

THE RAYNES TIMES

PARK HIGH SCHOOL

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'SPEAKEASY!' BUGSY MALONE MUSICAL

FIND OUT MORE
ON PAGES 20-21

Dear Families,

Welcome to the final edition of the Raynes Park High School Newsletter for this academic year. It is hard to believe that this is my seventh year as Headteacher at Raynes Park High School and as this academic year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on key events and developments from the year and outline areas we will be turning our attention to in the coming year.

I would like to start by paying tribute to our wonderful students who are such brilliant ambassadors for Raynes Park High School and the dedication of the incredible teachers 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 involvement and support. Without such a committed and enthusiastic team, Raynes Park High School would not continue to thrive as it does and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our families for your ongoing support as the school continues to improve in terms of our reputation and growing student numbers. In September, we will welcome 230+ Year 7 students from over sixty feeder schools and 100+ students will join Year 12. This past year has also seen Raynes Park High School secure the National Careers Award, in addition to a three-day inspection for continued recognition of our work in the Access Centre by the National Autistic Society.

The quality of all that we do at Raynes Park High School has remained a key focus and the culture and atmosphere around the school is overwhelmingly positive. We have continued to embed our values of respect and resilience at every opportunity and our students are learning the importance of these in their quest to secure the best results in all aspects of school life. The students have been very receptive to the changes we had to put in place due to the pandemic, some of which have been retained due to how they have helped the smooth running of the school on a daily basis. We have also focussed on improving their learning and day-to-day experience at Raynes Park High School; we continue to seek student views and we are always grateful for their considered responses to school improvement.

As you will read in this newsletter, wellbeing has remained a priority at the school. We have enhanced our Wellbeing Team with some key appointments to provide the additional support some students have benefited from this year. This will remain a focus for us, as will literacy. We have also enhanced this team and invested in a range of programmes to improve not only reading ages but confidence with reading and the Tutor Time Reading Programme is a wonderful

start to each day with tutors and tutees reading together.

Following the end of the first public examinations since 2019 and our own internal end of year exams, we have been even busier than usual these past couple of weeks with Enrichment Days, a reward trip to Chessington World of Adventures, a Careers Fair, Academic Review Day and Sports Days. We were also delighted that our new stage was in place for the first Raynes Park High School musical, Bugsy Malone, which was truly outstanding. At the time of writing, we are preparing for our end of term assembly and we are all looking forward to seeing which of our four Houses will win the House Cup; well done to everyone who participated in a house event this year. Sadly, we took the decision to move this online as we saw an increase in Covid numbers but the whole school assembly is still the perfect time to celebrate achievement, progress and participation, and our congratulations go to the numerous winners this year. I would also like to personally commend the students who were nominated for my Headteacher Award but this year there really could only be one winner, Gabia in Year 8, following her selection to do the pre-match coin toss for the Women's Final at the Wimbledon tennis championships this year.

After two academic years disrupted by Covid, we have ensured teaching and learning has been our key priority at the school. 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 comments made by our School Improvement Partner in June who noted that teachers 'are subject experts and use their subject knowledge to good effect' and 'make clear and consistent references to prior learning'. The school also sets 'very clear and high expectations for students' behaviour and conduct' with 'very positive attitudes to learning' observed in all lesson visited.

We have also focussed on relaunching our partnerships as visiting and working with others has proved a challenge due to Covid. Our students, and those from some of our feeder primaries, have benefited

once again from our partnerships with BECSLink and some students have received a Tim Henman Scholarship that has enabled them to pursue an interest or attend an extra-curricular trip that they may not have been able to without this additional support. Our partnership with Fulham Football Club also goes from strength to strength with forty students following the Education Programme in our Sixth Form, in addition to lower school students who are part of the Fulham Academy. We have also had a Fulham intervention programme running in Year 9 alongside the Princes Trust and we are excited about launching a programme for girls next academic year. We are also looking forward to redeveloping the tennis courts, Drama studio and library in the coming months.

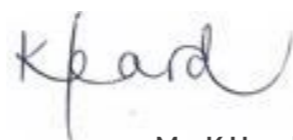
As we say farewell to those staff who are relocating around the country or abroad, travelling or moving on to promoted posts and teaching opportunities elsewhere, my thanks go to these colleagues for all they have done for Raynes Park High School and we wish them well in their future roles. A special mention goes to Ms Sterlini who has been at the school for over twenty years. We thank her for being a simply exceptional member of staff who will be greatly missed by all and we wish her every happiness for her retirement.

Whilst a challenging year in many respects, it has also been very rewarding with so much achieved and one that I certainly won't forget. As I shared with students this morning, there will not be a new Head in post in September, rather a Head who is reverting to her maiden name and I have written to families separately today.

Thank you so much for your continued support this year; I always appreciate your feedback on how we can improve further and we will continue to work hard on delivering the very best outcomes for your children.

