



.....

**STUDENTS
CELEBRATE
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

FIND OUT MORE ON PAGES 8-9

.....

Dear Families,

As the first term of this academic year draws to a close, I am delighted to share this edition of the Raynes Park High School newsletter with you.

Whilst not quite the return to 'business as usual' we'd hoped for, due to the continued challenges posed by COVID, there is still much to celebrate at Raynes Park High School.

We were very pleased to be able to hold an Open Evening and Open Mornings for the September 2022 intake and although these were adapted to include protective measures, they were a great success and we welcomed a record number of families to Raynes Park High School. On that note, I would like to congratulate our current Year 7s who have successfully completed their first term with us, which, considering that their last full school year was when they were in Year 4, they should be highly commended for coping so well with the move to secondary school. However, the rest of the face-to-face events planned for this term were hosted remotely due to the steady rise in COVID numbers and we remain hugely grateful to those families who have attended these events remotely or accessed other school events via our website. We also had to cancel our face-to-face Christmas events, including the Winter Concert but this is now available to view using the link emailed home. My thanks go to Mr Robinson and his team for putting on such a wonderful showcase of student talent and also to the newly formed staff band for their performance of 'Last Christmas'. We also decided to go ahead with Christmas lunch last week and to show our appreciation to the students, we treated them to their lunch and we were really pleased that so many students took us up on the offer for a second year!

If I focus on the core business of any school, teaching and learning, 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 students have certainly enjoyed a return to moving around the school for their lessons, particularly Year 8 who have found their way round our large site for the first time since joining the school in September 2020. I know the staff have also really valued returning to teach in their subject areas, particularly those teaching practical subjects, who found themselves having to curtail the curriculum somewhat last year. We are also particularly pleased to have been able to run a broad range of extra-curricular clubs for the first time since Spring Term 2020. It is clear that students have missed taking part in these enrichment activities as attendance is at an all-time high.

This is also a good time to reflect on and celebrate our students' achievements over the past four months. Last week, students attended end of term assemblies with members of SLT and their Head of Year in place of the whole school assembly that we have been unable to run for a second year. 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 won awards and we were pleased to still be able to present the special awards, including the award for kindness, in memory of Milo Little. I was particularly delighted to have been able to present seven Headteacher Awards in Years 7 to 13; my congratulations go to the deserving winners. It has also been a pleasure to see 88 students enjoying a Rewards afternoon in recognition of their hard work and excellent attendance this term.

As the term draws to a close, we will bid farewell to Ms Audley, Ms Neilson and Ms Bedford, wishing them all the best for their new jobs or ventures and to Ms Bartlett on her retirement. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Ross, our longstanding Chair of Governors, for his support and challenge over the years and look forward to working with Mrs Benzecry and Mr Murphy as our new Chair and Vice Chair of Governors.

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. I am, as always, hugely grateful to my colleagues who make so many of these experiences possible and I would also like to record my thanks to the students for the way they continue to adapt and for their engagement in all aspects of school life.

I would also like to thank you for your continued support of the school during these challenging times and on behalf of the staff and Governors, may I wish you and your families a safe and restful Christmas.

Best wishes,

Mrs K Heard
Headteacher

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST



Neil Jordan
Chair, Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust

The Raynes Park High School Trust has ...

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

The trust has a new patron! Corinne Hall, former pupil, gold medallist in the Paralympics and with many world para-cycling medals to her credit with her cycling partner Lora Fachie, has kindly agreed to be the Trust's first ever patron. We hope that her achievements and profile in the sporting world will help us to raise awareness of the Trust in its quest to support the pupils of Raynes Park High School. In these difficult times your contributions through the Charitable Trust are more important than ever! The Charitable status of the Raynes Park High School Trust has enabled it to obtain grants from other charities, since it is often the case that they cannot make donations directly to schools and other public institutions.

In addition to the grant of £2000 from the Nineveh Foundation towards the School's EcoGarden project the Trust has secured a further £500 from the Veolia Community Project Fund for the school's vegetable patch plus free compost! Trustees are working hard to find other sources of funding to move the EcoGarden project forward and the Former Pupils Association is particularly interested in improving the staging area in the school hall.

In the run up to Christmas opting to gift aid their School Fund contributions, and by making online purchases through the Easyfundraising website that the school can benefit financially. Thousands of small and large companies are in the scheme, such as eBay, Just Eat and John Lewis. It will not cost you anything. A small proportion of what you pay is donated by the company to the Trust. Please sign up and nominate the Raynes Park High School Trust and buy online! Here is the link you need to participate.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs

Every little contribution helps! Have a great Christmas.

its first patron – Corinne Hall – former pupil and gold medallist in the Paralympics

sourced funding to move the EcoGarden project forward

Every little contribution helps!

Thank you for your continued support

THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The House system is at the heart of our school values and it provides the students with a sense of identity and belonging.

The Houses are named after the four original Housemasters dating back to when the school was founded in 1935.

	Mr R W Gibb	
	Mr H E Halliwell	
	Mr A. Milton	
	Mr A W Newsom	
	Gibbs	Mr Liyanage
	Halliwells	Ms Burkin
	Miltons	Ms Finan
	Newsoms	Ms Fowler

Today the Houses are led by the Assistant Headteachers.

The easiest way for students to gain points for their House, is to attend school every day. The House with the best attendance every half term is awarded House Points. In essence it means by turning up to school on time, students are collecting points for their Houses. Students also gain House Points in their lessons for excellent effort or a great piece of work. Teachers are expected to award House Points every lesson.

