



BRAND NEW ASTROTURF HOCKEY PITCH

FIND OUT MORE
ON PAGES 4-5

Dear Families,

As the first term of this academic year draws to a close, there is much to celebrate at Raynes Park High School.

Record numbers of Year 7s have now successfully completed their first term with us and our Open Evening and Open Mornings for the September 2019 intake were a great success. Our first Challenge Evening was really well attended as we launched our Scholars Programme for High Attainers and we were thrilled to take part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, which saw our students perform a brilliant adaptation of *The Tempest* at Leatherhead Theatre.

We are also pleased to have been able to provide more extra-curricular activities for our students than ever before with the majority of students participating in a range of clubs. On the sporting front, our collaboration with Fulham Football Club has been successful for a second year and the students involved in the education programme attending the Sixth Form have settled in well, managing their studies and training commitment. We held our first



Sports Awards Evening at Craven Cottage and we were delighted that families were able to join us for this event. We have also continued to develop our partnership with BECSLink, awarding more Tim Henman Scholarships for our students to pursue an interest out of school and we are delighted to have entered into partnership with the Wimbledon Club and Adidas.

This is also a good time to reflect on and celebrate our students' achievements over the past four months. If I focus on the core business of any school, teaching and learning, it has been a privilege when walking around the school each day to see students engaged in their learning, taking a huge amount of pride in their books. Their work ethic has been commented on by the many visitors to the school who have also been impressed with the behaviour and presentation of our students. This week, 200 students will be enjoying a Rewards afternoon in recognition of their hard work and excellent attendance. We were also delighted to celebrate our students' achievements (academic year 2017 - 2018) at the annual Awards Assembly on Monday. Local resident Kiko Matthews was able to join us to present the awards and the first Milo Little Values Award was presented to Mr and Mrs Little in memory of Milo, a truly exceptional student who is greatly missed by staff and students alike.

Whilst we have continued to work hard throughout the term with the Pre-Public Examinations taking place, we have entered into the spirit of the festive season with our choir singing at the Raynes Park Christmas festival and students enjoying Christmas lunch last Friday. We were also delighted to be invited to the Literary festival where four students read poems related to Christmas at the event held at Merton Library. I am particularly proud that the students have thought of those who are less fortunate at this time of year by donating over 100 blankets, 40 sleeping bags and 35 pairs of shoes in addition to four bin bags of toiletries and seven bags of clothes for the Help Refugees Campaign; thank

you so much for your generous contributions to this worthy cause.

Following the success of these events last year, we held a second Academic Target Setting Day in September, in addition to Parent/Carer Information Evenings at the start of term. We hope you found these to be informative and useful in supporting your child this year, and we will be holding an Academic Review Day in the summer term to discuss the progress made against these targets. We also held Year 7 and Sixth Form Progress Evenings for families to meet key staff and discuss the first term in these crucial year groups; thank you for the positive feedback and suggestions as to how these events can be improved going forwards. I also remain committed to ensuring communication continues to improve and welcome parent feedback on this area too. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the PTA meeting this week; we look forward to hearing more about a PTA event in the summer term.

At the time of writing this, I am looking forward to our whole school assembly on Friday. The assembly will see the students and staff celebrating this term's achievement together and congratulations to those students who have won awards. We will bid farewell to Ms Bartle (PE) and Ms Murray (DT) and wish them every success in their new schools. We also wish Ms McInerney all the best for her maternity leave and Ms Hill and Ms Lawner our very best wishes for their retirements.

Raynes Park High School continues to be a thriving community and there is much to celebrate. We have already achieved so much this term; it is now time for a well-deserved break for our families, staff and students. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to welcoming in the new term on Monday 7th January at 11am.

K Heard
Mrs K Heard
Headteacher

AWARDS AFTERNOON

We were delighted to welcome families to our Awards Afternoon on Monday 17th December to celebrate the success of so many students in the last Academic Year. Students were awarded prizes for attainment and effort in subjects as well as some special Headteacher awards. We were fortunate to welcome Kiko Matthews to the afternoon who presented our students with their awards and spoke about her amazing journey to becoming the fastest female to cross the Atlantic as a solo rower in March 2018.

We have also introduced a Values Award which will be given to one student each year who shows the schools values in everything they do. This year the award was given to Milo Little for outstanding kindness, bravery and always showing respect to others. Thank you to Milo's family for attending the ceremony to collect the award in his memory.





BRAND NEW ASTROTURF HOCKEY PITCH

Raynes Park High School in partnership with the Wimbledon Hockey Club opens brand new AstroTurf hockey pitch for training purposes and international hockey games

Raynes Park High School in partnership with the Wimbledon Club has opened its new £500,000 AstroTurf hockey pitch. The new pitch is not only being used for school matches, but also elite hockey games. The Wimbledon Club funded the new pitch and is paying for its ongoing maintenance.

Kirsten Heard, Headteacher, Raynes Park High School, says: 'We are pleased to have partnered with the Wimbledon Club on this fantastic project. Students are already using the pitch and the Wimbledon Club has held its first training

session there. The AstroTurf hockey pitch is such a fantastic asset for the school and presents opportunities for students to improve their game and learn about the sport from the Wimbledon Club. As a BECSLink Community school, this initiative underlines our strategy to forge partnerships with the local community. It puts us on the map as a community school and garners interest in hockey.'

Paul Knowles, Head of Junior Hockey, the Wimbledon Club, says 'We're over the moon that the AstroTurf pitch is now open and our members have already been enjoying the new facility. Our partnership with Raynes Park High School secures the club's long-term future use of a world class pitch. With 20 international players and ten Olympians, this is a much-needed facility for our elite players as well as our wider membership. Paul Knowles, Head of Junior Hockey, the Wimbledon Club, says 'We're over the moon that the AstroTurf pitch is now open and our members have already been enjoying the new facility. Our partnership with Raynes Park High School secures the club's long-term future use of a world class pitch. With

20 international players and ten 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 provides the base for expanding our junior programme and enables us to inspire more local children to take part in the sport.'

Crista Cullen, MBE, Olympic gold medal field hockey player and a member of the Wimbledon 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. This impressive new pitch not only provides a much needed world-class surface, but is also a venue to inspire local children to enjoy the sport supported by our team of international players and coaches from Wimbledon.'

Next year the Wimbledon Club will offer coaching to students at the school with the aim of developing their long term love of the sport. The club has already been supporting the school by providing inspirational coaches and players to attend school events and donating new hockey sticks.

