

THE RAYNES TIMES

PARK HIGH SCHOOL

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**MR HARRIS:
WINNER OF
THE PEARSON
TEACHER OF
THE YEAR
SILVER AWARD**

FIND OUT MORE ON PAGE 8

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of the longest term of the school year and one with so many new challenges faced due to COVID-19, I am delighted to share this edition of the Raynes Park High School newsletter with you.



Despite operating in a very different way since returning in September, there have still been many experiences and successes that we have celebrated and enjoyed together over the last few months. I am, as always, very grateful to my colleagues who make so many of these experiences possible and to you for your ongoing support of the school, particularly at this difficult time. I would also like to record my thanks to the students for the way they have adapted to the numerous new measures in place and for their engagement in all aspects of school life.

The end of term is always a good time to reflect on and celebrate our students' achievements since September. It continues to be my privilege to walk through the school each day and see students smartly dressed in their uniform, engaged in their lessons and displaying such a positive attitude to learning. The year group bubbles that have been in place since September have worked well on many levels and we have seen our students behaving exceptionally well, both in lessons and during break times, across the school.

This week, students have enjoyed end of term assemblies with their Head of Year in place of the whole school assembly. We were also sorry that we were unable to celebrate our students' successes more formally at the annual Awards Evening; nevertheless, our congratulations go to those students who have won awards and we were pleased to still be able to present special awards, including the award for kindness, in memory of Milo Little.

The measures in place due to COVID-19 have seen a great many restrictions for schools, including not being able to welcome visitors on site. Therefore, we have held a number of remote

events, including Open Evening, Remembrance Assembly and Year 7 'Meet the Tutor' Evening, in addition to a socially distanced Target Setting Day in September. Whilst these events are very different to those we'd usually host, we have been determined for there to be a semblance of normality whilst maintaining contact with families and the wider school community.

As expected, Christmas events were cancelled but we did decide to get in to the festive spirit and go ahead with Christmas lunch. We wanted to show our appreciation to the students by treating them this year; they have really enjoyed having this time with friends in their bubbles and we were pleased that so many students took us up on the offer!

As the term draws to a close, we will bid farewell to Ms Dixon (Art) and wish her every success in her new school. We also wish Ms Fowler, Ms Taylor and Ms Morris all the best for their maternity leave.

Our aim is to provide the best possible educational experience for our students and all of our achievements this term are a credit to every member of our school community. Thank you once again for your support of the school and on behalf of the staff and Governors, may I wish you and your families a safe and restful Christmas and I look forward to welcoming in the new term on Tuesday 5th January (please see letter sent home on Tuesday 15th December for further details).

Mrs K Heard
Headteacher

CHARITABLE TRUST



Neil Jordan
Chair, RPHS Charitable Trust

The past nine months have had an unprecedented impact on the work of the school, with pupils, parents and staff surpassing themselves in overcoming the obstacles that the pandemic has thrown up. The school's charitable trust has made a small but significant contribution in providing funds, alongside the DfE and a donation from Troy Asset Management, for the provision of 45 laptops for students to use during periods of lockdown or isolation.

Parents with sons and daughters starting in Year 7 may not know that the Raynes Park High School Trust was founded to support the work of the school, especially in areas that are not funded through public resources. It has been in existence for 21 years and played an important role in raising funding for the school's Memorial Sports Ground, just across the road and the railway from the school. The Trust is registered with and accountable to the Charities Commission and, because of its charitable status, is able to access sources of funding not available to the school directly.

The Trust is currently putting together a bid to a charitable foundation to develop the School's EcoGarden. The woodland area will be refurbished including a new pond, seating to be provided in a sensory area and three raised beds will be constructed to grow vegetables. A school club will be established by the science department to carry out planting and to maintain the site. The Trust is also planning to buy two trees for the area to be planted in National Tree Planting Week.

Families can make an important contribution, both by opting to gift aid their School Fund contributions, and by making their online purchases through the Easyfundraising website (at no cost to themselves!) and through individual donations. There is a very wide range of shops from Argos, John Lewis, TX Maxx, Dunelm and Wickes, over 4,000 in all. Over £700 has been raised for the school just by a few people by signing up to easy fundraising and nominating Raynes Park High School Trust and buying online.

Here is the link you need to participate:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs

The Raynes Park High School Trust has ...