Alongside the House competition each House will raise money for their chosen charity. There is a House Leader in each year group and they are responsible for organising teams for the different House events and arranging the charity activities. There are House assemblies every term to celebrate the different achievements.

Ms J Fowler
Assistant Headteacher

Throughout the year, there is a wide range of inter House activities including Art, Music, Drama, Sport and Technology. Below are the House events for this academic year.

Autumn 2	Year 7 – English Year 8 – Bench ball Year 9 – Catering & D&T Year 10 – Maths Year 11 - Football
Spring 1	Year 7 – Bench ball Year 8 – Science Year 9 – History Year 10 – Football Year 11 – Drama
Spring 2	Year 7 – Catering Year 8 – Art Year 9 –Bench ball Year 10 – English Year 11 – Science
Summer 1	Year 7 – Geography Year 8 – Maths Year 9 – Netball/Basketball Year 10 – Netball/Basketball Year 11 – N/A
Summer 2	Year 7 – Netball/Basketball Year 8 – Netball/Basketball Year 9 – Design Technology Year 10 – Business/Enterprise Year 11 – N/A

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 10th November, eight of our most able Mathematicians from Years 12 and 13 took part in the Senior Maths Challenge.

This challenging 90-minute paper encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The students did extremely well and all can be proud of what they achieved.

Jiaxuan in Year 13 qualified for the Senior Kangaroo having achieved a gold certificate.

A special congratulations goes to Nathan in Year 12 who scored so highly that he qualified for the first round of the British Maths Olympiad which takes the form of a 3.5 hour written problem solving paper comprising of six extremely challenging questions. This is a phenomenal achievement from Nathan – well done!

Test Yourself:

Three dice, each showing numbers 1 to 6, are coloured red, blue and yellow respectively.

Each of the dice is rolled once. The total of the numbers rolled is 10.

In how many different ways can this happen?

- A 36 B 30 C 27 D 24 E 21

Ms C Henderson
Senior Teacher

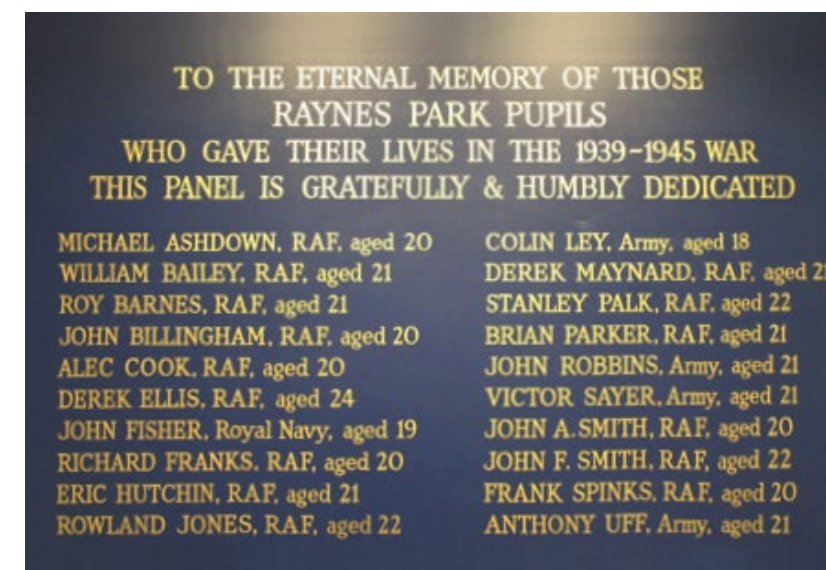
The answer is C

REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY

Remembrance Day on 11th November was marked in assemblies throughout the week. Year 7 commemorated the occasion with an extended event leading up to the two minutes' silence at 11.00am. Students learned of the origins of Remembrance Day, previously known as Armistice Day: the ending of World War One. Many were shocked to discover that some of those who experienced the horror of the trenches were little older than themselves. We took time to reflect on the horrendous losses from World War One and many subsequent conflicts, including those who had studied at our own school. Twenty Raynes Park students were killed in World War Two. Their names live on as they were announced by Year 7 students. An extract written by the Headteacher from the 1945 edition of the school magazine was also read out.

Having been unable to hold this event in person last year, it was a privilege to welcome former pupils to the school, who marked the occasion alongside current students.

Mr G Collman
Head of Humanities





AWARDS	
W H Auden Poetry Award	Ed Dolman
Alex Knapp Music Award	Alisa Yolach
Claude Rogers Art Award	Cindy Wang
Paul Vaughan STEM Award	Nika Fimicheva
Milo Little Kindness Award	Laiba Ahmad
HEADTEACHER AWARDS	
Year 7	Eva Archibald
Year 8	Sophie Pullen
Year 9	Amithan Prabakaran
Year 10	Bobby Davies
Year 11	Nehir Aksoy
Year 12	Macey Bedford and Phoebe Turton
Year 13	Sunbal Rehman

AWARDS ASSEMBLIES



We had hoped that this year we would be able to hold an event similar to that in December 2019 and invite the families of our award winners in to school to celebrate with us. With the current numbers in the local area we took the decision to repeat the Awards Assemblies we held last year to celebrate the achievements of so many of our students within their year groups.

Each year group had their assembly last week and we presented students with awards celebrating both achievement and effort within lessons as well as a number of special awards. Each Form Tutor also nominated three students

from their form to receive Resilience, Respect and Kindness awards.

We were delighted to receive so many nominations 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 all students who were nominated and congratulations to the students who won the overall awards.

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

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Jimi Hendrix
The greatest guitar player of all time

RAYNES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Katherine Johnson
Pioneering NASA Mathematician

RAYNES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Dr Mae Jemison
Astronaut

RAYNES

Black History Month at Raynes Park High School was a tremendous success this year and both students and staff really excelled in their preparation and celebration of this month-long event.

