip from 1:45pm**
- **Monday 7th February 2022: Sixth form interview day**
- **Monday 7th February 2022 - Friday 11th February 2022: Safer internet week**
- **Tuesday 8th February 2022: Safer internet day**
- **Thursday 10th February 2022: Year 8 parents' evening 2:30pm-7pm (1:30pm finish for Year 7 & 8)**
- **Friday 11th February 2022: End of half term**



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