



**WORLD
BOOK
DAY
GOES ONLINE**

FIND OUT MORE ON PAGES 3-4

Dear Families,

It goes without saying that the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in our lifetime. The untold effect on daily life and everyone's emotional wellbeing has been our greatest concern and the safety of all has remained our number one priority.



RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST

Schools have been at the front-line of supporting the national effort to fight the virus and the response from staff and students has been phenomenal. It has been so wonderful to see everyone supporting each other during and after each lockdown, and we were delighted to return to face-to-face lessons this half term.

I hope we have gone some way to maintain a sense of normality for you and your child whilst responding swiftly to the guidance and expectations placed upon us. The school remained open for some key groups of students including critical worker children who were able to attend school throughout the most recent lockdown, as they did last year, so their parents could keep public services running. The teaching staff provided daily online learning for students in all key stages using Microsoft Teams and our Pastoral Team provided emotional and pastoral support to students and families who needed it. The support staff volunteers trained at speed to undertake lateral flow testing and we have had an Asymptomatic Testing Centre set up at the school since 5th January. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone for their unstinting support.

After Easter, Year 11 and Year 13 will be undertaking their rescheduled Mock examinations which will provide them with the evidence they need for securing the grades their efforts deserve. They are all working hard preparing for these exams and, after such a challenging year, we wish them all the very best of luck.

We can now begin to plan for the remainder of the year; we have had a really strong start since returning in March and we have been getting the school back on track after another lockdown. One thing we have really missed is the face-to-face contact we have been unable to have with you as parents and carers but we are hugely grateful to you for embracing the remote events, including attending Parents' Evening using

SchoolCloud. We are also hoping to run our enrichment programme safely and get students involved in some activities after school at some stage next term.

Unfortunately, we were unable to finish the term with our whole School Assembly but students have had a remote assembly on reflection with their Heads of Year. We have also said farewell to Ms Crowe, Ms Milton and Ms Munoz Flores; we wish them our very best as they take up their new posts and thank them for their hard work and commitment to Raynes Park High School students over the years.

I would like to thank both the teaching and support staff who have worked tirelessly right up until the end of term. I would also like to thank the Governing Body for their much valued support during this past year. Without the support of such a committed and enthusiastic team, Raynes Park High School would not continue to prosper as it does.

We still have a long way to go but with the vaccination programme well underway, twice-weekly testing for staff and students and the arrival of Spring bringing a renewed sense of hope and optimism, I hope that the next few months bring lots of happiness to you all. Thank you so much indeed for all the kind messages of support and for how much you have done to help us do our job and ensure Raynes Park High School continues to thrive during these challenging times.

Wishing you and your families a restful Easter break.

Best wishes,

Mrs K Heard
Headteacher



Neil Jordan
Chair, Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust

The last year has been a very difficult one for pupils, their parents and the school. Part of the effort to maintain educational provision during lockdown has involved the provision of some 83 laptops using funds from the DfE, donations from Troy Asset Management, Dan North & Associates and the Boa family and funds from the Trust's reserves. The Charitable status of the Raynes Park High School Trust enables it to obtain grants from other charities since it is often the case that they cannot make donations directly to schools and other public institutions. Initial reports from school colleagues indicate that the project has been highly successful in enabling pupils without the wherewithal to participate in online lessons to take part.

The Trust is pleased to be able to report success in obtaining a grant of £2000 from the Nineveh Foundation towards the School's EcoGarden project. A second bid to secure the remaining funding for the garden has been made to DPD, a fund that makes grants for ecological projects. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we have missed out on the planting of two trees during National Tree Planting Week in 2020 but hope to pursue this in the autumn.

I should like to remind families that by opting to gift aid their School Fund contributions, and by making online purchases through the Easyfundraising website that the school can benefit financially. Literally thousands of small and large companies are in the scheme such as Ebay, Just Eat and John Lewis. It will not cost you anything. You pay the same online as you would but 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

The Raynes Park High School Trust has ...

Contributed to 83 laptops for students during lockdown

Obtained a £2000 grant towards the school's EcoGarden

Received over £700 by people signing up to easyfundraising

Thank you for your continued support



WORLD BOOK DAY

While we were unable to celebrate in the usual way, Thursday 4th March saw World Book Day go online. A range of activities were available for students to take part in including quizzes, The Masked Reader and Twitter book reviews.

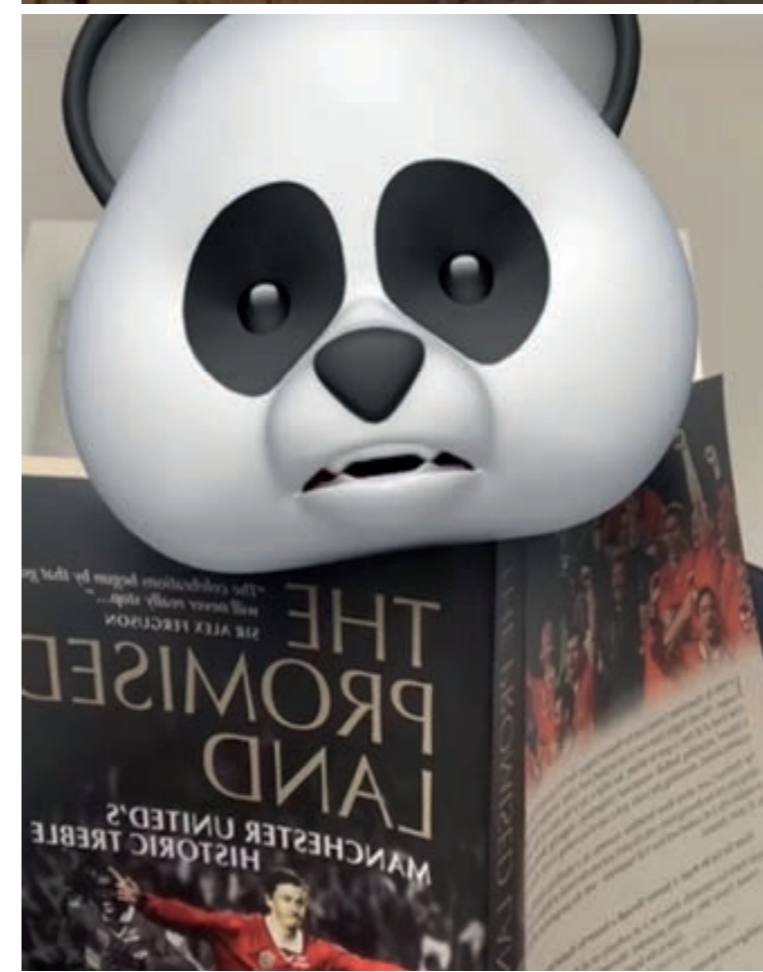
Teachers transformed themselves into lizards, pandas, dragons, aliens and many more all in the spirit of World Book Day and students had the chance to guess who were behind the masks.

