



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

## CHALLENGE WEEKS

FIND OUT MORE  
ON PAGES 16-19

### *Dear Families,*

A great deal seems to have changed since students returned in January with the Sports Hall once again serving as a testing centre; I hope we have managed to maintain a sense of normality for you and your child whilst responding to the changing guidance around COVID-19. Although there are no longer protective measures in place nationally, we have maintained our hand sanitising stations across the school and the majority of staff and students have continued to wear a face mask, particularly in crowded areas. Given the numbers locally, we know that we are still living with the pandemic and we will continue to encourage good hand hygiene and face coverings after Easter.

The Spring Term always sees our Parents' Evenings in the calendar and this year was no exception, although they remained online using SchoolCloud. We were hopeful that we could hold this evening face-to-face for Year 7 as we know many of our families had not visited the school to meet with staff before but given the rise in numbers last week, we reluctantly moved this online too as the safety of all has remained our number one priority. However, I am pleased to report that engagement has remained high this year and we are grateful to those families who made online appointments.

This term, we have continued to prioritise wellbeing. The students all took part in the PASS Survey (Pupil Attitudes to School and Self) just before Christmas and we have spent this term identifying students who would benefit from additional support, whether that be due to worrying about work they missed during the lockdowns or anxiety about returning to school. With that in mind, attendance has also been a key focus to ensure that students settle back into good routines of coming to school on time, every day. I am delighted to report that our attendance has remained above national average throughout the term and we have a number of projects that are supporting students and families who have had fears and worries about coming in to school.

We have also been pleased to prioritise teaching and learning again this term with our focus being on student books following curriculum reviews last term. We have been impressed with quality of work, feedback and the excellent presentation seen demonstrates the positive attitude to learning students display.

1<sup>st</sup> March was National Offer Day when Year 6 families receive information about which school their child will attend for September. Despite having a streamlined Open Evening this year, we are delighted that we received over 300 applications in preferences 1-3. We will now look forward to hosting a range of induction events next term as we prepare to welcome our new cohort of students to Raynes Park High School.

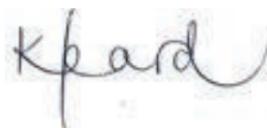
Unfortunately, once again, we were unable to finish the term with our whole School Assembly but students have had a Reward Assembly with their Heads of Year to celebrate all that has gone well. I have been delighted to be able to present my Headteacher Award to a student from each year group for going 'above and beyond'; congratulations to the following students:

- Year 7: Umar
- Year 8: Clara
- Year 9: Tanya
- Year 10: Rainie
- Year 11: Stella
- Year 12: Keira
- Year 13: Jiaxuan

We have also said farewell to Ms Preston and we wish her our very best for her retirement and thank her for her commitment to Raynes Park High School students over the years.

As always, I know you will enjoy reading about the many events the students have taken part in since January and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teaching staff, the support staff and the Governing Body for their hard work, on-going support and commitment to Raynes Park High School, particularly in these uncertain times. I would also like to thank all parents and carers for your support and I wish you and your families an enjoyable Easter and we look forward to working with you again next term.

Best wishes,



Mrs K Heard  
Headteacher

# RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST



Neil Jordan  
Chair, Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust

The Raynes Park High School Trust has ...

## Our aim - raising funds to support Raynes Park High School students!

The School's **EcoGarden** project is moving ahead, and we hope that now that the better weather is arriving that we shall be able to get to work outside. Who knows, some lucky students may be able to eat Raynes Park grown vegetables by the Autumn! The EcoGarden and veg patch needs quite a bit of clearing before planting can start. If you are a keen gardener and have time to help, please get in touch with the Trust - email: [RPHSTrust@outlook.com](mailto:RPHSTrust@outlook.com).

The Former Pupils Association is making good progress in supporting the **staging area project** in the school hall. Already over £14,000 has been raised towards the project, which the School hopes to have in place by the end of the Summer Term. If you would like to sponsor a floor tile in the hall etched with your name or that of a family member or friend, please contact the Trust for further information - email: [RPHSTrust@outlook.com](mailto:RPHSTrust@outlook.com).

By making online purchases through the **easyfundraising** website the school can benefit financially. To date you have managed to raise over £1000 for student projects. Thousands of small and large companies are in the scheme, such as eBay, Just Eat and John Lewis. It will not cost you anything. A small proportion of what you pay is donated by the company to the Trust. Please sign up and nominate the **Raynes Park High School Trust** and buy online! Here is the link you need to participate:

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs)

Every little contribution helps! Have a great Easter break.

raised over £1,000 through the easyfundraising website

sourced funding that is moving the EcoGarden project forward

Every little contribution helps!

Thank you for your continued support



## UKRAINE APPEAL



As the crisis in Ukraine continues to displace many families and children from their homes, our students have shown great empathy and have been keen to support those affected. During March we collected resources for children ie nappies, wet wipes, medicine etc to be sent to Ukraine. A huge thank you to all the families that were able to donate resources, it was very emotional when the lorry collected everything on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March as it will make a huge difference to the Ukrainian families.