Raised funding for the school's Memorial Sports Ground

Contributed to 45 laptops for students during lockdown

Put together a bid to a charitable foundation to develop the school's EcoGarden

Received over £700 by people signing up to easyfundraising

Thank you for your continued support

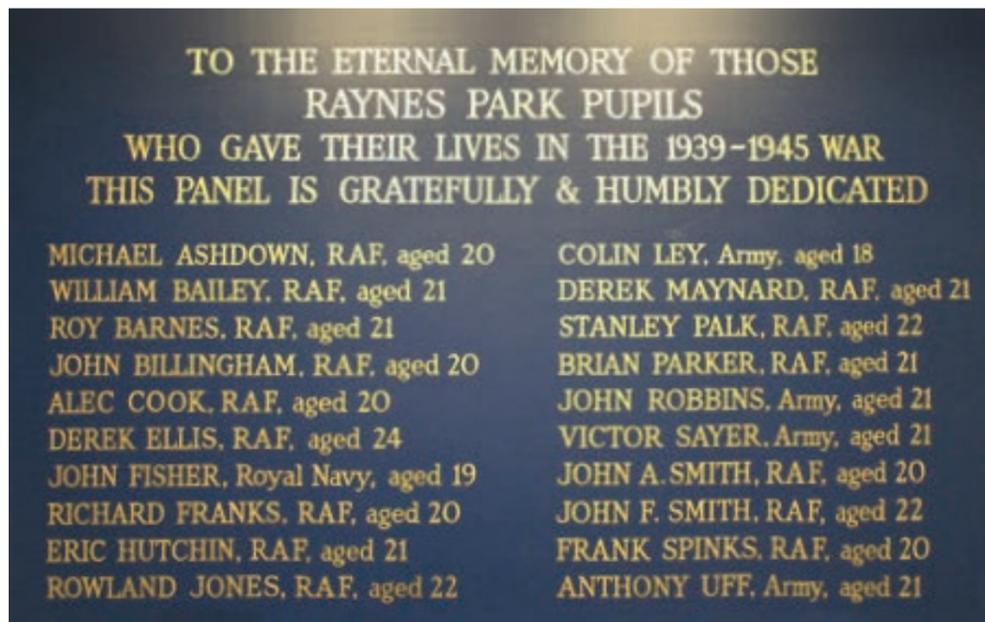
REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY



2020 is the 102nd year since the end of the First World War and as ever, we commemorated the occasion with a formal assembly. Students were informed of the background to Remembrance Day and made aware of the horrors of war as experienced by so many people, many little older than themselves. A specific focus this year was to consider the diversity of backgrounds of those who have fought for Britain. In both world wars, tens of thousands of soldiers fought and died for the country from across the empire and beyond. We also reflected upon the fallen from our own school. Twenty Raynes Park students were killed in the Second World War. Their names were solemnly announced by Year 7 students and an extract from a 1945 edition of the school magazine was read out.

Sadly, circumstances this year prevented us from holding the assembly with students in the hall. This also meant that visitors were unable to attend in person, as is usually the case. However, alumni were invited to view the assembly online. We were delighted that so many chose to do so, with former pupils from as far away as South Africa and Canada able to watch alongside our current students.

Mr G Collman
Head of Humanities



AWARDS ASSEMBLIES



We were so disappointed that we were not able to repeat last year's wonderful Awards Evening this year in the same way. Usually we would invite families in for a lovely evening to celebrate their children's successes from the previous academic year.

Despite not being able to hold the event in the same way we felt it is so important to recognise the successes of our students during what was a very strange time for all. In order to maintain COVID-19 secure 'bubbles' each year group had their own Awards Assembly this week and were able to celebrate as a year group with their Form Tutors, Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year and members of the Senior Leadership Team.

We celebrated achievements within subjects both for Effort and Attainment as well as individual success in each Tutor Group including the kindest student; it was so lovely to recognise both these pastoral achievements alongside the academic ones.

'it was so lovely to recognise both these pastoral achievements alongside the academic ones.'

We also received nominations from staff for our special awards; The W H Auden Award for Poetry, Alex Knapp Award for Music, The Claude Rogers Award for Art, The Paul Vaughan Award for STEM and The Milo Little Award for Kindness. Well done to those students who received these awards as well as to all our award winners this week.

Mr L King and Mr R Liyanage
Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher

AWARDS		HEADTEACHER AWARDS	
W H Auden Poetry Award	Zoe Sheaf	Year 7	Kapilan Uthayaseelan
Alex Knapp Music Award	Aaron Grinstead	Year 8	Lola De Silva
Claude Rogers Art Award	Olivia Harris	Year 9	Rochelle Barsee
Paul Vaughan STEM Award	Maryna Matskul	Year 10	Katie Rojas
Milo Little Kindness Award	Madison Smith	Year 11	Evie-Rose Avern



SPORTS AWARDS

AWARD WINNERS



It was with regret that we had to make the difficult decision, due to the ongoing pandemic, to cancel this year's Raynes Park High School Sports Awards Evening.

Recent years have seen the event go from strength to strength, being held at Craven Cottage, and providing the opportunity for us to invite families to celebrate the sporting successes of our students. Whilst unfortunate, we knew that families would understand that the safety of our staff, students, and their families had to be our main priority at this time.

