

THE SPUR



SUMMER TERM 2026

[Raynes Park High School and Sixth Form](#)

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'IMMENSE PRIDE'

Headteacher Miss Taylor on the end of the school year

As another academic year draws to a close, there is much to celebrate in this final edition of The Spur and I am filled with immense pride in all that we have accomplished.



Looking back at the school calendar, it has been a whirlwind of activity, capturing moments of joy and achievement that truly reflect our ethos, and demonstrates that our community is our greatest strength. A notable highlight has been the celebrations for our 90th anniversary that have continued throughout the year, starting with the school hosting the Former Pupils Dinner in October, and concluding with an exhibition and event charting the school's rich history last week.

We are delighted that our students have enjoyed opportunities beyond the classroom, whether it has been representing the school as Sports Leaders at local primary schools, at sporting fixtures and events including the Wimbledon tennis championships, representing RPHS at various competitions, or showcasing their many talents on the stage. Our students have continued to be such fantastic ambassadors for the school, and you should feel very proud of your children and all they have achieved this year.

As in previous years, there is much in the news about the financial and recruitment challenges facing schools but I am pleased to report that we are fully staffed for September. As we look forward to the year ahead, we will be welcoming Year 7 students from more than 70 feeder schools in September and we are looking forward



to more than 100 Year 6 students joining us for Summer School next week. We have also recruited well into our Sixth Form with 100-plus students starting Year 12 in September.

The culture and atmosphere around the school remains overwhelmingly positive. We have continued to embed our values of respect and resilience at every opportunity, and our students appreciate the importance of these in their quest to secure the best results in all aspects of school life. Teaching

high-quality lessons every day is the most important aspect of our work and the quality of teaching has been carefully monitored throughout the year. We have welcomed colleagues from the local authority and we were delighted with the many positive comments made by our School Improvement Partner when he has visited the school throughout the year.

Continues on Page 2

'Worked tirelessly'

Continued from Page 1

As we say farewell to those staff who are relocating around the country or abroad, moving on to teaching opportunities elsewhere or taking career breaks, my thanks go to these colleagues for all they have done for RPHS; they have inspired and supported our students, some for many years, and we wish them every success in the future.

As always, I would like to thank the incredible team at RPHS for their support and hard work, and the endless enthusiasm they show in providing such wonderful opportunities for the students. I would like to pay tribute to the dedication of the teaching staff who have worked tirelessly right up until the end of term and to our support staff who work so hard with the day-to-day running of the school. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent work of our committed governing body, which has continued to support the school so well.

A huge thank you to our families too for your incredible encouragement; the majority of messages that we receive really do make a difference to staff morale. Thank you for taking the time to send them in.

However, most importantly, I would like to thank our brilliant students; thank you for your kindness and your remarkable hard work.

I wish you all a wonderful and well-deserved summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.



Displays showcased the school's history during the evening

Celebrating our 90th

Staff and students mark school's anniversary

STAFF and students, both former and present, came together on a special evening to mark the school's 90th anniversary.

The school hosted an exhibition showcasing pictures and photographs from the past including old editions of the *Spur*.

One of the most poignant parts of the display was the memorial board honouring former pupils who gave their lives during World War 2.

There were talks from our Headteacher Miss Taylor and chair of the Former Pupils society Ron Ribolla, who recounted his school days as Head Boy in the 1950s and 1960s.

As well as looking into the school's history, there were musical and dramatic performances

from current students.

The choir sang the Beatles song *In My Life* and *A Million Dreams* from the *Greatest Showman*, and there were musical numbers from the school's production of the *Wizard of Oz*.

Miss Taylor said: "Education has the power

**I have had
amazing
colleagues take this
journey with me
Headteacher Miss Taylor**

to change lives, the lives of young people but also the lives of those of us who teach.

"The last ten years of being the Headteacher at this school have been a huge honour but going on this journey is not something I have done alone.

"I have had amazing colleagues take this journey with me, colleagues who are not only devoted to teaching but devoted to being here at Raynes Park.

"Our 90th anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our school community over the decades, and to remember those who shaped our history."

Continues on Page 3

Dre will fight world's best

Martial artist at championships



Martial artist Dre will fight in Spain

A STUDENT from Raynes Park will test his martial arts skills against the best in the world at an international tournament.

Dre is the current Muay Thai British Open champion, having gone unbeaten since he started competing last year.

His success has been years in the making, having started training with his Muay Thai coach father when he was just three years old.