The students have also been wearing blue and yellow ribbons to actively show their support, these ribbons can be bought from the main reception for 50p.

The students in 9JL hosted the biggest cake sale ever, raising money for Save the Children to support the Ukrainian families. Thank you to all the staff and families for baking and donating the cakes. We have raised over £1800 from the cake and ribbon sales.

### Comic Relief

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 the school supported Comic Relief and held a charity mufti day. The students raised over £700 for a very worthwhile charity. Thank you for your support.

Ms J Fowler  
Assistant Headteacher



## 1001 ARABIAN NIGHTS

Last Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, thirteen of our students took part in the Kings College Community production of *1001 Arabian Nights*.

The show involved a cast, choir, technical theatre crew and musicians numbering in excess of 120. It was performed to a packed house of parents and staff from all schools from the Wimbledon independent-state schools' partnership.

This production was organised during the Autumn and Spring Terms, involving over fifty King's volunteers working with students from Raynes Park High School and ten other maintained secondary, primary, and special needs schools to create a fantastic production. All creative arts departments within these schools worked closely to ensure the success of the production.

There were many preparatory activities which the students participated in which included Drama, Music, Singing, Art, movement, and being involved in technical support.

Students expressed excitement and enthusiasm:

*'This was a very fantastic opportunity and I liked the fact that I got the chance to work and perform with students from other schools'*  
Grace Hearty

*'I enjoyed it....'*  
Toby Ostrowski

Mr D Ekpoffiong  
High Prioritainer's Co-Ordinator

Please do congratulate the following students for a brilliant performance:

Emily	Year 7
Honey	Year 8
Bailey	Year 8
Kal	Year 9
Tanya	Year 9
Toby	Year 9
Kristen	Year 9
Grace	Year 9
Rosa	Year 9
Craig	Year 9
Sion	Year 9
Arthur	Year 9

## SINGFEST 2022

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, myself and Ms Hughes-Brown took twenty-eight members of the school choir to sing at a local music festival at St. Mark's Church in Wimbledon as part of the Merton Music Foundation's 'SingFest 2022'.

This performance brought us together with the students of Holy Trinity Primary School as a celebration of us once again being able to sing at large events following the pandemic. The afternoon was truly wonderful and our students did us proud, singing a vastly diverse programme of songs that we have been working on this Term.

Our students sang a mixture of traditional Native American and English Folk, Musical Theatre and Contemporary pieces including a new composition called *Sing Out Your Story*. This performance marks the start of a busy Spring/Summer period in Performing Arts as we prepare for our performance of *Bugsy Malone* in July. We hope to see you all there supporting our students.

Mr M Robinson  
Head of Performing Arts





## How have we been promoting wellbeing in school?

The Spring Term this year has been packed with whole school, wellbeing related events. Let's take a look back at some of what has gone on around the school.

In January, assemblies were delivered surrounding Period Poverty and Sexual Harassment to students in Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10. These assemblies helped to raise awareness and provide support about these key topics. We understand that these topics require ongoing discussion and support and look forward to continuing preventative and educational work next Term.

In February, we were really excited to take part in LGBTQIA+ History Month. The month was celebrated in style with assemblies for each year group, themed lessons and competitions held in the LGBTQIA+ club. We really look forward to taking part in Pride month in June and can't wait to go bigger and better!

February also saw the celebration of Children's Mental Health Week between 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February. During this week, discussions were encouraged in lessons surrounding wellbeing and mental health, as well as tutor time topics and presentations being delivered about this important matter and the importance of the students supporting their well-being and practicing self-care.

We are very grateful to have also continued work this Term with St Giles Trust. St Giles Trust have continued work with our Year 10 and 11 students, as well as also starting work with Year 9. The work consists of large group workshops and 1-1 work. We look forward to continuing our work with this team, next Term.

In March, following on from the unfortunate events happening in Russia and the Ukraine, there were a number of events to show our support. Students and staff have donated useful items and resources for children and families which have been delivered directly to families in need. Students and staff have also taken part in cake sales and the making and selling of ribbons to raise money for Save the Children. So far we have raised over £1800!

In March we also continued to work closely within our Mental Health Support team and have now been provided with three more Educational Wellbeing Practitioners (EWPs). These EWPs have already begun working 1-1 with identified students and will continue to do so next Term, providing support for their wellbeing, motivation and mood.

In March we also worked closely with Off the Record to deliver some workshops surrounding exam stress to our Year 11s. These sessions focused on strategies to help both with GCSE and BTEC revision, but also wellbeing during exam season. Next Term, these workshops will also be delivered to our Sixth Form students in prep for their BTEC and A-Level exams.

## Working with local services to support our student's emotional wellbeing

Student wellbeing has continued to be a main focus at Raynes Park High School, with this being supported and promoted by in-school interventions supporting issues such as stress, anxiety, loss of motivation and low mood. We have continued to have virtual and socially distanced face-to-face appointments with a number of external agencies.

