

THE SPUR



ISSUE 6



SUMMER TERM 2025

 Raynes Park High School and Sixth Form

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Dear Families,

As the academic year draws to a close, this final edition of The Spur showcases the vast number of activities and events that our students have taken part in this term. They have enjoyed a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom and we will continue to enhance our extra-curricular offer in the coming academic year. As always, there is so much to celebrate in this edition of our newsletter and families should feel proud of all that has been achieved by their children this year.

Following the end of the public examinations and our own internal end of year exams, students have taken part in Enrichment Days, residentials, reward trips, Academic Review Day and Sports Day to name but a few. We were also delighted that so many students were involved in 'High School Musical', showcasing their many talents across performing arts. At the time of writing, we are preparing for our end of term assembly and we are all looking forward to seeing which of our four Houses will win the House Cup; well done to everyone who participated in a house event this year. The whole school assembly is also the perfect time to celebrate achievement, progress and participation, and our congratulations go to the numerous winners this year. We will also find out who will be on the Student Leadership Team, which students will be Heads of House and I would like to personally congratulate the students who were nominated for my award; I could not choose between them and decided that all four nominees should win a Headteacher Award; very well done to Louis, Chisimdi, Miguel and Paula.

We have continued to focus our energies on ensuring teaching and learning is our key priority at the school. Teaching high quality lessons every day is the most important aspect of our work and we have monitored the quality of teaching throughout the year. In addition to our own Quality Assurance programme, we have welcomed colleagues from the Local Authority in addition to our Ofsted inspection team that were here in November. We were delighted

with the many positive comments made by the Ofsted team who noted that 'Pupils across the school experience a well-delivered curriculum and achieve well' and we were also very pleased that our Summer 2024 results were 'above national average' in the DfE Performance Tables.

There continues to be plenty in the news about the financial and recruitment/retention challenges facing schools. However, we are fully staffed for September and we are particularly pleased that we will only be saying farewell to a handful of staff who are relocating, retiring or moving abroad. Whilst our finances will be tight, we will continue to ensure that our income always has a positive impact on our students and I would like to thank those families who have contributed financially this year; we are exceptionally grateful to you.

Finally, as I conclude my 10th academic year at RPHS and the school looks forward to celebrating its 90th anniversary, I would like to pay tribute to the dedication of the teaching staff who have worked tirelessly right up until the end of term. I would also like to thank our support staff who work so hard with the day to day running of the school and the Governing Body for their ongoing support and commitment. Without such an exceptional team, RPHS would not continue to thrive. I would also like to thank the students for being wonderful ambassadors for the school and our families for entrusting us with your child's education; I remain truly grateful.

Wishing all of our families a restful and relaxing summer, and on behalf of all at RPHS, we look forward to seeing you next academic year.

Miss KJ Taylor

Headteacher

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

Hannah Capgras, our Joint Chair of Governors, looks back over a busy term for governors, with a strategic visit in May which focused on the work of the English and Humanities departments

We've come to the end of another successful term for the school community. The governors have been into school on several occasions this term and in May we came in for one of our strategic visits. We looked at the hard work going on in the English and History departments: the Heads of English and Humanities delivered presentations for us, we popped into English and History lessons to see the teaching in action and we spoke to a group of students about their experiences of being at RPHS. They had lots of positive things to say, especially about the extra-curricular opportunities available at the school.

It's been a busy few months for staff and students alike. Most students have sat exams – for some these have been end-of-year assessments and for others these have been public examinations. The governors would like to thank the exams team who work so hard to make everything run smoothly, and to congratulate the students in Years 11 and 13 on their positive attitude and behaviour, which the external invigilators praised.

The governors know that there are enrichment opportunities for students throughout the school year, but the last few weeks of the summer term at RPHS are something special. As I write this there are sports days, themed days, a variety of school trips – at home and abroad - and the end of year performance of High School Musical still to come!

The governors would like to thank all the staff at RPHS, who we know work so hard to support the students to achieve their best. Thank you also to Miss Taylor and her senior leadership team for their dedication and drive in making the school a safe, happy and successful place. We look forward to working with you next academic year.

Finally, the governors would like to say good luck to all students who are waiting for exam results in August, and for those leaving the school for new endeavours and adventures, we wish you the very best.

Hannah Capgras,
Joint Chair of Governors



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF
OUR SCHOOL GOVERNORS HERE:
WWW.RPHS.UK/31/GOVERNORS

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST

Margaret Tulloch, Chair of the RPHS Charitable Trust, gives her termly update on the valuable work of the Trust, with a reminder of how to donate through the use of online shopping: it's easy to do and raises valuable funds for the school and students

Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust funds projects and students with the aim of enhancing the experience of being a student at the school. We depend on donations and bids to charitable foundations to have money to spend. Being a charity means we are able to receive donations from businesses which want to provide support to schools as part of their social responsibility.

We are keen to do more to support the school and its students. You can help the Trust by making a donation using the Enthuse link on the website: <http://bit.ly/4nWGVou>

Another way to help is to sign up for Easyfundraising (for more details see page 34). I am pleased to say that funds raised this way are increasing. It is surprising how many shops are signed up to Easyfundraising. Each time you buy online from a shop or service a small amount goes to the Trust. For example my online shop at Morrisons raises just about a £1 each time - but as Tesco says, 'every little helps!' So please sign up. Perhaps if you work for a business which is looking for ways to fulfil its aim of social responsibility you could think of suggesting the Trust.

This term the Trustees have made a decision to support the development of the sports ground. Plans are yet to be agreed but we hope there will be more to report next term. We really want to do more fundraising activities. If you have any experience in fundraising please do think about becoming a Trustee. We would be delighted to welcome you. To find out more information about what being a Trustee entails please contact me on: CharitableTrust@raynespark.merton.sch.uk



Margaret Tulloch
Chair, Raynes Park High
School Charitable Trust

FOLLOW RPHS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

If you would like to hear about updates, see pictures and videos of special events and day-to-day life at Raynes Park High School, make sure you are following us on our social media platforms. Scan the QR codes below with your camera phone or find us at @officialrphs on X and Instagram and Raynes Park High School and Sixth Form on Facebook!



RAYNES PARK NEWS SUMMER TERM ROUND-UP

We take a look back over the Summer term at some of the highlights from the news, events and achievements of RPHS students throughout the school, including a fencing tournament, maths challenge and the launch of a new Debate Society

Fencing 4 Change Tournament

This term, three students took part in the Fencing 4 Change Foundation Tournament. They had a wonderful time, representing the school fantastically, with one student winning a trophy for being the overall victor of his heat, another student being interviewed by British Fencing and all three coming back with smiles and medals to evidence their hard work over the year.

The students who were selected had been taking part in a 24-week programme, specifically designed for autistic young people, whereby they practiced the art of fencing with two instructors from the Change Foundation every week. They worked on a range of skills which benefitted them in many ways aside from fencing, including developing their confidence, social skills and motor skills.

Fencing is not a sport that is easily accessible to all and to have three autistic students take part in a competition involving other schools - after committing to an extracurricular activity for an extended period of time - makes myself and the school immensely proud!

Well done to all of the students who took part in the programme this year, and in particular the three who represented the school at the tournament. Hopefully there will be the opportunity to run it again next year for another cohort of the amazing autistic students at our school.

