

Ruislip High School NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022

PRESENTATION EVENING 2022

On Thursday 10th November, the Ruislip High School community celebrated our students and their achievements in our annual Presentation Evening.



The evening saw students, parents, staff and special guests gather in our theatre to watch as students accepted a variety of awards for their achievement in their subjects or for being outstanding for a specific quality, which adds to our school community. Our special guest, author Alex Wheatle MBE delivered the main address of the evening. In an inspiring talk, he emphasised the importance of education and how it can be a tool for finding your personal voice and skills. Mr Wheatle shared stories from

his personal journey and we are sure that all in the audience gained a lot from hearing him speak.

Mr Wheatle was part of an impressive line-up of performances. Our Sixth Form Student Leaders also delivered a set of poignant speeches, aimed at their peers. Hannah, Head Student, shared her top tips for success at school. In particular, she focused on the need for students to seize...



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HEADTEACHER'S NEWS



It has been an incredibly busy term at Ruislip High School and I believe this newsletter is testament to how much has been accomplished by our community over the past few months. We are a school that has genuine ambition for the young people in our care and I was delighted that the school was able to lead a conservation expedition to Mankwe Wildlife Reserve in South Africa. As you can see from the pictures in this newsletter, it was an amazing experience for the staff and students involved and I am delighted that the current Year 13 students who took part in the expedition have not only delivered assemblies to the younger years but have set about raising funds to support the vital conservation work going on at the reserve.

This term also saw overseas trips take place to Barcelona and Rome over the autumn half-term and it is such a joy to see these culturally important visits returning following the pandemic. I know these trips couldn't happen without the dedication of the committed staff team we have at the school and the support of our parent body. I am also conscious that we are living in challenging economic times and, as much as I value these visits, I do remain acutely aware of the cost burden these trips place on families and we will always try to spread the cost of payments out and support wherever possible.

It is not just with regard to educational visits that we have seen a return to normality this term and I have been delighted that we have once more been able to host a whole range of in-school events for our community. The first half of the autumn term saw important information evenings take place for Key Stage 4 and 5 students and it was great to be able to welcome back Year 12 students who had succeeded in their GCSE examinations last year to give the next cohort the benefit of their experience. Hearing our students speak on the public stage has been a real highlight of the academic year to date for me and the quality of the speeches delivered by Hannah, Ramez and Yasmin at our presentation evening in November not only showed a maturity well beyond their years but also a pride and acknowledgment on what it is to be a Ruislip High School student. Our presentation evening is the cover story to this newsletter and the event was a genuine celebration of life at the school and I would like to thank all those parents, staff and students that made it such a special event.

We were also able to run our Year 6 into 7 open evening fully in person this year and I am pleased to be able to confirm that, not only did record numbers of families attend the event, we also received record numbers of first-choice applications. We are now without doubt the chosen school for our community and this is testament to the dedication of our committed staff team and the crucial role played by our students in being genuine ambassadors for our school in the community.

HEADTEACHER'S NEWS



Ruislip High School is also part of the Vanguard Learning Trust and I am proud to work in the leadership of a family of schools who are all committed to delivering outstanding, inclusive education to the young people we serve. Our focus on continued school improvement has seen the school take part in a peer reading review this term where representatives from other schools within our Trust reviewed our practice and shared ideas regarding how we could improve this vital component of education yet further. As well as school improvement our Trust is also committed to holding regular Trust events and RHS once again hosted a maths challenge event for all Trust schools. The first VLT maths challenge had been planned to take place prior to the first national lockdown in March 2020 and had to be postponed. We did manage to host the event virtually last year but it was great this term to be able to host the event in person and welcome all the other schools to our new performance hall. I am grateful to Mr Ladhani, Director of Maths, for organising such a great collaborative event.

I finish my newsletter article having just attended the school's winter festival which saw a combination of drama and musical performances by our students. I am immensely grateful for the families, staff and students who supported the event by braving sub-zero temperatures to make up our audiences for both nights. For one of the performances we were also able to welcome back our sixth form community event which saw senior citizens from the local community welcomed into the school for a christmas party prior to the festival. With regard to the festival itself, I make it a mantra at the school not to talk about talent but instead focus on the importance of hard work. However, even I had to acknowledge in my closing remarks that the cast were incredibly hardworking and talented performers! The events themselves summarised for me everything the school stands for with students, parents, staff and members of our local community all coming together; we are a school that is genuinely both in, and for, our community.

Finally, as we come to the end of another calendar year at the school, I would like to wish everyone in the community a restful holiday period. I would particularly like to thank parents and guardians who have been so supportive this term and attended our events in record numbers. I am confident that we can build on these events in 2023 as Ruislip High School continues to be a school at the very heart of its community. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

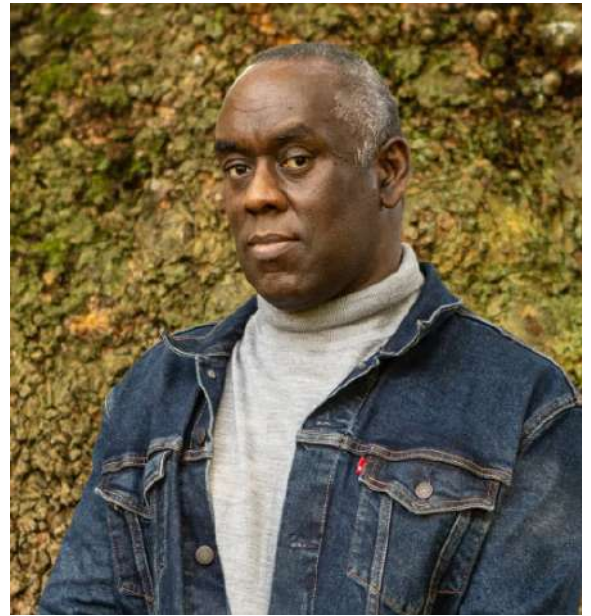
Gareth Davies

Headteacher

Continued from front page...

PRESENTATION EVENING

every opportunity they are given - as that is one way to find your own interests and passions. Yasmin, Deputy Head Student, thoughtfully discussed failure and to not be afraid to make mistakes, as it is within these that personal growth can happen. Finally, Ramez, Deputy Head Student, delivered an entertaining speech on his journey at Ruislip High School and what he has learnt from his time at the school. All three students spoke with confidence and proudly represented the student body.



There was also a collection of musical performances. Our talented Year 7 choir sang 'You Will Be Found' from Dear Evan Hansen, and Edward, Year 10, performed a stunning trumpet solo of 'Moon River'. Another stand-out moment from the evening was a violin solo performed by Sofija, Year 10. Before she performed, Mrs Hill shared Sofija's story about her journey to the UK from the Ukraine and how Mr Elsby, on hearing about her passion for music and how she had been unable to bring her own instrument to the UK with her, arranged for a violin to be gifted to Sofija.

During the Bestowed Prizes section of the event, another exciting moment occurred. The Bestowed Prizes are the awards given to our students who the school feels have excelled in demonstrating a particular skill, such as within the arts or showing their ability to innovate. At this year's Presentation Evening, two new Bestowed Prizes were introduced: The John Goulborn Award for services in and for the community and The Martina Lecky award for the School's Value of Integrity. Both of these awards are named after the first two Headteachers of Ruislip High School, so it was a wonderful opportunity to invite both Mr Goulborn and Dr Lecky back to the school to hand out the awards to the first winners this year. It was also a great chance to get all three headteachers (including Mr Davies) for a quick photo opp!

Overall, Presentation Evening really highlighted what makes our school community great and how we are very lucky to work with such wonderful young people every day. Mr Davies, Headteacher, summed up the event: *"Presentation Evening is a highlight of the school calendar. It is always such a positive atmosphere, where the school community celebrates together."*

VLT MATHS CHALLENGE



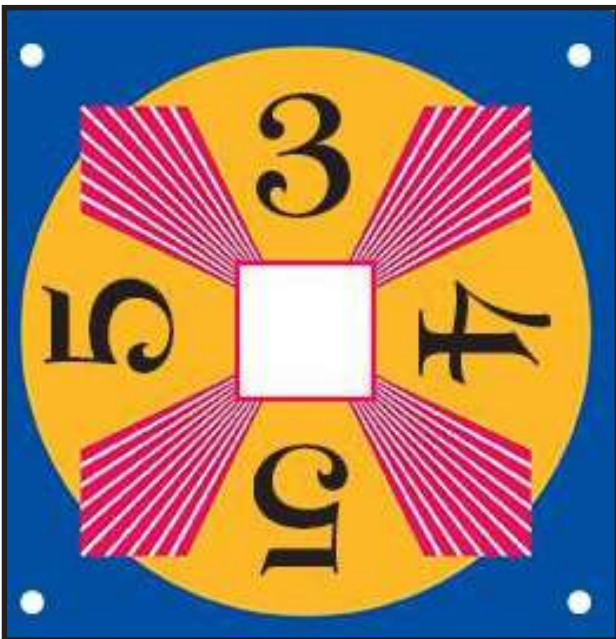
On Wednesday 20th October 2022, Ruislip High School hosted the second Vanguard Learning Trust Maths Challenge. The schools invited to take part in this challenge include: Field End Primary School, Hermitage Primary School, Ryefield Primary School, ACS International School, Vyners School and last but definitely not least Ruislip High School.