Staff and students sent in numerous book reviews of some of their favourite literary titles and these were tweeted from the Raynes Park High School account. Some students were even lucky enough to get a reply from the authors!

Students were also able to vie for the title of best literary knowledge in their English lessons as a World Book Day quiz was put on for all of KS3.

As we return to school, the Tutor Time Reading Programme will be recommencing and students in Years 7-10 will all be read to three times a week in their tutor sessions. This is an exciting initiative and one which gained real momentum before Christmas and we look forward to once again sharing stories, characters plot twists and more with our students.

Mr S Chick
Literacy Coordinator



WELLBEING IN SCHOOL

Preventing a
Mental Health
Crisis Summit



How have we been promoting wellbeing in school?

This term we welcomed our students back with a focus on reconnecting in tutor time. Our students completed activities on sharing ideas about what has come out of the pandemic, reflecting on Children's Mental Health Week, friendships and support networks, being kind to ourselves and positive self-talk.

During February we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme was 'Express Yourself' and we used a whole school approach to promote this message to our students. Our Heads of Year delivered assemblies to educate our students on the importance of expressing ourselves, how we can do this in a healthy way and how they could get involved. We started off the week with a Screen Free Day which involved our students completing three challenges around cooking, exercise and self-care. We were very impressed with how many of our students took part and really embraced using their screen free time!

During the week each subject set an activity that related to the theme Express Yourself. We also put together an Express Yourself video that both staff and students were able to get involved in and share ideas about how they express themselves to support their wellbeing!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Oh0krcnoP8>

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

We have continued to focus on student wellbeing through providing in school interventions supporting issues such as anxiety, low mood, loss of motivation and stress. This has taken place in safe, socially distanced, face-to-face meetings as well as virtually.

We have continued to work with Merton Off the Record Outreach virtually throughout the lockdown and have welcomed our Outreach Worker back in school this term! Year 11 were given the opportunity to sign up to a two-part exam stress workshop in school. Thirty of our Year 11s took part in the workshops which enabled them to be able to share their thoughts and worries whilst also learning coping strategies and techniques to manage exam stress.

Merton Children's and Young People's Service have continued to provide support to students, staff, and families this term.

Students have been able to engage in virtual support from our Education Wellbeing Practitioners throughout the lockdown and are now able to receive face-to-face support from our EWP's in school for low level low mood and anxiety. The sessions aim to equip young people with self-help strategies and tools to manage how they are feeling.

Parent/Carer Support

Merton's Children and Young People's Wellbeing Service have put together a three-part training series on self-harm that you can access via the links below:

- Part 1 – Reasons why young people self-harm
- Part 2 – Spotting the signs of self-harm in young people
- Part 3 – Supporting young people who self-harm

<https://youtu.be/VH5fck011y>

https://youtu.be/9Eg9LdRcg_g

<https://youtu.be/8yOZR8zpZUo>

Outside agencies working with our students this term

Whether it has been face-to-face, telephone sessions or virtual sessions, we have adapted the way we have supported our students and continued to work with outside agencies in a safe socially distanced way.

Jigsaw4u have returned to face-to-face working in school to support students that are part of the Headlight Project and Glasshouse Project. Check out the Jigsaw4u website for more information at <https://www.jigsaw4u.org.uk/what-we-do/>

Off the Record Merton Outreach services are now back in school working in the Sixth Form Bubble with our KS5 students.

Spectra continue to support our young people with mentoring around safe and healthy relationships and provide counselling for LGBTQ+ young people via Microsoft Teams.

Catch22 have also been providing our young people with up to 12 sessions of telephone/online counselling for any emotional wellbeing issues or specific mentoring for drug and alcohol misuse prevention work.

Other services outside of school

<https://www.spectra-student.org.uk/lgbtq-support>

<https://www.talkofftherecord.org/merton/>

Ms S Morris
Student Wellbeing Manager



WORLD
MENTAL
HEALTH
DAY



We all have a part to play
this Anti-Bullying Week.
What will yours be?

UNITED
AGAINST
BULLYING

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

MERTON
EDUCATION
WELLBEING
SERVICE



Ode to my immune system

Oh immune system! My immune system!
How you fight for me every day
With your B cells and T cells
A kingdom of organs and chemicals
To ensure I am not victim to
Abnormal and foreign cells

Oh immune system! My immune system!
How you fight for me every day
With your primary and secondary responses
Occurring without my acknowledgement
Releasing memory cells
Helping to destroy pathogens
within me

Oh immune system! My immune system!
How you fight for me every day
With your phagocytes containing lysosomes
Fusing together and releasing proteolytic enzymes
Breaking down lethal pathogen as if it were
Nothing.

Oh my immune system! My immune system!
How you fight for me every day
I hope to build you up
The way you help me up
When I'm feeling down.

Our Year 12 A-Level Biology students at Raynes Park High School, took part in the Express Yourself campaign as part of Children's Mental Health Week. The students were given the objective to describe an aspect of Biology in a way that allowed them to express themselves and the results were FANTASTIC!