I hope that you all have a restful and relaxing summer, and on behalf of all at Raynes Park High School, we look forward to seeing you next academic year.

Best wishes



Mrs K Heard
Headteacher

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST



Trustees Margaret Tulloch and Bob Higgins with Mike Tulloch tree planting during a wet half term.

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

Our Eco Project funding has enabled 'The Raynes Park Horticultural Society' to meet every week under the guidance of Science Teacher, Cheryl Johnston with many students participating. The four raised beds are thriving, and the several varieties of vegetables are looking very healthy. Local foxes are taking a keen interest! Trust volunteers have also planted two new trees (Hornbeam and Acer Purple King) and picnic benches are now being used when the weather permits! The Nature Study Area around the pond has had the decking removed in preparation for the installation of the new liner and plans are afoot to tidy up the trees and other vegetation to allow better and safe access. This project has been funded through grants obtained by the Trust.

The Former Pupils Association, parents and students have raised nearly £16,000 for the Staging Project through the sponsorship of an etched floor tile in the hall, there is still time to sponsor a tile with your name on it, please email the Trust for further information. The staging has already been installed and tiles laid, everything is now ready for the start of the new academic year!

I hope that you will not mind me reminding you that making online purchases through the Easyfundraising website the school can benefit financially. Already you have raised over £1000! It will not cost you anything! 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

Enjoy what I hope will be a lovely summer and best wishes to everybody, especially school leavers



Neil Jordan
Chair, Raynes Park
High School Charitable Trust



How have we been promoting wellbeing in school?

This Summer Term, we have continued to promote and support wellbeing at Raynes Park High School.

This year's Mental Health Awareness Week focused on the theme of 'Loneliness' and took place during 9th to 15th May. To raise awareness during this week, assemblies were delivered, teacher/student break times were joint and a staff walk took place to raise money for Mind mental health charity.

In June, Pride Month was celebrated throughout the school. Assemblies were delivered, empowering music was played and the Sixth Form LGBTQIA+ club was officially launched. This was a really eventful month and as commented on by our external visitors, the positive atmosphere throughout the school was contagious. An LGBTQIA+ policy was also created during this month which will be officially launched and further discussed next term!

Empathy Day was also celebrated on the 9th June, this was led by Ms Sharp and had a brilliant turnout and encouraged lots of great conversations!

We are very grateful to have continued working with the St Giles Trust this term. In July we had the pleasure of welcoming Isha into the school who delivered assemblies to the Year 8s and 10s on the topics of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and consent. We are extremely proud of the engagement students had in these assemblies and look forward to continuing work with St Giles Trust in the near future.

On Saturday 9th July, our very own Gabia (8EW) took the stage at the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Singles Final after being nominated by our Jigsaw4U therapeutic counsellor, Angie Conway. Gabia performed the pre-match coin toss on Centre Court in front of an estimated 1.2 billion viewers. Gabia was identified to do this by Angie due to her resilience, selflessness and overall kindness. Please see the link below for the official video about Gabia and Angie's work together. The Duchess of Cambridge recognised Gabia from this and asked to meet with her!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyZ_5dPJuvQ

Although this Term has been full of fun, we will sadly be saying our farewells to our Lead School Counsellor, Ms Morris. Ms Morris has worked at Raynes Park High School for many years, helping to support both student and staff wellbeing. Ms Morris will be incredibly missed by everyone at Raynes Park High School but we wish her the best of luck on her new adventures!



Ms Morris
Lead School Counsellor



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

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

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

- Jigsaw4U deliver two projects in Raynes Park High School, these are the Headlight Project and the Glasshouse Project. For more information, please see below:

www.jigsaw4u.org.uk/what-we-do/

- Off the Record Outreach Service provides intervention for low-level wellbeing concerns. They also offer group work for exam stress and emotional regulation. For self-referrals:

www.talkofftherecord.org/merton/

- Spectra support young people with mentoring around safe and healthy relationships and provide counselling for young people who identify as LGBTQIA+
- Catch 22 provide counselling to young people who need support with their mental health and wellbeing needs. Catch 22 also deliver Drug & Alcohol prevention work.
- Educational Wellbeing Practitioners from the Education Wellbeing Service provide emotional wellbeing guided self-help work for low level anxiety and low mood.

Support available over the holidays

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

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

Ms S Yusuf
Student Wellbeing Manager



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

For support with mental health & wellbeing

kooth
Free, safe, and anonymous
counselling support for young people
www.kooth.com

www.kooth.com offers online confidential one-to-one support for young people, plus access to online self-help materials.

TALK TO US
OFF THE RECORD

In non-covid times they offer face to face counselling in Merton, Croydon & Sutton. At the moment they offer a text-based counselling service or telephone/video call counselling.
www.talkofftherecord.org

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

Childline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. So you can talk to us any time.
When you call us on **0800 1111** you'll get through to a counsellor, they're there to listen and support you with anything you'd like to talk about. Or you can have a 1-2-1 counsellor chat online.
They can provide help and support for people up to their 19th birthday.