The new AstroTurf pitch provides a new venue to expand the Wimbledon Club's schools outreach programme. The pitch is predominantly being used for hockey, although it can be used for other sports such as football using temporary football marks which can be brushed off.

About Raynes Park High School

Raynes Park High School is a co-educational comprehensive school which educates over 1,000 pupils, aged 11 to 19. It became the first state school to be an accredited Tim Henman Foundation BECSLink Community in March this year. The school is working alongside national and local Merton businesses, education charities, and sports and arts organisations to provide outstanding 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 and interests.

www.raynespark.merton.sch.uk

About The Wimbledon Club

The Wimbledon Club, founded in 1883, is one of the world's oldest hockey clubs. It is a section of the multi-sport Wimbledon Club. Wimbledon is 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 bought hockey to 2,000 local Merton state school children.

www.thewimbledonclub.co.uk/hockey

SPORTING UPDATES



Merton Sports Leaders

Raynes Park High School hosted three borough football events for the Merton primary schools during the month of November 2018. As per usual, ten year nine leaders were supplied to help the Merton organisers deliver the events without any hitches. Games were played on the Raynes Park High School Memorial Ground and the Year 9 leaders once again shone in their capacity as ambassadors for the school. As referee's and general officiating support, the leaders were amongst the 'best they have had' and were a 'credit to the school', were the words of Merton staff members. Well done and on to the next event!



Sports Awards Evening 2018

After a long time in the waiting, Raynes Park held its first (hopefully of many) Sports Award Evenings at Craven Cottage on Friday 16th November 2018. Award categories included Sport Personalities, Team of the Year, Resilience Cup, Respect Cup, Results Cup, Participation Awards, Community Award and the Leadership Award. The students and parents were treated to fantastic hospitality from the staff at the Cottage and were treated to a key note speech by the CEO of the Fulham Foundation, Mike McSweeney. For more information on award winners, see pages 14-15 and visit the sport section of the website: www.rphs.org.uk

New Hockey Pitch

Excited Raynes Park High School students finally got a run out on our brand new £500k hockey pitch at the beginning of November. The world class water based astro includes an 80-seater stand, two team dug outs and improved lighting which makes the surface truly stand out in the



evening! Students have played football fixtures on there, along with using it for PE lessons. From January 2019, the next phase of the partnership will introduce hockey to the students of the school and wider community, providing access to high quality coaching and world class facilities.

Nitto Tennis Masters

For the second year in a row, twenty lucky Year 7 students were selected to have a day at the O2 arena, watching Masters Tennis. Students were served up a feast of high-class singles and doubles tennis from the best players in the world. A massive thank you to our partners at BECSLink and the Tim Henman Foundation for making this possible for our young students, some of which had never been to such an amazing venue before. (More on pages 16-17.)

Fulham Mascots

Following a unique and very exciting collaboration between Adidas, Fulham Football Club and Raynes Park, three students were given the privilege to be Fulham Mascots for their recent Premier League game against Watford.

The students were given the opportunity to take a pre-match stadium tour along with an official photographer, participate in the tunnel line up and pitch walk, and have a pre-match photo in the centre with the Fulham Captain before returning to their seats to watch the match

Congratulations to Tyrique, Bobby and Lucy who represented the school superbly and watched a tight encounter between Fulham and Watford, ending in a 1-1 score line.

Adidas Academy

Monday 29th October 2018 represented a significant date for Raynes Park High School and the students of Year 7. The aforementioned date represents the start of their journey as the first ever



Adidas Scholars at Raynes Park High School. The objective is clear, to achieve 12 challenges over the course of the year to become Adidas Graduates. Those that manage to achieve graduation will attend an exclusive ceremony at Craven Cottage in July 2019. They will receive Adidas certification and a bespoke badge, which they can wear with pride on their blazers. This badge will be endorsed by Adidas Global and will only be accessible to those who graduate at Raynes Park. As if this wasn't enough, those who demonstrate 'above and beyond' qualities throughout the process will be invited for an exclusive tour of Old Trafford and the Adidas Headquarters in Stockport. A truly wonderful opportunity!

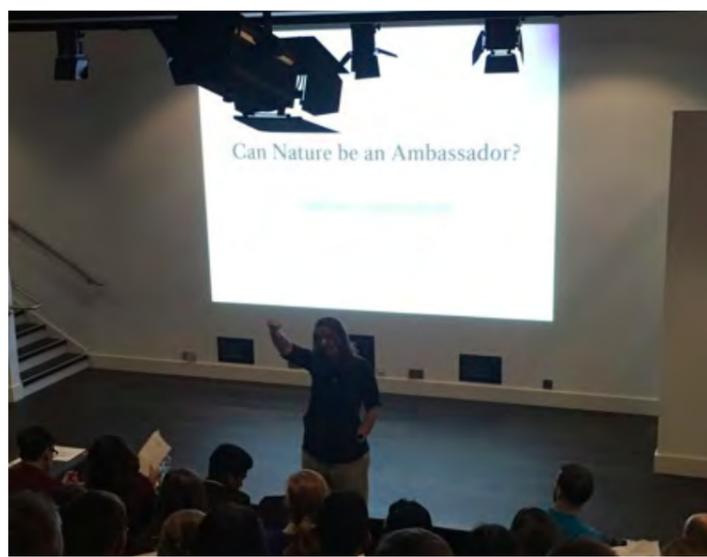
With the support of our partners at Fulham FC and of course Adidas, the students will be supported throughout their journey from scholar to graduate. We aim to get as many students as possible to the Cottage to graduate ... impossible is nothing after all!

The partnership was signed and sealed with a handshake between Director of Sport, Mr Wilson-Boyle and CSR Manager at Adidas Global, Jonathan Collinge at the launch assembly. An apt way to end the assembly were the concluding remarks from Jonathan ... 'Through sport, we have the power to change lives. Our goal is to inspire young men and women to reach their full potential and to be inclusive'.

The first challenge students face will be to design the logo for this exciting partnership. The winning design will be the focal point of the badge students will wear.

Good luck to the class of 2019!

Mr C Wilson-Boyle
Director of Sport



ASPIRATIONS VISIT TO KING'S COLLEGE



On Monday 24th September, several of our Year 10 students were given the opportunity to visit King's College London University for a future aspirations talk.

The main question of the day asked to our students was 'Why university?', is it the right choice for you and how can it aid you in ending up where you want to in a specific industry or career role. Students were given seminars throughout the day from the likes of university professors and current students about why they may want to pursue the university route. The day finished with a workshop looking at how progressing through university can support you in answering those burning questions you have in the back of your minds; like 'Can Nature be an Ambassador?', can it show us how to live in a more environmentally sustainable way? Can we solve first and third world problems by naturally occurring events? These were all questions posed by a doctor studying at the university and how she was able to answer this question using the tools a university has to offer.