Helen, who wrote an excellent poem titled *An Ode to My Immune System*, really benefitted from the activity, especially given the closure of schools: 'expressing myself in any creative outlet has always been important to me, especially through this pandemic. I think right now it's important not to suppress any emotion or thoughts we have as if we share these and express ourselves, other people are likely to relate and empathise with each other'.

The students were given total freedom of how to express themselves. Some students baked, there were pizzas and cake. Some students put pen to paper to write essays and poems. Some students painted or drew or crafted.

Floryan and Emaan worked together to create a two-part rap that was performed live in our Showcase.

Mariam created a pizza that represented phagocytosis whilst Luisa created the structure of an antibody from rice crispy cakes.

Josh created the structure of a virus; lustina baked a cake decorated like DNA; Katie painted a watercolour to represent the cell cycle and Lindrit drew a comic strip to show the role of T-cells in immunity.

The students really benefitted from the activity as they found it a great opportunity to spend some time away from technology whilst also reflecting on everything they have learned so far in Biology A-Level. Diego, who wrote an excellent essay said that it was 'a way to clear your mind and do what you like'; Tammy also really enjoyed the opportunity to combine her two passions of Biology and Art to create the amazing Anatomical Heart drawing. Luisa 'recommends taking a period of your school life and trying this out'.

Albert Einstein said: 'To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science'. The incredible work our student's have produced, demonstrates their creative skills and shows great promise for their futures as Scientists. A huge well done to all of the Year 12 Biology students.

Ms M Bowes
Head of Biology



The Year 11 Student Leadership Team have been working on a wellbeing newsletter for all students at Raynes Park High School. Part of their role and responsibility being on the leadership, is to be role models and support their peers during their time at school. The student leaders have been fantastic at supporting other students as they have also dedicated their time by offering remote learning wellbeing support drop in sessions online over the past few months too!

Miss S Audley
Head of Social Sciences

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL

March 2021 EDITION

The Wellbeing Bulletin

Created by Year 11 Student Leadership Team

Equality Edition

LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

- LGBT+ History Month is an annual celebration that provides education and insight into the issues that the LGBT+ community face.
- LGBT+ acronym has evolved over time to be more inclusive.
- LGBT+ is an acronym that represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender.
- LGBTQ+ is an acronym that represents individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & queer/questioning.
- Some suggest that LGBT+/LGBTQ+ sounds a little dismissive of other particular groups and so prefer the term LGBTQIA+ which includes intersex, asexual and any other sexual identities not explicitly listed.
- As a school we acknowledge the importance of being inclusive as all three acronyms are acceptable terminology to use.
- The overall aim of LGBT+ History Month is to promote equality and diversity for the benefit of our communities.

What have we done to raise awareness of LGBT+ History Month?

- Staff Email logo include the LGBT+ rainbow.
- Staff MS Teams icon resemble the LGBT+ rainbow.
- Head of Year assemblies focussing on key themes within the LGBT+ acronym.
- Tutor sessions developing understanding further and why learning about LGBT+ History Month is important.
- Students and staff to complete a survey on equality so we can hear views and suggestions.
- 'Expression of Equality' house competition during February half term.
- Most importantly it is educating us all to avoid any misunderstandings that could unintentionally cause harm or upset to individuals.

BLACK LIVES MATTER



What is the BLM movement?

In the news over the past year this is what you hear about, back in May 2020 we tragically lost George Floyd. Although many people had never spoke or met him, this really hit hard to the people in the US, protests started against police brutality and especially towards People Of Colour and went on to spread internationally. The BLM movement aims to eradicate racial discrimination and prejudice in our society.

Why is it important to highlight the inequalities that the BLM has raised?

This movement is special, just because of the colour of your skin, it does not make you less of a person. BLM highlights all the young children and adults that have a voice but do not know how to use it. It highlights those who have worked hard for where they are and deserve to be treated equally and fairly.

How can we all contribute to ensuring equality for all in society?

This is not a trend on social media, black lives have always mattered, and they always will. Please speak up if you feel discriminated. For more information follow this link (<https://blacklivesmatter.com/>), and remember you are loved.

AN INTRVIEW WITH – Ms Efford



Why do you believe that teaching and learning about equality and diversity in our society is important?

- It helps us become open-minded.
- It challenges perceptions and stereotypes.
- Less judgement in society

What have you been doing whilst teaching remotely to support your mental health?

- Had a social media break – finding it beneficial/calming
- Listen to pod casts before bed – relaxing
- Trying to eat better and healthier
- Reading more often
- Trying to exercise more often
- Yoga – meditation/relaxation
- Little goals have a great impact on motivation to complete tasks

WHAT IS CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This is to get people aware of mental health that children may have or may be experiencing but do not want to be open about it or feel alone with their feelings. It gets children and even adults to speak up and ask for help or comfort from others.

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

Children's mental health week 2021 took place from 1-7 February 2021. This year's theme was express yourself. This allowed people to be who they really are and to not feel embarrassed or uncomfortable in their own skin. As a school we took part in a 'no screen day'. Please watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Oh0krcnoP8&feature=youtu.be>

TOP TIPS FOR - Remote Working

1) Put your phone away

It is so easy to get distracted by your phone in lessons, one click of a button and you're scrolling through Tik Tok for hours. Put your phone on do not disturb or in another room so you won't be tempted by it.

2) Stretch your legs between lessons.

Sitting down looking at a screen for 5 hours can be tiring and uncomfortable. Between lessons and especially in breaks go for walk to stretch your legs even if it is just round the house.

3) Get out the house everyday

Try and get out the house everyday and go for a walk/run/bike ride etc. Getting fresh air can help elevate your mood as well as making you physically healthier.

4) Do not work in bed!

You should always try and work at table/desk as it's easier to maintain good posture preventing back pains and strains. Also, working at a desk increases motivation and organisation.

Extrahomeworkitis-21 17

BREAKING NEWS

A NEW VACCINE AGAINST EHW-21 !

Students at RPHS have developed a new vaccine against the extrahomeworkitis-21 virus. It is 100% efficient. However, only 50% of student and staff have been vaccinated to this day.