For support in a crisis

NHS
South West London
CAMHS
Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

Crisis Line 0203 228 5980
For young people or parents/carers worried about a young person's mental health.
Open: Monday to Friday 5pm – 11pm,
Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holidays 9am – 11pm.

YOUNG MINDS
Crisis Messenger

Young People can use the Young Minds Crisis Messenger by texting 'YM' to 85258

SAMARITANS
Call us free 24/7 on
116 123
samaritans.org

or contact Samaritans 24/7 on 116 123

For support in an emergency

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



WIMBLEDON BOOKFEST



Year 12 Business students attended a Twilight Seminar this month at Wimbledon BookFest led by Bank of England Economists Rupal Patel and Jack Meaning.

The Bank has been attempting to explain Economics to the public since 2018, when it first launched a series of Citizens' Panels.

As living standards have plummeted in the UK, it has become increasingly important for us to educate our students on important matters such as financial inclusion and money management.

Ms R Sandhu
Head of Sixth Form & Business Studies



SPORTS DAY

A 'Covid keep' for the PE department this year was the altered format of running the traditional whole-school Sports Day, across multiple days, with students participating in their respective year groups.

This proved highly successful last year, and allowed for students to participate not only in the traditional Athletics events, but also to participate in a range of inclusive, games based activities.

Monday 11th July saw Year 7 take part in their first Raynes Park High School Sports Day. With so many of the Year 7 students having shown such a great enthusiasm for

sport throughout the academic year, the expectations were high for a competitive day. The students did not disappoint! All of the students competing in the Athletics performed to an excellent level, ensuring that the points remained close throughout the day, whilst those competing in the games based activities showed great levels of engagement and tons of enthusiasm.



The one school record to be beaten on the day was Year 7 boys' 400m by Kwane, who recorded an impressive time of 65 seconds. The final scores are reflection of just how close the competition was, with just 18 points separating 1st and 4th place. The eventual winners on the day were Haliwells, so a huge congratulations to them.

Tuesday the 12th July saw the Year 8 students take to the field to take part in their second Raynes Park Sports Day. With the Year 8s having already competed in the new format of year group based Sports Days last year, they were well aware of the format and expectations of the day, and settled into the day quickly. Early in the day David broke the Year 8 Shot Put record which had stood since 2011, recording a score of 11.03 meters. Later on in the afternoon Lily put in a fantastic effort to equal the Year 8 Girls' 800m record set in 1993, with a time of 2 minutes 49 seconds. The effort from all students was fantastic throughout the day in both the Athletics and games based events. The competition was closely run by two Houses, with just six points separating Gibbs, and eventual winners Miltons.

The Year 9 students took part in their Sports Day on Friday 15th July. This followed two Enrichment Days, which saw the students battle it in a Crossfit style competition to be crowned the Fittest in their year group. Despite the hot weather, and the inevitable fatigue from the past two days, the students arrived focused and ready to perform. The morning session saw some strong performances across the board from the girls in the throwing events, whilst the boys battled the heat to record impressive times in the 1500m event. The highlight of the morning however came



SPORTS DAY

in the Long Jump event. Keshi broke the Year 9 boys school record of 5.26 meters, set in 1996. This new record was short lived however, when Louie recorded a jump of 5.38 meters to take the gold medal. The competition remained close throughout the day, but by the time of the final track events, it was a battle between Haliwells and Newsoms for the crown. The competition was settled in the final event, which saw the Newsoms Boys' 4 x 100m Relay, break the school record, to take the gold medal, and in doing so, secure the win on the day for their House. It was fantastic to see the entire year group perform to such a high level, and demonstrate such a fantastic balance of competitiveness and sportsmanship not only on the Sports Day, but also on the two Enrichment Days. Well done to Year 9!

The soaring temperatures across the UK early in the week resulted in the Year 10 event being pushed back to a later date. On Thursday, with the comparatively cooler temperatures of just 25 degrees, the Year 10 students took to the field to participate in their Final Raynes Park High School Sports Day. The competition remained close, with several changes at the top of the leaderboard throughout the course of the day. Whilst no records were broken on the day, several students recorded personal best scores and ran some long-standing school records close. The final showpiece track events (100m and 4 x 100m Relay) saw Haliwells score a plethora of wins to pull away from the rest of the pack, and take the win on the day over Miltons who had run them close all day.

Mr J Sanderson
Head of PE



Extra-curricular sport

The resumption of extra-curricular sport post Covid has seen some fantastic achievements from our students. There have been some comprehensive wins for the Boys' Football teams across the year groups, and also some good performances from the lower years Boys' Basketball teams. We have also had some incredible individual successes within both the Borough athletics and Cross-Country events. The stand out performers however, have been our Girls' sports teams who have racked up an incredible list of achievements including:

- KS3 Girls' Football Borough champions.
- KS4 Girls' Football Borough champions and London Youth Games quarter finalists.
- KS4 Girls' Cricket Borough champions.
- KS3 Girls' Cricket silver medalists.
- KS4 Rounders silver medalists.