His skills were quickly noticed by the England national team, and he will now fight on behalf of his country at the world championships in Spain later this year. Dre was born in Thailand, the home of Muay Thai, but moved to the UK when he was very young.

He said: "I feel very proud that I have made the England team and will get the chance to represent my country in a sport that I love.

"A big part of my achievements is down to

my dad, who has been training me since I was three and still does now at the club he runs in Croydon."

"I'm what's known as a counter-fighter. I'm very defensive, so I don't get hit a lot."

He added: "The school has been supportive. The teachers ask me about my fights and how training is going. My friends are also behind me. They think it's really cool to have a friend like me who's doing this stuff."

“The teachers ask me about my fights and how training is going”
Muay Thai fighter Dre

Celebrating 90

Continued from Page 2

The school will bury a time capsule with a copy of the newsletter, latest prospectus and school ties.

Mr Ribolla, who was Head Boy and attended the school from 1958-1965, said: "Raynes Park still holds a very special place of affection in my heart. The line in our school song about remembering your school days is so important.

"My advice would be to keep in touch with your school mates, not on social media platforms but in real life.

"Meet up and talk about your time at school, your school days – you have a shared history with each other.

"Stay in touch with your school, be a part of the school community. The Former Pupils society meets up every couple of months."

Trust donates

THE Trust has made a few donations to the school this term, including a contribution to the cost of table tennis tables and compost and a hoe for the garden club. Of course the more funds we can raise the more we can do so I would welcome any fundraising ideas or help. Do get in touch at CharitableTrust@raynespark.merton.sch.uk.

Please don't forget Easyfundraising. If you buy online you will find that many companies including Tesco, John Lewis, Morrisons etc will donate to the trust when you buy from them. Please go to the easy fundraising website www.easyfundraising.org.uk. If you download the donation reminder it comes up every time if you are buying online. There is no cost to you and the trust gets a donation. If you sign up by 17 July the trust will get £3 for every sign-up!

We have a fundraising event coming up. On November 19 there will be a quiz in aid of the Trust. Do put the date in your diary.



**Chair of the RPHS Charitable Trust
Margaret Tulloch**

Holocaust horrors

Survivor tells students of life under Nazi regime

OUR students were given a glimpse into the horrors of the Holocaust during a talk with a survivor.

Special guest Marcel Ladenheim, pictured inset as a boy, described how he survived the Nazi occupation and escaped the concentration camps. Marcel was a child in Nazi-occupied Paris, but survived by being hidden by his two sisters.

Year 9 Valentinea said: "What struck me

was just how grateful he was to the two sisters for helping him escape the Nazis.

"Despite what he had gone through, losing both of his parents in the camps, he was still looking on the bright side.

"It's crazy to think he was the same age as us when he found out his parents had died in the Holocaust. It is an assembly I will never forget."



Year 9 Ariana said: "I felt so heartbroken hearing about what had happened to him during the Holocaust. I was really able to put myself in his shoes and ask how I would feel if it happened to me."

Marcel sent a thank you note to students after his visit. It reads: "Thank you for your respectful reaction to my talk on the Holocaust."

Year 10s finish course to help uni prospects

BRIGHT Year 10 students have completed a degree level six-week programme aimed at boosting their chance of getting into a top university.

Under the instruction of a PhD tutor, pupils have been learning how the Swinish Multitude learned to read in the 18th Century, as part of their participation in the Brilliant Club.

The combined chemistry and business studies project saw students completed a 2,000-word university style dissertation.

They also took a trip to King's College university, where they sat in on lectures, toured the campus and met undergraduate students.

The Brilliant Club is an award-winning university access charity that works with schools to increase the number of pupils from underrepresented backgrounds progressing to top universities.

A special mention goes to Maame and Luc, who delivered superb speeches, reflecting on the skills they have developed.



Members of the Brilliant Club



Students from years 11 and 13 attended leavers' assemblies after their exams

STUDENTS were given light-hearted awards, signed each other's shirts and went to the Prom to mark the end of their A levels and GCSEs.

Years 11 and 13 attended a leavers' assembly, where awards were handed out for the most likely to become a millionaire or a Nobel Peace Prize winner, voted for by students.

During the assembly they were also asked to reflect on their journey at the school and encouraged to join the Raynes Park High School's active Former Pupils society.

Year 13 were able to offer places at their Prom for just £5 after a committee raised most of the money through fundraising activities at the school.

Year 11 held their Prom in a conference room at Fulham Football Club where students enjoyed soft drinks and burgers.

Head of Sixth Form Mr Wheel said: "It was bittersweet occasion because on the one hand we were sad to see them go but on the other were excited for their futures.