STEM: Vaccine weeks 2021

The Edward Jenner Story

Summarise the story of Edward Jenner's smallpox discovery in no more than 100 words – you can use pictures and symbols to help you.

To summarise the story of Edward Jenner, he discovered the correct way to vaccinate people. He became a doctor in 1770 and worked with John Hunter a surgeon. After a while, Jenner heard about some milkmaids who had got cowpox, and didn't get smallpox. After Jenner tried this out on a farmer's son and gave him cowpox and after six weeks gave him smallpox, but the disease did not follow his final... were rejected and he decided to name his technique vaccination. Many important people read this and he was given £3000 to open up a vaccination clinic.

FACT Smallpox victims
Smallpox has claimed many royal victims. They include Ramases V of Egypt (died 1157BC), Mary II of England (died 1694), Peter II of Russia (died 1730), Louis XV of France (died 1774) and Luis I of Spain (died 1742), two emperors of Japan (both died 548) and the Inca Emperor Huayna-Capac (died 1526).

Page 10 STEM: Vaccine weeks 2021

During our Vaccine Weeks, students explored vaccination from a variety of angles:

Science
In Science they discovered how their immune system works, how vaccination works and how scientists test vaccines.

Students then produced fantastic comic strips showing their immune response or vaccine trials.

Maths
In Maths students investigated dodgy data and modelled the spread of the dreaded extra-homework-itis!

Students then calculated the effectiveness of different vaccines.

DT
In DT students experimented with colour and shapes to create their own infographics that clearly represent COVID-19 data.

History
In History students explored the history of vaccination: from Mithridates attempts to avoid assassination in Roman times, through the work of Edward Jenner to the near eradication of polio in the 20th Century.

Students then wrote mini-essays to explain the significance and impact of Jenner's work.

English
In English students analysed media representations of the COVID-19 vaccines: identifying the devices used to influence readers.

In assembly, Ms Burkin put students' questions to Doctor Frishman, a GP working for NHS England.

Students responded really positively to the programme: they appreciated the link to the current situations and really stepped up to the challenges we put before them.

Students are now putting their skills to use. Armed with historical context, scientific information, analytical and design skills: students are debunking myths from the front page of The Fake News of the World.

Working in groups they produced a STEM poster to demonstrate their skills. The best posters will be shortlisted by the STEM teachers, then an expert judging panel of doctors, scientists and journalists will choose the best poster.

Mr J Johnson
Science Teacher

THE FAKE NEWS OF THE WORLD

FREE INSIDE

EXEMPTION
This card certifies that **GURNEET SINGH** is exempt from homework

HOMEWORK EXEMPTION CARD

CORONA VACCINE TRUTHS

no one is telling you

Is it a deadly dose?

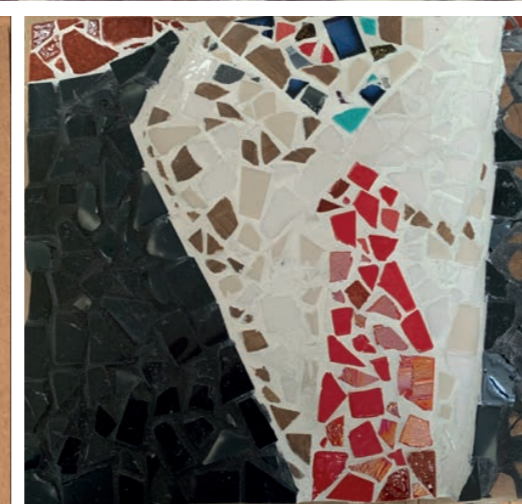
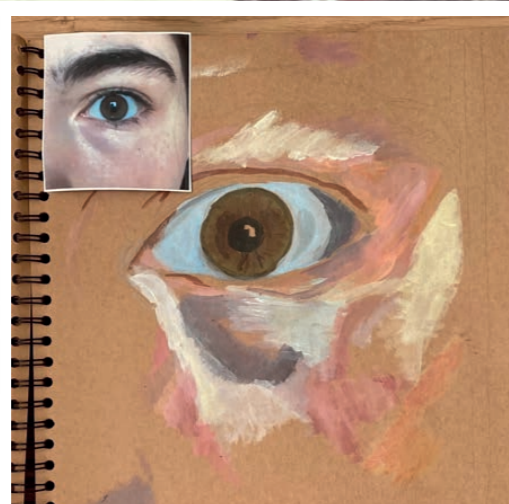
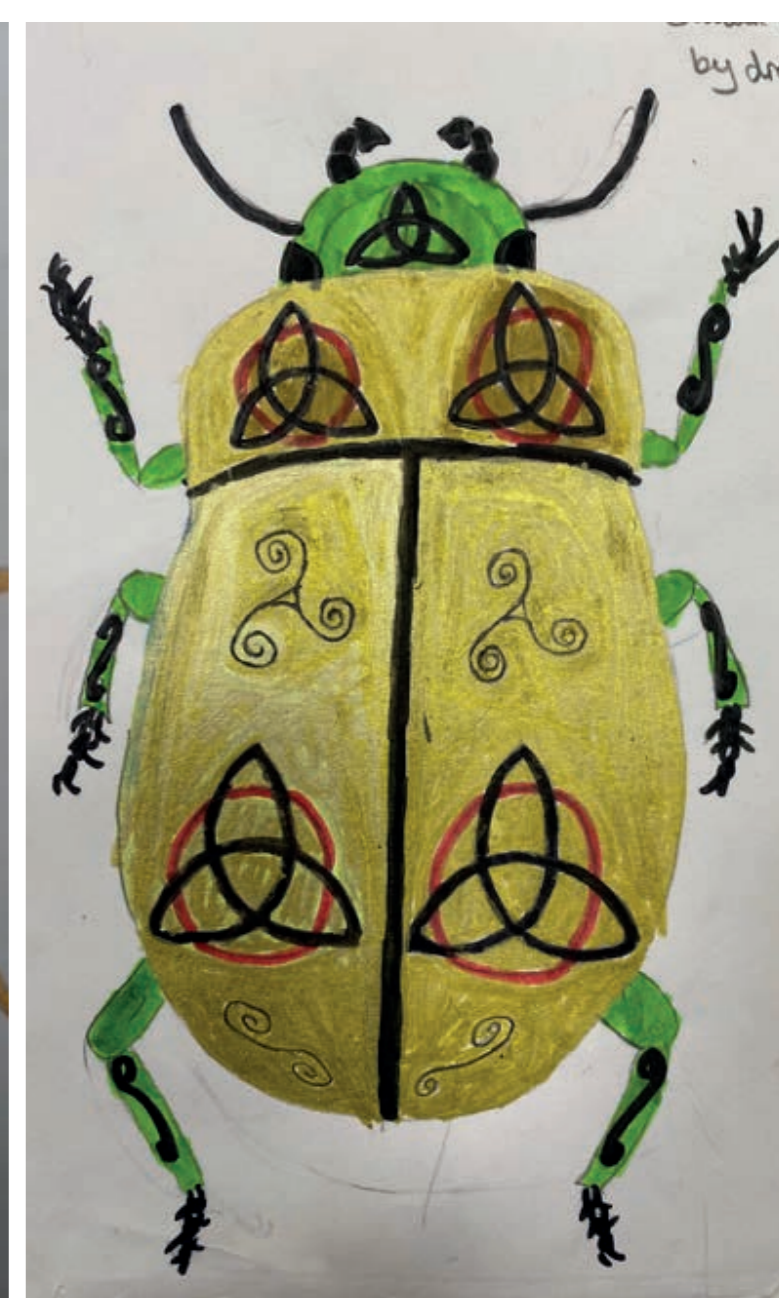
TRUTH: Doctors fear The vaccine wasn't tested like other vaccines.