It was important to still recognise the sporting achievements of students and we were able to do this during the Awards Assemblies held this week. We celebrated the successes of both teams and individuals from last the last academic year, as well as the efforts of students within their PE lessons since the return to school in September.

I would like to thank all our families for their understanding and continued support during these challenging times and we hope to be able to celebrate our students' sporting achievements with them in our usual way in 2021.

Mr J Sanderson
Head of PE

Year 7 Girls Sports Personality	Miela Sinnerton-Carter
Year 7 Boys Sports Personality	Fayez Shugaa
Year 8 Girls Sports Personality	Skye Young
Year 8 Boys Sports Personality	Noel Musime
Year 9 Girls Sports Personality	Muskan Gul
Year 9 Boys Sports Personality	Brook Bassett
Year 10 Girls Sports Personality	Raquel Spindola
Year 10 Boys Sports Personality	Jack Gerrish
Overall 2019-20 Sports Personality of the Year	Noel Musime
Boys Team of the Year; Year 8/9 Table Tennis	Damari Bell, Jack Chesworth, Ryan Curtis, Aaron Davis, Tyrique Douglas, Dylan Flowers, Thomas Hale, Stephen Henry, Alfie Jones, Keanu Lewis, Zeph Stow and Jamie Wilson
Girls Team of the Year; Year 9 Netball	Zuzanna Allegra, Lola Ciano, Holly Dooner, Muskan Gul, Ziah Hinds, Caitlin Taylor and Davina Thangarajah

Raynes Park High School teacher wins Silver Award in The Award for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School

Selected from thousands of nominations, Richard Harris is one of just 76 Silver Award winners across the country. Richard Harris was honoured with a Silver Award in The Award for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School for their outstanding commitment to changing the lives of the children they work with every day.

Richard Harris uses technology to inspire and assess his students in equal measure. Aside from his work in the classroom, Richard has represented Kent as a 5K runner, won the British National Jujitsu title, coached for Fulham Football Club and featured in publications as a star teacher for the most prestigious educational academy in South Korea.

Richard Harris is now in the running for one of just 14 Gold Awards later in the year, in a programme which will be broadcast on the BBC. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the exceptional school staff who have worked wonders during an incredibly challenging time for educators across the country.

The Pearson National Teaching Awards is an annual celebration of exceptional teachers, founded in 1998 by Lord Puttnam to recognise the life-changing impact an inspirational teacher can have on the lives of the young people they work with. This year marks its 22nd year of celebrating, award-winning teachers, teaching assistants, headteachers and lecturers across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

'Over the past year, we have, all of us, come to appreciate and respect the value of teachers. They have so often been taken for granted. Not any more. Parents know now what it takes to teach, and teach well, and how much commitment, dedication and enthusiasm and knowledge and understanding, yes - and patience.'

Children know it too, if they didn't before. So many missed their teachers as well as their friends. We all honour them today. Let's now praise them, wish them well and above all, thank them.'

Michael Morpurgo

Celebrated author and former Children's Laureate, and President of the Teaching Awards Trust

'Congratulations to all of our Silver Award winners for their commitment, dedication and passion for their work. Despite the incredible challenges they have faced over the past few months, school staff have risen to the occasion time and again.'

Rod Bristow

President of Pearson UK

'My warmest congratulations go to all this year's silver award winners. They should be proud to receive this recognition of their commitment to the profession, and the outstanding education and guidance they provide for their students.'

Teachers and school staff up and down the country consistently go above and beyond for their students, and this is especially true over the past few months. It is down to their hard work that schools have been able to open their gates to all pupils again for the start of the new term, and I cannot say thank you enough for everything they have done.'

Gavin Williamson

Education Secretary



MR HARRIS

WINNER OF THE
PEARSON TEACHER OF THE YEAR
SILVER AWARD

Inspirational
London teacher
honoured in UK
celebration of
teaching

WELLBEING IN SCHOOL

Preventing a
Mental Health
Crisis Summit



How have we been promoting wellbeing in school?

We have been getting our students involved in lots of opportunities to promote and improve their understanding of the importance of looking after their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

On 20th July our Year 11 student leaders participated in an event with South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust, The South West London Health and Care Partnership and Merton Citizens called hosting a Mental Health Crisis Summit on 20th July 2020. Our students delivered a Zoom breakout session on COVID-19 mental health and children and young people to contribute to how we can address and work together to protect our communities' mental health as result of COVID-19. The Summit involved a series of discussions and workshops with experts by experience and leading figures in mental and public health from across South West London.

During October we celebrated World Mental Health Day. Heads of Years delivered mental health assemblies that encouraged students to think differently about mental health, promoting self-care, top tips on sleep and eating well, how to improve wellbeing, how students can support each other and signposting to services that can support wellbeing.

