



HOCKEY WITH AN OLYMPIAN

Olympic Gold medallist Crista Cullen visits RPHS for Transition Saturday

Raynes Park High School opened its doors to future Year 7 students and parents this term for a morning of team building exercises, CATS tests and a welcome assembly. Excitingly, Crista Cullen MBE was in attendance and during the latter part of the day gave our students an intensive introduction to hockey. Crista is an Olympic Gold & Bronze medallist and is widely regarded as one of the best hockey defenders in the world – it's not every day you are taught to play hockey by a triple Olympian!

At the end of each hockey session, students had the chance to ask Crista any questions. One student asked how it felt to take home Gold in Rio and she replied "You can't describe the feeling. Imagine working non-stop for something all your life and in one moment having it all pay off. " As

you can see from the photographs on page 12, Mr Myton, Mr Wilson-Boyle and Mr Mba were even more excited to meet Crista than our students!

We hope that our Year 7 families found it to be an exciting and useful day, and we'd like to say a huge thank you to our visitors from Fulham Football Club and Wimbledon Hockey for their part in organising the fantastic team building exercises. Another 'thank you' goes to our Year 8 chefs for making delicious food for our visitors, and to our fantastic Year 7 ambassadors and staff members for giving up their Saturday to welcome new families to Raynes Park High School. Further photographs of Transition Saturday can be found on page 12.

In this issue...



Tutor2U Revision Session	4
House Dance Ticket Information	5
Harry Potter Studios Trip	6
Work Experiencence at Warner Bros.	7
Curious Incident Theatre Trip	7
Eastbourne Geography Trip	8-9
Action Jackson Motivational Visit	10
D of E Bronze Award	11
St. George's Hospital Careers Day	11
Transition Saturday Photographs	12
The Brilliant Club Graduation	13
Rambert Dance Trip	14
Jack Petchey Winners Announced	15
Creative Writing Workshop	15
Merton Talking Library	16



COPPERFIELD'S BOOK SHOP

This term a group of Year 8 students visited Copperfield's Book Shop in Wimbledon at the invitation of the owner Joe Thubron. Joe let our students explore his remarkable shop. They were amazed to discover that behind the relatively small shop-front there are over 70,000 books. Joe stocks every type of book imaginable from Young Adult fiction to sport, and from poetry to science. Vinushan said "It was a brilliant experience. It was definitely worth the wait. I would highly recommend a visit to this fascinating place." Mr Ross, the Chair of our School Governors, very generously purchased books of their choosing for each of our students. They were delighted! Many thanks to Joe and Mr Ross!

A BIG 'THANK YOU'

To celebrate World Book Day, Wimbledon Bookfest very kindly donated a whole box of Penguin Classics to Raynes Park High School. The books were very gratefully recieved and are a very welcome addition. Ms Smith, our school librarian, has catalogued and added these to our wide range of books in our school library. Thank you Wimbledon Bookfest! We can't wait to join you in the big tent next term!



CORRINE HALL AWARDED MBE

In a celebration at Buckingham Palace, former pupil and Paralympic Champion Corrine Hall was awarded an MBE for services to cycling after taking home Gold and Bronze at in Rio last year (*pictured, below*). Corrine is a five time World Champion and has returned to Raynes Park High School on a few occasions to give out awards and deliver some truly inspiring speeches. She was given the MBE by Prince Charles and described the experience as "an honour". We continue to be inspired by Corrine's hard work and look forward to seeing her compete again in the future!

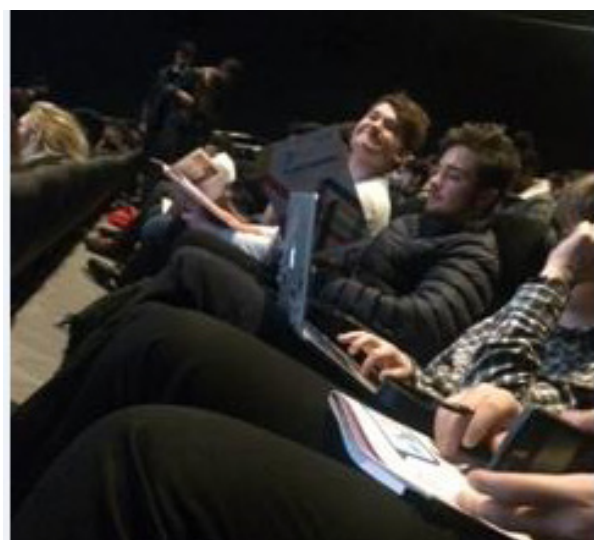


TUTOR2U REVISION SESSION

*by Samuel Egan,
Business Studies & Economics Student*

AS Economics students were lucky enough to take part in a revision conference hosted by Tutor2u at the Stratford, Vue. The students gained an insight into how to master their exam technique, and how to apply relevant economic concepts to their exam questions. Despite the low amount of questions asked, Raynes Park did not allow a single other school to get a word in, as they dominated in answering all questions.