In a follow up event, the students were invited to King's College Wimbledon to take part in an Art of Learning workshop, delivered by some world renowned educational psychologists flown in especially from New Zealand for the event.

The event involved schools from across Merton and focussed on providing our students with more tools to utilise in their GCSE years, with particular attention paid to how to manage your emotions towards your studies.

All students found the events beneficial in developing learning techniques and helping them to make informed decisions on if university is an option for them to reach their goals in the future.

Some even learnt how to juggle.

Mr J Wheel
Assistant Head of Year 10



In October, a group of Year 11 students visited Merton College and Carshalton College to give them the chance to look at the courses and facilities on offer. We were very impressed with the motorbike and motor vehicle workshops, the hair and beauty salons and the media suites. Students enjoyed the chance to see what a further education college is like and were encouraged to make applications for courses next year.

Ms B Brake
Careers Leader

MERTON YOUTH PARLIAMENT



Student leaders from Years 7 to 11 took part in the Merton Youth Parliament Consultation Day. The students had the opportunity to discuss issues that are most concerning to young people within the borough of Merton, for example, health, crime and the environment. In addition, Merton Youth Parliament aims to provide a platform where young people can voice their opinions whilst working alongside Merton Youth Parliament to create an effective action plan to tackle issues raised. It was a very productive and enjoyable day that allowed the students of Raynes Park to work alongside students from a range of schools in Merton.

Mr C Beck
Assistant Head of Year 8

BUSINESS STUDIES TRIP TO WIMBLEDON GOLF CLUB

On Thursday 12th October our Year 12 Business Studies students visited the Wimbledon Common Golf Club and met the operations manager who kindly welcomed us to the Lenton Room. The students eagerly asked high order questions and in turn received an extensive insight in to Wimbledon Common Golf Club's business model which provided incredibly useful material to develop their coursework. Students were also invited on a guided tour of the facilities which many enjoyed being ambitious athletes and sports pundits.

Ms R Sandhu
Head of Business Studies

'When we went to Wimbledon Common Golf Club we were met by Emma. She took us on a tour around the grounds and gave us a good insight in to what goes on at the golf club. After this, we sat down in one of their hireable rooms and had a conference in the form of a Q&A. During the trip, I learned a real insight into the world of business. The trip opened my eyes to the history of the club and how hard it is to run a golf club on a day-to-day basis. Overall, this trip helped me find out some vital questions for my understanding of my coursework and business'

Thomas Large
Year 12 Applied Business Studies student



“WE ARE SUCH STUFF AS DREAMS ARE MADE ON”

The Tempest
by Raynes Park Secondary School
at The Leatherhead Theatre, 2/11/2018
appraised by Jesse Phillippi

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Raynes Park Secondary School for your fantastic production of The Tempest as part of the 2018 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a brilliant night of theatre, and I'd like to highlight just a few elements that really stood out.

In addition to a Teacher-Director, two hard-working sixth-year Student-Directors were positioned in the wings throughout the rehearsals and show, taking responsibility for props, costumes and more!

This Tempest featured vivid, vibrant performances from a company of sailors, islanders and nobles washed ashore. Every actor enthusiastically played his or her part in transporting us to a magical world. This production showcased enchanting ensemble physicality, featuring graceful movement sequences and acro-balancing that gripped the audience with hills and caves that appeared from nowhere.

Your company's use of live and recorded music, as well as your incredible physical and vocal ranges, ignited our imaginations by creating an outstanding lyrical fantasy island of mystical inhabitants and visitors.

Performing Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes courage, resilience, and imagination. You and your teachers should all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved.

I hope to see Raynes Park Secondary School in the Festival again next year!