Some of the key highlights included our banners celebrating Black Curriculum areas ranging from traditional food from the Continent of Africa and the Caribbean, to pioneers in Maths, Music and the Arts.

The school was adorned with the flags of Black Nations in the Main Hall as well as in both canteens. Posters celebrating Black pioneers from past and present were displayed in every corridor of the school along with memorial plaques celebrating Black British inventors, authors and activists.

The school canteen served weekly dishes celebrating Black Cuisine and on the final day of the term, students and staff were invited to wear red clothing to support the charity 'Show Racism The Red Card', or to wear clothing from Black tradition and culture.

The month was an undoubted success and students and staff commented on how colourful and respectfully we acknowledged Black History Month.

A Special thank you must be given to all the students and staff who contributed to mark this event and to support our vision of promoting equality and diversity.

Mr R Liyanage
Assistant Headteacher

FOOD BLACK HISTORY MONTH TECH

Black cuisine has influences on cultures around the world. Below are some examples of dishes you may or may not know

THE CARIBBEAN



Plantain
Plantain is much starchier than bananas but has a sweet flavour which is perfect alongside any Caribbean food.

Coucou Barbados

Coucou made from a combination of cornmeal and okra. The two ingredients muddle together to form a sort of savoury porridge.



Creole Bread St Lucia

Belizean creole bread would be a plain white bread were it not for the special secret ingredient: coconut milk, which transforms it into something fragrant.



Fritters Bahamas

The fritters are made using finely chopped conch meat mixed with a batter made from flour and egg, and then deep fried in oil.



Doubles Trinidad and Tobago

Bread sandwiching tender curried channa (chickpeas) finished with a spoonful of tamarind or mango and a kick of pepper.



AFRICA



Pondu The Congo
Pondu, is made from manioc, derived from the leaves of the cassava plant and originally from Central and South America, primarily in the southwest of the Amazon basin.



Traditional bread from the Democratic Republic of Congo, consisting of cassava flour cakes that are wrapped in dry banana leaves, then steamed.

Sambusa Somalia

These snacks with a sumptuous filling of ground beef and spices will fill your mouth and heart at one stroke.



Jollof Rice Nigeria

Is a rice dish from West Africa. The dish is typically made with long-grain rice, tomatoes, onions, spices, vegetables and meat.

Made by SADE ANDERSON

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Chadwick Boseman
American actor and playwright

RAYNES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Oprah Winfrey
Ground breaking talk show host and American icon

RAYNES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Nelson Mandela
First black President of South Africa

RAYNES

WELLBEING IN SCHOOL



How have we been promoting wellbeing in school?

This term the promotion of mental health and wellbeing has continued to be a large priority at Raynes Park High School. A number of external agencies have continued to work alongside us to provide a variety of 1-to-1 and group support to students amongst all year groups both virtually and in person.

This term, Off the Record delivered exam stress workshops to 24, Year 13 students over in the Sixth Form to prepare them ahead of their mock exams.

New to join the list of external agencies working alongside us are St Giles Trust. St Giles Trust have been in this term, delivering whole year assemblies to Years 9, 10 and 11 as well as working with us to provide 1-to-1 and group support to students on the topics of crime, substance misuse and violence.

We have also began working alongside a Mental Health School Nurse again whom has been able to provide 1-to-1 and group support and psychoeducation to students surrounding the topics of self-harm and emotional dysregulation.

We look forward to continuing to work with both agencies further in 2022.

A main focus for us at Raynes Park this academic term and for the future is increasing awareness, visibility and support of the LGBTQIA+ community. Our LGBTQIA+ club takes place every Monday in F7 between 3:00pm-4.15pm. If you are interested in joining please speak to your Head of Year, Miss Best or Miss Crossfield. We look forward to celebrating LGBTQIA+ history month in February and Pride month in June!

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

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 three projects for students. These are the Headlight Project, the Glasshouse Project and Bereavement support. For more information, please see visit their website: www.jigsaw4u.org.uk/what-we-do/

- Off the Record Outreach Service provide 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.

Spectra also provide 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.

- The Education Wellbeing Service provide us with Educational Wellbeing Practitioners who work with students to provide emotional wellbeing guided self-help work for low level anxiety and low mood.

The Education Wellbeing Service also provide us with a Mental Health School Nurse to provide support, strategies and psycho-education to young people who are self-harming.



- St Giles Trust work with us to support young people who may be facing disadvantages such as those at risk of becoming NEET, those with issues surrounding substance misuse, an offending background or involvement in gang's/gang culture.

- My Futures work with us to support young people who are at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or who are currently NEET. They offer 1-to-1 mentoring sessions which can involve emotional support to address barriers to education.

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 below for a list of helplines and websites to visit for some support over the summer break.

Please also see the mental health page on our school website for further support, this can be found under the student welfare tab and features a great selection of resources for both yourself and your parents/carers 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**: 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**: 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 18th birthday.