Later in the term, The A2 Business students took part in a revision conference hosted



by Tutor2u at the Fulham Broadway, Vue. The conference was of a mixed variety, offering revision slides, quick-fire questions, and countdown among other activities. The majority of these activities came with a prize to be won; Cameron being the main winner for both Raynes Park, and the conference as a whole. Among the prizes was £35 shared between the students, 10 tubes of Cadbury's mini eggs, and the satisfaction of knowing that they were indisputably the most prepared and most knowledgeable party in the room. The speaker, Jim, made this noticed, announcing his astonishment at the level of knowledge shown in answers given, even going as far as to state they were the most consistently strong answers given in his 18 years of holding conferences.

Despite the success of the trip, it did come with a few humorous moments, the highlight being when Sam Egan boldly announced he had one word to say to Jim, "multi-national business". After an awkward silence, and a whole audience turning to look at him, Sam broke into laughter with the whole audience soon following suit. Luckily, the answer given was right, and another tube of mini eggs were claimed for Raynes Park, making the tally 10, and ending the conference on a high note.

Many thanks to The Business and Economics Faculty for organising the trips, and a big thank you to Tutor2u for hosting yet another successful and engaging revision conference for our aspiring Business and Economics students.

A vibrant poster for a 'House Dance!' event. The background is dark blue with diagonal stripes in purple, light blue, yellow, and red. At the top, three white silhouettes of dancers in dynamic poses are shown. Below them, the text 'HOUSE!' is in large, bold, white capital letters, and 'Dance!' is in a large, white, cursive script font. At the bottom, event details are listed in white capital letters: 'WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE', '5PM-7PM', 'MAIN HALL', '£3 STUDENT £6 ADULT', and 'TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM FINANCE OFFICE'.

HOUSE!
Dance!

WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE
5PM-7PM
MAIN HALL
£3 STUDENT £6 ADULT
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM FINANCE OFFICE



WARNER BROS. WORK EXPERIENCE

During the week of Year 10 Work Experience, some of our students were lucky enough to get placements at Warner Bros. Entertainment. As you can see from their photographs, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learned a lot about careers in film and television production.



A MAGICAL DAY...

RPHS Harry Potter fans visited the Warner Bros Studios Tour with Mrs Smith, our school librarian. The Harry Potter club was set up by Year 9 student Salome, who continues to run the popular club every week after school for fans of the books. Salome's hard work has been recognised this term and she received the Jack Petchey award for this valuable contribution to school life. On the day of the visit, students were thrilled to explore the various sets from the films and were even given a sneak preview

of the new Forbidden Forest feature, where they met Buckbeak and the terrifying spider Aragog. Our students took advantage of all opportunities to hone their Wizarding skills, including wand choreography, broomstick-riding and butterbeer drinking! Exploring Harry's Muggle house, 4 Privet Drive, and the Knight bus were particular highlights. Students were given a fascinating insight into the incredible skill and artistry that went into the creation of the sets. It was a truly inspiring visit.



