



RPHS PARTNERS WITH WIMBLEDON HOCKEY CLUB

READ ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW ASTROTURF HOCKEY PITCH FOR
TRAINING PURPOSES AND ELITE GAMES ON PAGES 2 - 4



EXCITING PARTNERSHIP WITH WIMBLEDON HOCKEY CLUB

Raynes Park High School partners with Wimbledon Hockey Club for new AstroTurf hockey pitch for training purposes and international hockey games.

Raynes Park High School, Bushey Road, has partnered with Wimbledon Hockey Club for the construction of a new £450,000 AstroTurf hockey pitch. This new pitch will not only be used for school matches, but also elite hockey games and will enable the club to expand participation for young people. Construction will take place during the school holidays with the new pitch due to open in time for the school's Open Evening on Thursday 27th September. Wimbledon Hockey Club will be funding the new pitch and paying for its maintenance.

Mrs K Heard, Headteacher, Raynes Park High School, says "We are delighted to be partnering with Wimbledon Hockey Club on this joint initiative. It underlines our strategy as a BECSLink Community school to forge partnerships with the local community. It will put the school on the map as a community school and garner interest in hockey."

Paul Knowles, Head of Junior Hockey at Wimbledon, says "Most importantly, this partnership secures the club's long-term future use of a world class pitch. With 20 international players and 10 Olympians, this is a much-needed facility for our elite players as well as our wider membership. The extended hours of use all year round will also provide the base for expanding our junior programme and enable the club to inspire more local children to take part in the sport we love. Raynes Park High School have been a pleasure to work with and we look forward to supporting them in their hockey playing journey in the years ahead."

Crista Cullen, MBE, Olympic gold medal field hockey player and a member of the Wimbledon Hockey Club, says "As part of the women's Great Britain squad at the Rio Olympics, we agreed that our team's aim was to inspire the next generation. Therefore, I'm proud that the newly developed pitch will not only provide a much needed world-class surface but will also be a venue to inspire local boys and girls to enjoy sport supported by our team of international players and coaches from Wimbledon."

The club has been supporting the school in providing inspirational coaches and players to attend school events. This will increase next year with coaching being offered to children at the school with the aim of supporting Raynes Park High School's students developing a long term love of the sport. To kick start this journey, the club is donating new hockey sticks to the school. The school pitch will also provide a new venue to expand the Wimbledon Hockey Club's schools outreach programme. The pitch will predominantly be used for hockey, although it can also be used for other sports such as football using temporary football marks which can be brushed off.

Wimbledon Hockey Club, founded in 1883, is one of the world's oldest hockey clubs. It is a section of the multi-sport Wimbledon Club. Wimbledon are one of the largest and most successful hockey clubs in the country with both the men's and women's teams fielding multiple current Great Britain internationals. The club has also recently started working more widely in the community with a schools outreach project, which to-date has brought hockey to 2,000 local Merton state school children.



2017/2018 HEADTEACHER'S ACADEMIC YEAR IN REVIEW

Welcome to the final edition of our newsletter for this academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on key events and developments from the year and outline areas we will be turning our attention to in the coming year. We have really appreciated your ongoing support as the school continues to grow and develop significantly.

CONTINUED ON PAGES 4 - 7

The quality of what we are doing at the school continues to be a key focus and the culture and atmosphere around the school is overwhelmingly positive. The students have been very receptive to the changes and developments we have put in place, all of which are focussed on improving their learning and day-to-day experience at RPHS. We have sought student views on a number of initiatives and we are always grateful for their considered responses to school improvement.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Teaching and Learning

This year has seen our Year 11 cohort sit examinations for the reformed GCSE courses. We have focussed on ensuring the subject content of these new courses is of a really high standard and checked that the curriculum in Years 7 – 9 prepares students sufficiently for these more demanding GCSE exams. These changes have seen significant challenges for the students as there is only coursework in a minority of subjects and a greater emphasis on exams at the end of the two year courses. There have also been significant changes to the content and examinations at Level 3, with changes to both A-Levels and Vocational qualifications. The staff have worked hard to ensure the students are fully prepared for their exams and students made their best efforts throughout the exam season and we look forward to the results in August .

Teaching high quality lessons every day is the most important aspect of our work and we have been balancing this with extra-curricular opportunities for students to develop their wider skills. We have embedded our values of respect and resilience at every opportunity and our students are learning the importance these values hold to the culture of our school and their individual results across the curriculum.