For support in a crisis

- NHS South West London CAMHS**: **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.
- YOUNGMINDS Crisis Messenger**: Young People can use the Young Minds Crisis Messenger by texting 'YM' to 85258.
- shout 85258**: powered by shout 85258.
- SAMARITANS**: Call us free 24/7 on **116 123**. samaritans.org

For support in an emergency

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



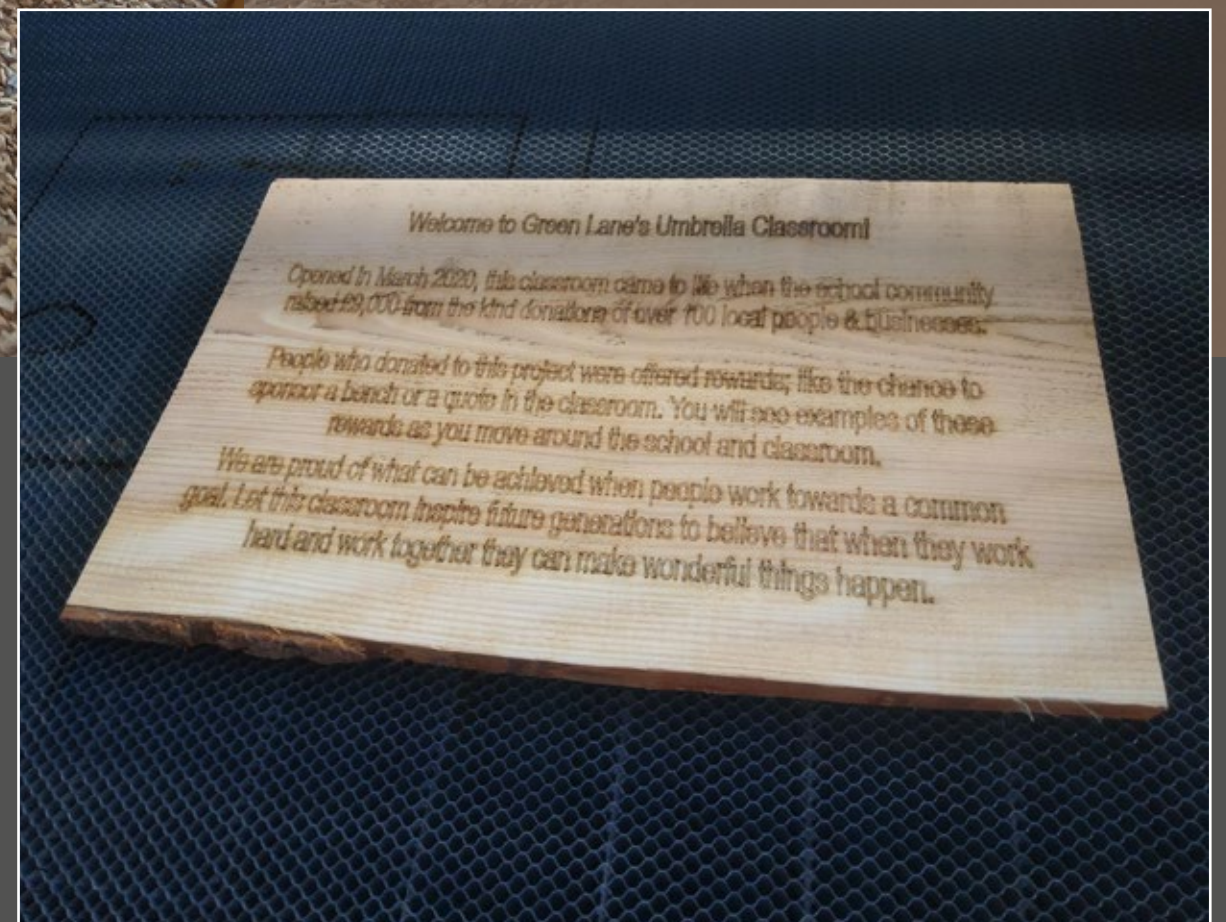
SUPPORTING PRIMARY EDUCATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Green Lane Primary School, the recent winners of the 2021 Pearson's Lockdown Hero's Award, held a fund raiser where the sponsors were allocated plaques that contain engraved quotes. The Raynes Park D&T Department assisted Green Lane Primary School to create the plaques for their outdoor classroom, which is part of their very own forest school (a forest schools is a type of outdoor education in which children visit forests/woodlands, learning personal, social and technical skills).

The writing for the plaques was etched onto solid pine wood panels using the new Boxford laser cutter, and then varnished and mounted on the walls of the outside classroom. The laser cutter has the ability to cut 18mm deep and has a bed size of 1400mm, meaning that it is capable of creating full size furniture pieces.

The completed plaques are an example of the collaboration between Raynes Park High School and primary schools in the local area. One way the D&T Department offers support to primary schools is by giving them access to the D&T Departments impressive computer-aided design suite and training them on how to use equipment that is not readily available in their own school. Watch this space for the Design & Technology student's exhibition that will be hosted later in the year and will show off some of the products that can be made using the equipment in the D&T Department.

Mr R Harris
Head of Art and Design





SPORTING UPDATES

It gives me great pleasure in sharing with you all a summary of our achievements in PE and School Sport Events this Term.

Firstly, I would to say a big thank you and well done to the vast numbers of students who have attended our wide range of extra-curricular clubs before school, at break times and after school every day. These activities include Dodgeball, Indoor Cricket Net Practice, Basketball, Football, Wimbledon Tennis

Ball Boy and Girl Training, Dance Club, Box Fitness Sessions, Multisport sessions, Netball as well as our BTEC student support sessions. The good news is that these will continue into the next term with some further exciting opportunities to be added so watch this space!



The students that have attended these sessions have shown considerable dedication, effort and hard work throughout the term which is the ideal preparation for the busy term ahead where there will be even more Borough Events and Fixtures. I am very proud of every single one of you for your efforts! Well Done!

In lessons, our students once again have shown incredible desire to be their best and have worked really hard coupled with excellent attitudes to learning and respect shown towards each other along the way. Standards of PE kit worn, presentation and organisation have been outstanding and it is important that this is maintained into the New Year and beyond. Students have studied a wide variety of activities this term including Handball, Football, Tag Rugby, Basketball, Fitness and Cross-Country to name but a few. Well done everyone! Keep up the great work in 2022!