Mr R. Jones, Access Centre Manager



Maths Challenge Success

Forty of our most able mathematicians from Years 7 and 8 sat the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, which is designed to encourage and develop an interest in problem solving. Our students did fantastically, achieving 11 bronze, 5 silver and 1 gold certificate overall. In Year 8, Alaa achieved a gold certificate and the highest score in the school, and Jiaxuan, Jonny, Kingsley and Eva were all awarded silver certificates. In Year 7, Nathan scored the highest in his year and achieved a silver certificate. Well done to all who took part.

Miss Suntharalingam,
Head of Year 7 Maths



OUR NEW RPHS STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



Year 9 Scholars Celebrate Graduation

In May, our Year 9 Scholars proudly attended their graduation ceremony at the University of Southampton. Throughout the day, they reflected on their inspiring journey through the Scholars Programme, during which they collaborated closely with a university professor on an academic case study.

The day also included a tour of the university campus, followed by a Q&A session with current students, which gave our Scholars a valuable insight into university life. Well done to all our students for their dedication and achievement!

Mr Bishop, PE Teacher

New Debate Society Launches

This term we launched Debate Society for Year 9 and Year 10 students and we're delighted with the enthusiastic response. Under Mr Casey's lead, Debate Society has grown into a vibrant and engaging space where students meet weekly to explore wide and challenging questions, ranging from whether governments should ban plastic packaging to discussing if technology is truly enhancing our quality of life.

Students have embraced each topic with curiosity, insight, and passion! In addition to strengthening their confidence and oracy skills, Debate Society is a platform for students

to speak their minds, listen to different perspectives and engage in respectful debate. The atmosphere has been lively and supportive, with students clearly enjoying the challenge of thinking on their feet, forming arguments, and responding to opposing viewpoints. After attending for the first time a Year 9 student commented: "Debate Society was so much fun – I'm definitely going next week!"

We are incredibly proud of the students who have committed their time and energy to Debate Society this term and we look forward to welcoming even more members next year as the society continues to grow.

Ms Sandhu, Assistant Headteacher

Metropolitan Police Event

Last month, Mr Forrester and Mr Rose escorted a select group of Year 9 students to the Kings Trust near Waterloo for an event to meet the Metropolitan Police. This event was supported by the Fulham Foundation. It was an excellent trip where the students felt safe and comfortable to ask their own questions and understand what life is like as a London police officer.

Mr Forrester, Deputy Head of Year 10



Our student leadership hustings for 2025–26 brought the democratic process to Raynes Park High School, as we elected our new student leaders for Head Boy and Girl, as well as their Deputies, for both Year 13 and Year 11

This term saw a fantastic display of ambition and student voice during the hustings for our 2025–26 Student Leadership Team. We were thrilled by the high number of applicants who put themselves forward for leadership positions, demonstrating the strength of student engagement and pride across the school.

Candidates delivered powerful and passionate speeches to their peers during year group assemblies, outlining their visions for student leadership and the positive changes they hoped to bring to the school. Their posters and campaign messages were displayed throughout the corridors, generating excitement and discussion among students.

The democratic process culminated in a whole-school vote on a Friday afternoon, with students receiving personalised ballot papers and casting their votes outside the library. The votes were counted with care and accuracy by Mr McCurdy.

We are now proud to introduce our newly elected Head Students for both Year 11 and Year 13:

Year 13

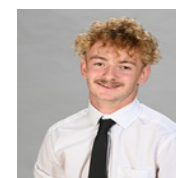
Head Boy: Marcus
Deputy Head Boy: Craig
Head Girl: Vanessa
Deputy Head Girl: Sara

Year 11

Head Boy: Quency
Deputy Head Boys: Riley and Kwayne
Head Girl: Hulda
Deputy Head Girls: Anna and Roberta

Congratulations to all candidates for their courage, commitment, and leadership – and to our successful applicants, who we know will represent RPHS with pride in the year ahead.

Mr McCurdy, Assistant Headteacher



Marcus



Vanessa



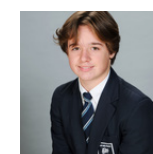
Craig



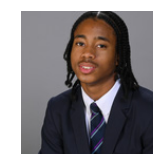
Sara



Quency



Riley



Kwayne



Hulda



Anna



Roberta

Stay up-to-date with news on our website: www.rphs.org.uk

THE RPHS ART, PHOTOGRAPHY AND DT EXHIBITION

At the end of term our Art and DT departments showcased the incredible work of our GCSE and A Level Art, Photography and DT students, with a dedicated exhibition for friends and families

This summer, Raynes Park High School proudly hosted its annual Art & Design Exhibition, a vibrant celebration of creativity, innovation and technical skill. The showcase featured award-winning work from our talented students, alongside an inspiring collection of painting and design portfolios that demonstrated both originality and artistic excellence.

The exhibition highlighted the high standard of creative education at Raynes Park, with projects ranging from sustainable product design and architectural models to expressive mixed-media artwork and digital concept pieces. Many of the featured works have been recognised in national competitions, with several students receiving accolades for innovation and craftsmanship.

We're also delighted to announce that the exhibition will be spotlighted on the Design & Technology Association's official channels — a testament to the exceptional quality and ambition of our students' work.

Mr Harris, Head of the Art & Design Faculty

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have recently completed their GCSE and A-level Art exams. Their creativity, dedication, and hard work have truly impressed us, and the quality of their final pieces in our exhibition is a testament to the passion and effort they have put into their work throughout the year. We have been inspired by the originality and personal expression shown in each project, and we are so excited to see their achievements recognised when results are released in August.

Ms Horne, Head of Art

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition

We are also delighted to report that Jake in Year 9 was accepted for the Royal Academy online exhibition with his work, 'Huddle'. His painting, and his thinking behind it, can be seen below:

'The painting shows a team on a rugby pitch. Teamwork is important in life. Some players link arms while some put a hand in the middle for a team chant. The simple design shows how the world slows down and everything loses focus in the pre-match stress. The ball is positioned just behind the halfway line to show how the team is starting on the back foot and will have to fight a hard battle to win this match.'

Ms Horne, Head of Art



LITERACY UPDATE

The Summer term has been a remarkable season of achievement for our young writers throughout the school, with success in Merton, the Young Writers' Competition and Wimbledon BookFest

Merton's 60th Anniversary Competition

To mark the 60th anniversary of the creation of the London Borough of Merton, students were invited to reflect on their personal connections to the borough under the theme "Looking Back, Looking Forwards."

We are thrilled to announce that five of our students - Haniyya, Alicia, Ella-Scarlett, Sofia, and Eva (right) have had their work selected for display at the Merton Arts Space in Wimbledon Library. Their writing was celebrated at a special ceremony attended by the Mayor.

Ms Waterston, Head of Literacy & Librarian

Young Writers' Competition

Our success continues with the Young Writers' Competition, where students were challenged to put a dark twist on a classic tale in the 'Grim Tales' anthology. Congratulations to Pippa, Alicia, Sofia,



Brittany and Eva, whose stories will be published in the upcoming edition.

Wimbledon BookFest

We are also proud to share our achievements in this year's Wimbledon BookFest competition.

This year's theme, "Legend," inspired a wealth of imaginative entries. Milly and Juliet were named joint winners of the KS3 Poetry Prize for their powerful pieces based on the myth of Medusa. Special recognition also goes to our highly commended writers: Leyla, Luc, Kayla, and Isabella.

Milly's winning entry can be read on the following page, and congratulations to all our creative writers.