We have continued to focus on literacy development in Years 7 – 10 and each student has read for 15 minutes every day at the start of tutor time. The Accelerated Reader programme has had tangible benefits to students' reading ability and the English Department will be continuing with this initiative next year. Please encourage your child, regardless of their age, to

read over the summer holiday as the demand on students' reading ability at GCSE level is considerable. We have also ensured that staff have received training in delivering numeracy across the curriculum and introduced a range of activities to support the development of and confidence with, all aspects of numeracy.

School Day

A key focus has been to increase lesson contact time whilst continuing to improve student engagement. We surveyed staff and held student discussion groups, before launching the new school day in September. Whilst the start and end times remain the same (8.40am and 3.00pm respectively), students will have a 20 minute morning registration with their Form Tutor from 8.40am rather than a longer tutor period mid-morning. This will enable us to have 5 hour long lessons and increase lesson contact time by 100 hours per academic year. We believe this will bring about significant benefits for the school by improving pace in lessons and most importantly, engagement, whilst delivering better outcomes for our students.

Enrichment at RPHS

This year our students have enjoyed a huge number of extra-curricular activities outside the classroom with students continuing to enjoy a wide range of clubs after school. Our recent performance of Grimm Tales was fantastic and the students involved performed brilliantly, aided by a terrific backstage crew and supported by a wonderful team of teachers led by Ms Holledge, Head of Drama. We have also showcased the students GCSE and A-Level work at the recent Art Exhibition and the standard of performances at our annual House Dance competition was exceptional.



We have welcomed visitors from Spain and also hosted Chinese students who shared a week of school experience. Our visitors were buddied with students from our school who were excellent ambassadors for RPHS. The whole school community were very welcoming and the feedback from the visitors was excellent.

We have also taken students on academic, cultural and sporting visits to places of interest across the UK and the students have benefitted enormously from their experiences.

Our recent Enrichment Week provided a wonderful opportunity for the students to enjoy some fun and creative activities to end the year on a high. There were a variety of trips and activities for students to take part in and on Thursday, in recognition of their hard work and effort, some students in Years 7-10 were invited to attend a reward trip.

Sport and Participation at RPHS

Mr Wilson-Boyle (Director of Sport) and I have continued to work on a range of initiatives to realise our ambition for sport and participation at Raynes Park High School. There continues to be a renewed interest in sport at the school and our teams have been representing RPHS at numerous events and competitions. Please follow us on Twitter @rphspe to keep up to date on our successes this year. Following the relaunch of the Duke of Edinburgh Award last year, our second Year 10 cohort completed the Bronze Award in June and we look forward to our third cohort being equally successful next year.

In addition, we are delighted that Fulham Football Club will be running their acclaimed Education Programme at RPHS for a second year. We welcomed 25 students to our 6th Form last year and look forward to 25 new Year 12s starting their



ACADEMIC YEAR IN REVIEW

Level 3 courses here in September. Following the success of this programme, we have also been pleased to support students in the lower school who have joined RPHS whilst training and playing matches as part of the Fulham Academy. Their influence has been crucial to the Year 8 and 10 football teams getting to the semi-finals of the County Cup, the only mixed comprehensive school to do so.

RPHS have achieved multiple successes this year, including Borough championship victories in football, athletics, netball and basketball. We are also pleased that there has been a resurrection of rugby and cricket squads in Years 7 and 8; we are working with Old Ruts Rugby Club and Wimbledon Cricket Club, and further growth in these two significant sports will continue in the next academic year.

Our partnership with BECSLink continues to grow and we are officially recognised as a BECSLink community following our launch event in March. The school is working alongside national and local Merton business, education charities, and sports and arts organisations to provide resources and learning opportunities for young people. This offers students and teachers not only from the school, but also other local schools the opportunity to develop new skills. As part of this initiative, the school has been awarded Tim Henman Scholarships, in association with the Tim Henman Foundation, for talented youngsters to pursue their talents with financial support. The school has been awarded a grant over three years by the Foundation and Mr Henman presented four students with their scholarships at the launch in March. An additional four scholarships were awarded at our End of Year Assembly and we are delighted to be able to provide this support to our students to pursue their interests out of school.



The BECSLink connection has also led to an exciting development in tennis via a new partnership with Performance Plus Tennis. Twice a week our students enjoy the opportunity to receive free, high quality coaching from a member of the Performance Plus team. Two students have been awarded scholarships for their endeavours, and they will be receiving additional coaching and equipment support. I am pleased to say that this partnership will continue in to the next year with a commitment to providing opportunities to the local community as well as RPHS students.