During November our KS4 students took part in a half-day of drop down focusing around the themes of mental health, stress, organisation and revision. The drop-down addressed issues such as students missing educational opportunities during the lock down, offering strategies on how to self-motivate, dealing with exam pressure, how resilience links with wellbeing and how to progress in subjects through meaningful and impactful revision. Students were also given signposting to wellbeing services, helplines, apps and websites that can support their wellbeing during this difficult time.

We also celebrated Anti-Bullying week which was promoted throughout the school. Student's tutor times focused on helping our students to understand different types of bullying, the long last effects it can have on another person's wellbeing, what to do if you witness or are being bullied and how everyone can play their part in reducing bullying. Heads of Year led assemblies that covered the United against bullying theme.

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 in place in safe socially distanced face to face ways as well as virtually.

Merton Education Wellbeing Service have continued to provide support to students, staff, and families this term.

On 24th September many of our parents took part in a virtual parent workshop delivered by Dominique Zakkour from Merton Education

Wellbeing Service which focused on returning to school and this was really well received.

From October we have had a Clinical Nurse Specialist for Self-Harm from the Merton's Child and Young People's Wellbeing Service in school one day a week. This support provides young people with thoughts of self-harming up to six sessions of emotional support covering prevention and self-help work.

Students have also been able to receive face to face support from our Education Wellbeing Practitioner to improve their wellbeing through completing sessions that equip young people with the tools their need to put self-help strategies in place for anxiety and low mood.

Parent Webinar - 'Supporting Your Teens during Times of Uncertainty'

An online webinar for supporting your children during times of Uncertainty is now accessible via the YouTube channel. It's aimed at parents and caregivers and is all about how to support teenagers during times of uncertainty. Annika Clark, service lead, at South West London and St Georges' Mental Health NHS Trust delivered the workshop live and recorded it, and as positive feedback was received they have shared the link: <https://youtu.be/HcW-3Dnh9sl>

The workshop covers: -

- Supporting your teenager with sleep
- How to enable teens to hear what we're saying
- Recognising anxiety and low mood in teens
- How to respond to heightened teen emotions

Outside Agencies working with our students this term

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

Our Sixth Form students have been working with Off The Record Merton Outreach services which have provided the Year 12 students with face to face socially distanced group work around emotional regulation and managing stress as well as providing students with short term 1:1 work to support their emotional wellbeing.

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 counselling for any emotional wellbeing issue or specific mentoring for drug and alcohol misuse prevention work.



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

OFF THE RECORD

Winter Holidays Support Line

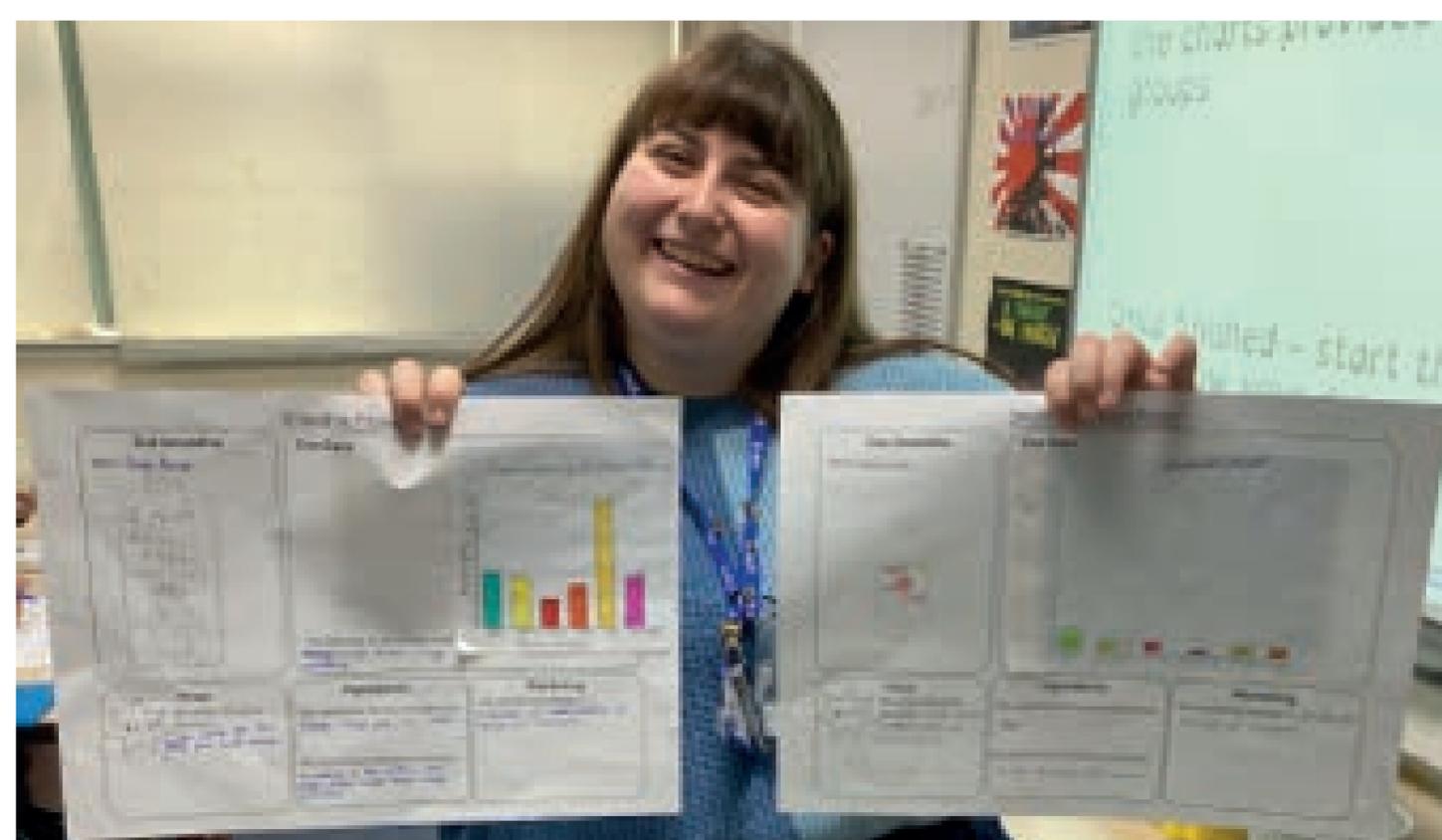
We will be open everyday between 24th December - 3rd January, 3pm - 6pm