TRUTH: People say the vaccine side effects are worse than Covid.

TRUTH: Government stats show Covid cases rose after the vaccine roll out, proving the vaccine can give you Covid?

DEADLY TRUTH: People have died after taking the vaccine.

Date	Approximate New Cases
01 Dec	10000
08 Dec	15000
15 Dec	25000
22 Dec	45000
29 Dec	65000
05 Jan	75000



LOCKDOWN ART

The Art Department have been very impressed with the focus and enthusiasm shown by students in their online lessons

The Year 7 students have been refining their observational drawing skills and have been learning how to record tone, shape and colour when drawing insects.

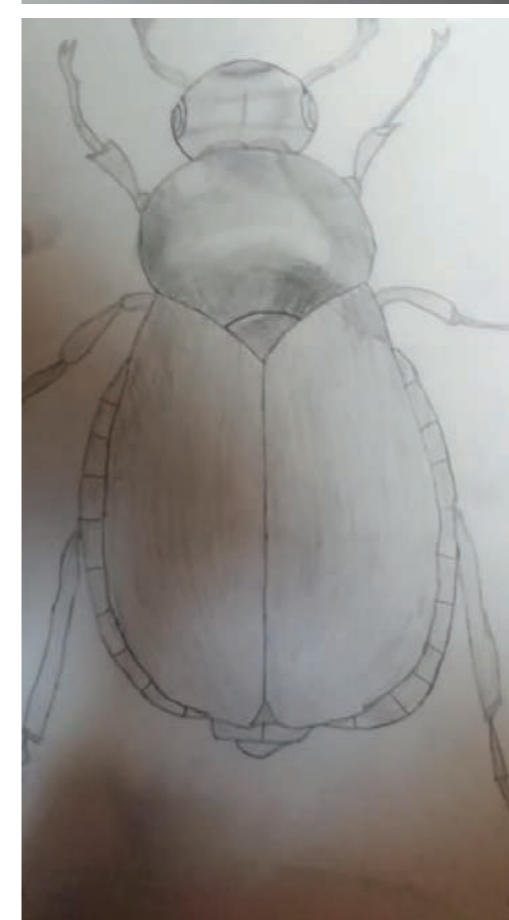
Year 8 have explored the work of Pablo Picasso and have experimented with creating their own abstracted faces. They particularly enjoyed trying out some new drawing techniques such as continuous line and blind contour drawing.