Whilst there have been many girls within these squads that have performed exceptionally well across a range of sports, a stand out performer that has to be mentioned is Lily who has had an unbelievable year; KS3 Girl's Football Borough champion, KS4 Girl's Football Borough champion, Borough Cross-Country champion, Borough 1500m & 800m champion! On top of this she has just signed a Football contract with Brighton Academy. A huge congratulations to Lily, as well as all of the other students that have represented the school in sporting fixtures this year!

Links / Partnerships

This year we have continued to develop our existing partnerships, as well as forming some exciting new sports links. It has been great to see the links with the Tim Henman Foundation continue to build. Mr Prichard has been working closely with Sam Kiladejo (Tennis coach through the partnership) who has been delivering both in class as well as extra-curricular Tennis sessions which have been consistently well attended. Additionally, summer school coaching sessions are now being offered for the summer holidays in partnership with Cranleigh Tennis Club in Merton for regular attendees to the after school Tennis programme.

The future of Rugby at Raynes Park High School is looking promising. The development of a link with Wimbledon Rugby Club which has focused on Year 7 and 8 students, has seen attendance to the weekly after school sessions progressively increase, with students keen to develop new skills. With two new staff members with Rugby backgrounds joining us next academic year, the plan is to continue to drive the sport, and hopefully to see a return to competitive fixtures during the next academic year.

Another exciting link that is currently in the process of being finalised is that with Lions Basketball. This is a Merton based club whose diverse coaching staff hold an incredibly impressive CV between them. We are currently in the process of finalising the specifics of a partnership, with plans to have specialised in class as well as after school coaching sessions beginning next academic year.



House Sports

This year has seen some great House sports events take place such as Football and Benchball. The engagement in these events has been fantastic, and they have managed to strike a great balance between being competitive and inclusive. Next year we hope to build further on the successes of the current academic year. Well done to all of the students that took part in these events!

Sports Leaders

A stand out success for the PE department this year has been our fantastic team of sports leaders. Miss McCourt has worked hard to bring together a team of Year 10 students that have worked incredibly well in supporting the running of several Merton Borough primary school events which have been held at Raynes Park High School. Not only has it been great to see the link with the Borough strengthened through the hosting of multiple events, but our student leaders have received huge amounts of praise from external staff running these events, and have done a fantastic job of representing the school. Thank you to all of the sports leaders who have given up their time to support the running of primary school events, and have done such a fantastic job of representing the school.



D of E

Following Covid, we have seen a good increase in the number of students signing up to the award. This year we have 32 students enrolled on the course and look set for a strong completion rate. Due to the current heatwave, we recently had to make the difficult decision to postpone the qualifying expedition in order to ensure the safety of our students. We are currently in the process of rescheduling this, and look forward to running this in September. Further information regarding the sign up process for next year's Year 10 students will be provided at the start of the new academic year, so watch this space.

New Director of Sport

Finally, we are excited to be joined from September by John Oldridge as the new Director of Sport at Raynes Park High School. John is an experienced and successful Head of PE who joins us from St Mary Magdalene Academy in Islington. We know that John's experience and expertise will allow us to continue to build on the successes from this year and help to provide even more opportunities for our students.

Mr J Sanderson
Head of PE

NATIONAL SPACE ACADEMY PHYSICS MASTERCLASS



Mr R Jones
Head of Physics

In July, our Year 10 physicists participated in a Physics Masterclass delivered by the National Space Academy, supported by the generous sponsorship of the Ogden Trust.

The full-day workshop focused on building on the students' GCSE Physics knowledge and understanding of areas such as forces and energy in the context of space and space exploration, and allowed students to experience the excitement and joy of experimentation.

Activities included modelling an astronaut's spacesuit, investigating refracting astronomical telescopes, and designing, building and testing air-powered rockets.

It also allowed them to learn how their physics studies are relevant in the real world of space travel, and highlighted the huge range of UK and international career opportunities open to those with qualifications in the sciences and maths.

WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIP BALL BOYS AND GIRLS



Mr J Wheel
PE Teacher

This year has been the most successful in over half a decade for our Ball Boys and Girls! From starting their training in early September, a large cohort worked tirelessly on improving their skills and trying to master the techniques needed to pass selection and enter the official training programme. As the Winter Term progressed training became tougher, with support from students who had previously worked as Ball Boys at the Championships, they whipped those hoping to trial into shape.

As January arrived, those who had been most committed and who had demonstrated the best skills were invited to trials at the Raynes Park Tennis Centre. Along with students who returned for a second and third attempt at making the championships, ten Raynes Park Students ranging from Year 9 to 13 were successful.