Below is a summary of Borough Sport Events this Term as well as the amazing achievements from our students so far this year.

Borough Cross-Country Event October 2021

Back in October, we had our first Borough Cross Country event at Morden Park. All students, within their PE lessons, trialled for the team and we were extremely pleased with the effort all students showed. The team we selected performed fantastically well with very special mentions to Mason who is the runner up in the Borough for Year 7, Lily who is Borough Champion for Year 8, Miela who is runner up for Year 9 and Tim Francis who is Borough Champion for Year 9.

To say we as a PE Department are proud is an understatement ... we are VERY, VERY PROUD of our Team's achievements at the event.

Girls Borough Football Events (Year 7/8 Girls) October / November 2021

There was further success in the Girls Merton Borough Football Championships at Ursuline

School. Our Year 7 girls, who were participating for the first time in a competitive fixture played very well and finished joint 3rd. Our Year 8 girls team had huge success and played some sublime football which resulted in them becoming BOROUGH CHAMPIONS! We are all very proud of their achievements!

Congratulations to Sophie, Lily, Dulcie, Honey, Niamh, Daisy and Gabia.

In the next stage of this tournament, our girls travelled to Tooting and Mitcham FC to play other Borough champions from across London. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts and determination we narrowly missed out on qualification for the Semi Final stage by two points! Onwards and Upwards we go!

The girls had one more fantastic opportunity in November when they were invited to attend the Fulham Football Club Girls Football Championships. This took place at the Home of Fulham FC's Training ground in Motpur Park. We played our games under the Indoor Dome which was an amazing experience for our Girls and ... I must be honest, for me too! Raynes Park High School girls played teams from across SW London and after qualifying from our group stage finishing second, we lost narrowly in the Semi Final to Godolphin and Latymer School 2-0. We bounced back in the 3rd place play-off and beat Godolphin and Latymer's other team in the event 3-1 ensuring that we finished a very creditable 3rd overall. Goals from Lily and Sophie as well as hard graft from our Midfield, Defensive players (Niamh, Daisy and Dolly) and Goalkeeper's (Honey and Gabia) ensured we gained great results on the pitch! Well done once again TEAM RPHS! #Proud

Girls Football club after School every Wednesday has been attended really well. Keep up the great efforts girls! Thank you to Miss Butler and Miss O'Brien for your hard work and support every week.

Girls Borough Netball Event (Year 10/11)

Our Year 10 and 11 girls competed in the Merton Borough Championships at Ursuline High School back in October. We achieved a victory against the home team and some very close narrow defeats followed in the remaining games. Despite these, our girls maintained their focus and determination throughout and this provides a strong foundation for future games in the New Year. They have worked so hard in training every Thursday with Miss McCourt and Miss Bowes and, as I type, they are all outside now on the Netball Courts playing hard!

Boys Football

Every year group has trained really well each and every week and numbers in attendance have been fantastic with over 100 boys participating at some sessions.

We have staged several Intra-School Football matches this term including Year 10 v Year 11 and Year 9 v Year 10 with the Year 10 boys coming out victorious on both occasions. Congratulations to them!

In the New Year, the Borough Fixtures will commence. I have made contact with all Schools across the Borough and these fixtures will take place across the Spring Term. I am looking forward to publishing our results in forthcoming eBulletins and the end of term Newsletter at Easter. With the excellent efforts in Training, I am expecting positive results!! Thank you to Mr Bishop (PE), Mr Edmondson and Mr Ahmed for your coaching and hard work!

House Sports Events!

The following events are scheduled to take place next Half Term so please look out for updates in the School eBulletin. I know our students and staff are really looking forward to getting involved! A big thank you to Miss Butler (PE) for coordinating these events!

- Year 8 - Benchball
- Year 7 - Benchball
- Year 10 - Football and Netball

SPORTING UPDATES

Wimbledon Ball Boys and Girls

A big thank you also to Mr Wheel (PE) for leading on the Ball Boy and Girl training sessions every Monday after school. Our quota for sending students to trials has increased from 8 to ten students this year which is an incredible achievement and testament to the hard work, high standards and dedication from our students.

We have also achieved the highest number of students to qualify in the last four years through to the last cut stage (18 in total) and we are hopeful of two more students being accepted as recalls from last years' Championships.

Sports Leadership and Volunteering Opportunities

PE have had a big drive on this this year with Ms McCourt taking a lead here. We have already made contact with a couple of our key feeder Primary Schools to enable our students to visit and assist with Primary School Events initially starting with our current Year 12s. Longer term, we will also be targeting our younger years in Year 9 and 10 to begin their leadership journey. This will be through applying to take part, training and then gain experience initially within Raynes Park High School at House Events before then going out into Primary Schools to ensure they are confident and ready! Watch this space for updates and thank you to Ms McCourt for coordinating this important aspect of PE and School Sport.

Finally, I would like to wish all families and students and restful, peaceful Christmas Break ready for the busy Sporting Term ahead. I look forward to updating you further with results and wider opportunities for our students next term.

Best wishes and thank you for your continued support.

Mr L Prichard
Head of PE



CHALLENGE WEEKS



As part of the scholar's programme, in the last week of November, Key Stage 3 students participated in the first challenge week of the year.

The challenge weeks use a common theme across a range of disciplines to explore issues and help students make links between subjects, as well as highlight careers that students may not have heard of.

Year 7: Vaccine week

Led by STEM disciplines, students explored pandemics and vaccination programmes both current and past.