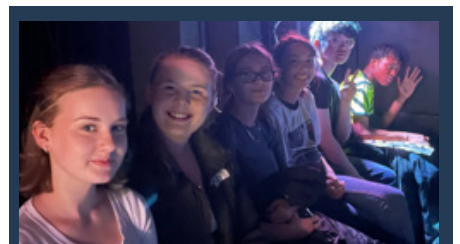
"We have an active alumni, but they are a bit older, and I am keen to get the younger people involved. We want them to come

back and tell us what they have done after university.

"They remain part of the school even after they have left. We have such a proud history of staying in touch with former students, we want that to continue through to the next generation."

Mr Forrester said: They had worked so hard during their GCSEs it was great to be able to give them a good send-off.

"It was the first time Fulham had hosted a prom, so it was a big deal for them as well. The students loved the venue and had a great time."



OUR Year 12 BTEC acting class explored different performances at the Brighton Fringe Festival.



Ball girl Ava at Wimbledon

That's the spirit

| Ball boys and girls embody values

STUDENTS selected to be ball boys and girls at Wimbledon tennis have embodied the school values. That is the verdict of Head of Sixth Form Mr Wheel, who helped them prepare for their training to be part of the tournament.

Year 10 Zayd, Year 11 Quency and Year 9 Ava came through a rigorous selection process to be chosen to work on the courts at tennis' most prestigious tournament.

This includes training for an hour a week with the school in the lead-up to selection and two-and-a-half hours a week before the event.

Zayd, who was picked to be a part of the trophy parade, said: "Wimbledon has given me the chance to work in a team as well as making new friends that I probably would never have met otherwise.

"The experience has been extremely rewarding, especially after all the intense work and effort it took in training to get to the end.

"It's incredible to step onto court, being next to professional tennis players and realising you're a part of something special."

Mr Wheel said: "I have seen them a few times while the championships has been going on and they are pretty ecstatic about how the tournament has gone.

"We are all incredibly proud of the way they have conducted themselves throughout.

"Ava has impressed so much. She has the incredible honour of being one of the flower girls at the women's final. That is a huge achievement. It shows that our students can compete at the highest level, working alongside and supporting elite athletes.

"They have embodied the school values of high aspirations, high motivation and high achievement, and it shows these values transfer well in the real world."

It's incredible to step onto court... you are part of something special

Year 10 student Zayd

Rounders team best in borough

OUR Year 8 girls were crowned borough rounders champions after beating the competition.

They took on Merton schools the Ursuline and Ricards Lodge, winning against the former and drawing with the latter.

The title came down to the total number of rounders scored across the competition, and Raynes Park came out on top by just one rounder.

Year 8 Eva said: "It was a tough couple of matches, but I think we did well to win. It was great to win with all your friends."

Evie said: "Everyone got quite a few rounders and played well. I really enjoy rounders and sports in general because it's a nice way to stay active and keep fit."

They had already been crowned basketball borough champions and netball silver medallists.



The Year 8 girls were crowned Merton borough champions – by one rounder

Meanwhile, Year 9 Chetin's long distance throw in the javelin secured him third place in the borough athletics championship.

He said: "I was nervous before the competition, but I felt I did quite well even so. I was pleased with my bronze medal."

Learning about football and Pride

STUDENTS played in a football tournament before taking part in a series of workshops as part of the Premier League Inspires programme.

They learned about the careers within the football industry and to mark Pride month took part in a workshop on diversity and inclusion.

They created personalised identity flags, giving them the opportunity to reflect on and express what makes them unique.

They also took part in fun challenges including practising their shooting accuracy at the inflatable goal challenge and a parachute running race.

Rafael golds on Sports Day

STUDENTS and teachers gathered on the field for the annual Sports Day.

All year groups took part in different track and field events, including sprint and relay races, long jump and throwing competitions.

Spectators cheered loudly from the sidelines, creating a lively atmosphere and encouraging the athletes.

Year 10 Rafael uncovered a hidden talent after scoring a hat-trick of gold medals.

He took first place in the 200m, 400m, and

800m despite only running competitively for the first time two days before.

He said: "I like to swim but I had never tried to run properly for a race until two days before the sports day.

"I think I surprised a lot of people including myself at how well I had done. I was happy to win three gold medals.

"Sports day is a lot of fun because even though it is competitive no one takes it too seriously and everyone is together."



Benny and Anni-Frid at the show

Students see ABBA's stars

OUR students got a glimpse of the real-life stars of ABBA at a hologram concert for schoolchildren.