RPHS students were selected for a second year to be ball boys and girls at the Pro-Am Doubles Tournament on 27th June at The National Tennis Centre in Roehampton. Students trained hard for this event and again had the opportunity to meet a host of professional tennis players.

We have also been working with Engaging Education, a social enterprise working with the school on a careers project to demonstrate how we deliver high quality and impartial careers guidance and this work will be developed further next academic year.

We will be launching the Adidas Academy for Year 7 in September. Mr Wilson-Boyle and I have been working with Adidas and Fulham FC since last summer on this launch and we were fortunate to visit a school in Manchester who are working with Manchester United on a similar programme to raise aspirations. This is a very exciting opportunity and we will be only the second school in the country to benefit from this fantastic partnership.

Finally, we are proud to announce our partnership with Wimbledon Hockey Club. As you will see from our cover story, for the past year, the club has supported RPHS in providing

coaches and players to attend school events and this will include coaching for our students and those from local primaries from next term. We are also delighted that work to construct a new £450,000 AstroTurf hockey pitch will start during the summer holidays.

The Year Ahead

Our focus for the coming year will be to embed the recent improvements in all aspects of the school life. As ever we will prioritise high quality teaching and learning, ensuring that it happens every day and at every possible opportunity. We will also continue to support the mental wellbeing of our students and we are currently working towards being accredited for a School Mental Health Award. The Department of Education recognises the direct link between positive mental health and successful educational outcomes, and we are committed to making mental health a strategic priority that promotes mental wellbeing for the whole school community.

I'm so grateful to parents who have supported me in my quest to improve communication at all levels. We are looking at how to enhance our use of technology for both students and parents to enable effective communication and we will continue to work on this next year. I hope that you have found the weekly e-Bulletin a useful source of information and we welcome your feedback on ways we can improve for next year. Your input is much appreciated as it provides a valuable insight into how we can work better together.

National Challenges

I am sure you will have read about the financial and recruitment challenges facing schools at the moment and we are not immune to these. We have had some difficulties this year when staff have left during the year and replacing them with

permanent staff mid-year has proved challenging. I am delighted to report that we are fully staffed for September; we have been fortunate to have appointed colleagues with a wide range of experience to take the school forward and support your children in their education.

In common with other public services, our finances continue to be tight and we are working very hard to ensure our income enables us to staff a broad and balanced curriculum offer. I would like to thank those families who have contributed financially this year to the life of the school; this support is very much appreciated.

Staffing Update

As we say farewell to those staff that are either relocating around the country or moving on to promoted posts and teaching opportunities elsewhere, my thanks go to colleagues for all they have done for RPHS and we wish them well in their future roles. Good luck to Ms Ali (English), Mr Cooper, Ms Carter and Mr Nguyen (Maths), Ms Grimshaw (Science), Ms Ward (Dance) and Mr Priddle (Computer Science) as they take up new posts. Our congratulations also go to Ms Totty, Ms Barrett, Ms Baker, Mr Hayes and Mr Saunders on their promoted roles and we wish them well in their new schools. We also wish Ms Butler and Ms Ali our best wishes for their summer weddings and good luck to Ms Jeffrey who will spend the year travelling. We also wish our trainees our best wishes as they take up their permanent posts in September.

As we continue to grow and develop as a school, we will welcome our largest Year 7 cohort for several years in September. We are also busy preparing for our next Ofsted inspection and we have made some internal appointments to facilitate school improvement work in key areas.

As always, I would like to pay tribute to the tireless dedication of the teaching staff who worked so hard right up until the end of term. I would also like to thank the support staff who work incredibly hard with the day to day running of the school and the Governing Body for their involvement and ongoing support. The school is so fortunate to have such a committed team and I know RPHS will continue to thrive next academic year.

There is always so much to celebrate in the final newsletter and I hope you enjoy reading about the numerous activities and events; all families should feel really proud of all that has been achieved this year.

Finally, thank you for your support this year; it is much appreciated. I hope that you have a lovely summer holiday and I look forward to working with you again next academic year.



Mrs K. Heard
Headteacher



SCHOOL PLAY 2018

Students put on a brilliantly polished production of four different Grimm Tales last term, showcasing their skills as actors, directors and playwrights. The first Grimm Tale Ashputtel, told the familiar story of Cinderella, with a few darker twists! Another story best-known for the Disney adaptation, Snow White, was second on the bill. This was a real ensemble piece, and students worked together using physical theatre to create the different locations and used their voices to build the tension.