Ms Waterston, Head of Literacy & Librarian



Death in my mother's garden by Milly

*Golden rain
Pours sickly sweet
On the tip of my tongue*

*Beautiful aromas
Lilies
Orchids
Roses
Stagnate in my mouth*

*I am rotting
In my mother's garden
Bones fertilising the soil
Daffodils sprouting
Around my disintegrating flesh*

*Golden rain turns acidic
Stinging like antiseptic cloth
On cut knees*

*Blood flowing hot
Murky grey tears
The warmth of the world's mothers
Charring my skin*

*I linger on that sentiment
Roll it around my skull
Like a gleaming pearl
In my oyster shell*

*She places a plaster
On rough skin
Iaso in corduroy dungarees
Madonna and child
Found in a supermarket isle*

*I am ancient now
Withered skin like an elephant
The rest of me is dead
Yet her silhouette is carved
In my soil carpeted stomach*

*Love in the shape of a womb
Trapped with the burden of a baby
These fragile bones
Enshrouded with the same lumps of flesh*

*Sewn with the same golden thread
In a century
When all left
Is chalky fossils
She with forever lurk
In my broken cuckoo clock of a mind*

*This is my time as it was hers
To be reborn
Into the orchard
Shading the summer apples
With my crimson blood*

*I am walking with my mother
In the garden of death
Golden rain
Turned sour and putrid*

*Lilies
Orchids
Roses
Blackened and charred*

*Yet the sun still shines
In equal magnitude
To the waking world
Warmth on my spine*

*And I turn to her
Resting my head on her shoulder
The legend of the world's mother
Contained in the blood on my fingertips*

*And so gently
The earth collapses underneath us
Devouring all our compassion
Cannibalising my soul
With its eternal hunger*

*But I am peaceful
As I am one with the earth
Melancholy madness
Turned to magnolias*

*This is death
In all its exquisite mystery
And undeniable beauty
In the calloused hands of a mother*

This term saw the RPHS Performing Arts Department stage only its fourth ever musical in the history of RPHS. High School Musical was a triumph, with over 150 students taking part across the school

And that's a wrap!

Well done to each and every student involved in the performances of High School Musical. We battled the hottest days of 2025 (so far...!) and still each and every student showed dedication, passion and teamwork to pull off fantastic performances: they truly 'got their head in the game'.

In the Performing Arts Department we are lucky to work with such dedicated students who have a genuine love for the arts. The talent at RPHS is outstanding and we hope every student is proud of their achievements this year. Sticking to the 'status quo' isn't what we do at RPHS but 'we are (always) in it together'.

Mrs Davis, Head of Performing Arts

The Music Department would like to take this opportunity, as we come to the end of another successful school year, to celebrate and acknowledge the incredible achievements of all the students who took part in our whole school production.

This year's performance was a truly ambitious undertaking, a show full of energy, memorable songs, and dynamic choreography. Bringing this much-loved production to life required our singers to learn and perform over 15 different songs. From the very first rehearsal to the final curtain call, every student demonstrated remarkable dedication, enthusiasm, and resilience. This achievement is a testament to what can be accomplished when young people work together with passion and purpose. You have set a shining example for your peers and made your school community extremely proud.

Mr Mohanaraj, Head of Music





PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE

The Summer term has been a busy one for the Performing Arts Department, with rehearsals for High School Musical alongside Dance, Drama and Music events and activities

Dance

As the Summer term draws to a close, I would like to share some successes of the Dance department this term at RPHS.

In April, students who take part in the 'Step Into Dance' programme visited the Royal Academy of Dance to perform at the 'Step Around Town' event. The performance was a great success and parents were thrilled to be invited to see their children performing in a professional dance setting. Well done to all the dancers who took part.

This term we have said goodbye and good luck to our Royal Academy of Dance ballet placement students. All five students have had great success teaching at RPHS and we wish them the best of luck in their further studies and thank them for their time and support.

The Dance department has been collaborating with the PE department to deliver sessions as part of the Burlington Fitness week. Year 5 & Year 6 from Burlington Primary school attended RPHS and took part in 4 practical/fitness workshops across the school. The dance department lead on a gruelling exercise to music

workshop which I think ended up being more exhausting for the teachers than the students! We look forward to welcoming Burlington back again soon.

Since October 2024 we have been working on the creation of our whole school production. This year we went back to the 2000's for our version of High School Musical, and on Tuesday 24th June, we welcomed Aragon Primary School for a series of workshops to experience everything High School Musical - see page 28 for the full report.

Following on from this, Aragon and Hatfield Primary Schools joined us on Tuesday 1st July for our first matinee performance of High School Musical. On the hottest day of the year, our students at RPHS performed with great professionalism and enthusiasm, being a real inspiration to many of the Year 5 students in attendance. We received some fantastic feedback from teachers and students alike.

Mrs Davis, Head of Dance

Drama

This year, Raynes Park High School has been selected along with 30 other schools in London to take part in The Old Vic Theatre's 'School's Project'. Twenty five students across KS3, KS4 and KS5 have been selected to take part in termly workshops run by Old Vic practitioners, focused on different disciplines within Theatre. This term students have taken part in a workshop that focused on the role of a set designer in theatre, followed by attending the Old Vic Theatre on Wednesday 4th June to see 'The Brightening Air'.

The Year 12 BTEC Performance Acting class have been preparing for two performances of a Contemporary and Classical monologue since the start of term. Recently they performed these to an audience of Year 10 GCSE Drama students. Two students from the class have been entered into the National Youth Monologue's competition with the Ambassador's Theatre Group.

Thanks to our new Rose Education Connections partnership with the Rose Theatre Kingston, a group of students were invited to

watch a performance of 'Marie & Rosetta', starring Beverley Knight. This was followed by a Q&A session with the actors. Students had a fantastic time and asked some very insightful questions to help develop their craft and knowledge of theatre. After the Q&A Beverley Knight asked to meet with students and gave them some excellent advice about the industry.

Ms Pope, Head of Drama

Music

This term we hosted our Culture Evening, a vibrant celebration of our school's diversity and artistic spirit. A number of students gave memorable performances showcasing not only musical skill but also a deep respect for the rich cultural traditions represented.

We are also thrilled to announce the generous donation of an electric drum kit, gifted by one of our students. This remarkable act of kindness has added a modern edge to our percussion resources and opened up exciting new opportunities for music making. The donation comes from Taliyah, a dedicated and talented musician who wanted to give back to the department that helped nurture their passion. The electric drum kit, a high-quality, state-of-the-art instrument, will now be available for use by students, whether in practice sessions, or performances.

'We're absolutely delighted,' said Mr Mohanaraj, Head of Music. 'This drum kit adds an entirely new dimension to what we can offer. We're incredibly proud of Taliyah and thankful for her generosity.' Already, the new kit has been a hit with students, who are eager to explore its capabilities. It complements the department's focus on both traditional and contemporary music education, and will no doubt inspire future drummers for years to come.

We extend our deepest thanks to Taliyah for this outstanding gift — a perfect example of how one student's passion and generosity can enrich the entire school community.

Mr Mohanaraj, Head of Music

STEM UPDATE

Congratulations to our Year 10 triple science students who have just completed the Biology Challenge - an international competition for Year 10 students to test their knowledge of the curriculum and beyond. We are delighted to announce that Dan achieved the highest award of a Gold, getting 97% in one of the tests. Special commendation also goes to Nabil who achieved silver and Anthony, Deniz and Kenny who came away with bronze awards. Well done everyone!

Ms Bowes, Head of Science



On the 27th of June, we took a select group of Year 9s and 10s to Merton College to take part in a STEM workshop that focused on Engineering and Electricals. The students participated in practical investigations that looked at solar and wind energy. Students were given a tour of the college and were informed of some of their options for when they leave Year 11.