This event was particularly memorable as this was the first time the event had taken place in person after having to be cancelled in March 2020. Following the success of the remote VLT Maths Challenge, we were keen to see this take place in person.

Being able to see everyone's faces (not just through screens) reminded us how important it is to come together as a wider community in a friendly but competitive nature.

We were delighted to see the passion the students have displayed in developing their understanding and knowledge in mathematical problems as well as working together as a team.

The Maths Challenge consisted of five rounds which involved topics such as the famous 24 game. This game is a personal favourite in which participants are given 4 individual numbers and have to make the double digit number 24 using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.



Here, have a go using these numbers!

Did you manage to find the Solution?!

Here's the working out:

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$4 - 3 = 1$$

$$25 - 1 = 24$$

The following rounds consisted of Financial Mathematics, UKMT questions and Problem Solving.

Vyners High School took home the gold medal for the second year running, with the silver medal also being awarded to the second Vyners High School team. To complete the medals, Field End Junior School took home the bronze. Only one point separated the top 10 teams making this an incredibly close contest.

VLT MATHS CHALLENGE (CONTINUED)

All of us here, In the Mathematics Department at Ruislip High School would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every participant of this challenge, and a very special congratulations to the winners. We hope to see all of you again next year with even more enthusiasm.

The success of the event could not have happened without the support from the teachers across the Trust and most importantly the support of the RHS Sixth Form Volunteers and Year 11 Trust Ambassadors who helped to run the event on the day.

(This article was written by Tia P Year 12)



SOUTH AFRICA TRIP



At the start of the summer holidays, a group of thirteen sixth form students travelled to South Africa for what promised to be the trip of a lifetime. They were not disappointed!

The visit was arranged by the RHS's Science Department and was designed to give the students hands-on experience of ecological field work at the Mankwe Wildlife Reserve, just outside Pilanesberg National Park. Mr Gould shares his thoughts about the trip below:

From the moment we arrived, we knew that the following two weeks at Mankwe would be very special indeed. The Waterbuck camp was beautiful and the students quickly settled into a life of collecting data, identifying species and individuals during the day - followed by stunning sunsets, campfires and early nights. It did take some time to get used to our neighbours at night, especially the bats which seemed to like nothing better than to roost in our tents and cabins.

The whole team at Mankwe made us feel extremely welcome and just as importantly, highly valued in the field work we carried out. The data we collected from insect transects to large mammal transects to the individual identification of rhinos and giraffes will all go to help ensure that the ecosystem of the reserve remains as healthy as possible. This is crucial to help protect rhinos on the reserve which have been persecuted by poachers for their horn, which, by weight, is more expensive than gold. The students learned that helping to protect these magnificent creatures means working to protect all of the creatures and plant life on the reserve.

Overall, every day was better than the last!

For the students, the highlights were endless and the trip was a once in a lifetime experience. Some of the students who attended shared some memories of the trip with us:

Anthony said: *"One of my favourite parts of the trip was walking through the bush among the wildlife - this included the walked large mammal transect, bush walk, foot patrol, and other times such as setting up camera traps. I found it fascinating to see the different and unique habitats and how the animals have shaped their environment"*.

SOUTH AFRICA TRIP (CONTINUED)



Hannah shared with us her favourite moment: *"Helping out with the fire breaks on the reserve. I hadn't heard of this strategy before, but now looking back, I can see how crucial the work we undertook is in helping to prevent uncontrollable wildfires in the future. It felt as though we were in an action movie!"*

Emily said: *"Nothing will beat the most beautiful sunsets and scenery I have ever seen"*

Thank you to the Science Department for running such an incredible residential for our sixth form students. Lynne and Melissa who run the reserve have told us that the staff and students from Ruislip High School are welcome anytime to help with this conservation. We can't wait to go back!



YEAR 7 ASTRONOMY EVENING

On Wednesday 7th December, a number of our Year 7 students took part in our annual Astronomy Evening, hosted at our new EcoHub facility.

Students had the opportunity to use specialist virtual reality equipment to go on guided tours in space. These tours ranged from seeing Mars, from the Mars Rover's point-of-view, to a tour of the entire Milky Way. Students also got the chance to watch comets and shooting stars passing through our galaxy.

Meanwhile, in our outdoor classroom, students had their red torches, sky guides to know where to orient their binoculars, and telescopes. Using this equipment, students found where Jupiter and Saturn were in the night sky.

The aims of the event were for students to understand just how vast our universe is, through studying the night sky. They also learned how they can take part in astronomy at home.

After having a go with the telescopes Harrison, Year 7, told us: *"The evening was great fun. The telescopes really zoomed in on the objects in the sky. I found out that Jupiter looks like a star!"*

Another student, Elin, who took part said: *"I really loved Astronomy Evening - looking at the stars, moon and planets was very exciting."*

Ms Hide, Director of Science, said: *"Our second astronomy evening was such a great night! We were lucky enough to have a clear sky and the students took full advantage of the equipment provided to look up at the planet and stars. Everyone who took part was amazing."*

Thank you to the RHS Science Department for hosting the event and well done to all of our students who enthusiastically took part.



THE RHS WINTER SHOWCASE

On Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th December, 2023 the Drama and Music departments hosted a festive extravaganza to celebrate the end of term: The RHS Winter Showcase!

Students from Years 7-12 took part in both musical and dramatic performances to the delight of the audience. The evening highlighted the plethora of talent we have amongst the students of Ruislip High School and all who attended agreed that it filled all of the audience with festive spirit.

All of the students absolutely shone throughout, from an incredible rendition of 'River' performed by Mia, to a hilarious duologue performed by Isabelle and Kalel. The students all performed with a level of confidence and professionalism, which ensured they did themselves proud.

Katie, who took part in another hilarious comedic skit told us: *"I have always loved getting involved in school performances - and I feel like we get better every year."*

Lyla, who performed alongside Katie, followed this up by saying: *"It has been such a good experience getting involved with the Winter Showcase. There's a really fun atmosphere amongst all of the students who have taken part and we really feel like a community."*

For some of the students, it was their first time getting involved with a school performance. Max, who appeared in 'A Christmas Carol' shared: *"I watched the school production last year and really enjoyed it. So when the opportunity came to be in it this year, I had to have a go. I am so glad I put myself forward - it has been really fun!"*

Finally, Kalel, who also has not appeared in a school performance before said: *"Personally, I have had so much fun developing my acting skills and gaining confidence performing. But, I have also enjoyed the social side of being part of the show and made lots of new friends."*

The Winter Showcase was led by the Music and Drama departments at Ruislip High School, who have worked hard throughout the term to ensure the performance was a high quality extravaganza. It was also the final show that our current Head of Drama, Mr Alexander led, and all are very sad to see him go.

Ms Ohana who oversaw the event said: *"The Winter Showcase epitomises what makes Ruislip High school a fantastic place. School performances help to develop our students beyond the classroom and give them a chance to express themselves creatively."*

THE RHS WINTER SHOWCASE (CONTINUED)

It is a privilege to watch the students give their all when performing."

"I would also like to add that I am very sad to say goodbye to Mr Alexander. We have worked together for seven years on a range of projects from school pantos to leavers' videos. I will miss his creativity, direction and the sense of humour he brings to all creative endeavours. He will be greatly missed."

A huge well done to all of the students who performed in the Winter Showcase. Thank you again to Mr Alexander, Mr Randall and Ms Nastou for all of their work putting the show together. We would also like to say thank you to the parents and members of the community who supported us by coming to watch the show.



LET'S THINK



Maths is not just lists of sums and learning times tables! Year 7 students have participated in a Let's Think mathematics lesson.

Let's Think Maths (or CAME – Cognitive Acceleration in Maths Education) supports the development of mathematical

reasoning and problem solving. The Let's Think lessons complement a mastery approach to teaching and learning.

At Ruislip High School, we have been implementing lessons, which encourage children to think deeply, to work together, to discuss their ideas confidently and to link their maths learning together in new and exciting ways.

These lessons are all about developing students' thinking and reasoning skills through engaging investigative lessons, which take place every fortnight within class. Let's Think has been popular with students, who seem to enjoy the group work and discussion element, as well as having their brains put to the test!