Call us to talk to an OTR counsellor and for confidential support.

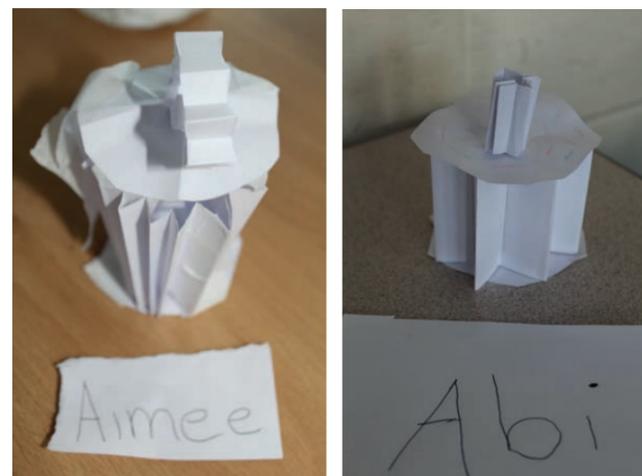
020 8175 6776

www.talkofftherecord.org

Support for ages 11-25 in Croydon, Merton & Sutton.



SCHOLARS WEEK

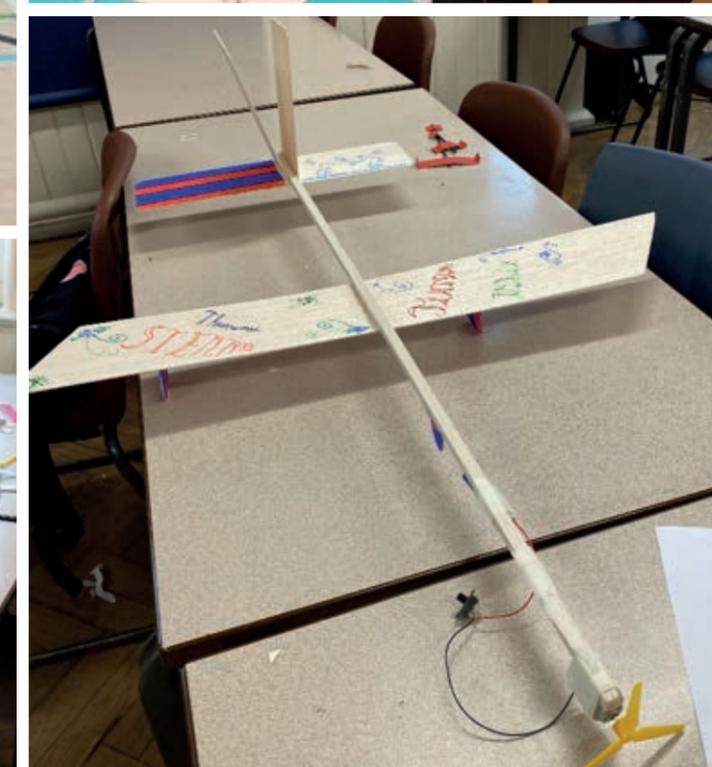
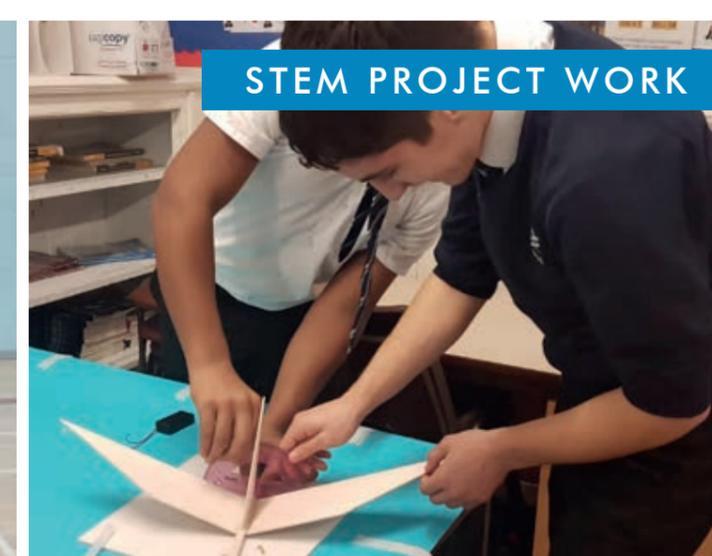