Jesse Phillippi

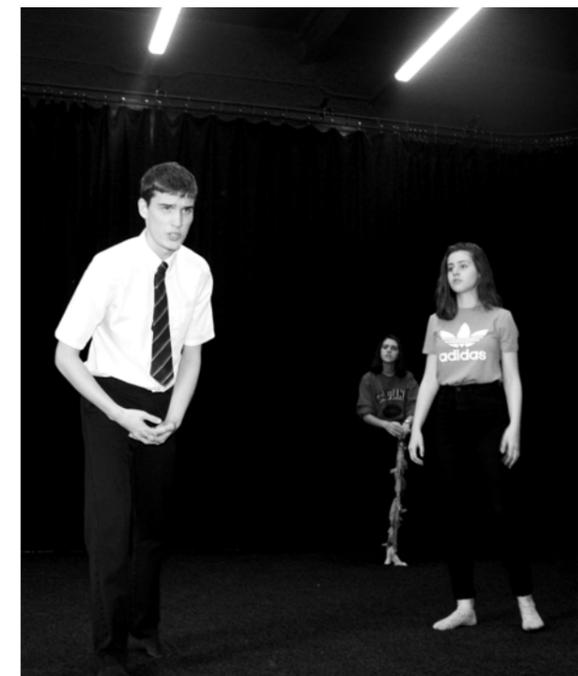
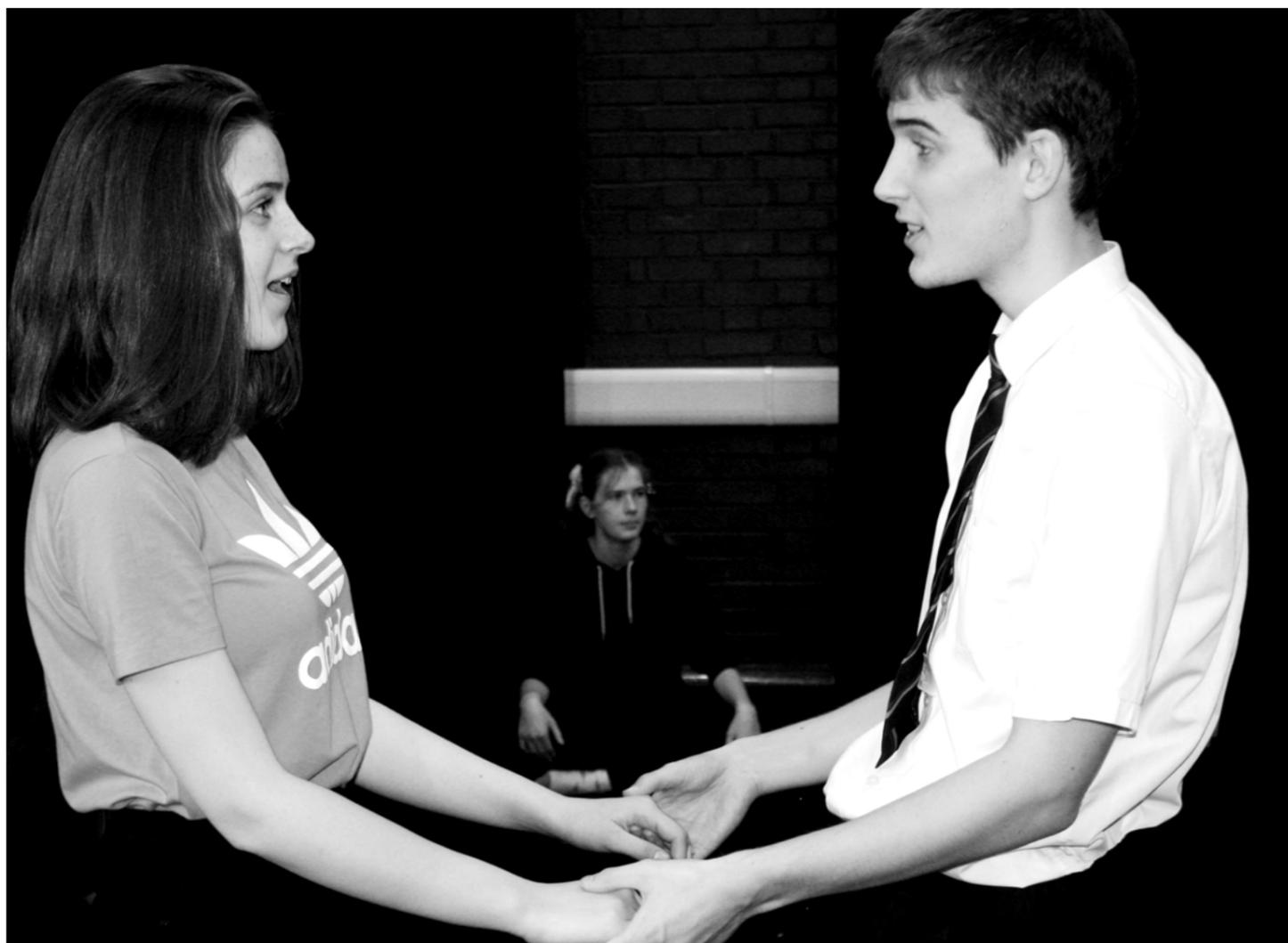
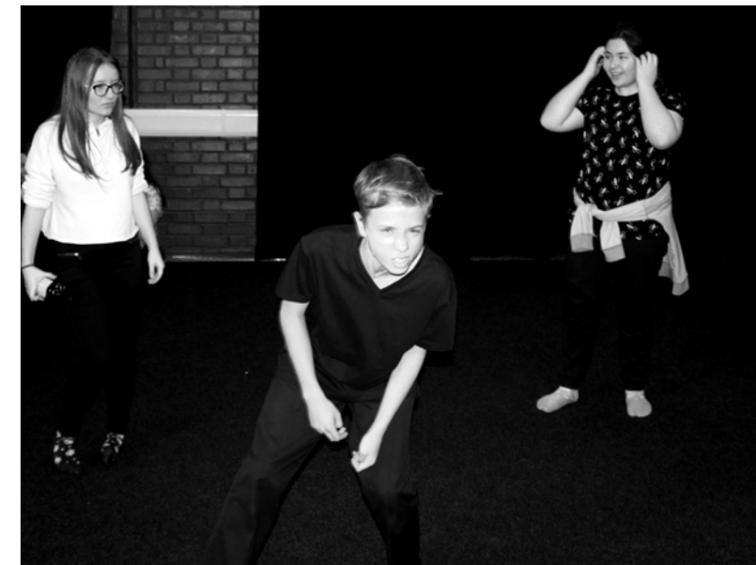
“YOUR COMPANY'S USE OF LIVE AND RECORDED MUSIC, AS WELL AS YOUR INCREDIBLE PHYSICAL AND VOCAL RANGES, IGNITED OUR IMAGINATIONS BY CREATING AN OUTSTANDING LYRICAL FANTASY ISLAND OF MYSTICAL INHABITANTS AND VISITORS.”



SHAKESPEARE IN SCHOOLS FESTIVAL



SHAKESPEARE IN SCHOOLS FESTIVAL





SPORTS AWARD EVENING

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

PARTICIPATION AWARD

Raquel Spindola

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Olivia Stars

VALUE AWARDS

COMMUNITY AWARD

Alex Wyllie

RESPECT AWARD

Taylor Lee

RESILIENCE AWARD

Aaron Keto

RESULTS AWARD

Ashton Keddo

KEY STAGE 3 - TEAM OF THE YEAR

U12's Indoor Athletics Squad

- Jack Chesworth
- Ashton Keddo
- Ogi Mihaylov
- Amere Nelson-Akajagbo
- Zeph Stow
- Reece Williams

KEY STAGE 4 - TEAM OF THE YEAR

U16's Basketball Squad

- Elliott Cooper
- Josh Edgar
- Ethan Kaloudau-Taylor
- Aaron Keto
- Michael Perez
- Daishun Richards
- David Spindola
- Cassidy Thomas
- Adam Toubal