Students said that this trip was very enjoyable and that it had inspired them to consider engineering in the future.

Mr Forrester, Deputy Head of Year 10

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY NEWS

In an outstanding achievement, Year 10 student Ezra wins a prestigious London Leaders Engineering Award with his innovative hoodie design.

We are incredibly proud to announce that Ezra, a talented Year 10 GCSE Design & Technology student, has triumphed in the highly competitive London Leaders Engineering Award. This nationwide competition attracts over 71,000 students from across the UK, making Ezra's success all the more exceptional.

Ezra impressed judges with his innovative hoodie design, which integrates interactive textile technology. His concept combines style with functionality by incorporating a built-in speaker system, allowing wearers to listen to music or receive audio notifications on the go. His project stood out for its creativity, practical application, and forward-thinking use of smart textiles.

As a result of his achievement, Ezra's work featured in a prestigious exhibition at Kingston University. This is a fantastic opportunity for him to showcase his design to industry professionals, academics, and fellow young engineers from around the country.

Everyone at school - especially the Design & Technology department - is thrilled with Ezra's success. His dedication, creativity, and passion for design and engineering have made a strong impression on both staff and peers.

Congratulations, Ezra! We can't wait to see what you create next.

Mr Harris, Head of Art & Design

YOUNG ENTERPRISE



Young Enterprise Success

We were very proud to win the 'Team Journey' award at the Merton Young Enterprise showcase. The name of our company is Goldcrest, and for the Young Enterprise programme we decided to sell nature- and bird-themed accessories, which were hand made out of polymer clay. Although we have faced many challenges along the way, with sheer determination and resilience we were able to overcome these.

Amithan, Year 12 member of Young Enterprise.

WIMBLEDON BBG

What a summer term for our Ball Boys & Girls! Supporting at one of the biggest sporting events in the world, not allowed a second's lapse in concentration - and all the while, at times over the course of Wimbledon fortnight, working in temperatures of up to 33 degrees. They are all true athletes themselves and all of their hard work, determination and resilience has certainly paid off.

Over the past half term alone, students had more intense training with the BBG department coaches, with sessions aimed at getting used to grass courts. Helping out at the Qualifying event the week before Wimbledon showed

their quality. That quality continued through the Championships, with all students supporting some of the best players in the world, showing flawless skill and doing it with a confident demeanour.

Well done to all of you who were at the Championship but also to all of those who are itching to get back to training in September to grasp their opportunity of being in the same position next year. I know so many of you are capable and can't wait to see our students' numbers grow at the Championship in 2026.

Mr Wheel, Head of Sixth Form.

KS₃ CHALLENGE WEEK

This term, students in Key Stage 3 took part in Challenge Week. The aim was to inspire critical thinking and curiosity, as students examined themes of migration, climate change and artificial intelligence

This term our Key Stage 3 students participated in Challenge Week, where all lessons focused on themes designed to broaden their understanding beyond the national curriculum.

Year 7 students explored the theme of Migration & Identity, engaging with complex matters such as the economic, social, and environmental impacts of migration; the influence of migration on language and culture and the role of technology and the arts in expressing migrant experiences. One Year 7 student remarked, "I never realised how migration has affected so many parts of our lives — such as the languages we speak and the cities we live in."

Year 8 focused on Climate Change & Sustainability, examining topics from the scientific impact of climate change on ecosystems to the role of activism, sustainable design, and global geography in addressing environmental challenges. One Year 8 student reflected "I really enjoyed my music lesson



where we re-created Blues music to tell a story about climate change."

Year 9 engaged with the theme of Artificial Intelligence, delving into the ethical, social, and technological dimensions of AI. Students discussed the implications of AI in various industries, explored mathematical algorithms behind AI systems and debated whether AI should replace human workers alongside the ethical challenges this presents. A Year 9 student commented, "The discussions really made me think about how AI could change our future and why it's important to be responsible when making new technology."

Challenge Week was a real success in sparking curiosity and strengthening students' critical thinking skills. By examining real-world issues through multiple lenses, Challenge Week enriched students' knowledge and prepared them to engage thoughtfully with current and complex matters.

Ms Sandhu, Assistant Headteacher

CULTURE DAY

At the start of the Summer term we held Culture Day, a opportunity to explore and celebrate the rich diversity within our school community which was rounded off by our special event featuring music, dance and international food

This year's Culture Day at Raynes Park High School was a vibrant and joyful celebration of our school community's rich diversity. Students and staff embraced the spirit of the day by wearing traditional and cultural dress, showcasing the wide range of backgrounds that make up our school.

The main hall came alive with energy and colour as flags from across the world were proudly displayed, representing the many nationalities within our student body.

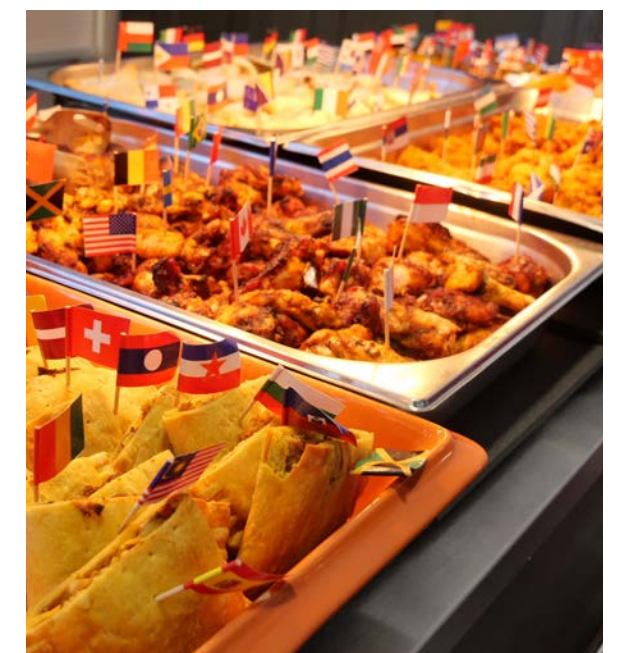
In front of an audience of students, families and staff, our evening event featured an exciting programme of student-led dance and musical performances, from dynamic K-Pop and street dance routines to powerful African

drumming. These performances reflected both the talent and cultural pride of our students.

Guests also enjoyed a delicious selection of hot food, prepared and served by students and staff, offering a culinary journey around the globe. A special thank you goes to our Year 11 Leadership Team, who hosted the entire event with professionalism and enthusiasm.

This year's Culture Day saw our highest ever turnout, reflecting the growing interest and appreciation for cultural celebration at RPHS. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the event a resounding success!

Mr McCurdy, Assistant Headteacher



ENRICHMENT WEEK

For our recent Enrichment Week, students have taken part in trips to Box Hill, St Paul's Cathedral and London Zoo, alongside work experience, industry insights and special themed days in school



Enrichment Week at Raynes Park High School was a resounding success, packed with vibrant activities, cultural celebrations, and career-focused experiences across all year groups. With over 26 trips and events taking place throughout the week, students were given opportunities to explore new environments, develop key skills, and engage in hands-on learning beyond the classroom.

Year 7 enjoyed a day out at London Zoo, where they deepened their understanding of biodiversity and animal conservation. Back at school, they participated in an Indian-themed day, featuring activities such as cricket, keyring making, and cross-cultural connection workshops.

Year 8 explored the natural beauty of Box Hill, followed by an exciting China-themed day in school. Activities included learning Mandarin, mastering the art of Chinese calligraphy, cooking chicken fried rice, and taking part in a high-energy Kung Fu workshop.