Students buzzed with excitement earlier this term, as they immersed themselves in topics that took them beyond the national curriculum and into the world of Scholars. In Science, Year 7 learnt about Katherine Johnson and her resilience and tenacity. In History, they were taken on a journey as they heard about the contribution of key women such as Hedy Lamarr and how Historians investigate their past. In Maths, students used their problem solving and data analysis skills to design their own smoothie, competition was rife. Students excelled in their designs of 3-D cakes in Art. Whilst in Geography the corridors echoed with the sound of students discussing the impact of COVID-19. Year 8 grappled with the idea of synopticity as they considered how different subjects make their contributions to the study climate change.



Following Scholars Week, students will be nominated by their teachers for the Raynes Park Scholars Award. For students to be successful, they will need to demonstrate how they are developing their Scholarly skills across a range of subjects. We hope to celebrate our students' success in the summer term with a Scholars Celebration Evening, celebrating students who have the potential to excel in whatever they choose to do. Students will have the opportunity to take part in their second Scholars Week in spring.

Mrs G Crowe
Senior Teacher



STEM PROJECT WORK

Over the course of this term the Science department has been busy hosting several different events. In October, 32 Year 8 Science students participated in a STEM masterclass developed in conjunction with PPG, a global paints manufacturing company, and delivered by the National Space Academy. The masterclass was designed to use the context of space to examine areas that are key to PPG's research, development and manufacturing in colour and materials in order to link the Science and Engineering of PPG with Space Science and Technology. The students addressed issues including why rockets are pointy and usually very tall; what rockets are used for; the design problems that need to be solved when launching a rocket through the atmosphere into the vacuum of space; and why rockets are made from particular materials of specific colours.

To investigate this last issue, students carried out an experiment with thermochromic paints to determine the optimum colour based on their rate of absorption of the infrared radiation a rocket would encounter in space.

Students in Year 10 took part in a bridge building challenge set by civil engineer George Ameh. This project has involved a video call where George spoke to Year 10 and they asked him some really insightful and thoughtful questions about his role as an engineer as well as his experience at university. George set the challenge for students to work in teams to build a bridge out of only three newspapers, masking tape and elastic bands. The students produced some fantastic designs and everyone is looking forward to repeating the challenge at the end of term

where they will apply their knowledge of forces to improve their designs.

Alongside these classroom activities we again invited the Smallpeice Trust to host our STEM Aircraft Challenge in partnership with the Tim Henman Foundation. All of Year 9 have participated in the event over the last month and it has been another huge success. The excellent designs and team work demonstrated throughout the events was fantastic.

In groups the students had the morning to create straw gliders, design an aerodynamic plane based upon their gliders and create a brand. Once their plans had been finalised, the students then built their planes which included putting together their very own motor. The students then had to present

their final product to the rest of their group and the Smallpeice Trust before carrying out test flights! All students were incredibly engaged in the activities and gained an insight into the key processes involved in STEM and engineering.

Some of the students wanted to share their thanks;

'I enjoyed the STEM week activity. It was fun to work with people I wouldn't normal speak to and it was fun to see everybody's designs'

'Thank you Tim Henman and the Smallpeice Trust. I loved the opportunity to enjoy engineering with my friends and learnt a lot. I appreciate the skills taught to me that can help throughout my life.'