SPORTS PERSONALITY AWARDS

Year 7: Lola Ciano and Zeph Stow

Year 8: Kenzie Thomas and Zack Douglas

Year 9: Paige Pullen and Kadeem Ishmael-Parris

Year 10: Kasheera Ejakita and Elliot Cooper





ATP WORLD TENNIS FINALS

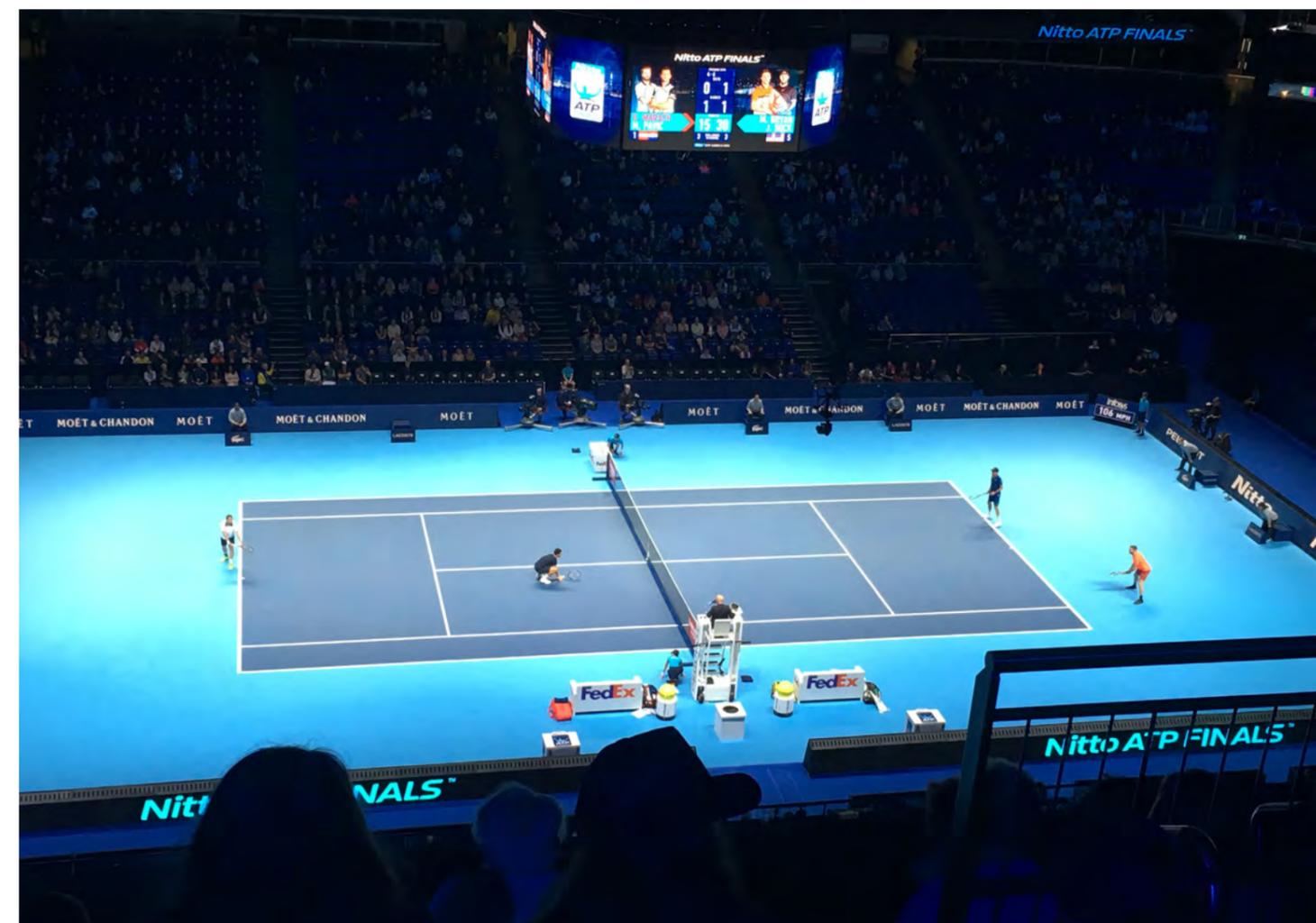
Last month Raynes Park Visited the O2 arena to watch the Nitto ATP Tennis Finals. Fifty students from Raynes Park High School and Aragon and Hillcross Primary Schools travelled up to London as part of the BECSlink partnership and had the pleasure of watching the best doubles and singles players in the world.

First on court were the doubles pairings of Oliver Marach and Mate Pavic who were beaten by the eventual tournament winners Mike Bryan and Jack Sock. In a thrilling game that produced amazing volleys, thunderous serving and awesome teamwork, the students were amazed at the speed and power of live tennis. The second game of the afternoon would be repeated later in the week as

both players made the final. World number one Novak Djokovic won comfortably in straight sets against one of the games newest and brightest players Alex Zverev. Neither player produced their best tennis of the tournament but it was Djokovic's relentless pressure and ability to return the ball that eventually frustrated the youngster.

It was a wonderful afternoon watching the best players in world compete. The atmosphere was electric and students were amazed at the speed, power and quality of the tennis and the size and structure of the O2. Thank you to all the students for making the trip a joy to be part of and what an experience watching the best doubles and singles players in the world.

Mr I Barnes
Head of Year 7



BAR MOCK TRIAL



BAR MOCK TRIAL





This year's literary event held on Wednesday 5th December and was hosted by the chair of MyRaynesPark, Tom Underwood. It was held at Raynes Park Library and was an interesting event which included stories, poems readings and any spoken word relating to Christmas.

We were represented by four students; Charlotte Brown, Joana Nunes and Katie Robinson all in Year 10 and Nicole Heath in Year 9.

Charlotte Brown and Joana Nunes performed a Christmas skit *The Good Thing About Christmas* which was funny and entertaining. Katie Robinson read an extract from the poem *The Christmas Truce* by Carol Ann Duffy and this reminded people of what Christmas is all about, Peace. Nicole read a very modern poem about the excitement and anticipation we all feel in the days running up to Christmas *It's soon to be Christmas*.

Feedback from staff and students was that the evening lived up to the hype. It was attended by people of all ages and the readings were on various topics all to do with Christmas. The organisers were really impressed with the performance of our students and have promised to get in touch again next year.

Ms A Okonkwo
Librarian

**Extract from *The Christmas Truce*
by Carol Ann Duffy**

But it was Christmas Eve; *believe*; belief thrilled the night air,
where glittering rime on unburied sons
treasured their stiff hair.
The sharp, clean, midwinter smell held memory.

On watch, a rifleman scoured the terrain -
no sign of life,
no shadows, shots from snipers, nowt to note or report.
The frozen, foreign fields were acres of pain.

Then flickering flames from the other side danced in his eyes,
as Christmas Trees in their dozens shone, candlelit on the parapets,
and they started to sing, all down the German lines.

Men who would drown in mud, be gassed, or shot, or vaporised
by falling shells, or live to tell, heard for the first time then -
Stille Nacht. Heilige Nacht. Alles schläft, einsam wacht ...

*Cariad, the song was a sudden bridge from man to man;
a gift to the heart from home,
or childhood, some place shared ...*
When it was done, the British soldiers cheered.

A Scotsman started to bawl *The First Noel*
and all joined in,
till the Germans stood, seeing
across the divide,
the sprawled, mute shapes of those who had died.

All night, along the Western Front, they sang, the enemies -
carols, hymns, folk songs, anthems, in German, English, French;
each battalion choired in its grim trench.

So Christmas dawned, wrapped in mist, to open itself
and offer the day like a gift
for Harry, Hugo, Hermann, Henry, Heinz ...
with whistles, waves, cheers, shouts, laughs.