Please see below for some more information on the agencies that we work with and the projects which we have been running in school:

- Jigsaw4U deliver two projects in Raynes Park High School, these are the Headlight Project and the Glasshouse Project. For more information, please see below:  
[www.jigsaw4u.org.uk/what-we-do/](http://www.jigsaw4u.org.uk/what-we-do/)
- Off the Record Outreach Service provides intervention for low-level wellbeing concerns. They also offer group work for exam stress and emotional regulation. For self-referrals:  
[www.talkofftherecord.org/merton/](http://www.talkofftherecord.org/merton/)
- Spectra support young people with mentoring around safe and healthy relationships and provide counselling for young people who identify as LGBTQIA+
- Catch 22 provide counselling to young people who need support with their mental health and wellbeing needs. Catch 22 also deliver Drug & Alcohol prevention work.
- Educational Wellbeing Practitioners from the Education Wellbeing Service provide emotional wellbeing guided self-help work for low level anxiety and low mood.

## Support available over the holidays

Understandably the holidays are an exciting time for many young people, however for some this period of time can be stressful and difficult to get through. We want you to know that you do not have to suffer in silence and that there is support readily available should you be interested. Please see on the following page a list of helplines and websites to visit for some support over the Easter break.

We have also launched a new mental health page on our school website, this can be found under the student welfare tab and features a great selection of resources for both students and their families to access.

**Ms S Yusuf**  
Student Wellbeing Manager



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

**For support with mental health & wellbeing**

**kooth** [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) offers online confidential one-to-one support for young people, plus access to online self-help materials.

**TALK TO US OFF THE RECORD** In non-covid times they offer face to face counselling in Merton, Croydon & Sutton. At the moment they offer a text-based counselling service or telephone/video call counselling. [www.talkofftherecord.org](http://www.talkofftherecord.org)

**childline** Childline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. So you can talk to us any time. When you call us on **0800 1111** you'll get through to a counsellor, they're there to listen and support you with anything you'd like to talk about. Or you can have a 1-2-1 counsellor chat online. They can provide help and support for people up to their 18th birthday.

**For support in a crisis**

**NHS South West London CAMHS** Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services **Crisis Line 0203 228 5980** For young people or parents/carers worried about a young person's mental health. Open: Monday to Friday 5pm - 11pm, Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holidays 9am - 11pm.

**YOUNG MINDS Crisis Messenger** powered by shout 85258. Young People can use the Young Minds Crisis Messenger by texting 'YM' to 85258 or contact Samaritans 24/7 on 116 123

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

# WORLD BOOK DAY



This year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Book Day. The aim, every year, is to empower children to enjoy reading by giving them the opportunity to choose and own a book, given free in exchange for a voucher. All students in Key Stage 3 and 4 were issued with vouchers.

To celebrate World Book Day we invited Years 7 and 8 to come into school dressed as their favourite book characters from a fantasy or action/adventure story. Well done to all the students who made the effort, we had some excellent outfits including an inflatable dinosaur which looked amazing in that morning's line up! A big thank you to all the English teachers who also dressed up, which the students loved, and also to all the teachers who displayed their favourite book recommendations on their doors.

Students across Key Stage 3 had the opportunity to take part in an online workshop designed to help students explore and develop their story telling abilities. Classes looked at character and setting through drama and creative writing exercises.

During library lessons we looked at the books that had been produced especially for World Book Day and also the audio books available to listen to, for free through March, on the World Book Day website. There is a wealth of resources on the website so please do take a look and encourage students to engage with the audio books and find out more about their favourite authors.

At lunchtime, the library hosted a Teacher vs Student book quiz. Ten teams attempted to beat the teachers. Many came close but in the end it was a draw! Well played everyone who took part, especially the team that very nearly beat the teachers!

I am usually trying my hardest to keep students in the library, so it should have come as no surprise that Library Escape Rooms have proved to be so popular. The teams involved had to work out puzzles and clues to find the correct books that would lead them to the final clue and the only way to escape the library. It was great to see teams working together, having fun and was a fitting close to this year's World Book Day. Thank you to the team of teachers who gave the teams a very competitive time to beat (which of course they did). Well done to my team of student librarians who helped to create the Escape Room, all the puzzles and set it up every day for students to enjoy.

Ms S Sharp  
Librarian



## SPORTING UPDATES

### It gives me great pleasure in sharing with you all a summary of our achievements in PE and School Sport Events this Term.

We have built on the success of the Autumn Term and continue to move forward in the right direction.

This Term has seen a busy time in terms of extra-curricular clubs, House Sports Events, our Sports Leaders programme, the development of partnerships with local clubs and the Merton School Sports Partnership as well as Borough fixtures now back on the agenda.