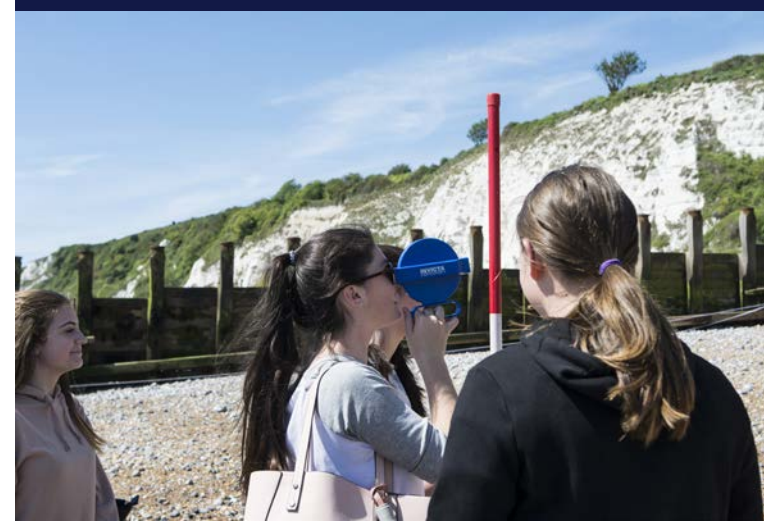
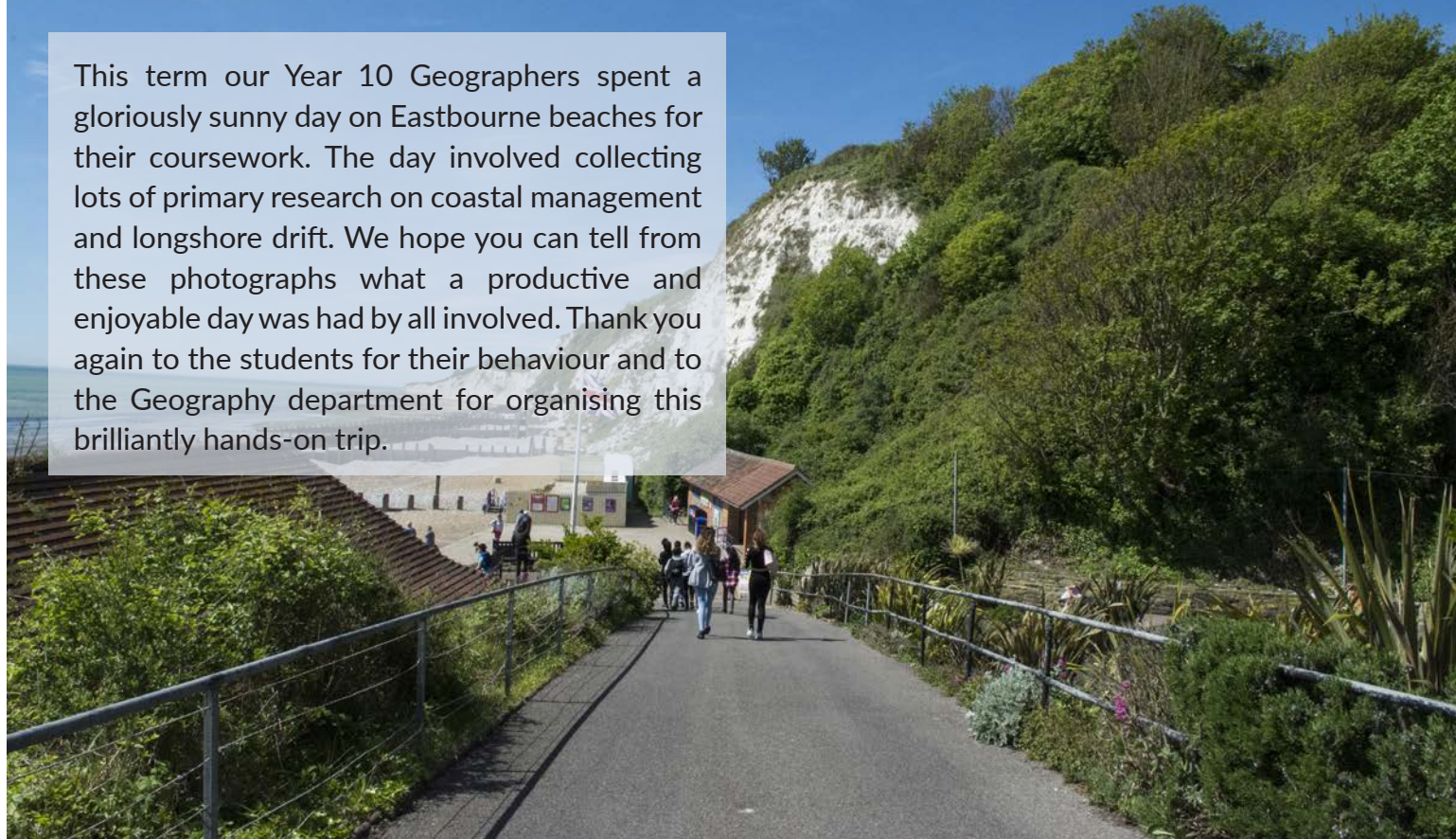
CURIOUS INCIDENT

Mrs Smith and Mr Prado took six Year 10 students to see The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time at the Gielgud Theatre. The trip was very generously funded by the charity Book Clubs in Schools. BCiS have been helping us to run book clubs for our Year 7 students and our Year 10 students have been leading these groups – this trip was a reward for those hard-working Year 10 students. Our Year 10 students loved the performance. Nikita said "It was brilliant, and I would definitely see it again! Thank you to Book Clubs in Schools for taking us." Jasmine said "The staging of the play was spectacular and the plot was so absorbing." It was a fantastic experience and we also took the opportunity to explore China Town and Leicester Square.



EXPLORING EASTBOURNE

This term our Year 10 Geographers spent a gloriously sunny day on Eastbourne beaches for their coursework. The day involved collecting lots of primary research on coastal management and longshore drift. We hope you can tell from these photographs what a productive and enjoyable day was had by all involved. Thank you again to the students for their behaviour and to the Geography department for organising this brilliantly hands-on trip.