Two of the band's iconic figures, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad, were present at the ABBA Arena in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

They thanked students for coming, before being serenaded with a version of their song Thank you For the Music.

Students from across year groups were selected for the trip because they were involved in performing arts.

Year 12 Gabia was picked out of the crowd to take part in a promotional video. She said: "I don't really know why I was chosen or what it was for, but I was interviewed about the concert and seeing the real-life stars.

"It was the first time I had been at a concert with school, so it was already quite an unusual trip and then I was picked out for interview."

Year 12 Francesca said: "The opportunity to go to my first ever concert was great, it was an amazing experience. I am studying music so it was a good opportunity to learn about a new type of music."

Year 9 Carmen said: "There was a real community feel to the concert because everyone was singing the songs at the top of their lungs."

Year 7 Amelia said: "The atmosphere was great. There were lots of different schools there and then they came out and we sang to them. It was a great moment."



Students enjoy the hologram concert



Year 7's rugby team went close to winning the title at the London Youth Games

Rugby fun for new Year 7 players

OUR year 7 rugby boys were a whisker away from winning the London Youth Games – despite most of them not playing the game before.

The school represented Merton against teams from across the capital, playing eight matches in a league format.

Student Albie said: "I had not really played rugby until this tournament, but I enjoyed it a lot. It was disappointing to get so close and not win but we put in a good effort, so I was pleased.

Art said: "It was good to go so far considering most of us never played rugby. I have become more of a rugby fan since I played in this tournament."

Jack said: "I was a bit scared of rugby because I thought you might break your bones in the tackles but there was nothing to be worried about."

Year 7 Leo said: "I felt a lot of pride in our team, we did well without much practice. I think it was because we displayed good teamwork and a good attitude."

Learning new skills

Students' abilities put to the test for DofE Award

STUDENTS volunteered, learned a skill, took part in sport and went on a camping expedition to complete their bronze Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award this term.

They put in hours of volunteering, three months of physical activity and practised a skill to receive the prize.

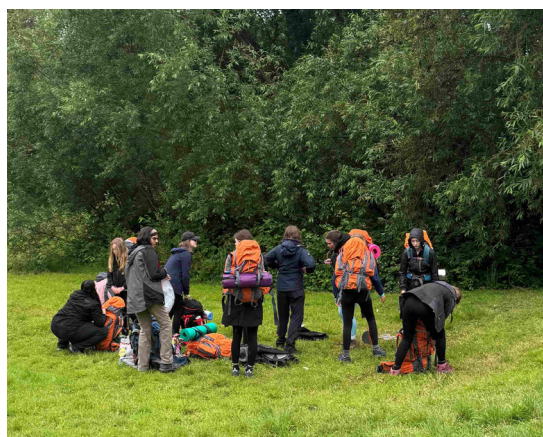
This term participating students have helped at the school library and the Scouts to complete their volunteering section.

They painted, brushed up on the piano and completed a two-day expedition to East Grinstead.

Year 9 Mattin said: "I volunteered in the library, helping younger students with their reading. It was satisfying to see their reading improve because of the support I gave them.

"I think the Duke of Edinburgh [Award] helps you develop a lot of different social skills that will help you in later life."

Year 9 David said: "For my skill I sing in a band and play drums. I played at the winter