I would like to say a big thank you and well done to the vast numbers of students who have attended our wide range of

extra-curricular clubs before school, at break times and after school every day. These activities include Dodgeball, Aussie Rules Football, Rugby, Indoor Cricket Net Practice, Basketball, Football, Wimbledon Tennis Ball Boy and Girl Training, Tennis Club and Tennis Taster Sessions in lessons, Dance Club, Multisport sessions, Benchball, Netball as well as our BTEC student support sessions. A big thank you also must go to the dedication and efforts of the PE Staff and support staff who make these events possible!

The students that have attended these sessions have shown considerable dedication, effort, respect, resilience and hard work throughout the Term.

We have developed partnerships with Wimbledon Rugby Club who have visited us this Term and delivered taster sessions in lessons and are now running an after school Rugby Club for our Year 7 students. As well as this, we are also working closely with the Tim Henman Foundation who are delivering Tennis taster sessions each Wednesday in lessons as well as an after school club for our students. I would personally like to thank both organisations for their fantastic support so far in providing our students with additional opportunities in Sport!

The Jack Petchey Table Tennis Foundation have also worked with us this Term and helped to train up a group of our Year 12 students in the art of coaching Table Tennis. Going forward, our new generation of Table Tennis Leaders will be helping to lead school Table Tennis events for our younger students.

In lessons, our students continue to show incredible desire to be their best and have worked really hard coupled with excellent attitudes to learning and respect shown towards each other along the way. Well done everyone!! Keep up the great work in the Summer Term.

Looking forward to the Summer Term, we will be competing hard in the Borough Athletics Championships as well as having a focus on Rounders, Cricket and Tennis and not forgetting our Sports Day events to end the year in style!

Please see below a summary of Borough Sport Events this Term as well as the amazing achievements from our students so far this year. We are all very proud of you! Keep being your best in all you do!

**Mr L Prichard**  
PE Teacher

#### Year 7 and Year 8 Boys Football

It has been a brilliant football season for both the Year 7 and 8 football teams. All students that have been involved in the after school club and the teams have been outstanding and a real credit to the school. Mr Bishop and Mr Edmondson have been working closely with the students, to help improve fitness and ability whilst providing fun and enjoyable sessions for all.

Our Year 7's have now played three games against local schools in the Merton area, beating St Mark's, drawing to Harris Merton and narrowly losing to Rutlish in the final minutes of the game. For their first season together, they have shown great discipline, teamwork and dedication both in training and in matches. All the players have been brilliant so far and a special mention to Archie who has been exceptional in goal for the team.

Our Year 8's, who had not represented the school yet due to COVID-19, are still unbeaten and have been playing like they have been together for years! The Year 8's beat St Mark's and Harris Wimbledon, whilst drawing to Rutlish in a hard fought game in the rain. Again, the teams have been fantastic and a special mention goes to Bashir who has scored eight goals in three games!

#### Year 7

Raynes Park High School (2) vs Harris Merton (2)  
Raynes Park High School (3) vs St Mark's (2)  
Raynes Park High School (1) vs Rutlish (2)

#### Year 8

Raynes Park High School (6) – Harris Wimbledon (1)  
Raynes Park High School (6) – St Mark's (0)  
Raynes Park High School (2) vs Rutlish (2)

**Mr M Bishop**  
PE Teacher



### Year 10 Boys Football

We have an extremely talented group of Year 10 footballers who have remained committed, resilient and collaborative since the start of the academic year. These players turn up to training after school every Friday without fail and even when injured they ensure that their faces are shown in the stands to support and motivate the rest of the players. It has been an honour training these boys and we couldn't wait for our first game outside of school after playing multiple friendlies internally.

An away game at St Mark's was our first test and the togetherness, respect and resilience between the group lead to an emphatic result. We won 5-2 with five different scorers! This included a half-way line goal from our man of the match who controlled the midfield and did not make any mistakes the whole game. Even when we conceded two goals the boys remained calm, collected and composed to ensure that a win was secured. The goals were scored by Danel, Dylan, Jonathan, Noel and Cassius. Man of the Match was presented to Noel for his faultless performance.

We continue to see more and more players turn up to training - it has become extremely popular on a Friday afternoon which is magnificent. However, it does make my job difficult; picking a team when we have a plethora of talented individuals in all positions on the field.

Nevertheless, the boys support each other and motivate each other no matter who is selected and most importantly take pride in representing and wearing the Raynes Park High School badge. We now prepare for our next game to ensure that our 100% win record remains intact.

**Mr A Ahmed**  
Year 10 Football Coach

### Year 12 CTEC Sports Leaders

This Term Year 12 Sport students have been completing the coaching unit within their qualification. This has enabled them to get into Year 7 lessons and get hands-on coaching experience, from watching PE staff teach to then leading warm-ups to now taking entire sessions in their specialist sports.

The Year 7 students have responded extremely well to their new teachers and are always asking PE staff when the Sixth Formers will be back again to take their sessions. Great work from the Year 12 students bringing lots of energy, new ideas and praise for their peers to these coaching sessions; slowly putting the PE staff out of a job!