Then the real hard work started. Weekly sessions with the Wimbledon B&G department at the tennis centre, filled with high expectation and high intensity drills. All students were a credit to themselves and the school with exemplary attitude throughout this period, which led to all of them being successful in getting to Ball Boy and Girl at the Wimbledon Championships 2022 in June and July.

Well done to all of you! You should be incredibly proud, truly a once in a lifetime opportunity, firmly grasped!

ENRICHMENT WEEK

The Summer Term crescendoed with our Enrichment Week, and every student participating in a wide range of activities.

In Year 7, the students got to visit London Zoo and participate in an Indian themed day where they did taste tests, tried Bollywood dancing and played Kibadi.

Year 8 students had the opportunity to visit Box Hill and then participated in a China themed day, where they did a Chinese cooking lesson, made warrior masks and tried Kung-Fu.

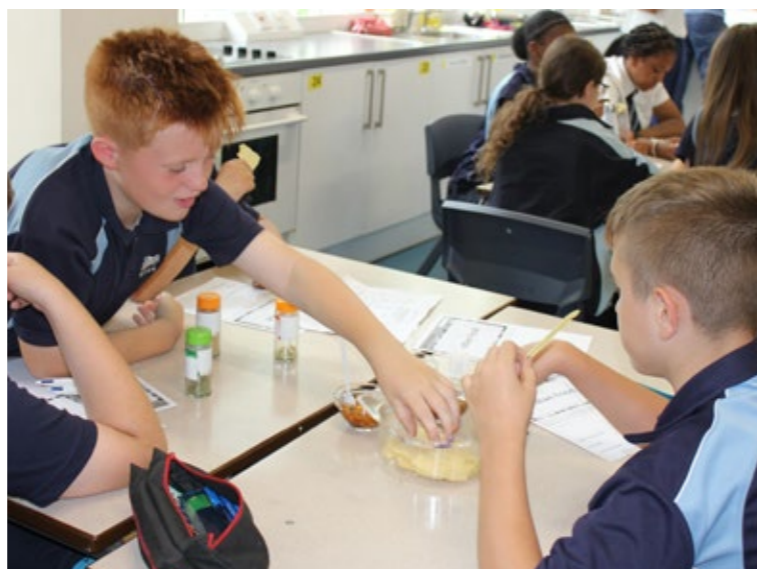
In Year 9, the students visited St Paul's Cathedral, and were able to climb to the top of the dome.

On the second day the students completed a fitness challenge to see who were the fittest students in the year group. The PE department were so impressed with the level of effort put in from all the students in Year 9. In Year 10 the students had their first taste of either Sixth Form or college lessons.

On the Wednesday all the students completed a range of lessons on employability skills and then watched a theatre performance on enterprise.

Finally, the Year 10 students all got to go on a trip from their option subject. These trips ranged from visiting Canary Wharf to Hampton Court Palace. Seeing the students' smiling faces and watching them make new memories was very rewarding.

Ms J Fowler
Assistant Headteacher



In the Summer Term for Year 7 we returned to Crime and Mystery Week where Year 7 had to solve a 'Who Dunit' – 'Who killed Mr Richards?'

Students used forensic techniques in STEM subjects to collect evidence and ultimately concluded that Ms Leon from English was the most likely suspect. Elsewhere, students learnt about mysteries including the Man in the Iron Mask, the Bermuda Triangle, the Easter Island Statues and Jack the Ripper. In English, students used the knowledge from other subjects to create their own piece of fictional writing.

At Raynes Park, we have over seventy spoken languages amongst the students and we wanted to celebrate this in our Language week with Year 8. Students had a taster session in Italian and completed Maths and Science lessons entirely in either French or Spanish. Students also looked at translation of hieroglyphics and ancient Greek whilst exploring the Rosetta Stone. Students also investigated the link between language and identity, how people use language to express themselves and how language can be abused to suppress cultures.

Year 9 went back in time for their challenge week to Renaissance Italy. They explored the ideas of Galileo by taking part in our first ever visit from the Wonderdome mobile planetarium. Even the most sceptical were blown away by the 3D tour through the cosmos.

On the Thursday and Friday of Renaissance week, students built flying machines inspired by the work of Leonardo da Vinci. The winning gliders both travelled over 50m and were constructed by Campbell, Georgia, Daisy and Connor and Freddie, Usman, Tariq and Tim. Students had to use knowledge from across their STEM subjects and work collaboratively to meet their construction deadlines. They all showed real skill and enthusiasm for this project.

Elsewhere, in their Rhetoric lessons students passionately argued against discrimination and for women's rights whilst in Art lessons created fantastic life size diagrams of the Vitruvian man in the playground. Finally, in athletics students took

part in a variety of Renaissance sports including tennis and bowls! Even Mr Johnson-Mottais got involved with his excellent costume!