ACTION JACKSON

Our Year 11s had an incredible seminar with Action Jackson from the Fixup Team this term in preparation for their exams. The talk was very successful, with one Year 11 saying that the session “really inspired me to dream big, act now, never give up because I’m amazing. I really did doubt myself for a while but [Jackson] helped me realise that’s not the way to go about things. That I have to work, have to be successful and when things get tough, I get tougher. I just wanted to say ‘Thanks’ because it really did help me to change my attitude of myself.” The seminar gave the students the final pep-talk they needed to be motivated and exam ready.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice expedition went ahead on the 5th and 6th May in East Grinstead, Sussex. Students arrived that morning, raring to go and fully prepared for what was (for most of them) their first ever camping trip. Students thoroughly enjoyed themselves on their walk, however, after a long and valiant effort, a few groups did eventually need to be pointed in the right direction to join us at camp!

All students were fantastic at setting up tents at our campsite and students’ willingness to

help others who were struggling was admirable, especially in the cold wind. After setting up camp, they all then tucked into what looked like a lot of pasta and tomato sauce. We then sat round the fire while students toasted some marshmallows.

The next day most students were up and about by 5am - yes - 5am! We packed up the site and the students then went on their second walk which was much more successful. They are all looking forward to the real expedition in Dorking on the 7th and 8th July.



CAREERS DAY AT ST. GEORGE’S HOSPITAL

This term, a group of Year 10 students were invited to attend a Careers Day at St George’s Hospital. They had the opportunity to speak to medical students, occupational therapists and a neurosurgeon and find out about the pathways to their careers. A highlight of the trip was the visit to the simulation suite where the students could watch doctors and other health professionals fine tune their skills on state of the art mannequins in simulated crisis situations. The students all enjoyed their experience and we are grateful to St George’s Hospital for the opportunity.

TRANSITION DAY

Continued from front page



THE BRILLIANT CLUB



The Brilliant Club is an award-winning charity whose purpose is to give students the experience of University life. Eight Year 10 students attended a series of fascinating lectures on Modern day slavery and wrote a final thesis on this topic. The students were then invited to SOAS University for their graduation ceremony when they were given certificates to recognise their hard work. A huge congratulations to all the students that passed the programme.



GHOST DANCES & OTHER WORKS

Our GCSE dancers were thrilled to be invited to see Rambert's 'Ghost Dances and other works' this term at the Sadlers Wells Theatre. Over the last few weeks, our dancers have taken part in an intensive workshop on Rambert, performed onstage and taken a tour of the Rambert Studios on the South Bank. The first piece was titled 'The days run away like wild horses' and was a bright, lively depiction of everyday life, with characters such as 'the schoolgirl' and 'the runner'. The second piece was the widely-acclaimed 'Ghost Dances', created as a tribute to the victims of oppression in South America. We were all blown away by the choreography, costume and live music throughout. We hope that this involvement with Rambert has inspired our dancers when it comes to creating their own work. Many thanks to Ms Ward for organising such an incredible trip.



JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS

Huge congratulations are in order! Well done to Bailey-Beau, Dohyeon, Sophia and Yuri for winning Jack Petchey Achievement Awards. Each student was nominated by their teachers as recognition for stand-out good deeds, hard work or notable academic achievement. Each student has been given a certificate, a pin badge and a voucher for £200 to spend in school, whether it's on textbooks, equipment for their favourite class or a school trip with their friends. We look forward to hearing what you're planning on doing with your money!

Find out more about the Jack Petchey scheme here; www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk



CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

The Year 9 Aspirations Project Writers & Artists spent the afternoon at Southside House with Kings Partnership learning about creative writing with poet Ben Bransfield



MERTON TALKING NEWSPAPER

In Issue 82, the results of First Give were announced. One of the charities which our students won £250 for was local charity, Merton Talking Newspaper For The Blind. The charity serves around 150 visually impaired and blind residents in the London Borough of Merton. Weekly recordings of news items from the local Guardian Newspaper and audio Magazine are circulated for listeners. The free service has been running since 1976 and is still run by a team of volunteers who donate a lot of time and hard work behind the scenes. We were thrilled to receive a letter from the charity, thanking our students for their efforts, for their donation and for the work which First Give does. The letter reads; "I was fortunate enough, together with our chairman who is blind, to attend the final presentations. We were both very impressed with the results that all 11 groups had managed to put together, and it had been a pleasure to work with the students, assisting their research," We are so pleased that the money has gone to such a well-deserving charity and we look forward to taking part in First Give again next year. Find out more about the charity here; www.mtn.org.uk



CONTACT US:

☎ 020 8946 4112

🐦 @officialRPHS

@ school@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

REPORT AN ABSENCE:

☎ 020 8946 4112

or

@ absence@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

Do you have a story you'd like to share in our next newsletter?
Please e-mail rburnham@raynespark.merton.sch.uk