Ms K Burkin
Head of Science



CAREERS UPDATE



The Sound Lounge build project with Volunteer It Yourself

In October we took a group of students to help put the finishing touches to a new community café and music venue in Sutton. Ben, Chaz, Ezra, Harvey, Kieran and Robert were incredibly hardworking and fantastic ambassadors for the school. They learned how to use a variety of different woodwork and decorating tools and techniques and took great care and pride in their work. Each student also achieved accreditation for a City and Guilds Health and Safety qualification.

Thank you to The Sound Lounge for being so passionate about providing opportunities for our young people to learn about the world of work. Thank you also to Volunteer It Yourself and the Federation of Master Builders for the wonderful mentors who worked with our students.

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

Ms B Brake
Careers Leader



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!



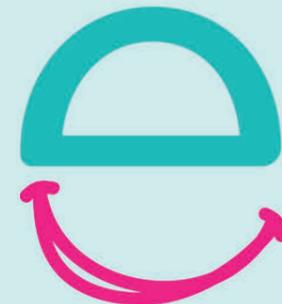
Join



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

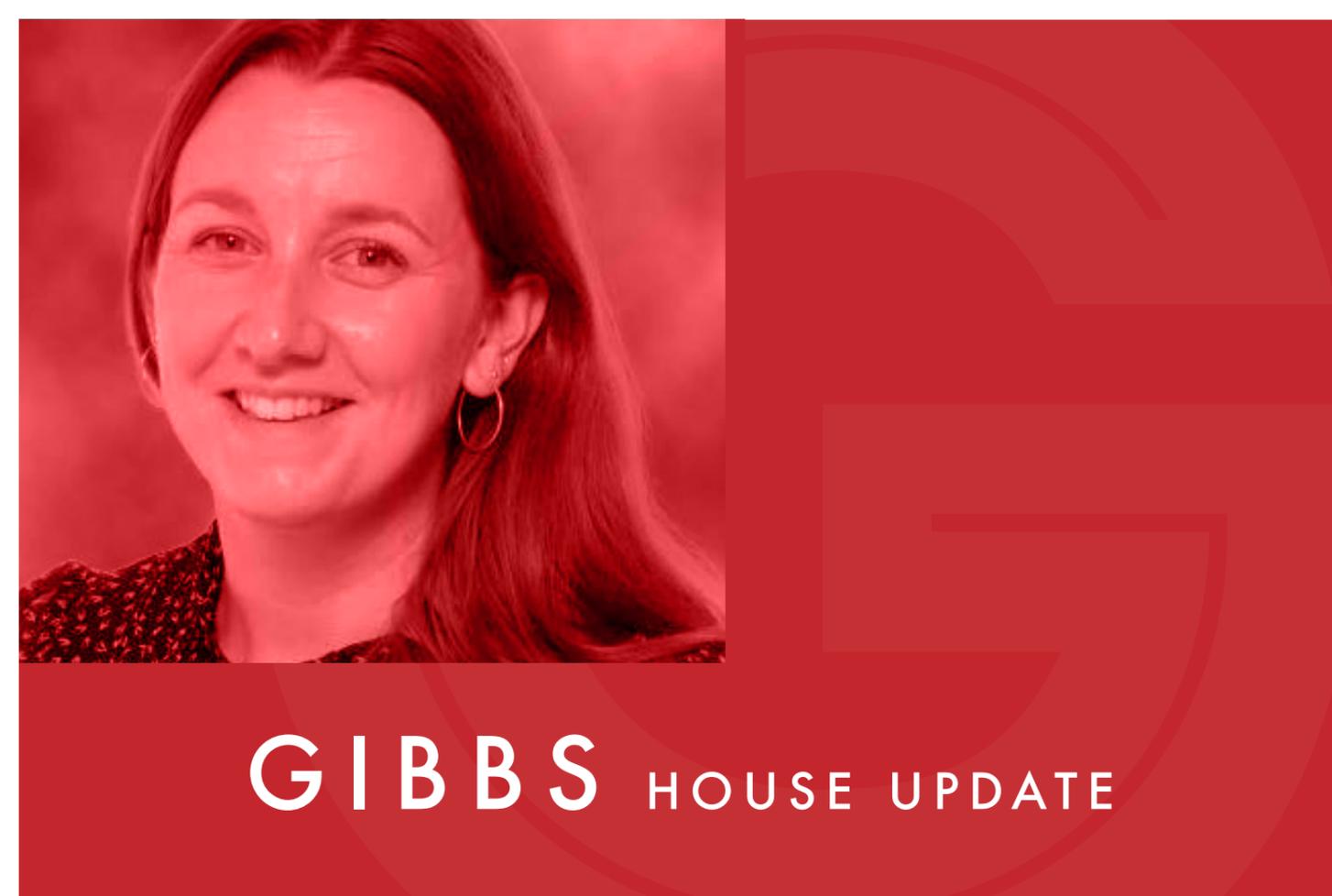
2

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

Despite a very challenging term, it has been wonderful to see what a positive start all students have made. Students have shown resilience in adapting to the current situation, continue to always show kindness to each other and be role-models for their peers. I am especially proud of all students in Gibbs, who have ensured they are doing the right thing both in class and around the school, and who are earning lots of House Points for Gibbs as a result! I would also like to say a huge well done to those students who have continued to show commitment in their lessons, and who have received awards in the year group assemblies.