Year 9 took part in a competitive alternative sports day, building teamwork through a variety of unique sporting challenges. They also had the chance to visit St Paul's Cathedral, which gave them the opportunity to expand their historical and cultural awareness.

Year 10 students embarked on a range of curriculum-linked trips and Industry Insights days, where they explored over 10 different career sectors. These trips provided valuable exposure to real-world workplaces and professions and helped many students to consider their future pathways.

Thank you to all staff and students who made our Enrichment Week such a meaningful, engaging, and memorable experience. We look forward to building on this success in the next academic year!

Mr McCurdy, Assistant Headteacher



SYRIAN REFUGEE TALK

From Damascus to Raynes Park: A Journey of extraordinary resilience from Dr. Eiad Zinah, who joined us to speak to Year 9



This term, our Year 9 students were fortunate to hear a powerful account of the Syrian refugee experience from Dr. Eiad Zinah. Now a practicing dentist at Bupa Global, Dr. Zinah shared his inspiring journey from Syria to the UK, offering students a personal perspective on the realities of conflict, displacement, and rebuilding a life in a new country.

The talk linked directly to the Year 9 geography topics of conflict and development, as well as the Year 8 topic of migration. Dr. Zinah spoke openly about the challenges he faced fleeing civil war, the emotional toll of leaving home and family behind, and the determination it took to pursue a new life and career in the UK.

His story was deeply moving and eye-opening, helping students connect their classroom learning to real-world events. Through his account, students gained a better understanding of the humanitarian crisis in Syria and the wider global refugee situation. Dr. Zinah also spoke honestly about his experiences

adapting to a new culture and continuing his education, offering a message of hope and resilience.

Following the talk, students engaged in a thoughtful Q&A session, asking insightful questions that reflected their curiosity and empathy. Many commented afterwards on how the talk had deepened their understanding of migration, and how hearing a personal story made the issue feel more real and urgent.

Dr. Zinah has spoken at over 100 schools, and we are incredibly grateful he shared his story with ours. His visit reminded us all that behind every news headline about refugees, there is a human story of courage, loss, and perseverance.

We thank Dr. Zinah for his time and honesty, and for helping our students see the world - and their place in it - with greater compassion and awareness.

Mr Ainsworth, Geography Teacher

CAREERS EVENTS & UNIVERSITY INSIGHTS DAY

To support our students with making plans for their future pathways after RPHS, we have undertaken a number of trips and activities this term, offering insights and opportunities

This term, Year 9s attended an assembly about post-16 pathways, so that they can start to plan what they want to do after GCSEs. This is a theme we will continue to support students with, so they can plan well ahead to make the best decisions.

To mark World Environment Day we invited in a team of civil servants from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero to deliver an assembly to Year 10s about the work they do around climate change, energy and the environment. Students heard about the role of the Civil Service and the careers they have on offer, and entry routes, including apprenticeships, graduate entry and direct appointment. The Year 10 students have also had taster days to help inform their decision making. A number of them spent time in the sixth form attending sample lessons, while others explored alternatives to sixth form, including a presentation by Access Creative College and a visit to Richmond upon Thames College. The Industry Insight day in July enabled students to experience different work settings including a construction site, professional sports clubs, an early years nursery and a beauty salon to observe employees in a range of jobs.

The whole of Year 12 were invited to attend a visit to Southampton University in July, where they experienced a couple of taster lectures. A smaller group of Year 12s also visited the University of Sussex earlier in the term, hearing a presentation about student life there and taking a tour of the leafy campus, including visiting some student accommodation. A focus this term has also been on developing skills to help prepare for the future, and we hosted Roehampton University, who ran an information session, followed by individual meetings to support students writing their personal statements for their university

applications. A group of students also attended workshops delivered by Mr Ainsworth and Mr Casey to develop debating and presentation skills in preparation for university interviews. Year 12 students rounded off the term with work experience week, including placements in settings including local primary schools, Hilton hotels, architecture firms and the NHS.

The school was pleased to be selected by the South London Careers Hub to participate in their Classroom2Careers programme, partnering schools with employers to improve aspirations and social mobility. We have been working with Southern Renewals Enterprise, who were able to provide meaningful work experience placements to a number of our Year 12 students at their Blackfriars HQ, as well as hosting a Year 10 industry insight visit. We are looking forward to creating more opportunities to work with them to give students encounters that will increase their skills in navigating the world of work. Going forward, keeping track of our careers-related activities should be easier now that we have launched our "What's Next? Wednesday" feature on the school's Instagram account. Please keep an eye out for updates!

Ms Collins, Careers Leader



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

A group of Year 10 students braved the elements this term and successfully completed their D of E Bronze Award expeditions



Year 10 students completed the expedition section of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award this term, in the face of some very challenging conditions. With the practice expedition being completed in and around the Surrey Hills area in some very enjoyable weather, the qualifying route would prove a bigger task than initially thought.

The day began with some heavy downpours on the way into school and the weather would not improve much over the next two days. Students, accompanied by Mr Jones and Ms Crossfield, made their way to the starting point of East Grinstead Station to meet up with the expedition leaders and begin their trek across the South Downs towards the campsite where they would be staying the night. With all groups making good time, they were able to take in some of the amazing scenery and natural environment which helped to raise spirits in spite of the poor weather. Famous local landmarks such as the Weir Wood Reservoir, Saints Hill House and the Sussex Border Path all came up on routes towards the final stop of Blacklands Farm.

When they arrived, the students all began to pitch their tents and got started with cooking dinner in record time - perhaps in some response to the ever growing storm clouds above. Traditional Duke of Edinburgh delicacies such as hotdogs and pasta were ever-present and certainly quelled their hunger after a long 7 hours of walking. Students then enjoyed some down time and were able to catch up with friends from other groups and unwind until lights well and truly went out around 10pm.

At 6am, although earlier for many, we began to rise and thanks to great teamwork, simultaneously pack up tents and cook breakfast before another long day of walking. All students arrived back at East Grinstead station after two hard days of orienteering and there were definitely some well-needed naps taken on the train back to school. Well done to all who completed the expedition, by far one of the best we have done!

Mr Jones, Senior Teacher

YEAR 9 TRIP TO PARLIAMENT

This term, Year 9 students explored democracy on an educational visit to the Houses of Parliament, which included a tour of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, alongside a chance to meet our local constituency MP

Earlier this term, Year 9 students visited the Houses of Parliament where they toured both the House of Commons and the House of Lords to learn about the historic and political significance of these iconic landmarks.

Students participated in a 'Power of Petitions' workshop with the aim of creating their own petitions and convincing Parliamentary officials that their motions merited consideration in Parliament.

The experience provided students with a practical understanding of the petitioning

process and a deeper appreciation of our democratic system.

Having prepared thoughtful questions in advance, the day concluded with a Q and A session with our local constituency Member of Parliament, Paul Kohler. Students took full advantage of the opportunity to discuss political issues and learn more about the role of an MP. The trip was a memorable and inspiring experience, sparking students' interest in politics and the democratic process.

Ms Sandhu, Assistant Headteacher



CLASS OF 2025

Year 11 and 13 Leavers enjoyed shirt signings, special assemblies and their Prom events as they celebrated the end of their exams

Year 13

And just like that another year has passed and another cohort of fantastic Year 13s have stepped foot into the school for the last time as students. Earlier this term, towards the end of a hectic exam season, we said goodbye to our Year 13 students in their celebration assembly. We reminisced about all of the highs we have been through as a Sixth Form in their time here and how in those difficult moments we came together to support each other as a mini-community. It has truly been 2 years to remember for our students and our staff, who turned up in numbers to say their goodbyes and good lucks.