LRC NEWS



As another exciting school year comes to a close, it is time to reflect on all the wonderful activities that have taken place in or involving the Resource centre, known as the LRC. It is still a very active place and referred to affectionately as the 'Hub of the School', as it is used by a vast amount of students from all years on a daily

basis. They all benefit from using the large, spacious Library, stocked with thousands of books, many from the latest releases; it's also a safe haven where students can read or complete homework in a silent, calm atmosphere, during the school day, before and after school.

Above and Beyond LRC Clubs

As part of the Above and Beyond Programme The LRC runs Clubs before and after school, with an array of different themes, which are extremely popular amongst the students from all year groups and continues to go from Strength to strength, increasing in numbers each week.

LRC Club Timetable

Monday AM - Reading with Mrs Austen in the LRC

Tuesday AM / Tuesday PM - Silent Reading

Wednesday AM - Reading with Mrs Austen in the LRC/ Wednesday PM Booktok Club

Thursday AM - Silent Reading / Thursday PM - Silent Reading

Friday AM - News and Articles Club / Friday PM - Games Club

Times: 7:45 am - 8:50 am

Times: 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm

Closed on Monday after School

Year 7 LRC 'Reading Bingo Challenge

At the end of November the LRC launched the Year 7 'Reading Bingo Challenge' to promote and encourage reading across the whole year group, open to individual students' and also as a whole tutor group competition.

Read a book of your choice	Read a classic book /story or fairy tale	Read a book that became a film or TV series	Read a funny book	Read a Non-Fiction book	THE LRC READER CHALLENGE Be sure to give your completed Bingo card to Mrs Austen in the LRC to be in with a chance of winning a prize !!
Read a book about animals	Borrowed from the LRC / LRC Book trolley	Read a book from the recommended reading list	Read a book mentioned in one of your reading tutorials	Read a book recommended by a friend	
Read a book by your favourite Author	Read a Autobiography/ Memoirs book	Read a Fantasy/ Dystopian book	Read a book of poems or short stories	Write your own book review for one of the books read	
Read a creepy or spooky book	Read a Book by a Female Author	Read a book by a Male Author	Read a book about Diversity	Read a book based on a true story	
Read a second book of a series	Read a book your Parents/Guardians recommended	Read a book your Tutor/Teacher recommended	Read a book Mrs Austen sent out to Tutors of new titles	Read a book of your choice	

LRC NEWS (CONTINUED)

Each Tutor group gets the opportunity of completing all of the 25 challenges, divided amongst the students. If all challenges are completed by the deadline, the completed bingo card picked out of the hat will win a prize to share amongst the students in the class.

The LRC Mobile Book Trolley

The LRC has now introduced a new ' Mobile Book Trolley'

Displaying different themed books for each month of the Year, with a matching slide show displayed on the Digital Signage in the LRC.

Students are then encouraged to borrow books from the Trolley, with a range of books catering for all year groups and genres.

Reading by Genre

As well as the fiction books being in alphabetical order according to the author, it is now much easier for students to find a book in the LRC, as the books are now shelved in genres. No more having to go to multiple places to search for a favourite read, they can all be found in the one place, with many types of genre available, including Spooky Horror, Funny Comedy and Fantasy Dystopian and many more.

Student and Staff Book Requests for the LRC

Although the LRC stocks thousands of books, ranging from fiction through to non-fiction, catering for all ages, including Staff, there are always new books being launched. To keep up with this, the LRC has now introduced a Google Form for students and staff to be able to request a book not currently stocked. This has proved very popular amongst both staff and students, being able to order the latest title to read at their leisure.

Recommended Reads For Key Stage 3 / 4/ 5 in the LRC

With the emphasis on promoting reading across the school and encouraging as many students to visit the LRC to borrow books and read, the LRC and the English department have joined forces. They are working together to make this happen, with the introduction of dedicated reading lessons taking place each week as part of the English timetable. Lessons focus on different fiction books which in turn can then be ordered for the LRC, allowing students to borrow the books to read further at home.

LRC NEWS (CONTINUED)

LRC Helpers

A Big Thank you from the LRC

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

The LRC wishes everyone a Wonderful Christmas and New Year

'Happy Reading'

Mrs Austen, LRC Manager

A LEVEL MEDIA TRIP TO THE BFI SOUTHBANK

On Wednesday 7th December, the A Level Media Studies students in Year 12 and Year 13 headed into central London for the day, to take part in an 'Audience and Industry' study day.

The event, hosted at the BFI Southbank, was a chance for students to hear from an external speaker about two of their exam case studies, Marvel Studios and The BBC. Students then got to think about how they could apply information about both companies to their examination answers.

During the day, our students got involved in a variety of activities, which required them to share their ideas and opinions with students from other schools across London. The main speaker of the day was incredibly impressed with the articulate way in which our students expressed their opinions and told us that she valued their excellent contributions to the day.

Mia, Year 13, who attended the day said: *"It was a good opportunity to revise our course content and feel proud of ourselves for how much we have learnt on the A Level course."*

Ms Ohana, who led the trip said: *"The purpose of the day was to revise content covered on the course, to help prepare our students for a challenging part of their examinations. Our students not only proved that they have an excellent understanding of the course content, but they have the confidence to articulate their insight clearly. All of the media students should be really proud of themselves - they really shone."*

A LEVEL MEDIA TRIP TO THE BFI SOUTHBANK

(CONTINUED)

Thank you to Ms Ohana and Ms Kwan for taking the students to the event. Well done to all of the Media Studies students for getting fully involved in the day.



MFL NEWS

Students enjoy Barcelona trip organised by MFL Department

Thirty seven 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 beach-side 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 the second day, the students visited El Poble Espanyol which is one of the most popular tourist attractions



in Barcelona. Students discovered the architectural diversity of Spain by walking around 117 full-scale replicas of Spanish famous buildings. In the afternoon, students took a cable car up to Montjuic castle, where students ate their picnics and got to take in the most amazing panoramic views over Barcelona. Later on that day, they were given time to explore the famous Las Ramblas before returning to the hotel.

Most evenings the students had free time by the beach where they could partake in beach or card games or some retail therapy. On the third day students spent

a full day at PortAventura theme park followed by time to explore the hotel and use the swimming pool. On the last morning, students spent time in 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 and the top three teams were rewarded generously. Finally, the last afternoon was spent visiting the FC Barcelona Camp Nou Stadium. This was a fantastic way to round off such a jam-packed and memorable trip.

Edward, Year 10: *"The Barcelona trip was probably the most fun I have ever had. Everything was so interesting and it was great to learn more about Spanish culture."*

Caitlin, Year 10: *"The trip was so enjoyable. Thank you to all the teachers who put massive amounts of effort in. It was amazing to hear Spanish in use and practice speaking in real life. I had the best time!"*

Jessie, Year 11: *"It was unforgettable! It was really nice making new friends and meeting new people who I never thought I would get to speak to or get to know. My favourite memory was the Nou Camp or going to the beach."*

MFL NEWS (CONTINUED)

Ruby, Year 11: *"It was really inspirational and the culture was amazing to look at and learn about along with helping me improve my Spanish."*

Alexia, Year 11: *"The entire trip was so much fun! I loved visiting all the towns, especially El Poble Espanyol. But I think my favourite part was skipping down the streets of Salou with Ms Matias, Gracie and Liibaan. ¡Fue inolvidable!"*

A massive thank you to the wonderful 37 students and four members of staff who gave up their half term for this truly unforgettable trip which students will be talking about for many years to come.

Students explore the wonders of Ancient Rome on an Italian adventure

On the first Monday of half-term, at very early hour, a group of 41 Year 10 and Year 11 students left for Heathrow Airport with five members of staff. Their destination? Rome. Their mission? To learn about the wonders of Ancient Rome and observe the beauty and grandeur mankind is capable of creating.

It is truly difficult to summarise such a wonderful trip in so little time and words but we think we can safely say that our students (and staff!) had the best time in Italy's capital. With the weather on our side, we spent four days walking around Rome. We did not waste any time, starting our first visit upon our arrival, where we explored the Catacombs of San Sebastiano (underground burial tunnels). It was a very unique experience for all of us and we were lucky to get a great guide to walk us through the tunnel. Luckily, we did not lose anyone! After checking in to our hotel, we had a late afternoon stroll into central Rome where we saw the Trevi Fountain and some exquisite Renaissance villas.

On the second day, we continued our exploration with a guided tour of the Vatican and Saint Peter's Basilica. Saint Peter's Basilica is a truly amazing work of architecture and the Vatican's riches have no equal! On the third day, we went back in time and visited the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. We are so lucky to be the witnesses of what life was like 2000 years ago. It is also striking to see that humankind has not changed all that much! We finished our trip with one final stroll and enjoyed our last taste of "la dolce vita" with a gelato on the Spanish steps.