Frohe Weihnachten, Tommy! Merry Christmas, Fritz!
A young Berliner, brandishing schnapps,
was the first from his ditch to climb.
A Shropshire lad ran at him like a rhyme.



The Good Thing About Christmas Skit

Narrator 1: A good thing about Christmas is ...
Scout: ... Getting Christmas cards.
(opens envelope pulls out the card and smiles)
Narrator 2: A bad thing about Christmas is ...
Adult Leader: ... Writing out and sending the Christmas cards.

Narrator 1: A good thing about Christmas is ...
Scout: ... Christmas vacation.
Narrator 2: A bad thing about Christmas is ...
Adult Leader: ... Christmas vacation.

Narrator 1: A good thing about Christmas is ...
Scout: ... Dreaming that you're Santa flying through the sky.
Narrator 2: A bad thing about Christmas is ...
Adult Leader: ... Wearing an old rented Santa suit.

Narrator 1: A good thing about Christmas is ...
Scout: ... Having a white Christmas.
(flutters his fingers like snow)
Narrator 2: A bad thing about Christmas is ...
Adult Leader: ... Having a white Christmas.

Narrator 1: A good thing about Christmas is ...
Scout: ... Eating Christmas cookies.
Narrator 2: A bad thing about Christmas is ...
Adult Leader: ... Making Christmas cookies.

Narrator 1: A good thing about Christmas is ...
Scout: ... Santa comes.
Narrator 2: A bad thing about Christmas is ...
Adult Leader: ... Santa's reindeer come too.

Narrator 1: A good thing about Christmas is ...
Scout: ... Unwrapping presents.
Narrator 2: A bad thing about Christmas is ...
Adult Leader: ... Cleaning up after unwrapping presents.

Narrator 1: A good thing about Christmas is ...
Scout: ... Peace on Earth.
Narrator 2: A bad thing about Christmas is ...
Adult Leader: ... It's not always so peaceful.

Narrator 1: A good thing about Christmas is ...
Scout: ... Christmas dinner.
Narrator 2: A bad thing about Christmas is ...
Adult Leader: ... Aunt Ruth.

Narrator 1: A good thing about Christmas is ...
Scout: ... Getting a do it yourself - build your own motorcycle kit and your Dad is going to help you put it together.

Narrator 2: A bad thing about Christmas is ...
Adult Leader: ... Opening the box and finding the instructions are in Chinese.

Narrator 1: A good thing about Christmas is ...
Scout: ... it's only ___ days away.
Narrator 2: A bad thing about Christmas is ...
Adult Leader: ... It only comes once a year. Merry Christmas!

It's Soon to be Christmas

It's soon to be that time of year
when carols are sung for all to hear,
when mince pies are eaten and stories are told,
and we all come together, young and old.

It's soon to be that special day,
when Santa flies high in his sleigh,
and puts our gifts under the tree,
lots for you and loads for me!

It's soon to be here and I can't wait,
we must begin to decorate!
A ribbon here and a bauble there,
wrap the presents, there's lots to prepare!

But when it's done and we all sit down,
and by the fire we'll gather round.
We'll hang our stockings and wish for snow,
then off to bed we'll swiftly go.

I'll close my eyes and fall asleep fast,
and when I wake up, it'll be Christmas at last.

FULHAM FOOTBALL CUP



FULHAM FOOTBALL CUP





Year 10 Trip to Hampton Court Palace

The Year 10 Photography students took a trip to Hampton Court Palace to take photographs of the palace gardens. This was an excellent opportunity for the students to shoot on location and photograph a variety of botanical plants. The students were inspired by their surroundings and have produced some fantastic images, which they are currently editing for their 'Patterns in Nature' coursework project.

Ms C Curtis
Head of Art and Photography

'I really enjoyed the trip to Hampton Court Palace. There were lots of nice flowers to photograph. The trip really helped me develop my skills and use the SLR camera. I am really pleased with my photographs'

Casey Hicks
Year 10 Student

Year 10 Trip to Westminster Abbey

The Year 10 Fine Art students were truly inspired by their visit to Westminster Abbey. They took photographs and produced sketches of the iconic building as inspiration for their current project based on the Urban Landscape. The art students are currently producing mono prints based on their photographs and are adding watercolours in the style of the artist John Piper.

Ms C Curtis
Head of Art and Photography

'I got to see parts of London that I haven't seen before, seeing the building in real life helped me explore and understand Westminster Abbey at different angles'

Emma Zafirovska
Year 10 Student

'The trip really helped us understand the building. Ms Peliza helped us a lot to take photographs of different angles of the building. It was good to go and experience the atmosphere'

Itailya Dowe
Year 10 Student

YEAR 12 ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP

'My photography class had the opportunity to visit the 'Shape of Light' exhibition at the Tate Modern in order to complete our project. The project specified that we had to select a photographer to provide inspiration for our own imitations of their work. Within the exhibition we saw a variety of different artists work including: Alexandre Vitkine, John Hilliard, and Alexander Rodchenko (who we studied previously). Photographers that we selected were Paul Strand, Bill Brant, Daisuke Yokota, Brassai, and Barbara Kasten. I picked Paul Strand because I was really interested in his ideas and the intentions of his work, where others were very interested in the way the photograph was constructed. Overall the exhibition was a very good opportunity to perceive a range of different artists and experience photography from an audience's perspective'

Emanuela Di Martino
Year 12 Student

Fifteen of our students contributed to the annual Raynes Park Christmas Festival on Friday 7th December by singing their hearts out outside Waitrose. The entire car park was packed out with festivities, stalls of all kinds, and it was an incredibly positive occasion for all. The choir sang several festive carols plus a loud rendering of a song from the multi-million selling album *The Greatest Showman*. Mr Calver was very proud of how loud the choir sang.

Those taking part were: Poppy Clark, Emily Cox, Steven Da Silva, Tamara Ftoumi, Aaron Grinsted, Nicole Heath, Heejin Lee, Martyna Okolot, Carlota Sarango, Harriet Shipton, Renalda Sepatutex, Ayeisha Tinka, Paige Wilde and Charlotte Williams.

The choir will continue to be busy at this time of the year and are working towards ending the year on a high with performances at the Awards Evening on Monday 17th December and during the assembly on the last day of term.