The next play was The Hare and the Hedgehog, Similar to The Hare and the Tortoise, this story told the tale of a hedgehog who challenged a hare to a race, but - as with most Grimm Tales - with a much more tragic ending!

Hansel and Gretel closed the evening. Again, students worked together brilliantly to create the world of the story, including the gingerbread house and winding path through the spooky forest. The sequence in which students used lights to represent their trail back home was particularly clever.

"I would like to say a big thank you for your continued support of your child and the Drama department here at Raynes Park High School." said Ms Holledge, Head of Performing Arts. "Most importantly, I would like to thank all of the students who have been involved in this year's school production. It has been fantastic working with such a creative, talented and committed cast and team."

Congratulations to Ms Holledge and the student company for creating an evening full of mayhem, darkness and excitement.







DRAMA OPPORTUNITY FOR MERTON YOUNG PEOPLE

*A message from Wimbledon Community Theatre Trust
Young Actors Company*

Get on Stage with YAC!

Make new friends, develop your talent and perform on a professional stage with WCTT Young Actors Company!

WCTT Young Actors Company is the biggest youth theatre in Merton and is completely FREE to attend!

YAC meet every Sunday in term time at New Wimbledon Theatre's Time & Leisure Studio.

Act One: School Years 7-8 (10.00am – 12.00pm)

Act Two: School Years 9-10 (12.15pm – 2.15pm)

Act Three: School Years 11 + (2.30pm – 4.30pm)

YAC is open to all young people aged 11-19 who live or go to school in London Borough of Merton.



We will be running workshop auditions this September – if you would like to find out more or register for an audition contact Katie;
assist_newwimbledon@yahoo.co.uk

Or check out our new website; **www.wctt.org.uk**

YEAR 11 LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY



UNIFORM DONATIONS

We are collecting donations of second hand uniform to stock our emergency uniform supply.

We will welcome donations of school trousers, shirts, blazers, ties and official PE kit in a clean and good condition. Please drop donations off at reception or the Finance Office.

Ms Marino
Director of Finance





FULHAM FC TROPHY VISIT

A thrilling victory last term saw Fulham promoted and means that RPHS is partnered with a team in the premier league.

As part of Raynes Park High School's ongoing work with Fulham FC and their Football & Education programme, this term Fulham coaches brought the championship playoff finals trophy into the school for our students to be photographed with. It's even heavier than it looks!

The Fulham Football and Education programme (RPHS players pictured, right) has become a well-established part of the school offer, with over 30 students taking part in professional football training alongside their studies at Raynes Park Sixth Form.

This was an inspiring visit for our Fulham Academy and Sixth Form students, and we hope that this partnership will continue to create even more worthwhile and exciting experiences for our students.







SPORTS DAY 2018

Sports Day 2018 was a scorcher! Students spent the day showing their House Pride and competing in a range of track and field events.

There were multiple records broken this year, including a whopping 1.75m jump in the Year 10 High Jump and an incredible sub-12 second run in the 100m by a Year 7 student.

As well as being an exceptionally fun day, Sports Day was another step towards encouraging a more active lifestyle and nurturing the talents which students have already demonstrated in their PE classes and extracurricular activities.

Through events such as an annual Sports Day and multiple sports programmes, Raynes Park High School hopes to inspire a life-long love of sport, teamwork and exercise.





GCSE & A-LEVEL ART EXHIBITION



GCSE & A-LEVEL ART EXHIBITION



YEAR 5 ART ENRICHMENT



END OF SEASON CELEBRATIONS



YEAR 10 TATE TRIP



LONDON AQUARIUM TRIP



A woman with short brown hair, wearing a white sleeveless dress, stands on a stage. She is looking slightly to her right and speaking into a black microphone on a stand. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The entire image has a purple gradient overlay at the bottom.

NEWSOMS HOUSE UPDATE

It is hard to believe we have come to the end of the academic year! What a busy and rewarding one it has been. We have achieved so much as a house and this is a fantastic opportunity to look and reflect on how much we have accomplished.

I was so proud to see so many Newsoms athletes taking part and winning races in Sports Day. So many of you showed promising sporting talent, but more importantly you took part and represented your house, and on such a beautiful sunny day! Special shout outs to some of our newest Newsoms students in Year 7: Jack, Holly, Madison, Hiba and Riley.