We wanted students to develop their critical analytical skills, assessing claims made with both numbers and words.

In Maths, students learnt how to analyse data and spot elements designed to misrepresent statistics.

In English and DT, students analysed news articles, looking for literary devices and design techniques designed to influence the reader.

In Science, students learnt about their immune systems, how vaccines work and how new drugs are developed.

In History and Geography, students explored other pandemics and the work of Edward Jenner; credited with the first vaccine in the western world.

Students will now work in small groups to design a scientific poster for a STEM conference later this school year.

Year 8: Hygiene week

Teenagers sometimes we need a bit more than a reminder from parents to hop into the shower on a daily basis!

We wanted to show our Year 8s irrefutable evidence that showering is the way forward: not applying enough body spray to make pigeons drop from the sky!

Over the week, students delved into the world of bacteria answering questions such as: 'What causes BO?' and 'How big are bacteria?'

Students took swabs of their hands and grew bacteria, before analysing secondary photographic data, where they counted bacterial colonies grown in petri-dishes.

Joining the with the STEM subjects, the history department showed students how ideas about hygiene and disease have changed over time.

Year 9: Enterprise Week

Showcasing the Business and Media departments, Year 9 took part in Enterprise week. The aim of the week was to give students a flavour of subjects they have not experienced during Key Stage 3: allowing them to make more informed choices for their options later this school year.

In Humanities, students learnt about industry and taxation: students were shocked to find out they're already paying tax on the things they buy!

In Science students learnt about industrial scale and sustainable chemistry. Hopefully your young person brought home the sunscreen they made in the lab: it's perfectly usable, although we can't guarantee its SPF value!

In Maths students analysed data to develop their market research skills, and in English students considered the topic of sustainability.

In Art students explored the ideas of ethos, logos and pathos and how they are used to persuade us to buy products every day!

Across all subjects, students were shown a range of careers and how these subjects will benefit them in the world of work.

Our high prior attaining students were also treated to 'Economics 101': a lecture from Ms Sandhu Head of Business Studies.

At the end of the week, these students consolidated their learning by debating different economic solutions for the UK's COVID recovery.

In the first week of December, the Year 9 students used all their enterprise skills to design, make and market a chocolate bar.

While the food scientists and product developers were busy making chocolate bars with Ms Lawner, the finance managers were making decisions suppliers: considering costs against suppliers' reputations for sustainability and workplace practices.

With support from Mr Baines our new Head of Media, the Media studies students from Year 12, helped Marketing teams to produce short TV adverts.