Mr T Calver
Head of Music



JACK PETCHEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CELEBRATION EVENING

JACK PETCHEY PROGRAMME



It was a pleasure to be a part of the Jack Petchey Achievement Awards Celebration this year which took place at the Polka dot Theatre in Wimbledon on Monday 15th October. Our Jack Petchey Award winners all received certificates and medals, the parents were also in attendance. It was a packed theatre with students from many different schools. Our students did us proud and it was a great opportunity to recognise the achievements of our young people who were all nominated because in some way they have made a difference either by: helping others; being a good role model; coping with adversity; doing community work; giving service within the community; or maybe just trying really hard!

Well done to Mia Ciano, Najma Dahir, Eva Uzunova, Mathew McInnes Swaney, Josh Trivet and Phoebe Brooks.

Ms G Crowe
Associate Assistant Head Teacher

In November, a group of 11, Year 9 students went to The London Dungeons as part of the Jack Petchey program. Najma Dahir was nominated for being an incredibly positive, helpful and pro-active member of the school community. She always throws herself into everything and is a really positive role model in general!

We had an incredible day at The London Dungeon experiencing the interesting and terrifying stories from around the city.

'The best part of the day was when it was nearly the end and there was an escaped prisoner killing people. I enjoyed the day so much and the journey as well. Thank you to Mr Beck for helping me organise the trip and Ms Crowe for organising the money to go and everyone on the trip for behaving so well!'

Najma Dahir
Student





GOOD FOOD SHOW BIRMINGHAM



This year we were lucky enough to be allocated tickets in the schools draw for the Good Food Winter Show in Birmingham. Fifteen Year 9 and 10 Catering students ventured to the Birmingham NEC on the train. We came prepared to taste lots of delicious food and we were not disappointed! The students and staff were very happy to try a huge range of samples of local produce and larger branded products ranging from cheese on toast popcorn to scrumptious brownies. We even braved trying some super hot, hot sauces! We got to bump into *The Great British Bake Off* winner Nadiya Hussain and listen to her top tips on the Good Food stage. We all had a great day and some of the exhibitors were so impressed with our student's knowledge that they gave them some prizes.

Ms G Murray
Head of Design and Technology



MATHS CHALLENGE



Last month was another busy month for our A-Level Mathematicians, first up was the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge where our top performing Year 12 and Year 13 Mathematicians tested their problem solving skills on the senior challenge paper. The paper contains 25 multiple choice questions. Of these, the first 15 questions are more accessible whilst the final ten questions definitely provide more food for thought. Special congratulations need to go to David Christodoulides and Charlie Ross who have been invited to take part in the next round, the Senior Kangaroo.

David, Charlie, Dardan and Khaing also attended the Senior Team Maths Challenge at Kingston University. This competition tests mathematical, communication and teamwork skills, and students compete against teams from other schools and colleges from the region.

The competition consists of three rounds.

Round one is the group round where there are ten questions which the teams have around 40 minutes to solve. Teams must decide their own strategy: work in pairs, as a group or individually.

Round two is the crossnumber round. This is similar to a crossword but with numerical answers. Teams work in pairs. One pair has the across clues, and the other pair has the down clues. Pairs work independently to complete the grid using logic and deduction.

The final round is the shuttle round where teams again work in pairs to compete against the clock to correctly answer a series of four questions. Question 1 can be solved independently of the others, but the answer to each subsequent question is dependent on the previous answer and questions and answers are swapped between pairs. The team were our most successful ever and did incredibly well and were close to qualifying for the next round.

Ms C Henderson
Maths Teacher

CHALLENGE EVENING

It was fantastic to see so many of our parents at Challenge Evening which took place on Thursday 6th December. A key focus for the school this year has been challenge and this was a good opportunity to share with parents details of how students are being challenged in the classroom as well as provide an overview of how our Scholars Programme works for High Attaining students. Parents were given useful information about what

they could do to support their child in each subject area, they were then able to meet Subject Leads and have a chat over a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine. The evening was very positive and helped to raise the profile of how Raynes Park High School supports its High Attainers.

Ms G Crowe
Associate Assistant Headteacher

MENTORING PROGRAMME

Last academic year, a large number of Year 9 pupils applied to become a Peer Mentor. After a rigorous selection process, 10 pupils were selected who demonstrated that they had the qualities to become a Peer Mentor and undertake training with myself. After six hours of training after school that was engaging and fun, the new Year 10 Peer Mentors were ready to take up their new roles for the first time and support their fellow pupils. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the next group of Year 10 Peer Mentors, whom I am very proud of and I know will do a fantastic job, in what is an important and supportive role in our school: Aaron, Ethan, Carlota, Helen, Katie, Heejin, Charlotte, Joanathan, Cody and Poppy.

If students would to become a Peer Mentor, applications will be open to Year 9's in the Summer term.

'The Peer Mentoring training was clear, engaging, insightful and I felt ready and prepared going into my first mentoring session thanks to Mr Smith'

Charlotte
Year 10 Peer Mentor

'Peer Mentoring is great for your social skills, self-confidence, CV and I would recommend it to anyone, who would like to support a fellow pupil'

Jonathan
Year 10 Peer Mentor

'I can't thank Mr Smith enough for a fantastic training experience he provided, where I feel prepared and equipped to be Peer Mentor'

Poppy
Year 10 Peer Mentor



On a wet and grey Friday morning in December, eight intrepid Year 10 physicists set off with Mr Jones and Miss Funnell to the Science Museum, to visit the latest blockbuster exhibition – *The Sun : Living With Our Star*. Once there, the damp and dreary outside conditions were quickly forgotten as they explored the amazing exhibition about our nearest star. They ventured through a fascinating look at how humanity has interacted with the Sun throughout history, from believing that its movement is the Egyptian God Ra moving across the sky,

to the first sunglasses being used by Venetian gondoliers on the sunny canals. There were beautiful objects and gold aplenty, including sundials, clocks and an orrery showing the motion of the Earth. There was a major section on healthcare and how the Sun has been used for healing, including a carriage that was used to wheel out children suffering from tuberculosis to get their dose of sunlight, a light bath for those convalescing from illness and more recently, adverts advising against overexposure to sunlight. Half way through, the students took a break on a false

beach where they were able to sit on a deckchair and listen to beach sounds through coconut speakers. Towards the end, and looking to the future, there was a focus on solar energy, new flexible solar panels and the research efforts to create sustainable nuclear fusion. A fitting finale to the exhibition was an immersive film of the Sun seen at multiple different wavelengths of radiation including visible light, ultraviolet, infrared and X-rays.