It was lovely to see so many Newsoms students in the school production: The Grimm Tales. Special mentions to Joana, Olga, Hele, Anna-Marie, Yosef, Ryan and Poppy who rehearsed extremely hard in the weeks before and pulled off an amazing performance on the night.

In the last week of term, we had our rewards trip to the London Aquarium, which was a great chance to be out of school and in the sunshine on Southbank. In the Aquarium we saw jelly-fish, sharks and even penguins!

A final massive and belated thank you to all those who donated money and took part in events during the Newsoms charity action week back in May. We raised a fantastic £250 for WaterAid, which goes towards helping people get access to clean water and sanitation facilities around the world.

I hope you have a fantastic summer!

Ms S Tolly
Head of Newsoms



HALLIWELLS HOUSE UPDATE

'Exceeding expectations' has been our Halliwells mantra and a goal we have wanted to achieve throughout this academic year. We have worked incredibly hard to develop our teamwork and increase the amount of successes in all aspects of RPHS life in order to fulfil the true underdog story. As we arrive at the end of the year it gives me immense pleasure to say we have made this expectation a reality.

As a House, we have been able to celebrate many achievements and have become a dominate force within the sport competitions winning dodgeball, netball and basketball so becoming Sports Day Champions was the cherry on top of the cake and our proudest achievement yet. Not

only did we smash records, have maximum participation and win several events but the level of support the Halliwells students had for each other was the area that really set us apart from the other houses and a contributing factor to our big win.

It has been my pleasure to be Head of Halliwells and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know my house and watching them go from strength to strength. I am confident Halliwells will continue to surpass expectations and I wish them the very best for the future.

Ms E Bartle
Head of Halliwells



MILTONS HOUSE UPDATE

What an exciting year and term it has been for Miltons. On 2nd July we were haunted with the gorgeous weather as we headed in to London for our rewards trip. Students got to go on the London Eye and then on a river cruise up and down the Thames. The views from the pods on the London Eye were amazing as it was a crystal clear day; however, most students' favourite part was the informative river cruise where we heard all about the history of the bridges and buildings up and down the River Thames. As many of you will know Miltons were crowned House Dance Champions at House Dance and I must say I was blown away by the commitment and talent of our students, they are a real credit to themselves.

The end of year assembly is always one of my highlights of the year, I love the chance to celebrate all the success that we have had over the year. Miltons came second on Sports Day which was absolutely fantastic considering the sheer determination of Ms

Bartle and Halliwells to ensure that they closed the gap after House Dance. Miltons students are consistently good across the board and this was shown at the end of year assembly, with only our attendance letting us down. As all students are aware attendance is crucial in ensuring successful outcomes.

I was so pleased that we retained the cup for Academic Achievement and was slightly disappointed that we were just pipped at the post by Gibbs for overall House Champions. I have no doubt that if we can have consistently good attendance for the whole year, especially the last term that Miltons can be crowned overall House Champions next year. Lastly I would like to say what an absolute privilege and pleasure it has been to be your Head of House this year, I am extremely proud and wish you all a lovely summer and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Ms C Holland
Head of Miltons



GIBBS HOUSE UPDATE

What a year! Well done to all members of Gibbs house on their effort and achievements over the course of this past academic year.

Coming towards the end of my first year as Head of Gibbs I can say I am truly proud of the students in my house, of their character and of the way they have conducted themselves around school and in the local community.

We have had so many positives this year that it is hard to fit everyone's achievements into this small column. However, I would like to congratulate a few individuals on their successes this year.

Firstly, to Mahmud Al-Alusi & Evie Howe's who have been selected as Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl respectively, continuing the tradition of Gibbs students being at the top of the student council decision making process. Secondly, to Tilly Penfold and Alex Wyllie whose efforts in raising money for both the Gibbs chosen charity, Teenage Cancer Trust, and for their own chosen charities such as Motor Neurone Disease.

Thanks you all again for your efforts throughout the year and regardless of our place in the house cup, I believe that we are the best house!

Have a lovely summer!

Mr J Wheel
Head of Gibbs

ACCESS CENTRE ENRICHMENT TRIPS

Tuesday 17th July Sailing and picnic at Wimbledon Park

The students enjoyed the day saying it was 'brilliant' and 'when can we go again?' After a brief introduction on how to sail the students were off, picking up speed with the wind and steering with ease.