### Year 9 Football Team

The Year 9 football team have had several fixtures this Term. Considering it has been the first time their year group has played a fixture against another school since Year 7, they showed maturity and technical ability beyond their years.

The first of the fixtures was an away game vs Harris Wimbledon. Despite there being several new faces in the team and a change of positions for some of the more regular football players, they started this years' league campaign on fire. After a shaky first thirty minutes in which at one point Raynes Park High School found themselves 2-1 behind, we managed to regroup and play the type of football you would pay to watch. After a period of dominance in possession, clinical finishing and excellent defending the game was turned on its head with Raynes Park High School running out 6-3 winners. Special mention to Jahsiah and Rehan for brilliant performances that no doubt helped the team get the away win.

The second game of the season saw us on the road again, this time to St Mark's Academy.



Confidence from the first victory still clear to see in how the Year 9 team played throughout the game. Despite dominating the football and scoring early goals, this didn't stop the group from being ruthless in attack scoring nine goals in total, one away from double figures. The game finished 9-2, with special mention to Tyrell for scoring and contributing to a number of other goals and to Erik who kept the midfield solid and was able to frustrate the opposition whilst also adding his name to the scoresheet.

Our third game saw us face our toughest challenge yet. Not only did the boys have to play the opposition, Harris Academy Merton, they also had to battle the swirling wind that was against them in the first-half. Along with judging the wind, the more physical nature of the opposition caught Raynes Park High School off guard. Although we made the early breakthrough to go 1-0 up, Harris pegged us back and after a goalfest in the time remaining in the first-half went into the break 5-3 up. Discussions at half-time were about remaining positive and the second-half display was the best I had seen so far this season. We remained resolute and organised in defence, in addition Won made several amazing 1-on-1 stops in the Raynes Park High School goal. This gave the boys a platform from which to attack and in doing so reduced the two-goal half-time deficit and levelled it up at 5-5. An outstanding second-half effort from all involved and a hat-trick man of the match performance from Louie.

The final game in the league season saw us come up against a very strong Rutlish side. Even with a slightly depleted team the group more than held their own. For a large part of the first-half both sides matched one another in every position and it was only due to a wonder strike from about thirty yards that Rutlish managed to take the lead. Raynes Park High School got back into it shortly

after with some excellent passing leading to the goal-scoring opportunity. As half-time came and went the battles continued all over the field, this time it took a mix up in defence for Rutlish to retake the lead. Character within the Raynes Park team has been developed from our recent tough fixture with Harris Merton and again we levelled it up, with an unstoppable free kick from Louie. Unfortunately, the lack of depth on this occasion with key players missing cost us the game in the final stages, two goals in nearly as many minutes for the Home side somewhat flatters them with the final score standing at 4-2.

An action packed league campaign and still in with a chance of making the Borough final. Regardless, the boys have been a credit to the school and their conduct and improving togetherness has made the PE Department very proud.

### Wimbledon Championships Ball Boy and Girl Programme

Congratulations! This Spring we have had a record seven to ten students make it through to represent Raynes Park and become fully fledged members of the Wimbledon Championships Ball Boy and Girl programme. There were many more Raynes Park High School students who have worked tirelessly since September in order to improve their skills to be in with a chance of making the cut and well done to those students too. They demonstrated discipline, organisation and a high-level of skills that they will be able to transfer into many future endeavours.

We wish the students who have made it through to training at Wimbledon all the best and look forward to seeing them on court and TV at this year's Championships!

**Mr J Wheel**  
PE Teacher

**Sports Leaders and Netball Update**

This Term has seen selected Year 12 Sports Leaders share their passion and enthusiasm for sport by attending PE lessons at Sacred Heart Primary School. They have planned and led warm ups and sporting activities and helped support the students within the lessons.

Some of our Year 10 students have also stepped up and absolutely shone in their role as Sports Leaders during a recent primary (Year 5 and 6) Borough netball tournament. They were in charge of umpiring the games and running engaging activities for the teams waiting to play.

The students' umpiring skills came in handy when two Year 10 students, Skye and Ella, bravely umpired the staff netball match, which was extremely competitive to say the least!

This has been a busy Term for netball, with the Year 9 and 10 teams having Borough events at Ricards Lodge and matches against Harris Wimbledon and Hall School Wimbledon. The Year 9 and 10 teams showed fantastic team work and dedication in both training and competitive matches. Well done to captains Maggie (Year 9) and Skye (Year 10) for your hard work and leadership this season.

**Ms C McCourt**  
PE Teacher

**House Sport 2022 Update**

House Sport kicked off this Term with Key Stage 3 House Benchball in the sports hall, across the students' two PE lessons of the week. All students were extremely excited and proud to be representing their House in Benchball. They were competitive, energetic and a real pleasure to teach! Results are in:

**Year 7 House Results:**

4<sup>th</sup> place – 48 points – Miltons  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – 61 points – Newsoms  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – 80 points – Haliwells  
Year 7 Winning House – 87 points – GIBBS!