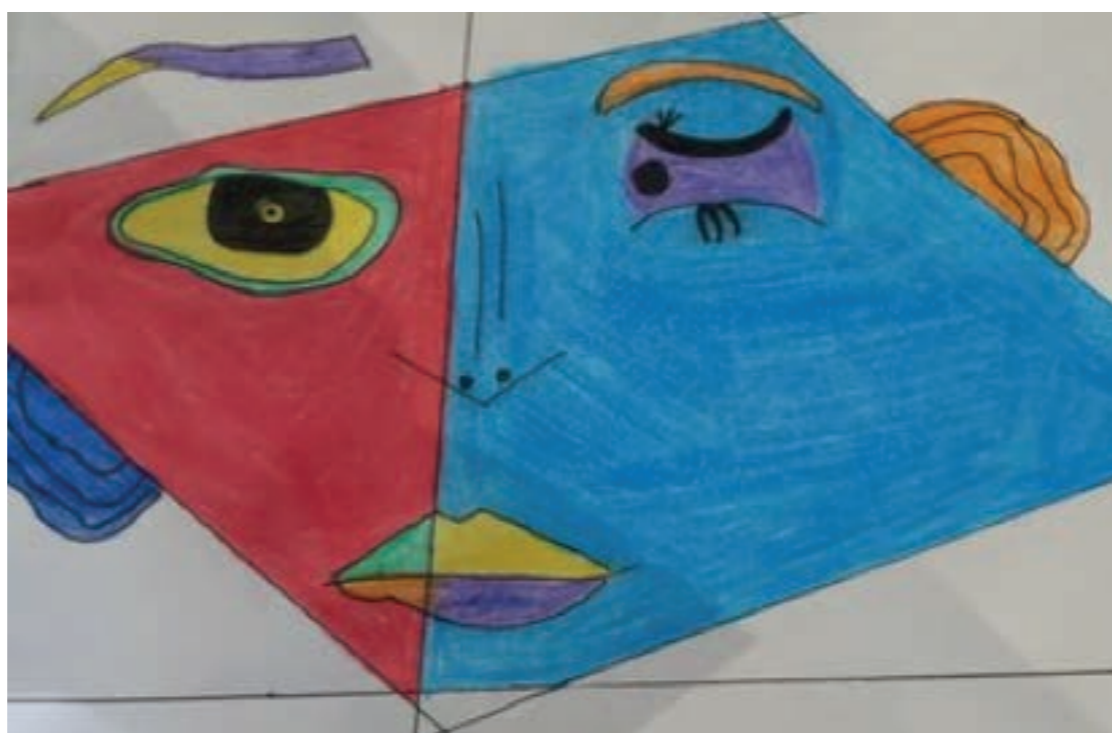
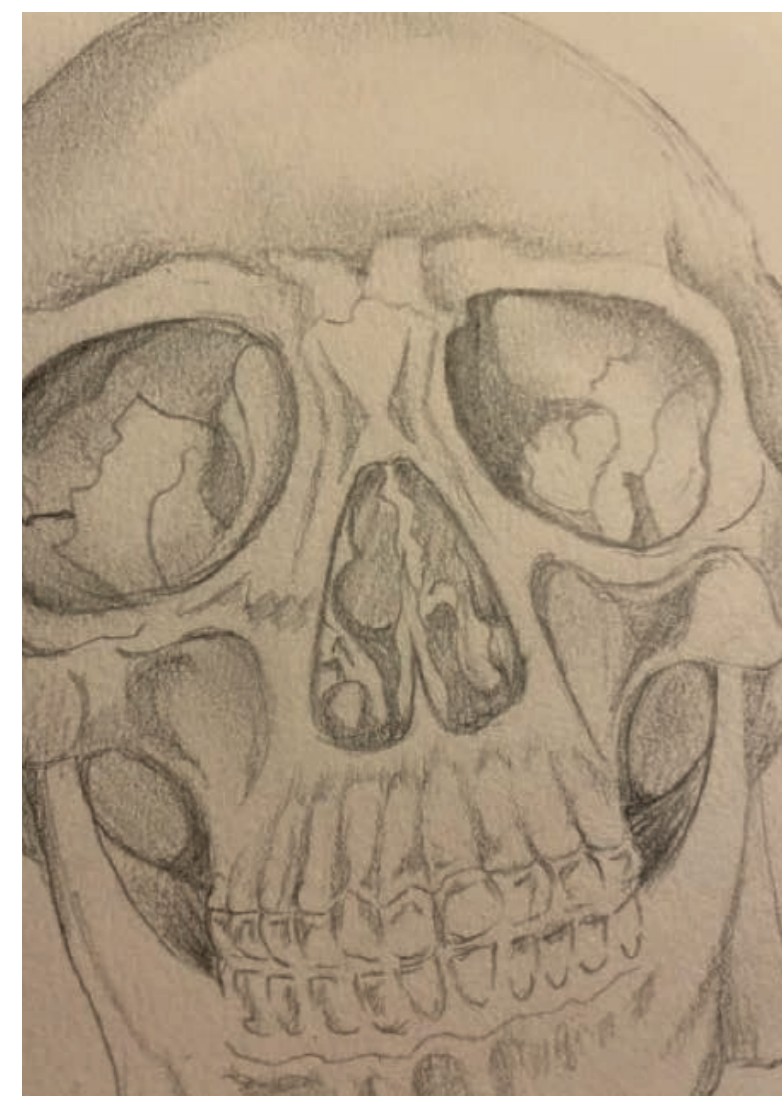
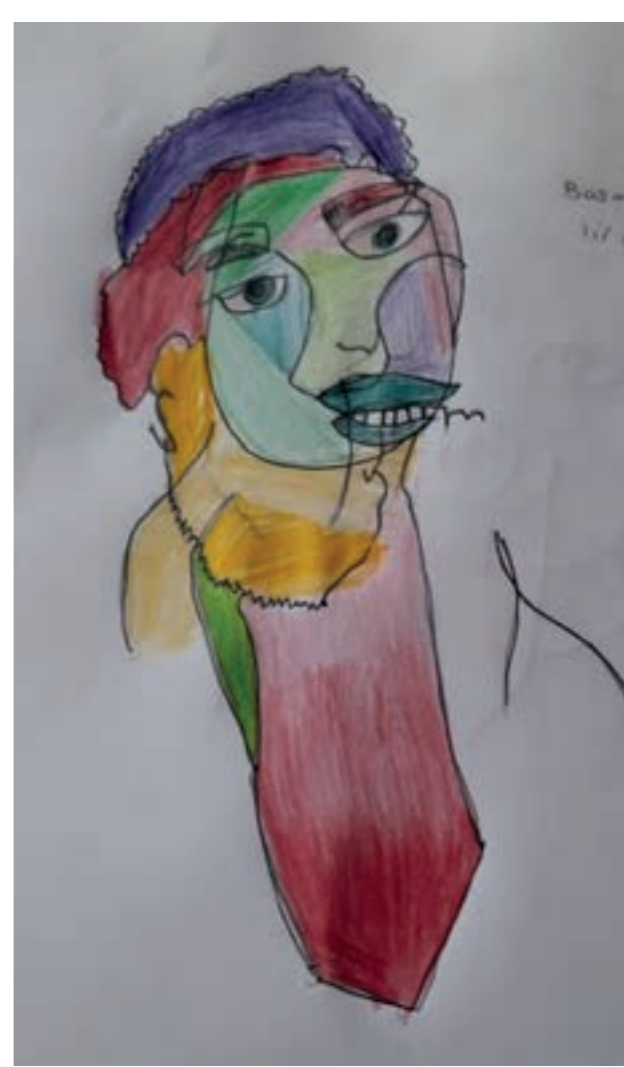