We were lucky to have Smallpeice Trust visit us for the first time since the pandemic, working with Year 10 students on a clean water project. Students worked in groups to construct smart water filters using electronics and skills from DT and had to present their models to their peers and test the success of their constructions. Continuing with the theme of Space, our Triple Scientists also visited the mobile planetarium and later had a visit from the National Space Academy to explore such things as forces and energy in the context of space and space exploration.

We have had primary visitors with us this term who received an extended tour of the cosmos in the planetarium and then learnt how to use Bunsen burners to explore the link between colour and star temperature. Students had a fantastic time with us and our Sixth Form students who supported in the sessions, Zack, Esther, Katie and Layth, were exemplary role models for future generations of Raynes Park students.

Finally, we are happy to be able to announce the winner of the Social Justice Essay Competition from last term was Alfie in Year 7. His essay on plastic and environmental justice is an excellent example of cross curricular thinking using skills developed in Maths, Science, Humanities and English.

Ms K Burkin
Assistant Headteacher



BAFTA YOUNG GAME DESIGNER COMPETITION

Raynes Park High School D&T students entered the BAFTA Young Game Designer Competition this year in the Game Concept category.

The entries were judged on gameplay design, creativity and suitability for the chosen platform. The range of games designed by the Raynes Park High School students were certainly eye-catching and had lots of potential. Many of the students are now considering entering the Game Making category next year where they can make their ideas come to life. If entrants are successful in their game ideas not only can they win a prestigious BAFTA Award they also have the valuable opportunity to work with specialists in the industry.

BAFTA also hosted a special event to offer advice to the game designers of the future. The event was hosted by Inel Tomlison the comedian (who acts in *Horrible Histories*) and featured our very

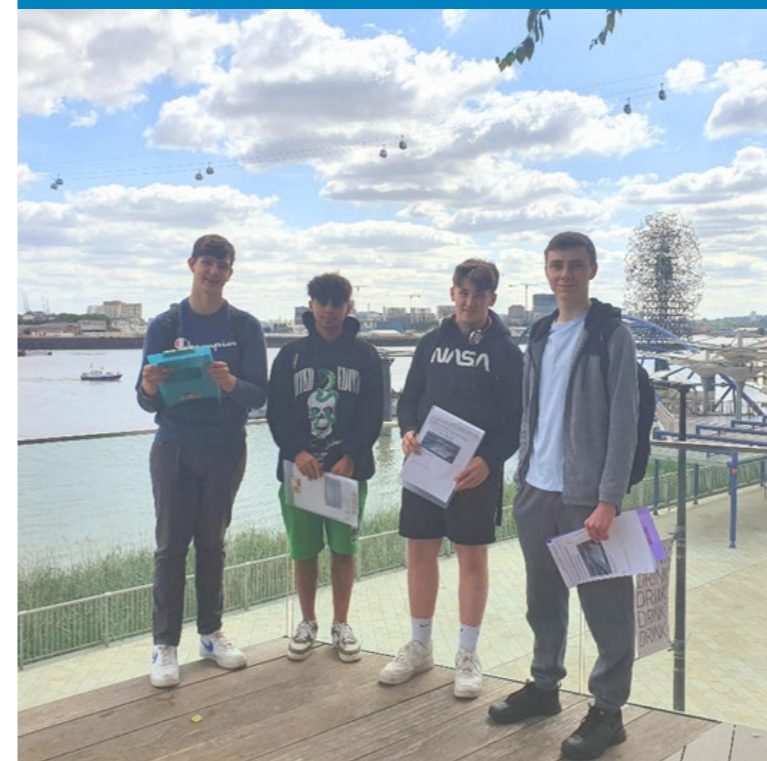
own Head of Art & Design, Mr Harris. Mr Harris previously won the BAFTA YGD Mentor Award through the implementation of the BAFTA YGD Game Awards into the D&T curriculum. He uses his wealth of experience to guide the students at Raynes Park High School to make unique games that hopefully feature in next year's BAFTA YGD Awards.

This year's YDG winners can be viewed on the BAFTA YouTube channel:

https://youtu.be/mCZ_IBD2UKg

Mr R Harris
Head of Art & Design

YEAR 12 VISIT EAST LONDON



Year 12 Geographers recently enjoyed carrying out fieldwork on a trip to East London.

They visited North Greenwich, Canary Wharf and Stratford: places which have changed beyond recognition in recent years due to urban regeneration.

The focus of the students' investigation was to identify the different ways in which these areas have been altered and then to judge whether the regeneration can be deemed a success. The students are now considering their conclusions, having had a most productive and insightful day.

Mr G Collman
Head of Humanities

CAREERS FAIR



On Thursday 7th July the school welcomed over sixty different employers into our Sports Hall for our Careers Fair.

The students really enjoyed learning about the different skills needed for various jobs and the routes to get into the sector.

Ms J Fowler
Assistant Headteacher





BUGSY MALONE MUSICAL

After months of preparation, the students of Raynes Park High School performed to two sold-out auditoriums at the beginning of July.