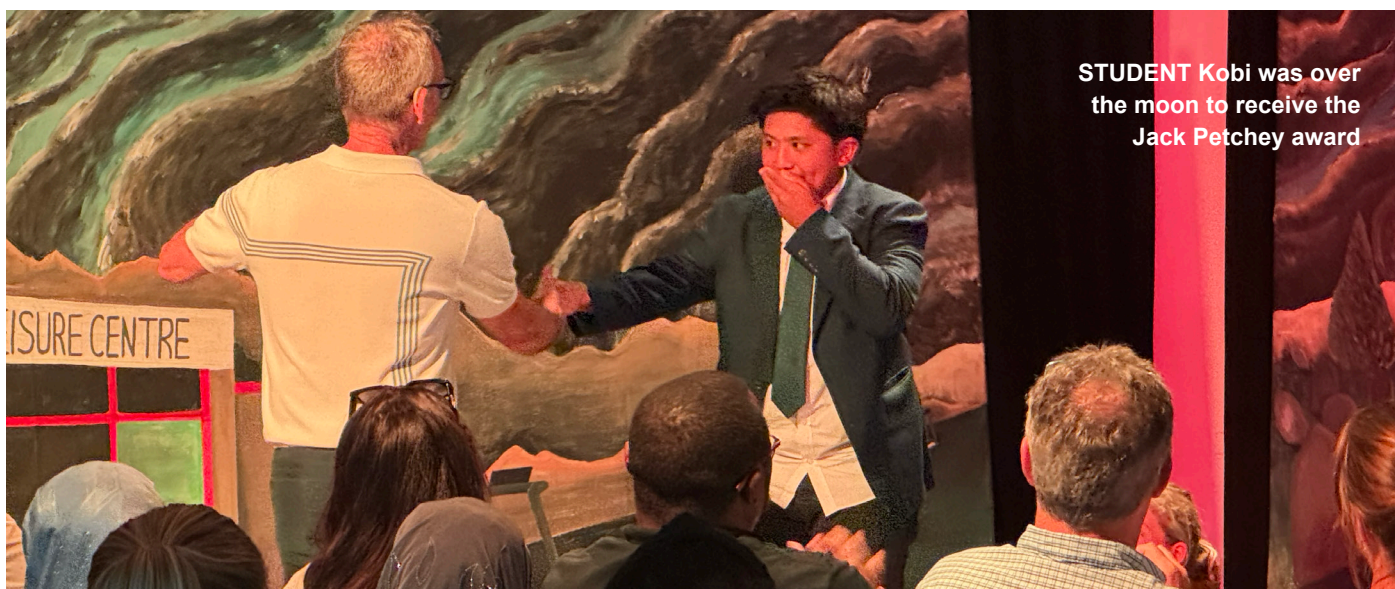
Students get out and about as they complete their DofE Awards this term

showcase. "I have made lots of new friends since I started doing the Duke of Edinburgh. The expedition really brings you together."

Year 9 Abi said: "The Duke of Edinburgh helps you develop your independence. During the expedition we had to cook for

ourselves and learn map skills."

Year 9 Josie said: "The expedition was tough, but it really connects you with your friends. It was difficult but it teaches you how to be resilient keeps pushing you through."



STUDENT Kobi was over the moon to receive the Jack Petchey award

Sports Leaders pitch in to help the community

OUR Sports Leaders have been making a difference in the local community this term by volunteering at primary school sports days.

They visited Hollymount Primary School and Burlington Junior School, where they helped to organise activities and encouraged younger pupils.

The students were selected for the role in recognition of their progress in PE and sportsmanship.

Year 9 Mattin said: "It is a nice feeling knowing that you are helping other people. I could see that the younger pupils were really enjoying themselves which was great.

"It is also an honour to represent the school and make a positive impact in the community."

Year 9 Molly said: "It was a pleasure to be able to pass on my knowledge that I have learned while being a student at Raynes Park High School."

A wonderful Wizard of Oz

Performance delights crowd

STUDENTS left the stage with applause ringing in their ears after bringing the house down with a stunning performance of the Wizard of Oz.

They played two nights to a packed school hall with nearly a hundred friends and family in attendance.

They also played to local primary schools and to students transitioning to Raynes Park High School in the next academic year.

The cast of about 40 students from across year groups were co-directed by Year 12 student Gabia.

She said: "I have been a big part of the performing arts department since I started in

Year 7 so to get the chance to direct a show at the school was just amazing.

"I have gone from acting in the shows to being behind the scenes directing and helping with the choreography.

"What was nice was the actors in the show came up to me afterwards and thanked me for helping them put on the performance."

Year 8 Max, who played the wizard, said: "I enjoyed how we created a community of like-minded people who were all into the same thing. Everyone was nice and there were just good vibes throughout rehearsal and performance. I also enjoyed performing to the primary pupils."



Students perform in the production of the Wizard of Oz



One of the students gets hands on

Aspiration Day fuels ambitions

THE school invited bright pupils from local primary schools for a day of academic challenge.

Year 5s from primary schools Burlington, Hollymount and Hatfield tackled GCSE level classwork at our Aspiration Day.

In English, they came up with their own stories in creative writing class while in Computer Science they learned about coding.

In Maths, they had to maximise space on a pretend farm to generate more revenue.

Director of Community Partnerships Mr Oldridge said: "The idea is to challenge these pupils to push them towards fulfilling their potential.

"They are high achievers in their primary schools and so we want them to start thinking about the work they will do in secondary school."

Royal near miss at London Zoo

STUDENTS just missed an audience with the King and Queen during a STEM enrichment trip to London Zoo.

King Charles and Queen Camilia had been at London Zoo moments before our students arrived and saw them drive off in their motorcade.