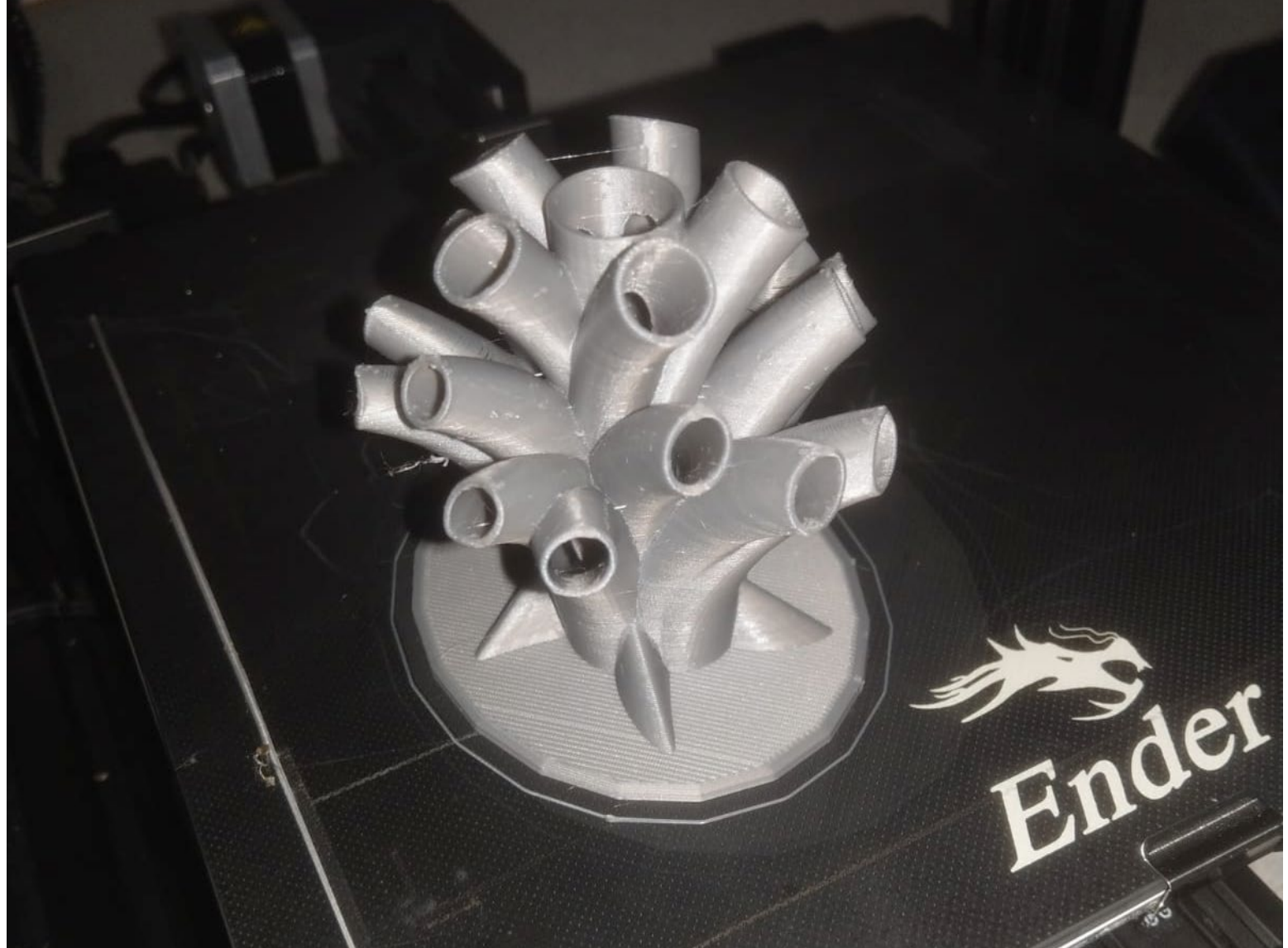
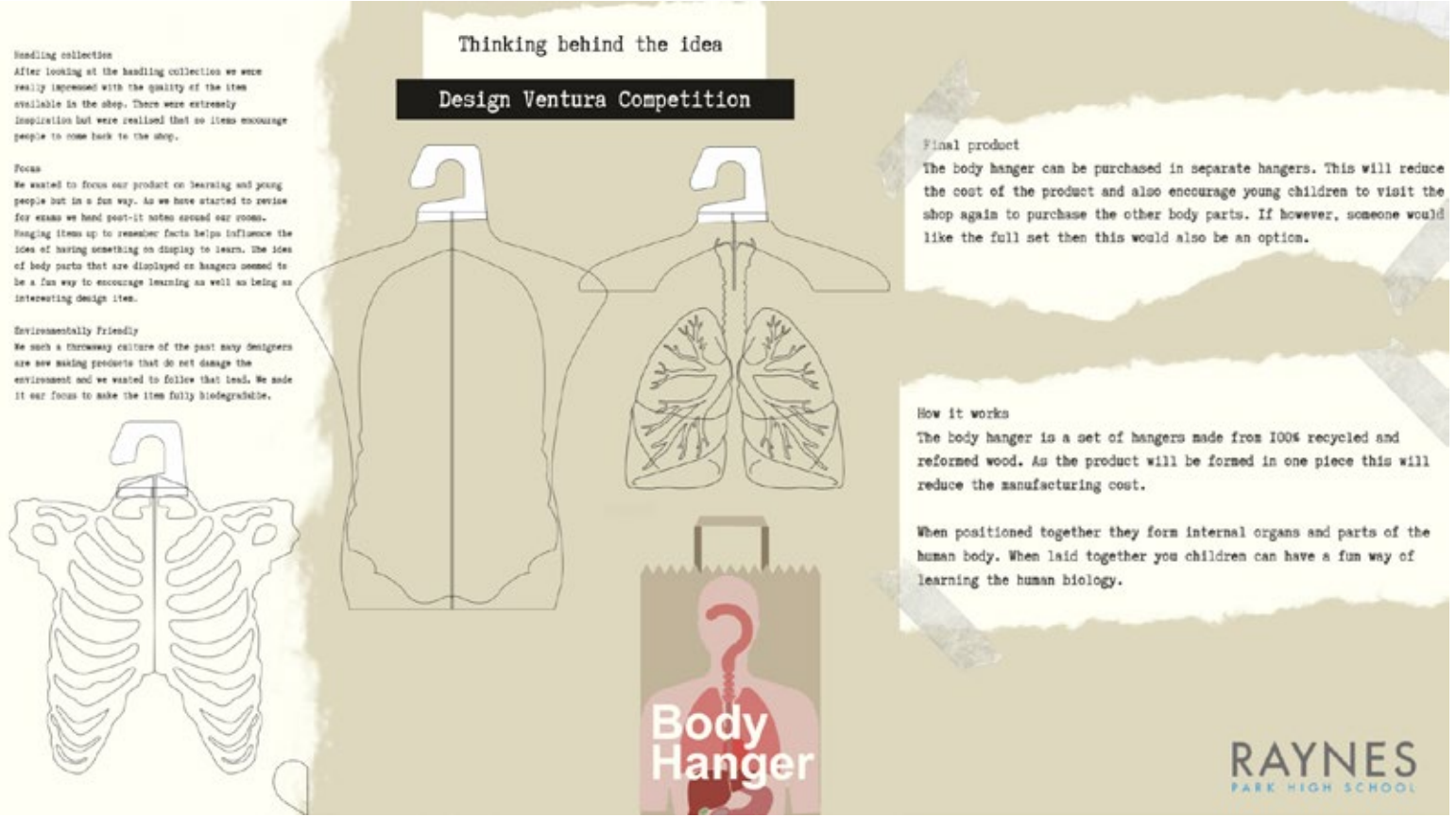
Finally, the ICT department supported students in making eye catching packing that contained the legally required nutritional information.

One team from each House was chosen to pitch their idea to an external panel of judges, including the Marketing Director and MD of Montezuma chocolate.

On Tuesday Halliwells dominated with 'Zoe's Luxury chocolate' a quality chocolate made in France.

On Monday Newsoms narrowly pipped Miltons to the post, to clinch the win for their product 'Sweet and Friendly' a sustainable chocolate bar using free trade ingredients and recyclable packing.

Mr J Johnson Mottais
Senior Teacher



DESIGN MUSEUM COMPETITION

Raynes Park High School design students are competing for the top prize in the Design Ventura Competition

The Year 10 Design & Technology students have produced some interesting concept designs for the Design Museums' Design Ventura competition. The competition challenges the students to design new products for the Design Museum shop that cost a maximum of £15 to make. The winning design created by the students will be sold in the Design Museum shop.