The cast and crew of *Bugsy Malone* became the first group to stage a musical at the school since it was founded in 1935. However, the history of Performing Arts at the school is by no means new. Former pupils and staff in attendance shared stories of the House plays and music concerts they took part in during their time at the school and were delighted to see the students move into this exciting new medium, stepping up to deliver a performance worthy of any professional theatre.

The cast extended particular thanks to the Raynes Park High School Former Pupils' Society for their incredible generosity which has funded a new permanent stage to be reinstated in the original school hall to enable students to stage large-scale productions on an appropriate platform. Special thanks was also given to Merton Music Foundation as three of their current staff joined the live band, and also to Champion Timber who generously donated all of the timber for the set (as they had

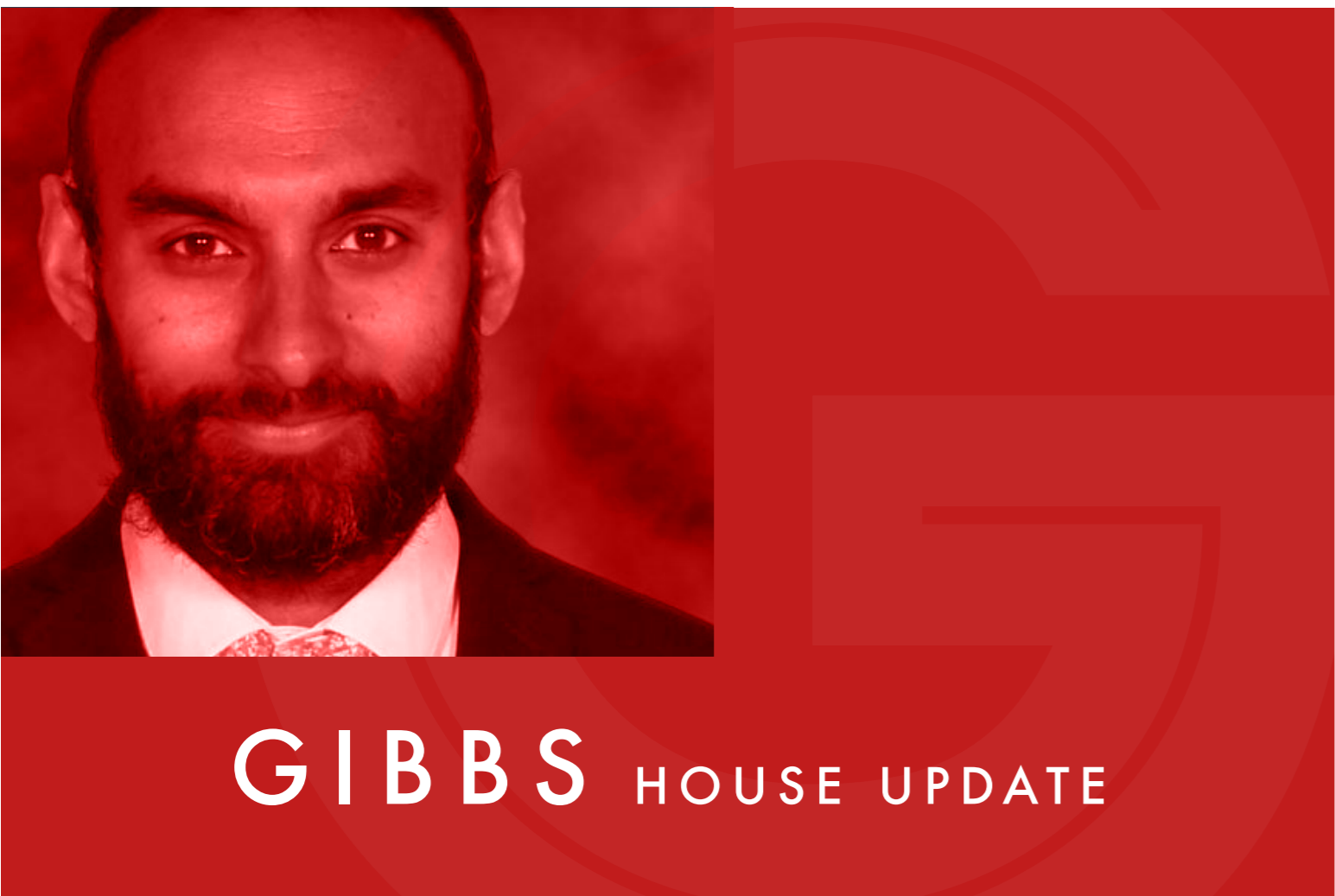
done previously for school productions as far back as the 1960s). The beautiful set was designed by Art teacher Ms Roberta Volpe who previously worked creating sets for the Royal Opera House, and was built by Mr Neil Robinson who has a wealth of experience building set and furniture for professional productions.