**Year 8 House Results:**

4<sup>th</sup> place – 26 points – Haliwells  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – 42 points – Gibbs  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – 53 points – Newsoms  
Year 8 Winning House – 66 points – MILTONS!

**Year 9 House Results:**

4<sup>th</sup> place – 71 points – Gibbs  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – 82 points – Miltons  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – 114 points – Newsoms  
Year 9 Winning House – 147 points – HALIWELLS!

**Key Stage 3 Winning House was HALIWELLS!**

Key Stage 4 House Sport followed the week after, whereby all Year 10 and 11 students participated in House Benchball and House Football. The standard of play was fantastic with all students engaged and proud to be playing for their House. Results are in:

**Year 10 House Benchball Results:**

4<sup>th</sup> place – Newsoms  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – Gibbs  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Miltons  
Year 10 Winning House – HALIWELLS!

**Year 10 House Football Results:**

4<sup>th</sup> place – Gibbs  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – Newsoms  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Haliwells  
Year 10 Winning House – MILTONS!

**Year 10 Overall Winning House was MILTONS!****Year 11 House Benchball Results:**

4<sup>th</sup> place – Newsoms  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – Miltons  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Haliwells  
Year 11 Winning House – GIBBS!

**Year 11 House Football Results:**

4<sup>th</sup> place – Miltons  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – Newsoms  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Gibbs  
Year 11 Winning House – HALIWELLS!

**Year 11 Overall Winning House was GIBBS!****Overall Results**

All House Points have been added together across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 House Sport, and the overall Winning House is:

4<sup>th</sup> place – 251 points – Newsoms  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – 254 points – Miltons  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – 256 points – Gibbs

**HOUSE SPORT CHAMPIONS – 310 points HALIWELLS!**

Well done to everyone involved, it has been a fantastic two weeks of House Sport.

**Ms L Butler**  
PE Teacher

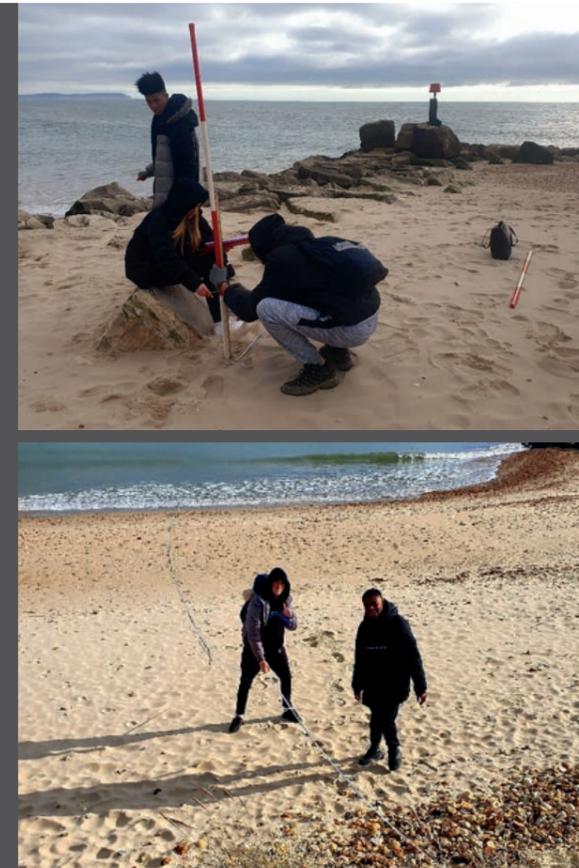
**YEAR 13 AT HENGISTBURY HEAD**

On 1<sup>st</sup> February, the Year 13 Geography class visited Hengistbury Head in Dorset as part of their A-Level course.

The students had previously chosen titles for their coursework projects based around the problem of coastal erosion and the management aimed at preventing it. They were able to see with their own eyes many of the processes previously explored in lessons and were successful in collecting the data they needed.

Field trips have been impossible to run over the last couple of years and this A-Level group in particular have missed out on several days of study outside of the classroom. Students and staff alike were delighted to get down to the coast again, even if it was for just the one day.

**Mr G Collman**  
Head of Humanities





As part of scholar's programme and to celebrate National Science Week, Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in our latest three Challenge Weeks.

These Challenge Weeks use a common theme across a range of disciplines to explore issues and help students make links between subjects, as well as highlight careers that students may not have heard of.

### Year 7: Social Justice Week

Led by Humanities, students learnt about the 'Power of One': how one person could make all the difference in the world.

Students explored a range of issues, from sexism in nineteenth century literature, the civil rights movements in the US to the rights of indigenous populations in the Amazon rain forest.

Students explored issues around environmental justice: in Languages they focussed on animal rights and vegetarianism. With the Science Department they looked at the life cycle of plastics. They were fascinated to see nylon being made in the lab horrified to discover the microplastics are building up in our oceans.

In Performing Arts, students wrote protest raps and choreographed *Diversity* inspired dance pieces.