We are certainly losing some very big characters but it is every student in a year group that makes them memorable and this group will leave a very positive legacy behind. The impact this group had on the school community was further compounded by the even greater numbers of staff, past and present, who turned up for one final celebration with the students at their Leavers Prom. Lots of smiles, lots of dancing and even a few tears proved the night was a huge success! We look forward to seeing them all with smiles again on results day before they head off into the big wide world to follow their own paths.

Mr Wheel, Head of Sixth Form



Year 11

As the Summer term comes to an end, our Year 11 cohort had an eventful final few weeks with intense exams and drop-down intervention sessions. Despite the blistering heat, all students conducted themselves incredibly well, with invigilators praising them for their conduct throughout the exam series. They also got to enjoy their Leavers Celebration Ceremony, whereby students sought out their friends and their favourite teachers to get their shirt signed to commemorate their time at Raynes Park High School with some really lovely comments. The Year 11 students also received their Class of 2025 hoodies, all of which looked incredibly cosy and stylish!

Once all of the exams were completed, the Year 11s were able to celebrate in style by having a fantastic Prom event at Ravens Ait. The Prom was a fantastic experience and a great way to cap off five years of hard work and progress. The highlight of the night was the epic dance-off between two students which captivated the entire crowd and brought a raucous round of applause from everyone. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with this Year 11 cohort and I am extremely glad that they were able to celebrate their end to GCSE exams in style! Best of luck to all students with their future endeavours and we look forward to seeing lots of happy faces on results day!

Mr Bartlett, Head of Year 11

The PE department looks back at the sporting fixtures and tournaments which have taken place throughout the Summer term, alongside our KS3 and KS4 Sports Days

Boys' Football

This year marked an exciting new chapter for Raynes Park's boys' football teams as we joined the newly formed Merton and Kingston League. The new league gave our teams the chance to play more matches and face a wider range of opponents, including several schools we hadn't played before.

Our teams showed great effort and sportsmanship throughout the season. The Year 9 team led the way with an outstanding performance, finishing 1st in their league – a huge congratulations to them! Year 7 and Year 10 both finished a solid 5th, while Year 8 placed 8th, gaining valuable experience along the way.

We're proud of every player who represented Raynes Park this year. With this strong foundation, we're looking forward to building on these results and coming back even stronger next season.

Well done, boys – and roll on next year!

Mr Bishop, PE Teacher

Girls' Cricket and Rounders

The girls that participated in both cricket and rounders fixtures this year have shown great resilience and determination, with weekly improvements evident in both training and fixtures. The Year 7 & 8 rounders team showed up with an excellent attitude at the Merton Borough Schools' Tournament and ended up securing 3rd place out of six schools in the borough with a total of 36.5 rounders! There



was some strong batting and fielding displayed throughout - well done!

The Year 9 cricket team also placed 3rd in the Year 9 & 10 cricket tournament hosted by Ursuline at Morley Park, which was a positive finish considering the strong competition we were up against, not to mention the heatwave! A special shout out goes to Jaime-Louise for some fantastic bowling which kept us higher in the ranks. The team also played a friendly cricket match against Ricards Lodge in June. Unfortunately, they didn't return with a win, but gained experience and confidence following the competitive opportunity, regardless of the outcome - and still gained 45 runs which was their best this year!

The Year 7 & 8 team played their final friendly rounders match against St Marks on the 4th of July and to say they finished on a high would be an understatement. We played two games, displaying fantastic batting and fielding from all, and won both, accumulating a total of 31 rounders. Excellent play girls! A special shout out goes to Carmen for her strategic batting and speedy running!

Miss Collins, PE Teacher

Boys' Cricket

The Year 7 & 8 boys' cricket team welcomed St Mark's Academy to RPHS for a friendly cricket fixture. St Mark's started off with batting and the RPHS boys put in some excellent fielding performances along with some superb bowling from Josh and Louis. St Mark's however had some very strong club cricketers, whose skills allowed them to score some brilliant runs which is always good to see.

It was then the turn of the RPHS boys to bat and we started off with a very strong pairing of Romen and Josh, who also scored some brilliant runs for the team. As the batting pairs started to change round the weather began to take a turn for the worse, making it extremely hard for the RPHS boys to bat. However, they were extremely resilient and never stopped, which is a great spirit to have as a sportsperson. Unfortunately, St Mark's did take the win (243 runs to 210), but we are extremely proud of our boys, considering it was the first game of competitive cricket for most of them.

Mr McDonnell, PE Teacher

NFL Flag

Following some initial training sessions in the Spring term, NFL flag has well and truly taken off at Raynes Park. We have had firsts

come thick and fast for our students: first training sessions, first friendly matches, first competitions, first interceptions, touchdowns and even wins!

A super well done has to go to all the regulars who have attended the NFL club on Tuesdays after school. From September we are looking to have it run throughout the entire year. And well done to everyone who has represented the school in friendlies and competitions - you have truly embodied the school's value of 'Respect' and been gracious in both victory and defeat.

Special mentions have to go to:

Year 7/8 mixed team who came 9th overall in the U13 London Borough event.

Year 10 girls' team who came 11th overall in the U15 London Borough event.

Year 9 boys who came 3rd in the NFL South West Cup run by Radnor House.

I am incredibly proud of all the students who tried their hardest to help the team to perform as best they could. Considering some students had learnt the game within days of playing some of these tournaments it was a huge success. I can't wait for many more celebrations next year. TOUCHDOWN!

Mr Wheel, Head of Sixth Form



While our KS4 Sports Day had to be postponed, the KS3 event took place the following day in brilliant sunshine. Students enjoyed track and field events and it was fantastic to see all of the students from across the year groups cheering on their houses

The week began with some disappointment, as heavy rain on Monday morning meant the Year 9 and 10 Sports Day had to be postponed. However, our students showed great resilience, accepting the change positively, and the events are now taking place across this week—giving our athletes the opportunity to compete and earn points for their house.

Thankfully, brighter weather arrived the following day, in time for the Year 7 and 8 Sports Day, which went ahead with fantastic house spirit. Throughout the day, students demonstrated their commitment to personal and team success, living out our school values every step of the way.

Track events such as the 1,500m, 800m, 400m, and 200m saw students dig deep and push through physical and mental challenges, showing true resilience—whether striving for first place or simply finishing the race to earn vital points for their house. In the long jump, discus, shot putt, and javelin, students achieved impressive results, with many recording personal



bests and scoring valuable points for their houses.

Away from the athletics track, students not competing in these events got fully involved in a variety of team-based games, including ultimate frisbee, nerf end ball, seated volleyball, and tug of war. In every activity, we saw students supporting one another, encouraging fair play, and celebrating each other's efforts—clear examples of respect in action.

The day culminated with the 100m sprints and the relay races. With just 4 points separating the top two houses before the relays, tension was high and every second mattered. Each team ran with pride, cheered on by their peers in the house areas, making for an exciting finish.

The final house results were announced in the end-of-term assembly, giving us all one last moment of celebration before the summer break. A huge well done to everyone involved—you demonstrated respect, achieved excellent results, and showed incredible resilience.