ACCESS CENTRE ENRICHMENT TRIPS

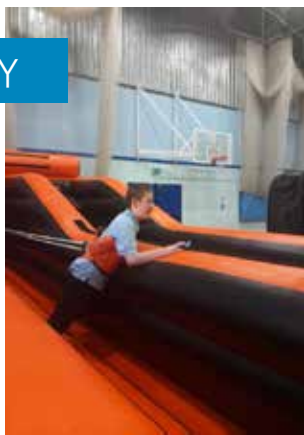
Wednesday 18th July Pizza Express Masterclass - Surbiton

The students had a lesson on how to make pizzas, what ingredients are used and when Pizza Express started in the UK which was 1965. The students stayed to eat their pizzas they had made. The staff at the restaurant were excellent and extremely accommodating. Rosalind wrote a letter to the manager on behalf of all the students who took part, thanking them for the experience.



ALTERNATIVE SPORTS DAY

On 29th June, the Access Centre had their alternative sports day, whereby huge inflatables took over most of the Sports Hall. Some students took part in both the Mainstream PE sports day and the Alternative with Monique adding that 'she loved sports day because she won the race!' All students really enjoyed the inflatables, burgers, hot dogs and ice lollies to finish the day off.



CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES

The Access Centre had their annual trip to Chessington World of Adventures, on 13th June 2018, the event was organised and paid for by the Rotary Club. All the students had an amazing day and got to experience both the rides and see the animals at the zoo. William shared that his favourite ride was the Dragons Fury as it went extremely fast!



ACCESS CENTRE PARENT'S SOCIAL

On Wednesday 11th July, the Access Centre held their annual Parent's Social event. This was a chance for new and existing parents to meet each other and the staff. It was also an opportunity for the students to show their work and achievements, talk about their experiences of being part of the Access Centre and the wider school. The event finished with team bonding games in our playground. Lots of parents attended the event even though England were playing in the semi-final that evening!



ACCESS CENTRE LEAVERS 2018

The Access Centre said 'goodbye and good luck' to our Year 11, 12 and 13 leavers by holding a celebration and farewell get together in the morning of 22nd June. All of our students are moving onto further/higher education:

Year 11

Ryan Moscrop - Nescot to study Animal care
Aaron Zachariasz - Cricket Green, Sixth Form
Luc Jacobson - Kingston College to study Art & Design

Year 12

Ritchie Nash - South Thames College to study BTEC Sports
Oliver Molina - Merton College to study Public services

Year 13

Euan Piper - Queen's University in Belfast to start a degree in Computer Science

We will miss you all and wish you the best of luck in your new and exciting academic journeys.



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM TRIP



'PIMP MY ZIMMER' FOR RAYNES PARK FESTIVAL



Students recently visited elderly residents at Carter's Care Home in Raynes Park to 'pimp' their zimmer frames, walking sticks and wheelchairs. Most residents were very keen to get started, and students found themselves with an array of mobility aids to decorate. Students also provided some company and a listening ear. "Our team of Year 10 students conversed with their chosen resident to find out a bit about them and then create a design to suit," said Ms Peliza, who joined the students

on the day. "The photographs taken show the delight and joy it gave the residents to be able to identify their walking aids and also have representation of character and personality."

We all felt like we really belonged as part of the strong Raynes Park community and we would definitely be interested in the same or similar activities again. Thank you to My Raynes Park Festival for organising this trip.

ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Pupils were delighted to be rewarded with a trip to Krispy Kreme for improving their attendance this term. With many sticky fingers and plenty of doughnuts consumed, there were many happy faces all round for a trip well deserved. Well done everyone!

Mr Smith
Achievement Mentor



GERMAN LUNCH FOR YEAR 10 GERMAN CLASS



CITY HALL URBAN PLAN CELEBRATION



GOOGLE HQ TRIP

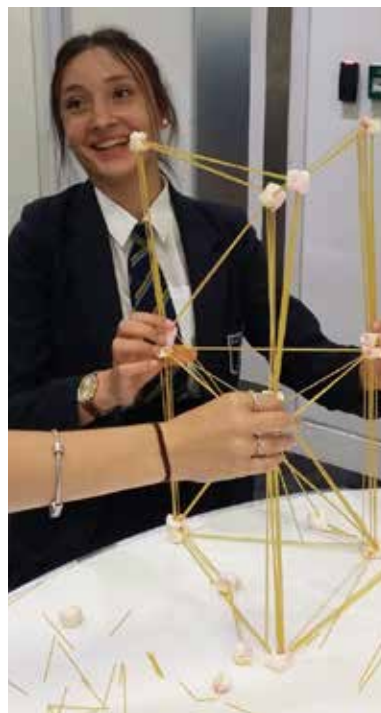


CBRE LONDON TRIP



Year 10 students went on a workplace visit to CBRE Central London, in association with the National Careers Service on Wednesday 4th July. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain knowledge of the property development sector, as well as developing their team building, problem solving and communications skills, along with other students from London schools.