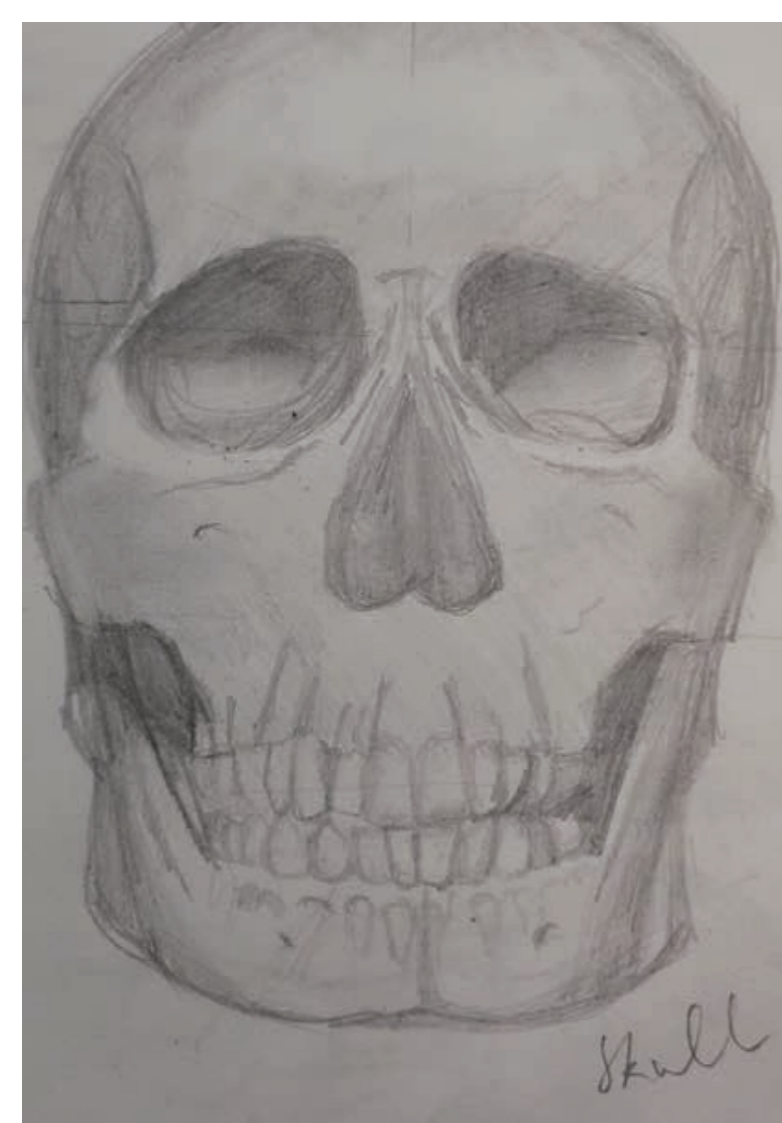
Year 9 have been learning the Mexican Day of the Dead festival and have carefully observed images of skulls.