Mrs Macfarlane, Assistant Headteacher



YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

The Year 7 residential trip to PGL Grosvenor Hall was an opportunity for students to develop essential teamwork skills - and have fun

From 9th to 11th July, 75 enthusiastic Year 7 students set off on their much-anticipated residential trip to PGL Grosvenor Hall, nestled in the beautiful countryside near Ashford, Kent. Upon arrival, students were thrilled to explore the spacious outdoor centre, taking in the sprawling grounds and impressive activity areas. The fresh air and wide-open spaces immediately set the tone for an adventurous and memorable few days ahead.

Throughout the trip, the students eagerly embraced a variety of outdoor challenges designed to build their confidence, encourage teamwork, and — most importantly — ensure they had fun. They worked together to build and race their own buggies, learnt essential survival skills while lighting fires during bushcraft sessions, and pushed themselves climbing towering walls. Many students took great enjoyment in trying fencing for the first time, honed their navigation skills through orienteering, and tackled problem-solving activities that encouraged creativity and collaboration. Jacob's Ladder quickly became a favourite, with students supporting and cheering one another as they climbed higher and higher on the towering wooden structure.

The delicious breakfasts, lunches, and dinners kept the students well-fed and energised throughout the trip. Each evening provided them with an opportunity to relax and enjoy time together. On the first evening, the students enthusiastically participated in a lively Mini Olympics, demonstrating great teamwork and sportsmanship while having lots of fun. The second evening was filled with laughter and creativity during the Scrapheap Challenge, where students designed and modelled imaginative outfits made entirely from cardboard, proudly showcasing their creations on the runway.



We are incredibly proud of how our students represented Raynes Park High School throughout the trip. Their exemplary behaviour truly reflected our school values of Respect, Resilience, and Results. Staff at PGL praised the students' manners, enthusiasm, and teamwork — a wonderful reflection of the school and a testament to how well prepared they are as they look forward to moving into Year 8. A thank you must go to the Year 7 staff and support team who accompanied students on the residential, as well as to Ms Alviz for her administrative support.

Overall, the trip provided an excellent opportunity for our Year 7 students to develop personally, embrace new challenges with confidence, and strengthen friendships through shared experiences. This valuable experience has shown that students are well prepared for Year 8 and equipped with the resilience, skills, and enthusiasm needed to tackle the challenges ahead and achieve great success in the next stage of their education.

Mr Burnett, Head of Year 7

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Throughout the summer term, RPHS has delivered events for local primary schools, alongside opportunities for our Sports Leaders and students from the Premier League Inspires programme

Curriculum Outreach - Aragon Shine at Musical Performance Day

We were thrilled to welcome Year 5 students from Aragon Primary School to Raynes Park High School for an exciting Performance Day, themed around this term's school production of High School Musical.

Throughout the day, students took part in a series of dance, drama, and music workshops, fully immersing themselves in the world of East High. Led by members of our talented cast and crew, the workshops gave students the chance to step into the roles, learn choreography, practise scenes, and sing some of the show's most iconic songs.

Their energy, enthusiasm, and creativity were fantastic to see, and they engaged brilliantly in every session. The experience culminated the following week when the students returned to watch the full performance, proudly singing along with the songs they had rehearsed.

It was a joy to share this opportunity with Aragon Primary and we were so impressed with their passion and confidence. A huge well done to all involved – you were all stars!

Premier League Inspires 2024–25: A Year of Growth, Opportunity and Celebration

As the 2024–25 Premier League Inspires Programme draws to a close, we are incredibly proud of the journey our students have taken this year. The programme has provided a wealth of enriching experiences, and our students have fully embraced every opportunity to grow, lead, and succeed.

To help mark the end of the programme, we were proud to support local organisations in promoting summer activities to our Year 7 and 8 students. The event provided students with the chance to speak directly with providers, explore what's on offer in the local area, and get excited about staying active and engaged over the summer break. This inspiring morning was led and supported by our dedicated Premier League Inspires cohort, who showed great confidence and leadership as they engaged with both students and organisations.

One of the standout celebration events was an unforgettable trip to Chessington World of Adventures, generously offered by Fulham FC exclusively to RPHS — an incredible reward for our students' hard work, commitment, and outstanding engagement throughout the year.

The year concluded with the Programme Rewards Ceremony, where every student left with a nationally recognised qualification. The girls received the Premier League Changemakers Award, celebrating their role in championing women in sport and driving positive change, while the boys were awarded the Prince's Trust Qualification, aimed at building confidence and work-based skills.

Awards were also presented to students who showed exceptional progress, dedication, and leadership throughout the programme.

Huge congratulations to the 2024–25 Premier League Inspires cohort. Your commitment, enthusiasm, and growth have been outstanding. You've gained valuable experience and developed key skills that will support you into Year 10, GCSE success, and your future careers. We're excited to see what you achieve next!

Sport Outreach

Much of the Summer term has seen our sports leaders playing a big part in supporting sport across the borough, with 71 students having the opportunity to develop their leadership skills during the Summer term.

Merton School Sport Partnership

Our Year 10 Sports Leaders took to the courts recently as they proudly officiated the MSSP Tennis Championships, gaining valuable hands-on experience in a competitive sporting environment.

Working in partnership with Merton School Sport Partnership (MSSP), the students supported the smooth running of the event by taking on key officiating roles, including scoring, umpiring matches, and managing player rotations.

Throughout the day, they demonstrated excellent communication, decision-making, and leadership skills, showing confidence and professionalism while supporting young competitors from across the borough.

The team received wonderful feedback from all staff involved, with particular praise for Miko, who went above and beyond by familiarising himself with all the students and addressing them by name. Both the school staff and students greatly appreciated this personal touch, which helped create a positive and welcoming atmosphere throughout the tournament.

This opportunity not only enhanced their practical understanding of tennis but also contributed significantly to their Sports Leadership development, building skills they will carry forward in future roles. A huge well done to our Year 10 leaders for their dedication and enthusiasm—we're proud to see you representing RPHS with such maturity and commitment!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Year 10 Sports Leaders Support MSSP Primary Athletics Festival

Our Year 10 Sports Leaders continued to demonstrate their growing leadership skills as they proudly supported the MSSP Primary Athletics Festival this week.

The event, which brought together students from across the borough, provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to take on a range of roles including officiating track and field events, timekeeping, scoring, and supporting team coordination.

Throughout the day, our leaders showed excellent organisation, enthusiasm, and encouragement, helping to create a fun, inclusive, and well-run event for all participants. Their ability to communicate clearly and manage groups of young athletes was praised by staff and event organisers alike.

This experience played a key role in the development of their Sports Leadership qualification, giving them practical, real-world experience in leading and supporting at a large-scale event. Well done to all our Year 10 leaders for their energy, professionalism, and commitment — you represented RPHS brilliantly once again!





Burlington Junior School's Fitness Week

During the week commencing 3rd June, Raynes Park High School was delighted to support Burlington Junior School's Fitness Week, a fantastic initiative focused on promoting sport, health, and wellbeing across the school.

Throughout the week, Year 5 and 6 students had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of engaging and energetic activities, delivered in collaboration with RPHS staff and partners:

Tennis sessions were delivered by our brilliant coaches from Limitless Tennis, helping students develop their coordination and racket skills.

NFL Flag Football was led by Mr Wheel, introducing students to a fast-paced, fun version of American football.

Football sessions were organised and delivered by our Year 12 Sport students, who showed fantastic leadership and enthusiasm throughout.

Dance Fitness got everyone moving with a high-energy session led by Ms Davis, which combined rhythm, exercise, and fun.



The students showed great energy and commitment throughout the week, trying new activities and embracing the spirit of fitness and teamwork. A big thank you to Burlington Junior School for inviting us to be part of such a positive and inspiring week — we look forward to planning next year's Fitness Week!