The Royal couple were in attendance to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Zoological Society of London

Head of Science Mr Ahmed said: "It was a shame we did not get there a little bit early so the students could see the Royal couple.

"It was still a great trip being present at the 200th anniversary. The students got to see animals in real life they have only read about in books. The students could talk to the keepers who are incredibly knowledgeable about the animals."

Year 10 and 11 students have been taking part in STEM taster days in our Sixth Form.

Lessons in rural life

Students try their hand at farm work during stay

STUDENTS learned about rural life during a three-day residential trip to a farm in the South Downs.

They unplugged from the big city, handing in their mobile phones and learning to live and work on a farm.

At Jamie's Farm they took on tasks such as herding sheep, feeding livestock, and cleaning out the enclosures.

They also looked after new born lambs and built a goat enclosure.

The charity, of which Queen Camilla is a patron, was co-founded by Jamie Feilden and his mum Tish.

I was able to calm down a horse that was getting a bit scared

Year 8 Jonathan

Year 8 student Jonathan said: "I enjoyed the whole experience. I was quite scared of horses, but I overcame my fear and found that I enjoyed being around them. I was able to calm down a horse that was getting a bit scared. When you

overcome your fears, it helps you to become more independent."

Year 7 student Albie said: "I tried a lot of different things I had never done before, so it was a good experience. I learned how to cook and be in a group."

Assistant Headteacher and Safeguarding

Lead Mr Nash said: "It gives the students an experience they are unlikely to have in normal life.

"It is designed to be a catalyst for positive change by getting the students out of their comfort zone and doing things they would not normally do."



STUDENT Clara has won yet another award for her poetry – this time from the University of Oxford. Her poem Two Catholic Girls Dance to Charlie XCX was commended in the Tower Poetry Competition run by Christ Church College.



Students visit Roehampton University during our Aspire Day

University taster

YEAR 8 students discovered the wide range of courses available at Roehampton University during our Aspire Day.

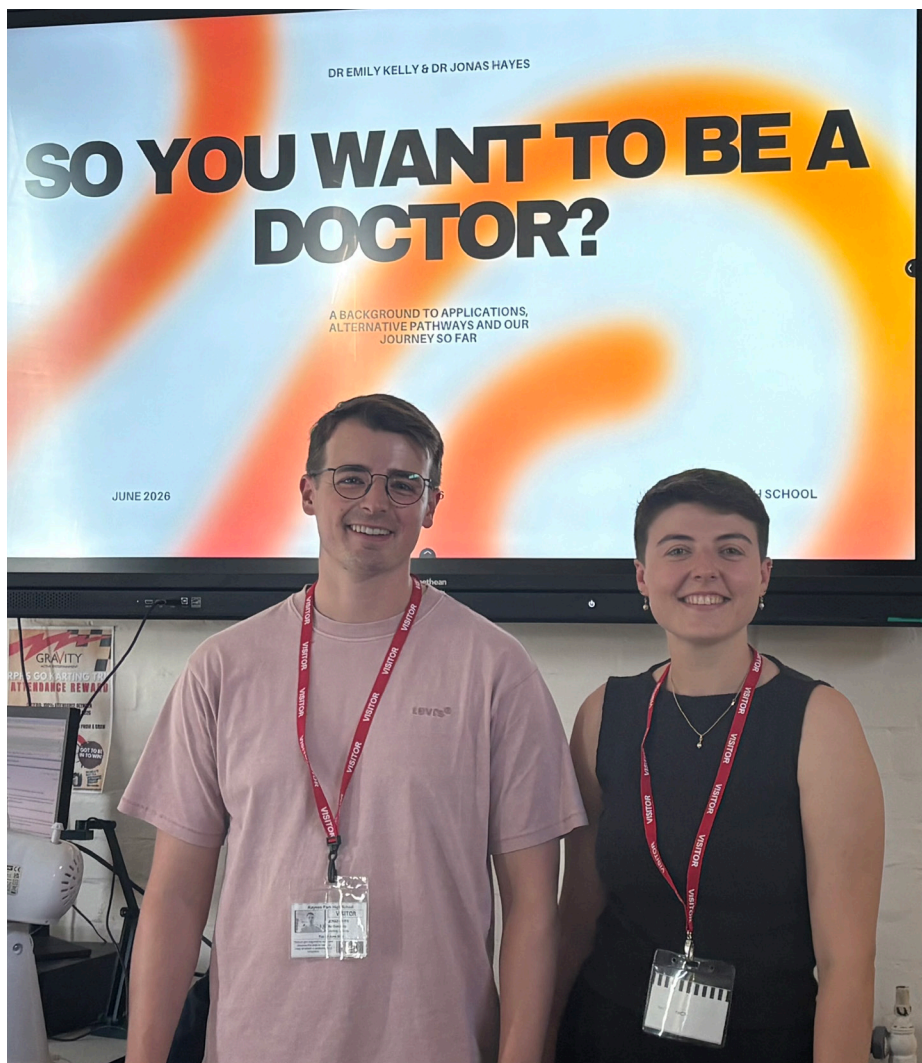
They explored the facilities including the hugely impressive university library.