MFL NEWS (CONTINUED)

It was time to leave the beautiful city of seven hills before we knew it. We can genuinely say that we were all a bit disappointed to make our way back to dark, rainy London, but at least our heads were full of incredible memories to make us last until next Summer!

What did the students say?

Taylor, Year 11: *"Rome was absolutely stunning, I would give the trip a mark of 10/10 and I really want to go back. I loved making new friends and discovering a new place!"*

Imogen, Year 11: *"I did not want to leave and my mum was very jealous when I showed her all the pictures I took. My favourite place to visit was the Vatican as it is like nothing I have ever seen before!"*

Thank you to all our students and staff who have simply been fantastic and never complained when we made them walk 24 kilometres a day!

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT NEWS

RHS is very proud to successfully offer and deliver a variety of vocational courses. Our students excel in these courses.

Subjects are:

- Enterprise and Marketing
- Health and Social Care
- Sport
- Travel and Tourism

New revised BTEC Tech Level 2 courses

This year we, together with many other schools across the country, started to deliver the new revised Level 2 Tech award courses. Students and teachers have made amazing starts to these courses. We had an information evening for parents to inform them of how we can all support students undertaking these courses to be successful and achieve the best possible outcome. This evening was well attended and we are all very grateful for the support received from parents.

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT NEWS (CONTINUED)

Cadbury World trip

On Thursday 17th November, Year 10, Year 12 and Year 13 Enterprise and Marketing and Travel and Tourism students participated in a Cadbury World visit located in Bournville. The aim of the visit was for students to experience how a real company's production processes work and how it delivers different services. This trip supported different components delivered across the subjects which were beneficial to all students. Students attended a talk given by the Cadbury staff tailored to match their curriculum needs. They also experienced a tour through the different zones seeing for themselves the history of Cadbury; how chocolate is made and a definite favourite, the 4D Chocolate Adventure cinema experience. One of the highlights was students writing their names in chocolate!



We are all very proud of the students and pleased that they had the opportunity to experience a real company behind the scenes!

What did students say about the trip?

Aahana - Year 10 *"I thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Cadbury world which was perfectly arranged for us. It was a great opportunity for us to gain insight into the history and production of Cadbury, a world renowned company appreciated by everyone. It was especially useful to me as a current business studies student, to understand the planning and research process using market research to create a product together with the immense success of the Cadbury brothers. We were given a fantastic talk which revealed a few secrets in Cadbury's unique customer service from 1941 till now. It was inspiring and helpful to incorporate similar ideas and services into my coursework. The whole experience was very engaging through writing our names in chocolate to my favourite part of the entire trip, the 4D movie with a brilliant chocolatey roller coaster experience and lastly I couldn't miss out the African adventure playground!"*

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT NEWS (CONTINUED)

Josh - Year 13 "The Cadbury trip was very good and very well organised by Mrs Carstens. It was interesting to see how Cadbury's was run and what was happening behind the scenes."

RHS Digital Leaders

This term we announced our new 2022-2023 Digital leaders. These leaders have been working really hard talking to students to find out what they need more help and support on in the online world. The 6th form leaders have been supporting the younger leaders. This information has been used to inform the digital leaders about what information and top tips to share across the digital display boards around the school, Google Classroom as well as in assemblies throughout the year. At the moment the digital leaders are working really hard towards an even better than ever before "Online Safety Week" which is taking place in February 2023.

Ruislip High School

RHS DIGITAL LEADERS

DIGITAL LEADER

Congratulations!

Max Richman

Bradley

Emily

Sophia

Aziz

Laylah

Ibrahim

Ibtisam

GEOGRAPHY NEWS

Year 7

Year 7 students have really impressed the department with their enthusiasm! They have studied topics including Water, Rivers and Flooding. Did you know you can investigate the local flood risk for all roads in the Ruislip area? Here is the website students have been using:

<https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/postcode>

Follow the weblink, enter your postcode then click 'View a map of the risk of surface water flooding'.

The most recent Year 7 topic has been Map Skills and the British Isles ahead of their exam in the spring term. The department recommends the map skills videos produced by TV presenter Steve Backshall. Here's an example where students can revise 6-figure grid references:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXuo_ocVMVU

Year 8

In Year 8, one of the topics this term has been all about plate tectonics and natural hazards such as volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Students studied the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and how the world tried to respond to this hazard with new technology which was put to the test in the 2018 tsunami which struck Indonesia. Here is a weblink for one of the interesting news videos students have analysed:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-asia-45763376

Year 9

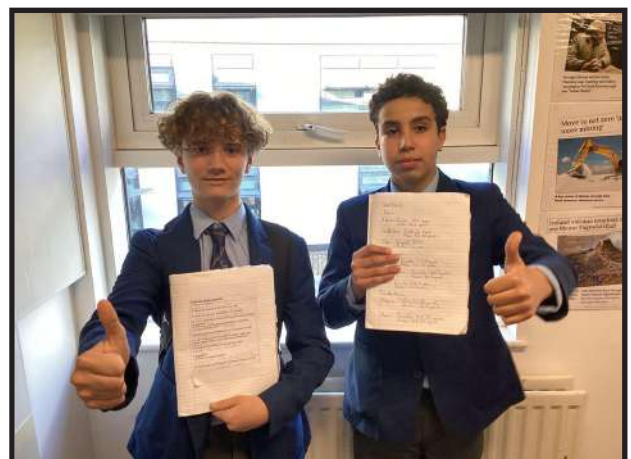
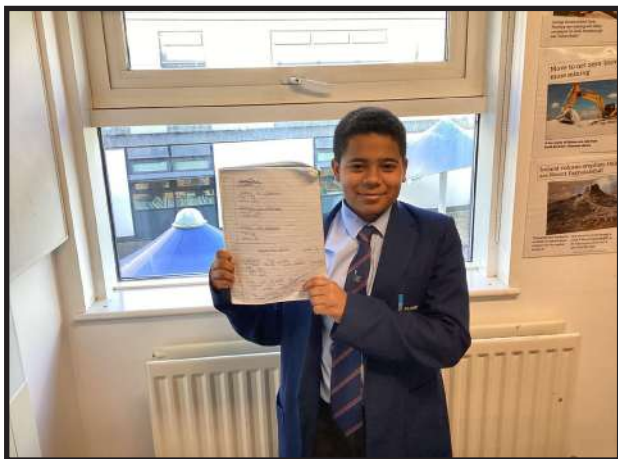
Year 9 topics have included International Development, the Americas and Brazil. In the International Development topic, students have considered how much the world's biggest shanty towns such as Kibera in Nairobi, Kenya, have been improving. This work has included analysing videos such as this one from BBC News Online: www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/stories-45829930 (Photo caption for the below photos) Students in 9F with their 'International Development' geography assessments:

GEOGRAPHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Students in 9F with their 'International Development' geography assessments



Students in 9B display their autumn term work on life expectancy variations, and migration across the Mexico-USA border.



Year 10



The five classes in Year 10 GCSE Geography have made an impressive start. They have already finished the first topic 'The Challenge of Natural Hazards' and completed a unit assessment before moving onto the second topic 'Living World'. One of the main topics for Year 11 students this term has been Fieldwork, following their visit to Hengistbury Head and Mudeford Spit in Dorset at the end of the summer term.

GEOGRAPHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Year 11 students now look forward to their pre-public exam results day in January 2023. Students can keep revising at any time using the revision 'Megabooks' on Google Classroom, along with numerous past exam papers and mark schemes.

Sixth Form

Year 12 students have made an impressive start on their first topics, Hazards (physical geography) and Changing Places (human geography). Year 13s meanwhile have been writing up their coursework projects following their residential field trip to Norfolk towards the end of the summer term. The department is now helping Year 13s revise for their pre-public exams in January. Good luck everyone!



**Year 13 students have been writing up their coursework projects
in the autumn term.**

PE NEWS

Year 9 Assembly

On Wednesday 9th November 2022 Students in Year 9 were lucky enough to have Jahmal Howlett-Mundle address them in Assembly. Along with his two nephews Jahmal spoke to students about LGBT+ inclusion from football players' perspective.

In July 2021, he became the first openly bisexual semi-professional football player in the mens game in the UK. It was an insightful talk for the students to hear as more work needs to be done to support and educate young people on LGBT+ matters, inside and outside of football and sport.



Cross-country

Congratulations to all of the students who took part in the Hillingdon Cross-country Championships on Friday 18th November. The resilience and determination shown by all was brilliant. Students who placed in the top 6 will go on to represent Hillingdon in the Middlesex Schools Championships in January.