Year 11 have been starting to work independently on their portraiture project and we have enjoyed helping guiding them through this body of work.

A huge well done to all of the students who took part - we are very proud of you!

Ms C Curtis
Head of Art and Photography





Do you shop online?

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

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

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

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

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

Please give it a try!



Join



Shop



Raise



easyfundraising feel good shopping

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs

Support this cause

1

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

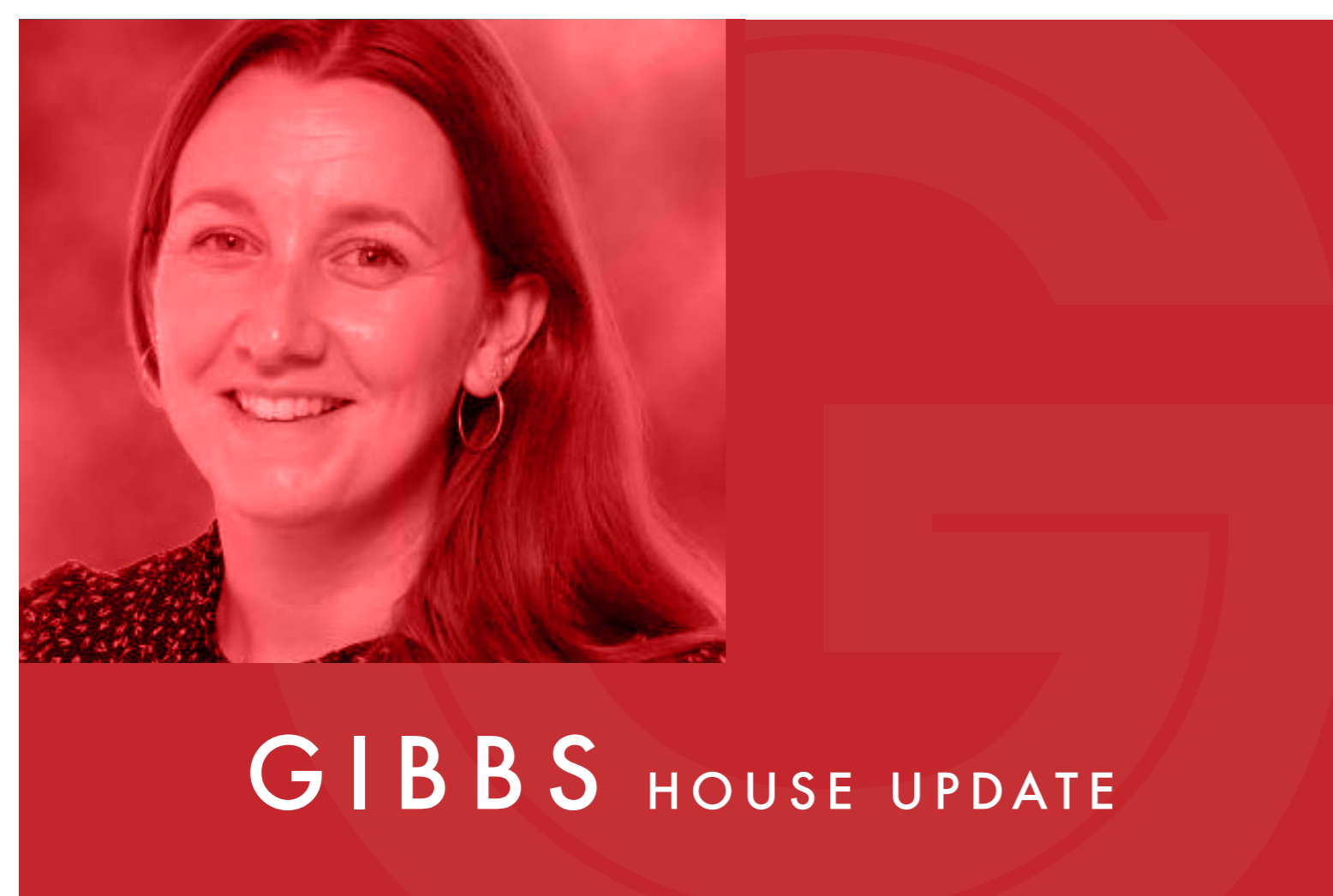
2

Choose your retailer and shop as normal

3

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





GIBBS HOUSE UPDATE

Firstly I'd like to say an enormous well done to all Raynes Park students! After so long at home it has been wonderful to have everyone back in school. Despite a challenging few weeks getting back into the routine of school life, students have settled back in quickly, and with a positive attitude.

Behaviour in school has been excellent, and I am so proud of all Gibbs students who have been working extremely hard both to earn lots of House Points, but also to overcome the challenges that this term has brought. All students have shown immense resilience in the way that they have adapted to new routines, and I have been really impressed by the kindness and patience that I have seen students show each other around school.

Keep up the good work Gibbs, and let's make sure we win that House Cup! I wish you all a restful break, and look forward to welcoming you back next term.

Ms R Carey

Head of Gibbs



NEWSOMS HOUSE UPDATE

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all Raynes Park students for, again, having to demonstrate resilience and self-determination with the remote learning that took place after Christmas. I am especially proud of students in Newsoms as feedback regarding their engagement and enthusiasm has been very positive.

Now we are back at school, I am looking forward to working with our fantastic House Leaders to start addressing our project focusing around tackling bullying.

Newsoms students continue to impress with our collective House Points on the rise and most students demonstrating a terrific attitude to learning, considering the trials of the past months.

Keep up the good work, and hopefully we will be on to win the House Cup at the end of the year!

Ms S Efford

Head of Newsoms



Whilst this term has been challenging for us I am so very proud of all the Miltons students that have risen to the challenge of remote learning and have shown so much resilience – a core value of a Raynes Park High School student!

Whilst it is sometimes difficult to focus on the positives during times of change, you have all achieved so much this term; participating in ‘no screen day’ activities, joining in challenge events, getting dressed up and guessing the masked reader, taking part in House competitions in designing a face mask and most importantly engaging in your remote lessons as much as you can!

I would like to take this opportunity to say that we are currently are 3rd (21482) in the house leaderboard for House Points ... but only just! Unfortunately, we have the most BMs (2210) currently and we all need to make sure that we are continuously doing the right things across the school and get back in leading position – I know we can do this!

Finally, we have all enjoyed having you back in our classrooms this term and seeing your faces daily. I wish you all a well deserved and restful Easter Break and looking forward to the Summer term and some sunshine!

Ms S Audley
Head of Miltons

I am extremely impressed and proud with the resilience that has been shown since Christmas time as students of Raynes Park have done extremely well with their online learning as well as returning back to school in person. I would like to personally mention students from the Halliwells House as I was constantly watching very closely to see how they were getting on and I was extremely proud.

Now we are all finally back together in school where we belong, I believe it is time to pick up where we left off. I am so excited to work closely with our House Leaders to improve the environment and community of Raynes Park High School for all staff and students.

Keep it up Halliwells!

Mr J Arnot
Head of Halliwells

NEWS FROM THE Governors

It has been a difficult term, but as we approached its end it was good to see the school filling up with students again. That feeling was common to staff, teaching and non-teaching, and to the majority of students as well. For Governors, the wait continues, but we hope to be back meeting physically in the building next term.

Our role is always to challenge and support, but during the pandemic our main task has been to support the work of staff. We have looked closely at their plans for operating the school safely, for remote teaching, for safeguarding our students and for managing their return. At every stage, Governors have been highly impressed by the unstinting efforts of Mrs Heard and her team. In every case they have gone the extra mile and worked tirelessly for our students' welfare. We have particularly commended their regular contacts during the pandemic with our vulnerable and potentially vulnerable students. There have been all sorts of traumas and heartaches to contend with, but the transition to full-time schooling has gone very well, and students' wellbeing has always come first.

As Governors, we have continued with our regular programme of meetings but like the rest of the country, we have had to conduct these on Zoom. I am very grateful to my colleagues for coping so well and for maintaining their morale despite not having been in Raynes Park High School for over a year now. We were also very impressed with the session we had with teachers on remote learning. This included a virtual Maths

lesson, ending with a test (Governors' marks on this were rather less than impressive.....!)

Our main work over the term is recorded in the Chair's report on the website (<https://www.rphs.org.uk/news/?pid=16&nid=4>). In addition to the recovery plans mentioned above we covered plans for GCSE/A-level and BTEC assessments this summer, academic catch-up sessions and school finances (where unlike a lot of schools we are in a very healthy position). COVID-19 added greatly to our workload, as it did to that of everyone else in the education world.

During the term, we welcomed one new Governor, Mrs Rita Patel, who has brought her financial experience and expertise to our discussions. We still have vacancies for two Parent Governors and I hope we will have nominations for these vacancies in due course.

As we end the term, we hope for more normality for the rest of the school year. It has been a tough time for schools. But under Mrs Heard's leadership, the school has shown its resilience and it has emerged in a good place. We can look forward to the future with confidence.




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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