The students took part in practical activities to help them understand what life is like as a student such as budgeting for meals and learning how to make their own bed.

They also had the chance to talk to undergraduates during a Q&A session, gaining valuable insight into university life and the support available.

To finish, they designed their own ideal university.

You can view our school's Biometric Policy and Privacy Notices on our website at any time. Please visit the [Policies page](#) for full details.



Dr Emily Kelly and Dr Jonas Hayes talked to students about medicine

Pathways into medical profession

STUDENTS learned about education and career pathways into the medical profession during a visit from two doctors.

Dr Emily Kelly and Dr Jonas Hayes delivered a talk and Q&A session on medical careers, applications and pathways into the profession.

Ace space with WonderDome

STUDENTS took an unforgettable journey through space thanks to mobile planetarium WonderDome.

Our Year 7s were joined by pupils from Hollymount and Hatfeild for an immersive experience exploring the wonders of the universe.

Dancers perform at Royal Academy

OUR after-school dance club Step around Town performed at the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD).

They have been rehearsing their moves with company Step into Dance, a partnership between the Jack Petchey Foundation and RAD.

Year 9 Josie said: "It was quite surreal because you could see ballet classes going on in there and you're thinking, 'How am I here as well?'."

"It was an amazing experience, getting the chance to dance in a place where the best in the country dance."

Year 9 Armaan said: "I was a bit nervous because we only found out a few weeks before the performance."

"I love to dance. It is amazing way to express yourself without using words. You can express your feelings and emotions through your dance."

"It's way of expressing yourself without using techniques like words."

Design pieces delight

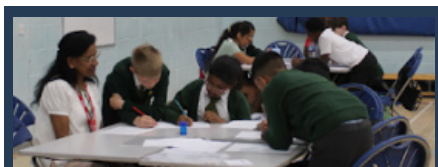
DOORS were open to students, parents and staff for a collection of work from our GCSE Design and Technology and BTEC Level 3 3D Design course students.

Products on display included crafted furniture, lighting, storage solutions and decorative pieces. The final collection represented months of research, design, prototyping and manufacturing.

Some of the work was produced during enrichment clubs such as the ever popular Warhammer Club.

Head of Design and Technology Mr Harris

said: "The exhibition reflected the vibrant and



WE welcomed primary schools from across Merton to take part in our Maths Challenge. They tackled tricky puzzles working together as a team and showing great determination and creativity.

creative culture that exists at Raynes Park High School.

"From Year 7 through to Sixth Form, students are encouraged to experiment, develop confidence in their ideas and take pride in producing work that reflects both technical excellence and personal expression."

"Events such as this provide an invaluable opportunity for students to exhibit their achievements, receive recognition for their hard work and inspire younger pupils who are considering pursuing creative subjects in the future."

Students have been sketching to help endangered animals

Helping animals in peril

STUDENTS have been practising their sketching while helping endangered animals in art club this term.

They have been drawing animals in danger of extinction with the work sold to raise money for charity Explorers Against Extinction.

The competition, Sketch for Survival, helps to raise vital awareness about species extinction and biodiversity loss while also raising funds for projects around the world.

Year 8 Daneka said: "We have been creating our own animals sketches for a competition. I chose sugar gliders because I wanted to choose an interesting animal.

Year 8 Lily said: "I chose a tiger because they are such beautiful animals. It's a good competition because we get to practise our art and if the pictures sell we get to help endangered animals."

Meanwhile, in art class students have been

creating work inspired by artist Michael Craig-Martin. Year 8 Haniyya said: "I have enjoyed art class this term. It is a great place to get creative, and it helps me express my feelings on a piece of paper. It makes me feel relaxed."

Year 8 Lisa said: "It is not just painting and drawing we have done this term, we have also been sculpting, which I have really enjoyed. We have been sculpting fish using different techniques."

Halliwells House Champions after late surge

Director of Community Partnerships Mr Oldridge gives us an update on a fantastic year of team spirit in a House Competition.