Ms Brake & Mr Smith



CAREERS FAYRE



PEER MENTORING INTERVIEWS

The Peer Mentoring at RPHS has provided excellent support to students this school year. In order to roll this support out further and encourage more students to get involved, Peer Mentors Alex, Tamzyn, Kira and Izzy conducted interviews to find the next batch of Peer Mentors. They did a fantastic job interviewing the candidates, who conducted themselves maturely and confidently. A lengthy deliberation followed, and the candidates made it a very difficult decision. Ten Year 9 students have been chosen from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and we look forward to seeing what these new Peer Mentors will bring to this worthwhile programme in the new school year.





PERFORMANCE PLUS TENNIS PROGRAMME

The RPHS Tennis Programme has been running since April of this year, the programme has been a success for RPHS students and the local community.

A number of events have helped to create a culture of tennis at RPHS. The launch event in March, which was attended by Tim Henman, introduced 220 young children to tennis.

The coaching in PE lessons has brought tennis to 100 new Raynes Park High School students. The core programme after-school has attracted 20 students to play tennis weekly (pictured).

In addition, Performance Plus has offered two students further support, in the form of an 'exceptional grant support programme' - with this they receive funding to pay for extra tennis/coaching and equipment, alongside receiving mentoring.

Raynes Park High School is very grateful to the Performance Plus team for building the foundations of a very strong tennis programme at our school, and look forward to working together to create even more opportunities for students to experience tennis.



STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Snapchat is a photo sharing app for mobile phones and tablets. The app allows users to share images, videos and chat with friends. Users can share images and videos directly to specific friends, or through a 'story' shared with their entire friend list, which documents the last 24 hours. In a study, Snapchat was ranked the 4th most negative app in terms of having an impact on young people's health and wellbeing, with children feeling that they can use the app Snapchat to "make you look pretty".



WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SNAPCHAT NEW UPDATES

EXPOSING YOUR CHILD'S EXACT LOCATION

The 'Snap Map' lets you share your EXACT location in real-time through a map on the app. The users location updates when the app has been opened on the device. There is a warning on the Snapchat website about uploading images and videos to 'Our Story', stating that "Snaps you submit to Our Story can still show up on the Map, no matter what location setting you choose!". When uploading to Our Story, your child's image or video could appear in "Search results and Stories on or off Snapchat - today or in the future".

SCREENSHOTS & SAVED MESSAGES

While Snapchat's gimmick is that all photos, videos and text disappear eventually, users still have the capability to screenshot or record what has been sent to them. Users may sometimes forget that screenshotting is a possibility in the app and send a compromising image or message to somebody that they think they trust. They may also accidentally send an image or message to somebody who they do not trust. Simply by pressing and holding a message, allows the user to save a message they have received, which can be screenshotted or used against them at a later date.

SNAP STREAKS & ADDICTION

'Snap Streaks' are gained when snaps have been sent back and forth consecutively between friends. The longer that Snaps are sent between users, the longer the streak becomes. Furthermore, Snapchat rewards users who have achieved high Snap Streaks, by gifting emojis, adding incentives for users to keep the streaks. Children invest time into making their streaks as high as possible: this can put an incredible amount of pressure on children and their friendships to make sure their streaks are continued.

SEXTING

Due to 'Snaps' disappearing, (users can even send a one second photo or video), Snapchat has become the chosen platform for children and young people to send sexually explicit images or 'selfies'. Once a photo/video has been screenshotted, or recorded using another device or software, this can lead to further dangers, such as blackmail and cyberbullying. It is illegal to make, possess, download, store and share sexual images, photos and videos of a person under the age of 18. This also includes any sexual images, photos and videos that a child may have taken of themselves. However, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed, but taking formal action isn't in the public interest.