Mr R Jones
Head of Physics



On Friday 7th December a group of Year 10 students visited the Science Museum to explore an exhibition about the Sun. There we learnt about how and why humans have been harvesting the Sun's energy for years. We had the opportunity to see the surface of the Sun and the Sun at different wavelengths. We were shown how humans have depicted the Sun over time and created machines that can indicate what the time is. For example, one of the first ways to work out the time was by using shadows. We saw one of the most important books by Nicolaus Copernicus *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Orbs*. This was a book talking about the movement of planets and how the Earth is orbiting the Sun. In addition, we had the chance

to learn more about solar energy and how potentially beneficial it is to a sustainable future. Also we were shown the light hours around the world on an illuminated display which allowed us to see the different hours of light depending on where a country is located. We were also shown one of the first nuclear fusion devices and told how it works.

In conclusion, I really enjoyed this trip and experience as it allowed me to improve my existing knowledge. I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in the Sun or clean energy.

Eva Uzunova
Year 10 Student

'On Monday 10th December, my Year 11 Geography class completed the human section of our fieldwork in Stratford, East London. Prior to the trip, there had been much discussion amongst the year group about where we'd be going and exactly what we'd discover. By the end of the day, we felt fully enlightened and very satisfied with our day of exploration and data collection.

We met in the main hall, and after registering, promptly left for Raynes Park Station. At the beginning of the train journey, we received task booklets and were introduced to the plan for the day.

We had six locations and one day to visit them.

We were ready.

Firstly, we stopped at the Stratford Centre, where we completed an Environmental Quality Survey, took photos and explored the centre (which also allowed some to window-shop). A similar process then took place as



we visited Stratford High Street, the Carpenters Estate, Westfield (where it snowed inside), East Village (formerly the Olympic Village) and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The highlight of the day was definitely the Olympic Park. The air was cool and clean and the atmosphere was calm. We observed a flowing river and a huge range of trees and flowers which showed the biodiversity possible in a

city. Finally the swings gave all of us a chance to relax.

Overall, as well as completing an essential part of our Geography specification, we were able to experience the beauty of nature in London and see the positive effects of urban greening and regeneration'

Salome Khurtsilava
Year 11 Student



READING BUDDIES IN THE LIBRARY

As part of the push to improve literacy in the school, the reading buddy system has been set up in the library to help students improve their reading skills. The goal of the program is to have students read regularly to enhance their vocabulary and comprehension as well as their speed. We buddy up younger students with older students so that the younger students can have conversations about topics that interest and involve them (extending their vocabulary, oral language abilities) and they have regular opportunities to practice familiar reading with 1:1 assistance.

For the older students, they get the opportunity to further develop their own literacy skills, fostering leadership and problem-solving skills, improving self-confidence that comes from being looked-up to and a very real and important reason to be responsible. We also use the buddy sessions to help improve the spoken, written and reading skills of our EAL students who are very happy to be involved. The program will be run throughout the whole year and both the young buddy and the older buddy hopefully, will find the sessions rewarding.

Ms A Okonkwo
Librarian



YEAR 12 VISIT TO THE BODY WORLDS EXHIBITION

On Wednesday 5th December, the Year 12 A-Level Biologists went to Piccadilly Circus to visit the Body Worlds exhibition. This is a temporary exhibition in London that shows the human anatomy in a completely novel way – using donated bodies. All students found the trip extremely insightful and it gave them a new found appreciation for the human body. The students were able to see the intricate details of key organ systems and structures from the nervous and cardiovascular systems to all the organs used in digestion. There was a particular focus on the cardiovascular and ventilation systems; in the following lessons, the students have been able to apply their knowledge, studying gas exchange in insects and carrying out a fish dissection to compare with the gas exchange system in humans.

Ms M Bowes
Head of Biology

'Once we arrived, the trip opened up my eyes to how our body really works and it helped to consolidate my knowledge, not only in Biology but also in Psychology and PE. I got to learn about the endocrine system and the peripheral nervous system which are both things I have learnt in my GCSE lessons and will learn in more detail at A-Level'

GCSE Biology Student



MODEL UN CONFERENCE AT RICARDS LODGE

On the 9th and 10th of November four Raynes Park Sixth Form students took part in the 4th annual Model UN Conference at Ricards Lodge. The Conference celebrated the 70th anniversary of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and saw students from around London spend two days discussing a range of international issues – and enjoying a free lunch!

Raynes Park students acted as delegates from Fiji and were outstanding ambassadors for the school – and their adopted Pacific island. Resolutions were passed unanimously on issues covering

everything from the migrant crisis in Syria to the Israeli-Palestine conflict. The conference truly showed the power of communication in the face of adversity – something seemingly lacking in the world today.

A special mention goes to Luisa Restrepo for her stirring speech to open the conference and Keira Hayles, who was voted by her peers as 'Most likely to be President'.

Mr J Price
Humanities Teacher

NEWS FROM THE Governors

The autumn term is always very full and the Governing Body has been kept very busy. Governors' role is to challenge and support the school's senior leaders, and it has been great to do so with so many positive developments taking place. Perhaps the most encouraging of these is the fact that September's Year 7 intake was a big 219 – up from 156 last year – a sign that demand for places at Raynes Park High School is rising: for the first time in a very long while there is a waiting list of students wanting to join the school. We must be doing something right!

Of course this all comes at a cost, and one of Governors' most important tasks – set out for us in law – is to keep the school afloat financially. Yes, things are tight, but with good forward planning Raynes Park High School remains in a good position and able to find the funds to cope with the additional demand for places. A great help in this are the partnerships we have developed with Wimbledon Hockey Club to provide our new AstroTurf pitch, with our Premier League partners Fulham FC to fund Sixth Form places for their Academy students, and with other organisations and companies through our BECS Link membership.

At the end of the day, however, the school is about great teaching and learning and great student outcomes (and not just excellent academic results). Governors' programme of meetings and Strategic Visits to the school enable us to be in constant dialogue with the Headteacher, senior leaders and their teams – and directly with students

themselves. The school is doing well and it is our task to challenge it to do even more.

During the term, Governors have been pleased to take part in the school's Open Evening, its Remembrance Assembly and the Sports Awards (at Craven Cottage) and Achievement Evenings, where we have celebrated students' success with them. So much of what Governors do is about getting students to be inspired to aspire. Getting students to be the best they can be is what education is all about.

During the term, we said goodbye to two of our Governors, Terry Fairs and Gill Crowe. We wish them well and thank them for their contribution to our work.

If I have one new year's wish for 2019, it is that we see more parental engagement with the school. There will be an early opportunity for this next term when we hold an election for a Parent Governor vacancy. I hope some mums, dads and carers will be interested enough to put their names forward to help ensure parents' voice continues to be heard at Governors' meetings.



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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