That said, the real stars of the show were the hundred-strong group of young people involved, proving this truly was a student-led production. As well as performers, the evening was run entirely by students who took responsibility for sound, lighting and stage management as well as those who helped to paint the set in advance of the event. This splurge-tastic musical proved to be a real hit with many of the families

attending in full 1920s costume. After the final curtain the large group of staff who worked tirelessly on this production joined the cast on stage, promising that now the benchmark had been set, another full musical production will be taking place next year.

This week has been an incredibly special week at Raynes Park High School. As the Performing Arts community continues to grow we can expect the opportunities offered to students, as well as the quality of the productions they stage, to keep getting better and better.

Mr M Robinson
Head of Performing Arts



What a busy year for the re-launch of the House System!

It has been a pleasure to lead Gibbs once again and the events have been numerous ranging from sports to academic challenges in a variety of subjects.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Sports Days. All the events were so close with records tumbling everywhere. The Gibbs Girls Relay Team in particular was so exciting to watch as they smashed the field in both races.

You should all feel incredibly proud of your achievements this year. Even when we did not always win competitions – you gave it your all.

Have a lovely holiday and stay safe.

Mr R Liyanage

Head of Gibbs



It has been brilliant to have our first full year back at school, and have students participating in all the fantastic events that make school life so memorable.

What a pleasure it has been leading Newsoms House to so many successes this year. From winning the Year 10 Maths Challenge to winning the Year 7 Spelling Bee, it has been wonderful working with the House Leaders and seeing so many students participate in the huge number of events this academic year.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in Sports Day. So many long-standing records were broken, it was a tight race to first place. A huge well done to all the students that took part, the effort across every year group was exemplary.

Have a lovely holiday and stay safe.

Ms J Fowler

Head of Newsoms



MILTONS HOUSE UPDATE

The House System has been truly re-launched this year and students are proud to represent their Houses. I have Milton students letting me know how they are supporting their House which is so lovely to hear.

I have absolutely loved leading Miltons this year especially as I was a Miltons tutor when I first started at Raynes Park High School. It holds a special place in my heart. I am still so pleased that we won the cup at the end of last Term.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Sports Days. All the events were very close with records being broken in lots of events. The Miltons effort across all year groups has been so good it is impossible to name anyone specifically. A huge well done!

You should all feel incredibly proud of all your achievements this year even when we did not always win competitions - you gave it your all and it is all about taking part and being a member of Miltons!

Have a lovely holiday, stay safe and see you in September.

Ms L Finan

Head of Miltons



HALLIWELLS HOUSE UPDATE

What a fantastic year for the re-launch of the House System!

It has been a wonderful experience to lead Halliwells to such success this year. Working with House Leaders and seeing the events take place has been a pleasure, particularly across such a range of subjects

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Sports Days. All the events were so close with records tumbling everywhere. The Halliwells effort across all year groups has been so good it is impossible to name anyone specifically. A huge well done!

You should all feel incredibly proud of your achievements this year. Even when we did not always win competitions – you gave it your all.

Have a lovely holiday and stay safe.

Ms K Burkin

Head of Halliwells

.....Do you shop online?

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

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

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

So next time you want to do some online shopping please go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs 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!



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

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Choose your retailer and shop as normal

3

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

NEWS FROM THE Governors

Governors are pleased to have resumed meetings in school this year, but still use online technology where appropriate to maximise attendance and engagement.

A Strategic Visit for Governors was held in school on 20th May. This focused on the Performing Arts and Wellbeing among students and staff. Governors were impressed with the much improved Music and Drama facilities, new instruments and refurbished practice rooms, together with state-of-the-art recording studios. They were pleased to learn about the Wellbeing programmes in place and are hugely appreciative of the steps taken by the school to secure the welfare of students and staff both during and after the pandemic.

This summer has seen the first public exams since 2019. Governors understand that our Year 11 and 13 students have embraced these with a positive attitude. They commend the staff for providing all possible support to students.

Governors have this Term approved the 22/23 Budget and the three year Budget, which were positive, with some funds available to continue making improvements to the school site and facilities, for the benefit of our students. We were able to see one previous improvement, the new stage in the main hall, put to excellent use in the recent wonderful production of *Bugsy Malone*.

We are pleased to hear that enrichment activities are back up and running with growing levels of engagement; we are grateful to the staff for their enthusiasm and willingness to run these at the end of the school day.

Governors were pleased to welcome our new co-opted Governor, Clare Townsend, who was appointed at FGB on 24th March. Alison Rowett's term of office as a parent governor has ended and the school will invite parent governor applications in the Autumn Term. Alison will be continuing her association with the school, having been recently appointed a Trustee of Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust.

Governors are looking forward to the new academic year, with healthy numbers in both Year 7 and the Sixth Form.




Tracey Benzecry
Chair of Governors

Find out more about the work of our School Governors here:
www.rphs.org.uk/31/governors

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

Please e-mail newsletter@raynespark.merton.sch.uk