NEW FOR JULY 2018 LENS EXPLORER

The Lens Studio on Snapchat gives users the freedom to use their imagination to design their own filters for themselves and others to use. Snapchat states that the lenses users create "must comply with our Lens Studio Submission Guidelines and Community Guidelines and must be appropriate for Snapchatters ages 13+." The Lens Explorer in the app now allows users to choose from thousands of these creations to alter their snaps. Anyone can create a Lens for Snapchat, which opens opportunities for age-inappropriate content to be uploaded.



TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

#1 DISCUSS THE RISKS OF SEXTING

It can be slightly awkward talking about this topic with your child, but if it helps them protect themselves, then it is worth it. Talk to them about the consequences of sexting and make sure that they're aware of the risks. Ensure your child knows that 'Snaps' can be screenshotted. Teach them that if they post anything potentially embarrassing or harmful (either of themselves or someone else) it can have severe consequences; the message, image or video can be shared further.

#4 RESTRICT STORY VIEWS

Your child can add videos and images to their 'Story' throughout the day which will last for 24 hours. By default, anyone in a user's friends list can see their story. We recommend checking the privacy settings to ensure that this has not been edited. This can simply be done in the app's settings under the 'Who Can View My Story' section. The options to choose from are 'My Friends', 'Everyone' or 'Custom' - we suggest that it is set to 'My Friends'.

#2 USE 'GHOST MODE'

We highly recommend enabling Ghost Mode on the app so that your child's location will no longer be visible to anyone on the 'Snap Map'. To enable this, go onto the Snap Map and tap the cog in the top-right corner. Here, change the setting to 'Ghost Mode'.

#5 REPORTING A STORY, LENS, FILTER, SNAP OR MESSAGE

If your child comes across inappropriate Snapchat content, which may be sent directly to them or in another person's story, advise them to report it immediately. This may include an inappropriate lens, filter, message or Snap. To report an offensive lens, they should open the app and select the lens they want to report. An info button will appear above the lens. Click this, followed by the flag icon. This will send a report to Snapchat for further investigation. Reports can also be made on the Snapchat support website: support.snapchat.com.

NEW FOR JULY 2018

#3 HOW TO DELETE A MESSAGE

Advise your child never to send any negative messages (or images through gallery in the chat on the app) as screenshots can still be taken. You should also advise your child to screenshot any negative comments that they receive as the sender can also delete them. To delete a message, simply press and hold the sent message and press delete.

#6 TURN OFF 'QUICK ADD'

'Quick add' helps friends find each other on the app. This is based on mutual friends or if their number is in their phone book. Explain to your child that this feature can open up their profile to strangers. We highly recommend that your child turns off the 'Quick Add' feature. This can be done in the settings.

SOURCE: WWW.NATIONALONLINESAFETY.COM

NEWS FROM THE Governors

It is the job of Governors to set the vision for the school and to scrutinise, challenge and support the work of the Senior Leadership Team. It has been very pleasing to see the school developing on so many fronts this term, moving forward to reach the levels of academic, pastoral and sporting excellence to which we aspire.

We have focussed in particular this term on three areas. The first was setting a three year budget which will enable us to plan prudently for the future – not easy at a time when the Institute of Fiscal Studies reports that budget cuts have meant that spending in schools has reduced by 8% per pupil since 2009/10. The second was to agree the exciting new arrangements with the Wimbledon Hockey Club for the renewal and improvement of our AstroTurf pitch – a piece of long-term planning which will see international hockey matches played at the school from next year and new sporting opportunities for our students, and which will also mean a modest financial boost for RPHS. The third area was the school's strategy for marking and commenting in students' books, where we have discussed and agreed with senior staff a strategy for improving consistency across the school.

We are delighted to note that the pressure to join the school at Year 7 next September continues: 211 prospective students attended our transition day this term – a figure well up from last year, and this despite Merton backing the opening of a new Harris academy (with scant justification) in Wimbledon. For our Strategic Visit in June, we concentrated on Year 8, and it was good to see how well these students have now settled into RPHS life. Our thanks to Ms Karadal and her team for an enjoyable and instructive day.

On the membership front, we say goodbye to Rebecca Shingleton as a Parent Governor this month. As I mentioned in the last NftG, Rebecca has been a very active and persuasive voice on the Governing Body. In her place we welcome, after her successful election, Kara Thwaites, who has a son in Year 7.





A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Michael Ross'.

Michael Ross
Chair of
Governors

Find out more about the work of our School Governors here:
www.rphs.org.uk/31/governors

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Do you have a story you'd like to share in our next newsletter?
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