Students are now taking part in an essay writing competition: the winning entry to be published here in the Summer Term.

### Year 8: Art Week

As Aristotle is credited as saying "[humans have an] instinct for 'harmony' and rhythm". Art Week was an opportunity for students to find this harmony and rhythm across the curriculum.

In History, students discussed the recent controversies surrounding statues before being shown the forth plinth in Trafalgar square: a public arts space. Students went on to design thought provoking installations for the plinth: inspired by issues such as the triangular trade responsible for the mass movement of Africans as slaves, and the impact that hate has on people.

Maths and Art have a long history, with artists using Maths to explore perspective and symmetry. Our students developed glorious tessellations and learnt about its associations with Islam.

In Science students explored bioscapes, before producing spectacular abstract paintings inspired by onion skin under a microscope. They use the paint they made in the lab to boot!

In Languages, students explored the work of Spanish-born Picasso who spent much of his life in France. This study of Picasso continued in Art where students started crafting self-portraits in the cubist style.





# NATIONAL READING CHAMPIONS QUIZ



The National Reading Champions Quiz is run by the National Literacy trust, open to schools across the UK, testing students' knowledge of modern and classic children's and Young Adult fiction, authors and genres. Teams compete against other schools in regional heats for the chance to make it to the finals.

A number of students put themselves forward to try out for the Raynes Park High School team. After a selection process, testing their knowledge with last year's quiz questions, we had our team of four: Emilie and Isaac both in Year 8 and Maggie and Zoe in Year 9.

Our team was up against twenty teams from schools across South West London but I was very confident of a great performance given the teams abilities. Between them, they have read and passed Accelerated Reader quizzes on an incredible 106 books over this academic year.

Some tough rounds were ahead including Science Fiction and Heroes & Heroines but things were looking very good by the half-way point. A nervous wait followed as the final scores were counted and the top three teams were announced. We were thrilled when Raynes Park High School were revealed to be the winners of the quiz, sailing through to the grand finals.

Huge congratulations to Emilie, Isaac, Maggie and Zoe for this achievement and display of excellent book knowledge. They will all receive £20 in book tokens and a regional team trophy.

The finals will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> May where they will meet the other regional quiz finalists, all hoping to be crowned National Reading Champions 2022!

**Ms S Sharp**  
Librarian



## Year 9: Brain Week

Led by STEM disciplines, students had a diverse range of experiences focussed around the brain.

Students first learnt about the structure of the brain in Science which also included brain dissections: students were very surprised that brains aren't pink! Leading on from this, students used their map skills in Geography to produce 2D maps and 3D atlas 'hats' of the brain, and used role-play to take this further in Drama.

Brain function was explored in Science where students took part in psychology experiments about obedience, conformity and conditioning. Students were amazed to see how quickly people conform to others' expectations. Art explored brain lateralisation and students were surprised to find they draw better by drawing upside down!

Mental health and brain diseases were discussed in History, Music and ICT and students were very empathetic in these sessions. In History, students learnt about the shocking treatment of patients in Bedlam and the poor treatment of 'shell shock'

sufferers in the World Wars. In Music students saw how music therapy helps Alzheimer's patients become more responsive and lucid: a real gift. In ICT they produced code to help people suffering from locked in syndrome, inspired by some spectacular acting from Mr Jackson, Head of ICT.

Finally, students explored memory and intelligence in Maths and Science. In Science, students took part in memory experiments and learnt why teachers start every lesson with retrieval practice. In Maths, students carried out a practical to measure brain volumes and investigated the relationship between brain size and intelligence. Some students also took part in an engineering challenge to find the volume of a mystery brain: the student designed equipment was remarkably accurate, with one group having a less than 1% error!

The next Challenge Weeks will be in the Summer Term and centre around Crime & Mystery for Year 7, Languages for Year 8 and the Renaissance for Year 9.

**Mr J Johnson Mottals**  
Senior Teacher



# ENGINEERING WITH DYSON

## The Year 10 GCSE Design & Technology students have started their engineering journey with the help of Dyson.

The students will get hands on with the Dyson DC39 vacuum cleaner, taking them apart, and better understanding how they work. From the carbon fibre turbine heads to simple screws, the students will dismantle and rebuild each cleaner with teacher lead activities.

Once the students get to grips with how the vacuum cleaners function they will have a better understanding of how to make their own creative outcomes. In the later stages, the students will be challenged to create an accessory for an existing Dyson product. Modern manufacturing techniques such as 3D printing and laser cutting will then be utilised to turn the student's concepts into functional prototypes.

This has been made possible through the James Dyson Foundation engineering packs.

The packs contain the following content

- Dyson DC39 vacuum cleaner
- Seven carbon fibre turbine heads
- Fifteen tangle-free turbine tools
- A range of specialist screwdrivers

Plus the school gets to keep:

- Dyson engineering teachers pack
- Dyson engineering posters
- USB stick with educational videos

Dyson will also be supplying the school with a design process pack that will be used to support the extracurricular clubs in the Design & Technology Department.