Year 7 Boys

Both Alfie and Hussain were in 1st and 2nd place before going the wrong way.

Hussian I (7B) 8th, Dishan D-K (7C) 12th, Alfie W (7C) 7th, Brandon C-E (7F) 9th, Oscar W (7F) 2nd, Ibrahim H (7F) 17th

PE NEWS (CONTINUED)

Year 7 Girls

Mya C (7B) 29th, Bethany S (7B) 15th, Xenia G(7B), Anya R (7D) 7th, Lily C (7F) 17th, Charna-Jo B (7A) 20th, Scarlett F (7A) 44th, Anya R (7D) 52nd

Year 8/9 Boys

Charlie R (8D) 6th, Sonny M-B(8C) 35th, Kallum J (8F) 4th, Dexter O (9W) 2nd, Jake H(9F) 20th, Alfie S 5th (9D)

Year 8/9 Girls

Amelia S (8C) 45th, Imani E-B (8D) 64th, Amy (8W) 65th, Emily (8b), Teighan G (9F) 16th

Year 10/11 Boys

Alex L (10W) 10th , William L (11C) 16th , Charlie (11C) 33rd, Ben (11C) 21st

Year 10/11 Girls

Anna B (10B) 8th, Sara U (10W) 24th

Netball

Year 10 and 11 Hillingdon Versatility netball Tournament at Vyners on Wednesday 12/10/22. Well done to the Year 10 and 11 students selected to represent RHS in the Hillingdon Netball Tournament. Both teams performed extremely well and most importantly enjoyed playing.



Team: Nisham L (11A), Alexia S (11C), Freya S (11A), Alice P (10S), Anna B (10B), Chloe L (10D), Sara U (10W), Ava B (11C), Mia C (11C), Rasum S (11W), Aimee Q (11W), Klea B (11W), Jessica C (11C) Star player: Alexis S

PE NEWS (CONTINUED)

Year 9

Congratulations to the Year 9 netball team who played their first game on Monday 31st October against Vyners. Although they didn't win, the game as a whole was extremely competitive and both teams played very well.

Team: Eliana R (9B), Hannah C (9S), Freya D (9C), Kiera B (9D), Gabrielle D (9B), Alina L (9B), Emma M (9F), Elena L (9C).

Star players: Eliana R, Hannah C, Freya D



Year 7

The Year 7 netball team made an excellent start to their season winning against Oakwood School. Considering this was the first time the group had played together as a team, they put on a fantastic performance with some outstanding shooting from Mya and Chloe.

Team: Natalia D (7A), Anna D (7B), Bethany S (7B), Chloe S (7S), Erin D-M (7B), Mya C (7B), Bobbi R (7C), Alana M (7S), Holly P-C (7F), Jessica W (7A)



PE NEWS (CONTINUED)

Rugby

Well done to the Year 8 rugby team who played their first two games yesterday. Beating Queensmead 20 -10 and narrowly losing to Vyners 10-15 on a last minute try. Harry W (8A) scored 4 tries vs Queensmead, and Veer B (8F) scored 3 tries over the two games. All boys were a credit to the school.

Team-Veer B (8F), Caden C (8A), Ruben D (8A), Harry W (8A), Harley B (8C), Kai M (8W), Jamie H (8F), Louie S (8W), George C (8F), Ali A (8F), Alfie D (8S), Daniel C (8S)
Daniel for his first ever game was outstanding!

Girls Football

The Year 9's and 10's students recently played their first 11 a-side fixture against Nower Hill High School. The girls put in an amazing performance which secured a 4-1 win in the game. Hopefully this excellent performance will continue in their County Cup this academic year. Well done to everyone involved :)

Goals from:

Hallie-Ella T (10B)

Teighan G x3 (9F)

Special shout out to:

Ella-Rose S - representing the girls football team for the first time with an amazing performance in defence.

Kalina B - who has only played for the school twice and showed fantastic improvement throughout the game.

Team: Kiya D (9S), Layla D (9S), Hannah C (9S) ,Carly M (9F), Honey H (9A), Jemima H (9A), Teighan G (9F), Grace Y (9F), Eliana R(9B), Ella-Rose S (9A), Holly M (8S), Hallie Ella T(10), Kalina B(9A)

Year 8

A massive congratulations to the Year 8 Football team this half term.

They have won the first round of the county cup winning 7-2 against Uxbridge High School.

They also won a borough 9 a-side football tournament which had 15 other schools competing in.

The girls beat Bishop Ramsey in the final on penalties.

PE NEWS (CONTINUED)

Team: Chloe F(8B), Megan C (8B),Jodie C (8D), Holly M (8S), Ciara W (8C) , Jessica G-L(8S), Deeya J(8S) , Ellie S-M(8B), Nancy T (8S), Amy D (8C), Nicolatae L (8C), Emily F (8F), Freya M (8F), Darcy M (8B)



Year 9 boys football team

Year 9 Boys football RHS 1 - Haydon 1 (RHS win on penalties 3-2) County Cup

The year 9's started in a winning fashion, however, at a struggle. The boys dominated the match after conceding from an early 2nd minute strike, but after hitting the crossbar twice, the post once, a phantom bobble in the ground, several one on one opportunities and an open goal miss from a yard out, the boys finally struck back in the 56th minute. A debut goal from Player of the match Mason M (9B). Mason must have covered every blade on the pitch, and had the composure to finish his chance with a heavily congested penalty box. The boys showed great composure and Joe B (9S) making his debut in goal saving two of the penalties to see Ruislip through to the next round.

Year 7 Football Team

The year 7 boys football team was successful in their first ever game for Ruislip High School. They won 3-1 against Vyners and put on a great performance. Well done to all players involved.

Goal Scores: James B (7B) , Oscar W (7F), Daniel L (7F)

Team: James B (7B) , Oscar W (7F), Daniel L (7F), Tomas B (7B), Alfie W (7C), Ethan K (7D), Dishan D (7C), Charlie K (7A), Ibrahim H (7F), Ashaz S (7B), Samuel S (7W) Dragos T (7F)

PE NEWS (CONTINUED)



A huge well done to Chelsea-Rose K (Year 8) who was signed by Chelsea Ladies earlier this year.

Chelsea is a talented footballer and has represented the school in futsal and football matches. Chelsea was also selected last year to play for Middlesex County and has played in a number of games for them.



HISTORY NEWS

KS3 History

Our history students have had a very busy Autumn term developing their skills and extending their knowledge. We have greatly enjoyed introducing our Year 7 historians to KS3 history. Year 7 have learnt about chronology, sources, cause and consequence and significance. They have carried out their own historical investigation into what happened to Lindow man and have considered what did the Romans do for us? Year 8 have continued to develop their historical writing by explaining the reasons for Henry VIII's Break with Rome and analysing how useful portraits of Queen Elizabeth I are. Our Year 9 students have been learning about the Industrial Revolution. They have carried out research into Black Victorians by reading a section of David Olusoga's book Black and British: A short essential history.

KS4 History

We have been very impressed with the start our Year 10 historians have made to their GCSE. They have been learning about 'Weimar and Nazi Germany 1919-1939' and honing the skills they started to develop during KS3. Year 11 have now completed three out of four of the topics they will learn about at GCSE. We have started studying their final topic 'Migrants in Britain c800-present and Notting Hill c1948-c1970'. This is a brand new unit that we are all very excited about.

KS5 History

Our Year 12 students have embraced the step up from GCSE. The students are already showing developed skills of historical argument, analysing primary sources and evaluating historians' interpretations. Both Year 12 and 13 are busy working on their non-examined assessment, a 4,500 word essay on a question of their choice on the topic of African-American Civil Rights in the USA. Year 13 have spent a large portion of the term readying themselves for the PPEs they will be sitting after Christmas - we wish them the best of luck with these exams.

History Club

This term has seen the return of History Club. The club is run by all members of the history department: Mrs Woodall ran a session on 'Poos from the past'; Mr Maud has taught about changing eating habits; in one of Mr Warrington's sessions the students learnt about rationing and Mr Tibbey has introduced the students to Roman food. Below are some comments from our members about what they have enjoyed:

HISTORY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Jack said "We have learned about foods that the Tudors, Victorians and Romans ate. We have made graphs to show how people's eating habits have changed. We made a menu for a Roman banquet and Tudor meal too. It's been pretty fun because we have been able to understand what people ate in the past and why they ate it."

Elin said "We dissected poo to see what era it was from. We have made propaganda posters for World War One. I have enjoyed coming a lot because I really enjoy history and this is extra learning."

Elise said "We have done lots of things in history club like menus and posters. I have enjoyed it a lot - I have liked learning with a different teacher each week. We have looked at food which I have enjoyed because it's different to what we do in lessons. One week we looked at a graph of how eating habits changed in the 20th century."