THIS year has been another outstanding year for our whole-school House Competition, with students from Year 7 through to Year 13 embracing every opportunity to represent their houses with pride. Throughout the year, students competed in a wide range of academic, creative and sporting challenges across every subject area, demonstrating teamwork, resilience and determination.

Every third week of each half term was dedicated to House Week, where departments across the school organised exciting competi-

tions and challenges. Students earned valuable house points through subject competitions, while bonus points were available for excellent attendance and positive contributions to school life, ensuring every student had the opportunity to make a difference for their house.

The competition culminated in our Sports Day, which showcased incredible effort, sportsmanship and teamwork from every house. Congratulations to Miltons, who once again dominated the athletics competition to claim the Sports Day trophy for a third consecutive year.

The race for the overall House Championship was just as exciting. Gibbs set the pace by taking an early lead during the Autumn Term and maintained their advantage throughout the

Spring. However, an exceptional Summer Term saw Halliwells produce a remarkable turnaround. Outstanding performances in attendance, behaviour and reading, and strong performances during House Week, saw Halliwells surge to the top of the leaderboard and become our Overall House Champions for 2025-26.

A huge congratulations goes to every student who took part throughout the year. The House Competition continues to celebrate participation, achievement and belonging, and it has been fantastic to see so many students supporting one another, taking on new challenges and demonstrating such positive school spirit. We look forward to another exciting year of house competition in September!

An enriching week of events

Raynes Park High School Enrichment Week ran from Monday 6 July to Friday 10 July and was a great success.

Our students were able to experience a wide range of trips and activities based on the fantastic opportunities on offer.

Undeterred by the hot weather on Monday, we had our Sports Day on the sports ground. This was followed on Tuesday for Year 7 students with a day of high-intensity interval training in Mitcham.

Then on Wednesday and Thursday, the main two days of enrichment began. On Wednesday, Year 10 Geography, History, MFL, Science, Sport, Business Studies, Travel and Tourism and Catering students went to central London on subject-themed trips.

Over the two days, Years 7, 8 and 9 students visited London Zoo, Box Hill and St Paul's Cathedral respectively.

They also did India- and China-themed days in school. Year 10 students also visited six different employees to get a taste of the world of work and took part in a Sixth Form taster day. At the same time, the whole of Year 12 completed work experience.



Students went on subject-themed trips

Finally, on Friday, all Key Stage 3 students visited the Raynes Park High School 90th Anniversary exhibition to celebrate the rich past of our

fantastic school!

Great experiences were had by all those students who took part and we hope that their lives have been enriched by this.

Governors' report

|Sean Cunniffe and Dean Murphy, Co-Chairs

Governors attended a strategic visit to the school in May. These are a vital mechanism allowing Governors to ask questions, of both staff and pupils, on key themes. This visit was centred on modern languages and Year 7 transition into mainstream secondary education. The latter is often referred to by the Headteacher during open days for prospective students and families.

Excellent presentations were received from teachers and was followed by a tour of Year 7's assembly, several language classrooms and through the main hall when Year 8 were having lunch. I know colleagues treated themselves to the delicacies on offer at the Sixth Form bake sale. Thank you to Mr King for organising and to the various staff and pupils who welcomed us into the day.

At the end of June, I helped facilitate a

visit by the Executive Director of Children, Lifelong Learning and Families, Bev Hendricks. As the person in charge of the local education authority (LEA), Governors were keen to promote the school and its achievements. Thank you to Mr King and Mr Hogarth for the tour of the school, all the staff and students that welcomed us into the classrooms. This was followed by a meet and greet with the Headteacher. It was a very positive meeting, and we all recognised the excellent work being achieved at RPHS, and how we could best move forward to promote the positive aspects of the school across the community. The Executive Director fed back a number of positives from the meeting with me.

At last week's Full Governors Board we said goodbye to Margaret Tulloch. After 40 years of dedicated service to the school as a governor,

she has stood down to concentrate on her work on the RPHS Trust. On behalf of everyone, past and present, I would like to take this opportunity of personally thanking Margaret, especially for the support and assistance she has given me over the past few months. Hers will be very tough shoes to feel. We wish her well with all her future endeavours.

We would also like to thank one of our parent governors, Sabith Liakat, for his services as a Governor over the past four years, he has decided to step down when his term of office finishes and we will therefore be hoping to recruit a further Parent Governor in the new academic year. Please look out for more details in September.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body we would like to wish staff, pupils and families a safe and relaxing summer break.