Looking forward, it is really exciting to see that so many Year 7 students applied to be House Leaders, and we look forward to welcoming them properly next term, and hearing all their fantastic ideas for our House projects. I hope you have an amazing, and very restful Christmas holiday.

We look forward to seeing you all back in January!

Ms R Carey

Head of Gibbs



NEWSOMS HOUSE UPDATE

Raynes Park students have shown a huge amount of resilience with a fantastic start back at school this year and it has been brilliant to see the way students have demonstrated support to each other in times of adversity. I am especially proud of those in Newsoms who's fantastic behaviour means we are currently leading the way in terms of House Points. I would also like to say a big congratulations to all members of Newsoms who have received awards in our year group assemblies, what an amazing achievement!

Our House project this year is based around tackling issues of bullying, and our House Leaders are working on some ways of addressing this to ensure that all students feeling safe and happy at school.

I have very much enjoyed reading through our Year 7 House Leader applications, and am excited to appoint a new member of the Newsoms team next term.

I am wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you all soon!

Ms S Efford

Head of Newsoms



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students especially those in Miltons House who have collected awards during their year group assemblies this week. It is very pleasing to see that so many of Miltons students are doing the right thing in lessons, around the school and most importantly showing kindness to each other.

Our House project this year is to raise awareness of mental health and to consider ways we can come together as a school community. We have had lots of ideas put forward by our wonderful House Leaders this term which we will work together on throughout this year. This term I have been delighted that so many Year 7s applied to be a House Leader and have shown commitment to their house from the start – well done to all Year 7s that applied.

This year has definitely been a challenging start to the year for all and I am very proud that Miltons students continue to demonstrate resilience and be role models across the school.

Have a wonderful and well deserved Christmas break!

Ms S Audley

Head of Miltons

I want to say congratulations to all students but especially the Halliwells students who have worked extremely hard and managed to stand out amongst their peers to receive an award during their year group assemblies. I was so impressed to see so many Halliwells students across all year groups up there reaching the high expectations that I have as a Head of House.

As you are all aware the project that the Halliwells House have been and will continue to work on this year, is to improve the environment and community; which leads me to the Halliwells competition. I was so impressed with all the recycled objects that were made. I want to take the time to shout out 7MB in particular for their hard work and involvement. I hope to see more of you taking part in the upcoming House events.

I want to end saying how proud I am of each and every one of you. This term has been extremely different and difficult yet so many of you are doing so well!

I hope every single one of you have an amazing Christmas... I am excited to work closely with you in the new year!

Mr J Arnot

Head of Halliwells

NEWS FROM THE Governors

It has been another strange term, a time of one-way systems, bubbles and blended learning. Governors have had their usual programme of meetings, but they all have been conducted on Zoom and Microsoft Teams and we have missed the experience of coming into school and seeing it work at first hand.

Our main business has focussed on maintaining our students' safety and in sustaining their academic progress now they are back in the classroom. Just before the term started, Governors inspected the physical arrangements for keeping students safe. We have been impressed by the 94% average attendance rate (far above the 70% national average) and by how few students and staff have been infected by COVID-19. We pay tribute to the work of Mrs Heard and her staff, teaching and non-teaching, in keeping the school going, and we have reviewed this throughout the term to ensure the best outcomes for our students.

Governors know how important it is maintain the academic impetus, and we have set targets and monitored progress in the usual way. The importance of blended learning – the mix of real-time and remote learning – will be important long after the pandemic has gone, and we were pleased to have a demonstration of what the school is offering on Microsoft Teams. Mrs Henderson had the thankless task of giving Governors a Maths lesson (at which the Chair of Governors scarcely distinguished himself with a 33% test score, much to the amusement

of his Maths-loving younger son, one of Mrs Henderson's students up to last July).

Governors have also been concerned about the effect the COVID-19 regime will have on school finances. Much is promised by the Department of Education but Governors are monitoring spend closely. It is excellent to report that the school finances remain in good order and it is our objective that they should remain so at the end of the financial year in March.

Finally, on the membership front, Governors said goodbye to Lise Charmillot, one of our Co-opted Governors, following the birth of her second child. We thank her for her work with us and welcome to our Governing Body Carolyn Barnes, who brings a wealth of Senior Leadership experience at other schools.

The school remains in good shape in spite of the COVID-19 pressures. It is another storm the school will weather and the Governing Body will continue to challenge and support the good work of our staff in seeing us through.



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

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