RPHS Sports Leaders Support Primary Sports Days Across the Borough

Following a year of exceptional leadership and commitment, our RPHS Sports Leaders were specially requested by local headteachers to support at a number of primary school Sports Days — a true reflection of the impact they've made throughout the year.

Our leaders took on key roles at Sports Days for Burlington, Hillcross, Hatfeild, Joseph Hood, Aragon, Park Academy Primary, and Coombe Hill Juniors. From setting up events and officiating races to motivating younger students and managing activities with confidence, they were instrumental in ensuring each event ran smoothly and successfully. They received outstanding feedback from teachers, students, and senior leaders, with many commenting on their professionalism, positivity, and ability to lead with maturity and enthusiasm.

We are incredibly proud of the way our students have represented RPHS, not only demonstrating their sports leadership skills but also serving as inspirational role models within the local community. A huge well done to all involved — your hard work and dedication have made a lasting impact!

Mr Oldridge, *Director of Sport & Community Partnerships*

NEWSOMS

MILTONS

GIBBS

HALLIWELLS

HOUSE UPDATE

Our four RPHS Houses have enthusiastically supported a range of charities with their fundraising activities

Over the course of this year, the school has demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm and generosity in supporting various charity events.

The house leaders worked together to organise and participate in a range of activities, successfully raising significant funds for important causes:

Jeans for Genes Mufti Day allowed students and staff to dress down, showing their support for genetic disorder research;

The Penalty Shoot Out and Sponge the Teacher events for Children in Need were a fun-filled success, combining team spirit with a sense of giving;

The Macmillan Coffee Morning brought the community together to raise awareness and funds for cancer support.

A notable contribution was made to the Wimbledon Food Bank, which received generous donations, particularly during the final stretch of the year.

In terms of fundraising, the school raised an impressive £772 for Red Nose Day, with another £172 raised through a staff charity football match, supporting various charities.

These efforts highlight the school's collective commitment to charity, with students, staff, and families coming together to make a real difference in their community and beyond. Alongside this, to gain more points for houses, students have taken part in the following activities:

- Maths quizzes
- English spelling bee
- Science accuracy investigation
- Performing Arts
- PE
- Cross country
- Football
- Bench ball
- Basketball
- DT game designs
- ICT Caesar Cipher
- MFL translation bee

Heads of Houses

WELLBEING IN SCHOOL

Amongst the many events we have held this term, we have celebrated Pride Month, re-launched our Peer Mentoring project and hosted a Wellbeing Afternoon for staff

The Summer term at Raynes Park High School has continued to be a busy and exciting one, packed with fun and meaningful experiences for both students and staff.

After returning from the Easter holidays, we kicked off May by welcoming 'Kooth' back to deliver assemblies to all year groups for Mental Health Awareness Week. For more information on what Kooth offers and to access their free services, please visit kooth.com

Also in May, a number of Year 7 students took part in group work with our Educational Wellbeing Practitioners (EWPs). These sessions focused on understanding anxiety and low mood, how to regulate these feelings, and how to recognise their key traits. Some students have already begun to apply what they've learned to build resilience in themselves and support others. This has been fantastic to see

Following on from the Peer Mentoring training delivered in the Spring term, we were excited to officially relaunch the Peer Mentoring project this term. This initiative pairs Year 10 students with Year 7s, and Year 12 students with Year 8s and 9s. We've already seen brilliant relationships form between mentors and mentees and received very positive feedback from parents. Thank you to all of our peer mentors for your dedication, your efforts are very much appreciated, and we look forward to continuing the project next year!

In May, staff also took part in important training on masculinity and the challenges boys may face in today's world. This session encouraged thoughtful reflection and discussion and was well received across the staff body.

June has been just as active. After the half term, staff were offered optional suicide awareness training delivered by 'Hold the Hope'. Many staff members signed up for this, and this powerful session provided valuable insights, guidance, and signposting on key topics including mental health, self-harm, and suicidal ideation, sparking meaningful discussions amongst staff

As wellbeing for all is one of our core priorities, we also hosted a Staff Wellbeing Afternoon in June. This was a great success, with staff able to enjoy a wide range of activities including karaoke, rounders, clay modelling, tennis, quizzes, and more. A huge thank you to all of the staff who volunteered their time and talents to run these activities – we are so lucky to have such a passionate and enthusiastic team!



To celebrate Pride Month, we held a series of events throughout June to raise awareness and funds for local LGBTQIA+ charity 'Spectra'. Ms Leon delivered assemblies to all year groups, exploring key themes such as allyship, the history of the LGBTQIA+ movement, and lived experiences within the community. A group of dedicated Year 10 and Year 12

students also helped to raise funds by selling Pride flag badges and hosting an ice lolly sale. Thank you to all the staff and students who have supported these efforts and made them possible.

Support Available Over the Holidays

Understandably the holidays are an exciting time for many young people, however for some this period of time can be stressful and difficult to get through. We want you to know

that you do not have to suffer in silence and that there is support readily available should you be interested. Please see below for a list of helplines and websites to visit for some support over the Summer break. Please also see the mental health page on our school website for further support, for resources and signposting for both yourself and your families.

Ms Yusuf, *Mental Health & Personal Development Lead*

Where to get support for you or a friend when you are not in school

For support with mental health & wellbeing



kooth
Free, safe, and anonymous counselling support for young people
www.kooth.com

www.kooth.com offers online confidential one-to-one support for young people, plus access to online self-help materials.



TALK TO US OFF THE RECORD

In non-covid times they offer face to face counselling in Merton, Croydon & Sutton. At the moment they offer a text-based counselling service or telephone/videocall counselling.
www.talkofftherecord.org



childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

Childline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. So you can talk to us any time. When you call us on **0800 111** you'll get through to a counsellor, they're there to listen and support you with anything you'd like to talk about. Or you can have a 1-2-1 counsellor chat online. They can provide help and support for people up to their 19th birthday.



For support in a crisis

NHS South West London CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Crisis Line 0203 228 5980
For young people or parents/carers worried about a young person's mental health.
Open: Monday to Friday 5pm – 11pm, Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holidays 9am – 11pm.

YOUNG MINDS Crisis Messenger
Young People can use the Young Minds Crisis Messenger by texting 'YM' to 85258

powered by **shout 85258**
CRISIS TEXT LINE

SAMARITANS
Call us free 24/7 on **116 123**
samaritans.org

For support in an emergency

In an immediate health or mental health emergency, contact **999** or attend **A&E**

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.....Do you shop online?

The school can get a donation when you do, for free!

Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust raises funds to support our students. The Trust has funded several projects including funding equipment for the Duke of Edinburgh Award as well as small grants to individual students. The trustees are keen to do more and need funds to do so.

One way you can donate to the Trust without it costing you anything is to shop online via 'easyfundraising' which turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for the school. There are over 3600 retailers including many big names such as Amazon, M&S, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Tesco, John Lewis, Ebay and Argos and many specialist retailers.

So next time you want to do some online shopping please go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs and click 'support this cause' then register for easyfundraising and find the retailer you want. Once you have chosen your retailer you will go to their website as normal to make your purchase. The retailers then make a small donation to the Trust. The size of the donation varies with the retailer – but every little helps!

It will cost you nothing but will help the school. You will get reminders once registered with easyfundraising.

Please give it a try!



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Support this cause

1

Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs click 'support this cause' and register

2

Choose your retailer and shop as normal

3

Retailers will make a small donation to the Trust at no extra cost to you