HISTORY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Lessons from Auschwitz

In October two members of the Sixth Form, Scarlett R and Max L were selected to participate in the Lessons from Auschwitz (LFA) Project. This project is run by the Holocaust Educational Trust and involved a one-day visit to the former Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, which is situated in Poland.

Max who is currently in Year 13 and plans to read history at university has written this report about his experience:

In October, I represented the school in the Lessons from Auschwitz scheme run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. I took part in a one-day trip to Auschwitz concentration camp and the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial & Museum, interviewed a Holocaust survivor, and reflected upon Jewish life in Germany and across Europe before and after the Holocaust. In order to fulfil my part of the project and become a Lessons from Auschwitz ambassador, I have been asked to share my experiences with the school community.

Learning about the Holocaust is a vital part of education as it shows us what can happen if anti-semitism, prejudice and hatred are left unchallenged in society. This is obviously a sensitive topic that can be upsetting for some and therefore must be handled with the utmost respect. It is also a topic that is often misinterpreted and there are many misconceptions surrounding it. Hopefully, by sharing my experiences you will go away with a better understanding of the events of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was the genocide of approximately six million Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during the Second World War. It is important to remember that the Holocaust was the final stage of a long process of social cleansing by Nazi Germany. The earlier stages included stripping the rights of Jewish citizens, the ostracisation of Jews, the theft of Jewish homes and belongings, and the restriction of Jewish religious practices. It is commonly thought that gas chambers was the only means of extermination, but the Nazis also used a number of other methods to murder the Jews, including forced labour, starvation, shooting squads and medical experiments.

Another common misconception is that the Holocaust was something that only occurred in Germany. In the early twentieth century there were Jews situated in every European country, but the majority resided in Eastern Europe. The largest pre-war Jewish population was in

HISTORY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Poland, with 3.3 million in total (10% of the population). In fact, in 1939, Germany's Jewish population was only 300,000 (less than 1% of the total and smaller than Britain's Jewish population). Jews from many different countries were killed, often transported to the 44,000 incarceration camps established under Nazi Germany.

Anti-semitism was also a prevalent problem across Europe before the Nazis came to power. For example, in 1290, Edward I expelled the entire Jewish population of England (about 3000 people) and they did not return until 1656 when Oliver Cromwell invited them to reintegrate into English society. Nazi anti-semitism took a different stance. As early as 1919, Hitler defined being Jewish as a race not a religion and therefore something that could not be altered. He described Jews as the "race-tuberculosis of the peoples" and identified his ultimate goal as "the removal of the Jews altogether".

With all this history in mind during the visit to Poland, and specifically Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, I found this both a harrowing and extremely eye-opening experience that I will never forget. Over one million Jews were murdered here as well as thousands of gypsies, homosexuals, political prisoners, 'asocials' (e.g. homeless) and the disabled. Much of what was once there is now in ruins after the Nazis attempted to destroy all evidence of the camp shortly before the Soviets liberated it in January 1945. However, the original train line that brought prisoners to the camp is still there and the long walk alongside it ends with a memorial to the Jews who died there. The buildings that remain are either original or reconstructed, and contain touching memorials to the memories of the former prisoners. These included piles of shoes, glasses, suitcases and hair. These are a reminder that the lives taken during the Holocaust were not just a collection of statistics but each one an individual with their own history.

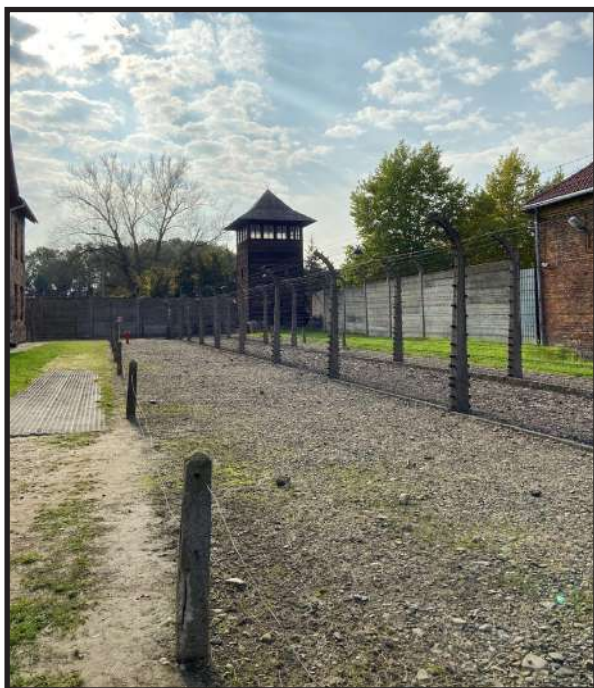
The interview with the Holocaust survivor was the final stage of the project. I heard from Janine Webber BEM, a Polish Jew who was very young at the time of the Holocaust. She witnessed her father get shot and her mother die of a long illness whilst they were forced to live in the horrid conditions of a Jewish ghetto in Poland. Her uncle managed to find her and her brother a farmer who was willing to hide them where they remained for a few months before the farmer's daughter brought SS men to the house. The SS shot her brother and, for unknown reasons, did not shoot her. She went into hiding with one of her uncles and twelve other Jews in a small underground bunker for over a year. Janine then decided to leave and obtained false papers. With these papers, she managed to find an elderly couple who employed her as a maid until Krakow was liberated in early 1945. In late 1945, her aunt decided to place her into a children's home. Unfortunately,

HISTORY NEWS (CONTINUED)

fearing anti-semitism, they moved to Paris. In 1956, Janine came to the UK to improve her English. Whilst over here she married an Englishman, settled down and built a family. Today, Janine regularly shares her story with schools.

Janine had many interesting points of view surrounding the Holocaust that must be shared. Firstly, she said that the camps, like Auschwitz, must stay open to the public to ensure that people are able to understand what happened there in a way that isn't just reading figures of the numbers who died. One of her overarching points was that she does not, in any way, hate Germany or Germans. She advocates love and peace towards all people no matter what their characteristics or origins. However, she said that she will never be able to forgive the Nazis for what they did to her family and her people. Janine's story also proves an important take-away point from learning about the Holocaust which is that it is often referred to as a statistic but it is much more than that. Every one of those six million Jews who were murdered was an individual with an incredible life that was cruelly snatched away from them. Having the opportunity to speak to Janine was an invaluable experience and unfortunately one that won't be possible in the near future so must be taken advantage of as much as possible by as many as possible.

My journey with the Holocaust Educational Trust was a life-changing experience and one that I would encourage you all to do if you get the opportunity. Unfortunately, anti-semitism does not appear to have been eradicated from society. However, this has made the need to learn about the inhumane treatment of the Jews during the Holocaust even more important. Crucially, they must be remembered as individuals, not just statistics from an historical event.



UK BEBRAS CHALLENGE



UK Bebras challenge Gold Winners- Computer Science

I am very pleased to share the results of the UK Bebras challenge with you all. This was the first time that students had participated in the national competition (similar to UK Maths challenge) and a total of 24 students have achieved Gold certificates.

Junior Category

Elise H, Jade C, Robert B, Eleftheria F, Felix M, Dexter G, Amy W

Intermediate Category

Roman L, Tarik D, Faraan T, Amelia S, Iza B, Sophia R, Daniel L, Mohamed T, Hayah F, Elisei S, Adam B, Nazar T, Max L, Daria T, Amy M, Maya R

Senior Category

Samy H

This means these students were placed in the top 10% nationally and have been invited to the next round of challenge called Oxford University Computing challenge which takes place between 16th January to 20th January (first round is online).

In addition to that 35% of cohorts from each category have achieved distinction and merit certificates. I am really proud of all the students especially as they entered the competition without any preparation.

Thank you to all the computing teachers for supporting and encouraging the students.

YEAR 7 NEWS

Starting high school can feel pretty daunting. First day nerves and thinking, what if I get lost? How will I make new friends? What will the teachers be like? Year 7 have taken all of this in their stride and have settled in so well to life at Ruislip High School. On their first day in September it was a joy to see old friends reunited as well as new friendships blossoming. Eleftheria (7S) articulated this fantastically in her Ruislip Eye student newspaper article.

Students have fully embraced our school values. As a cohort they are polite, ambitious and friendly. Feedback from staff is always overwhelmingly positive and each student should feel proud of their first term at Ruislip High School.