**Mr R Harris**  
Head of Design & Technology



## GIBBS HOUSE UPDATE

This has been another busy Term for House Events. Firstly, I would like to congratulate Gibbs House students for all of their support for our Ukraine War charity events and their support in raising money for Comic Relief. It really was a demonstration of the ethos of the charitable and respectful nature of our students.

In terms of House Events, this has been a mixed Term. Our students took part in events to commemorate Holocaust Memorial day, along with Year 10 Sports Events, Year 9 English events and Year 8 Science competitions, alongside the staff inter-House netball competition which we won – a special thank you to Mr Wheel!

Looking ahead, I want to see more students taking an active role in upcoming events as we look forward to finishing the year on a high.

*Mr R. Liyanage*

Head of Gibbs



## NEWSOMS HOUSE UPDATE

It has been a busy Spring Term for Newsoms House. In January we had our termly celebration assembly, where I got the pleasure of handing out over thirty certificates and announcing that Newsoms had won the House League for the Autumn Term. Huge congratulations go to Maggie (9NS) for being the top reader in Newsoms and Darius (9HB) for the highest number of House Points in Newsoms.

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January the school commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day with a project in humanities lessons. The Key Stage 3 students produced some outstanding pieces of work and a special well done goes to Charlotte (7TO) and Christina (8MH) for their excellent work.

The Year 10 students have been participating in a range of House Sports during their PE lessons. Well done to all the students that participated. Newsoms won the Benchball competition and came second in the overall result.

Finally, our budding engineers worked together on a STEM project to construct the best bridge. The results were extremely close but Newsoms came second overall.

Well done to all the students that have participated in the different House Events this Term. Next Term there are lots more fantastic events, including an enterprise competition, netball competition and Times Table Rockstars returns.

*Ms J. Fowler*

Head of Newsoms



Miltons continue to strive to get to the top of the leader's board participating in a variety of competitions and events to prove what an amazing House we are. The staff House netball match on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March was supported by Miltons students encouraging the team in their efforts at the game.

There is a real feel of House identity and students seem genuinely proud to be part of the Miltons House which is encouraging and has all of the positive aspects of belonging to part of a community. They wear their tie colours with pride and I have heard the chants of 'Miltons' as I pass by.

Our House Leaders have met and are currently looking at ways in which we can raise money for our charity 'Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association' (HCA). The first fund raiser will be a beat the goalie competition which will hopefully take place before the Easter break. They also have plenty of other ideas as well.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely break, when hopefully the sun will shine!

*Ms L Finan*

Head of Miltons

Halliwells have continued throughout this Term to drive towards being House Champions by taking part in the wide variety of events that have been taking place across school. These activities have ranged from supporting the staff House netball competition to the Science Bridge Building competition to the various sporting activities. Well done to those House Champions who excelled in the Holocaust Memorial writing competition with five of our team getting special mentions:

Emilie, Jessica, Sian, Tenira and Zoe did fantastic work!

There is a real sense of belonging to the House community which is exemplified in the excellent attendance Halliwells students have had this year. Our House Leaders have met and are currently looking at ways in which we can raise money for our charity 'Spectra'. We hope to complete our fundraising event in the Summer Term so keep your eyes peeled for details.

*Ms K Burkin*

Head of Halliwells

# Do you shop online?

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

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

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

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

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

Please give it a try!



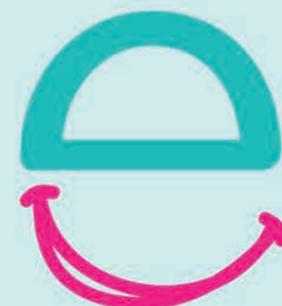
Join



Shop



Raise



## easyfundraising feel good shopping

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs)

Support this cause

1

Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs) click 'support this cause' and register

2

Choose your retailer and shop as normal

3

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



# BAE SYSTEMS, ROYAL AIR FORCE AND ROYAL NAVY STEM ROADSHOW

## Schools Roadshow 2022

# MAGNETISM

AGE 8-14

Aligned to the National Curriculum  
& The Curriculum for Excellence!

BAE SYSTEMS

ROYAL  
AIR FORCE

ROYAL  
NAVY

Developed in  
partnership with

smallpeice  
Dare to imagine



In March, all of Year 7 and Year 8 participated in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) event delivered by BAE Systems in conjunction with the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

The event focused on the science of Magnetism and highlighted the engineering applications and career opportunities in each of the participating organisations, emphasising that these careers are equally available to girls as well as boys by featuring a number of inspirational case studies of female engineers. The students were also encouraged to try out some magnetism experiments after the event at home, and to explore how STEM may form part of their subject and career options in the future.

Mr R Jones  
*Head of Physics*

## CONTACT US:

020 8946 4112

@officialRPHS

school@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

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

Please e-mail [newsletter@raynespark.merton.sch.uk](mailto:newsletter@raynespark.merton.sch.uk)