Year 7 have been very lucky to have had the opportunity to join clubs as part of our launch of the improved Above and Beyond programme. Students have taken part in Chef's club, Animal club, Football and many more. They have been the year group with the most sign-ups to clubs. Their enthusiasm for extra-curricular activities is infectious and it is clear to see that the year group are making the most of the opportunities they have at school. Daniel in 7F who is part of the football team says, *"Football has been really fun to do because you get to play with your friends and with the Year 8s. We also beat Vyners 3-1 which was amazing - I scored a goal!"*

Year 7 are starting to make their mark on the school through Student Voice. Each tutor group have elected Year Team Council members as well as a Student Parliament representative. These students now have the responsibility of being the voice for their peers. It is clear that the representatives chosen are responsible, charismatic and ready to take on the role with pride. Jessica 7F says *"I feel really proud because I am doing something to help people at school"*.

YEAR 9 NEWS

It has been inspirational to see the mature approach so many of our students have shown towards their studies in their last year of KS3.

It has to be said that so many in 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 9 in their quest for success. There hasn't been a week this term when Year 9 students did not make us proud and they have really helped us get through this term.

There have been many stand-out achievements this term, here are a few of the highlights:

Year 9 tour guides

It was excellent to see the overwhelming response of Year 9 students wishing to become Tour Guides for our Year 6 Open Evening back in September. This is testament to the incredible cohort of students that we have and showed their dedication to represent our school with pride.

Whilst it would have been easy to pick all of the students who toured the school to become our official tour guides, we had to finally narrow it down to the 10 successful students below. Congratulations to all of you and well done for representing the school, and our wonderful cohort, so well!

Emma M, Maya R, Rishan P, Lily F, Charlie O, Julia M, Liam P, Kian M , Kyla R ,Lacey M, Amira H.

We would like to make a special mention to Lily F, Emma M, Rishan P and Kian M who were chosen to look after very important guests during one of our school reviews too.

Year 9s Love Reading!

One of our favourite sights is to see students enjoy reading and talk about reading. As a result, walking past the LRC on Wednesdays and Fridays has become some of the highlights of our week as we can hear and join Year 9 students attending Reading Club, BookTok Club as well as Reading and Gaming Club.

Reading for pleasure and talking about it is a wonderful way to destress and it will also enable our students to develop their reading skills across the curriculum. We would like to make a special shout out to the following students who have attended and contributed to the clubs consistently: Dorian Q, Laylah H, Teighan G, Liam P, Julia M, Elisabeth M, Alisha U, Richman K and Paige M.

YEAR 9 NEWS (CONTINUED)

We would also like to thank Miss Austen who hosts the reading clubs every day in our beautiful LRC.

Year 9s Also Love to Write!

We were delighted to see the return of the Ruislip Eye, our beloved magazine written by and for students. But we were even more delighted to see how many Year 9 students had contributed to the new edition.

We would like to thank Daria T, Liam P and Julian C for their article submissions and I would like to make a special mention to Laylah H and her heart-breaking, very well researched article about the political situation in Iran. It was really well-written and extremely enlightening. We are very much looking forward to the next edition of the Ruislip Eye!

Parents' Evening

It was amazing to hear fabulous feedback from so many teachers. Year 9s obviously have had a great first term and it is really important that they now capitalise on it during the rest of the year. Even if it seems quite far away now, Year 10 is actually right around the corner for them and they need to make sure that they keep their grey cells busy!

We would also like to thank parents for making appointments and for supporting the school in our effort to provide the best possible education to the young people in our care. We are aware that it was very difficult for a lot of parents/guardians to make online appointments and we are looking for an alternative for our crucial Options Evening on the 23rd March 2023.

I am extremely grateful as a Head of Year to be working with parents/guardians like you, actively engaged in their children's education and personal development. Thank you and I hope to see you all for Options Evening.

Happy Holidays!

We are glad to finally see the time when we can cheesily say "see you next year!". It has been a wonderful first term for our Year 9 students and I hope they will continue to walk on the path of success for the rest of the year. We have challenges ahead, namely option choices, but we also have a lot to look forward to: the Christmas Panto which has not taken place at the time of writing, the Winter Reward Trip, Duke of Edinburgh training, the Battlefields trip and much more!

I wish you all a restful time with your loved ones, and if you celebrate it, a wonderful Christmas time. See you all in January!

YEAR 10 NEWS

It has been a pleasure to take over as Head of Year 10, and it's surreal to think that the first 16 weeks of their GCSE courses have already passed. As I write this, it is the eve of their first Pre Public Exams at Ruislip High School in Citizenship and I wish the students all the best and hope that their hard work is reflected in their results which they will get in January. As I said in the parent meeting back in September, I and the school are firm believers that hard work is the cornerstone to success.

This autumn term it has also been great to see the school return back to normality following the pandemic, with trips taking place again. Personally, it was a pleasure to see so many Year 10 on the Rome trip in October half term. The Year 10 students on the trip were a credit to the school and themselves. Similarly, it was fantastic to hear about how well the business trip to Cadbury World went too.

As I got to know the group better, one of the highlights of the term was the presentation evening where so many Year 10 students collected awards for their achievements and efforts from the previous academic year. There were impressive musical performances on the night from Year 10 students too.

I fully appreciate the step up in work from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 is significant, therefore I wish everyone a very restful and happy Christmas holiday.

YEAR 11 NEWS

What a brilliant term it has been for Year 11!

Every year, it is so impressive to see how Year 11 approaches their final year in KS4 and this cohort has been no exception. Their maturity and dedication to their studies has been incredible and it has been a pleasure to watch. 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:

Prom Committee

One of the highlights of the school year is without a doubt the Year 11 Prom. Many students have already begun putting their names in the hat to lead and take part in the prom committee whose members are tasked with choosing themes, decorations, perks and other creative ideas for June's prom. This again, just goes to show the amazing ethos of the year group and their desire to celebrate the completion of their time in KS4.

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!

Ava P, Luke M, Ben M, Ethan D, Amber M, David P, Alexia S, Giselle M, Ayla K, Georgia P, Hiruni Y
Anastasia V, Parveen B

In addition, to the above, further congratulations must go to Alexia S and Ava-Pearl H who successfully became senior prefects after a lengthy interview process which involved presenting their vision for the school to year 10 classes as well as an interview with Mr Davies and Mr Alexander.

Due to the unbelievably high calibre of the students who interviewed to be senior prefect, it was decided that 3 additional roles were to be created. Anastasia V, Parveen B and Aylar K are the first students in the school to hold the position of Trust Ambassadors and have begun working as part of a team to host events across the schools' Trust.

YEAR 11 NEWS (CONTINUED)

Year 11 Pre Public Exams

The year 11s have successfully completed their pre public exams. 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.

Special Mentions

There has been a lot to celebrate in Year 11 this term, with a number of our sporting teams celebrating success. The Year 11 netball team represented the school at the Versatility Netball Tournament, performing well in all of their games. Well done to Nisham L (11A), Alexia S (11C), Freya S (11A), Aimee Q (11W), Klea B (11W) and Jessica C (11C).

There was also a strong showing from Year 11 students in the Hillingdon Cross-country Championships. In a field of over 70 competitors Ruislip High students performed exceptionally well with William L finishing 16th, Ben B 21st and Charlie R 33rd. Well done to all involved!

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Ruislip High School Sixth Form's core values of academic excellence, strong pastoral care and outstanding extra-curricular opportunities have led to a wonderful first term this academic year.

StudyPlus and StudySupport Update

Our Sixth Form Learning Mentors, Ms Kwan and Ms Bonny, have been working hard to support students on our tailored study programmes, StudySupport and StudyPlus. Ruislip High is really proud to offer this enhanced staffing model that allows one to one support for students from designated mentors. Students have been full of praise for the scheme, as you can see below!

Bhuvan said, "This has helped me to become disciplined and use my free periods wisely. Even though I have some periods that are not timetabled in the study room now, I still come in to get work done." Aryan agreed, saying that "StudySupport really helps with your mindset and helps you get into the mindset to achieve. It places you in an environment where you want to work hard." Vasilki explained that "Working with the Learning Mentors helped me to develop revision strategies", and Asha commented that "It's helped me settle into the sixth form well and get used to working independently and in a good routine".

Last academic year, students on the StudyPlus programme made on average a grade and a half more progress across their A Levels than students who didn't participate in the programme. We're sure we will see similar levels of success this year!

Students working hard in one of their StudySupport sessions



Head of Year 12 Update

It has been an exciting start to the year for the Year 12s. Students have settled in well and made the transition from KS4 into KS5 fantastically. Students have created WorkSmart plans, completed settling in exams and attended a Success in the Sixth Form evening. A number of students even started attending external events to help them in Year 13 when they start to decide upon their future post-Ruislip High.

In the second half of the term, Year 12 students started a number of Above and Beyond activities which will help them with their mental health and will also be something they can use for their CVs and UCAS applications. Year 12 students helped out at the Christmas event and helped to really ensure that RHS remains a school in and for the community.

Looking into 2023, Year 12 students will be continuing to work hard in their studies and will be looking to apply for leadership roles in the Student Leadership Team. Positions in the SLT are also really helpful for UCAS applications and their CVs and so I look forward to seeing many applications so that we can continue to lead by example within the school community.

Have a great holiday and see you in the New Year!

Mr Elsby

Head of Year 12

Head of Year 13 Update

I hope that this update finds you well. It has been a privilege to lead Year 13 through one of the more challenging terms in the Sixth Form. In particular, students have had to contend with the pressures of assessments and post-18 applications. The resilience, determination and work ethic that so many of them have shown has been admirable and truly commendable.

Despite these pressures, it has been wonderful to see many Year 13 students throw themselves into various whole-school and Sixth Form events this term. The students shone as the most senior student tour guides at the Year 6 open evening in September, and again when helping sell their A-Level subjects to Year 11 students at the Sixth Form open evening in November. It was also fitting to see so many Year 13 students both helping out and receiving awards at the school's annual Presentation Evening on 10th November. We are currently preparing for the Sixth Form's first Community Christmas Event since December 2019. On 14th December, we will invite elderly members of the local community into school for a Christmas tea and concert, and I am confident that the Year 13 students will volunteer with their typical enthusiasm to help at this uplifting event.

SIXTH FORM NEWS (CONTINUED)

At the time of writing, students are preparing to sit their January PPEs, which they have been working extremely hard towards. These PPEs will give students a clear idea of which areas of their courses they most need to revise, and will allow teachers to target their support to the areas of the curriculum that most need it. Following on from the PPEs, there will be a parents' evening on Thursday 9th March. This will give you the chance to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers, and further details about this will follow in January.

Throughout this term, the Year 13 students have been hard at work on their post-18 applications. The majority of the year group are applying to university, and it is really pleasing that so many are already seeing offers of places. This is testament to the fantastic wider reading, work experience and other supercurricular work that the students have been putting in. The final UCAS deadline for applications to be approved and sent off by the school is 6pm on Wednesday 25th January, so it is imperative that students who wish to apply for university send their application well in advance of this date. Students will have heard back from universities by the end of March, and will then have to select a "firm" and "insurance" choice from their offers. This, along with the student finance process, will be explained in the spring term. Students who are applying for apprenticeships have been working hard on their CVs and draft cover letters, and will soon be supported to apply for apprenticeships via the apprenticeship mentoring programme that their form tutor will run in the spring term.

I would like to thank you for your support of the school this term, and wish you a restful break. I look forward to welcoming the Year 13 students back to school on Wednesday 4th January.

Mr Peacock
Head of Year 13

Student Leadership Team

This term the Student Leadership Team have been incredibly busy supporting the long-awaited return of Presentation Evening and many of our other annual school events, including both Year 6 and Sixth Form Open Evenings. As part of these evenings, Hannah H, Head Student, Yasmin D and Ramez W, joint Deputy Head Students, gave speeches to younger students to recognise their achievements and to give them encouragement for the further challenges awaiting them in their time at the school. As Yasmin stated in her Presentation Evening speech, "appreciate all the work you have put in to reach your goal or your award, not just the accomplishment itself", a message that resonated well with those in the hall.

SIXTH FORM NEWS (CONTINUED)

Mr Amos, the Sixth Form Intervention and Enrichment Co-Ordinator and member of staff responsible for the Student Leadership Team, had the following to say about the Team's work this term: *"Every single one of the students on the team has been a real asset to the school in their role ever since they started in the role. This term has been a demanding one, but they have acted with the usual resilience and good humour that I have come to expect from what is a very special group of people - we owe them a huge deal of thanks."*

New York Trip - March 2023

Excitement is building as sixth form students prepare to return to New York in March 2023 for the National High School Model United Nations for the first time since 2020. Students have already started the MUN Club in school in order to prepare themselves for the work required to make the trip a success and the first signs are that the group will represent the school and themselves admirably at the event.

Mr Amos, the trip leader, commented, *"NHSMUN is quickly becoming a staple part of life at Ruislip High School Sixth Form and we all cannot wait to return next March. As I speak, I have just found out the country we will be representing and I cannot wait to share this with the group - faith, unity and discipline will be our motto out there and I have no doubt the experience will be one to remember!"*

Sixth Form Guest Speakers

Ruislip High's Sixth Form has had a guest speaker programme since 2016, which takes place fortnightly. Most guests visit in person to speak in the Sixth Form Hall, while some prefer to deliver their talks online via the Zoom platform with students watching and listening via the big screen.

Guest speakers this term have included: Shaan Knan from GIRES (Gender Identity Research and Education Society); Archita Patel from Conscious Planet; Stephen Welton from Business Growth Fund; Stephen Hart and John Jaquiss from Positive Voices (Terrence Higgins Trust HIV and sexual health charity); and Sue Alexander from WaterAid.

The guest speaker programme is organised by Mr Alison (Director of Humanities). If you have a suggestion for a suitable guest speaker based around one of the '3Cs' of careers, current affairs and culture, please email Mr Alison via office@ruisliphigh.com

One of the guest speakers this term, Archita Patel from Conscious Planet, said: "When we talk about environmental concerns, we usually talk about issues such as climate change.

SIXTH FORM NEWS (CONTINUED)

But there is one massive and immediate problem that humanity is facing, which most of us don't even know about, and that is 'soil extinction'. Around the world, because we have not paid the right kind of attention to it, soil is losing its vitality and turning into sand. The Save Soil Movement is about collectively urging our governments to create policies to revitalise the soil that nurtures our life." To find out more, Archita recommends visiting savesoil.com or <https://consciousplanet.org> and watching the video on home page.

Archita and Surinder from the environmental charity Conscious Planet



THE CREATIVE CORNER

The Art, Craft and Design department has had a great start to the year, beginning with a refurb of one of our rooms over the summer, giving our students more space to fill with their ideas and creativity. The department has also been working hard to update displays around the school with more to come in the spring and summer terms.

It has been a busy term with Years 11 & 13 completing their Art & Design PPEs in which they have worked very hard to create some outstanding outcomes. Our KS3 students have dived head first into some bold and creative pieces of work, with some of our new and exciting textiles projects. The Art, Craft and Design team cannot wait to share more with you over the coming year

Winter Card Competition

Every year we have a winter card competition and 2022 was no different and, as always, the students of Ruislip High really went for it! Big shout out to Art Club which worked tirelessly to make some epic entries. Congratulations to Iza B for creating the winning entry!

Photography Competition

This year we had a record number of entries for our competition with the theme of 'New beginnings' . This is a



challenging theme which our students tackled head on as usual. We had SO

many entries, too many unfortunately to mention, but a big congratulations goes to Beverly P for being our winner!

New displays

After a challenging few years our department has given the school a well deserved spruce by updating some displays around the building, showing off all the sensational work our students create with their hard work and perseverance.



RHS Gallery

Here is a selection of work from the Art, Craft and Design department from all key stages

KS3:



KS4:



KS5:



KEY DATES

- **Tuesday 3rd January 2023: INSET day**
- **Wednesday 4th January 2023: Term begins**
- **Thursday 5th January 2023: Year 12 & Year 13 theatre trip - 5:30pm - 10:30pm**
- **Thursday 12th January 2023: Year 10 parents' evening - 4:30pm - 7pm**
- **Tuesday 17th January 2023 - Monday 23rd January 2023: Year 13 PPE week**
- **Wednesday 18th January 2023: Year 10-13 theatre trip - 5:15pm - 10:15pm**
- **Tuesday 24th January 2023: Hemel Hempstead ski trip: 3pm - 7pm**
- **Thursday 26th January 2023: Year 11 parents' evening - 4:30pm - 7pm**
- **Monday 30th January 2023 - Friday 3rd February 2023: Thank you week**
- **Wednesday 1st February 2023 - Tuesday 28th February 2023: LGBTQ+ month**
- **Wednesday 1st February 2023: Berlin trip meeting - 6pm -7pm**
- **Thursday 2nd February 2023: Year 10 & Year 11 theatre trip - 5:15pm - 10:30pm**
- **Friday 3rd February 2023: Winter reward trip from 1:45pm**
- **Monday 6th February 2023 - Friday 10th February 2023: Safer internet week**
- **Tuesday 7th February 2023: Parent Voice meeting - 6pm - 7pm**
- **Wednesday 8th February 2023: Year 8 immunisations**
- **Thursday 9th February 2023: Year 8 parents' evening - 2:30pm - 7pm**
- **Friday 10th February 2023: Half term ends**

For the full term dates for 2022-23, visit the website, www.ruisliphigh.com



Ruislip
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