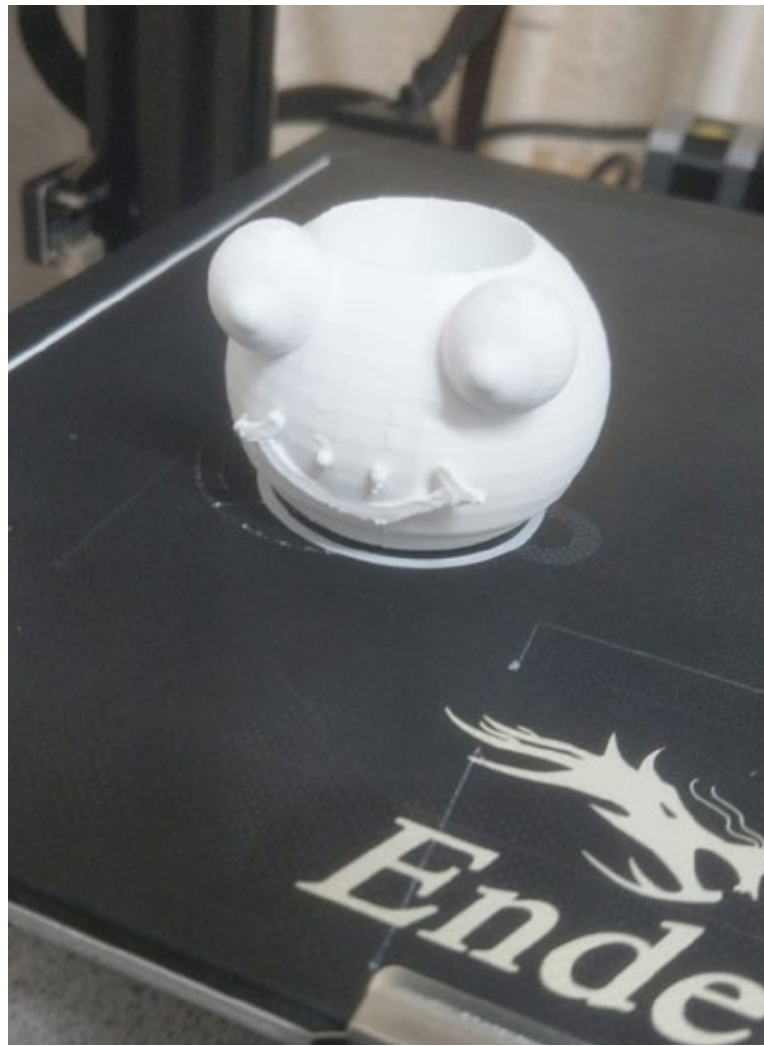
Raynes Park High School was also lucky to receive the wonderful news that it was chosen as a priority school by the Design Museum. This means the students will be working with the design team at the museum and experts in the industry to make their own ideas come to life. This is an amazing opportunity and gives the students the chance to develop their design, thinking, creative, business and employability skills.

This year the competition was launched by world renown industrial designer, Yuri Suzuki, and it encourages students to create a product that is inspired by their five senses too; see, hear, smell, taste and touch.

The D&T students will finalise their ideas using rapid prototyping to meet this design brief. To help them along the way, Mr Harris and Mr Robinson have been guiding the classes on how to use the D&T department's latest suite of Ender 3 and Ender 5 Pro 3d printers, and the results so far have been very impressive.

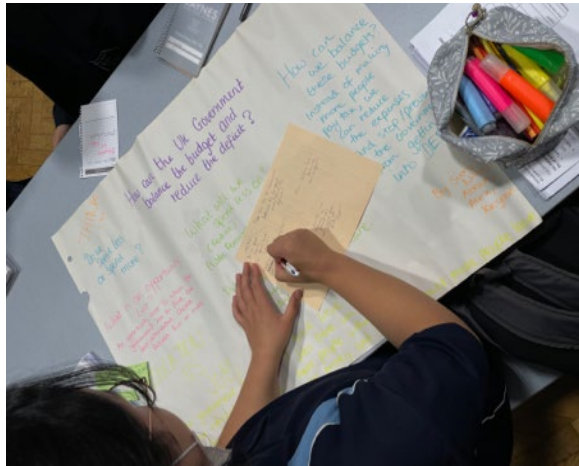
We all have crossed fingers for the students and look forward to the results in the New Year.

Mr R Harris
Head of Art & Design



YEAR 9 ECONOMICS

To launch Enterprise Week, Year 9 students attended an Economics lecture delivered in the hall asking if Economic Growth could be sustainable.



Students were educated on various Economists' perspectives ranging from Adam Smith and Friedrich Hayek to modern day renegade Economists such as Kate Rowarth and her notion of 'Donut Economics'. Students went on to explore the concept of economic growth, inequality, structural growth and globalisation in their Humanities lessons. The week drew to a close with a Macroeconomics seminar where students were back in the hall working intensely with their peers to prepare and present a strategy to reduce the UK budget deficit to a panel who represented Her Majesty's Treasury. Our students were impeccable throughout and their ability to recognise some of the challenges society and Government face was remarkable.

Mr R Sandhu
Head of Business Studies

YEAR 13 ENTERPRISE EVENTS

Year 13 Business Studies students ran Enterprise Events last week to meet part of their course expectations.



Students worked closely with their teams to design, market and risk-assess profitable ventures with a view of making noteworthy margins that will contribute to their long-awaited summer 2022 prom!

The teams baked cakes, held festive candy tuckshops and organised penalty shoot-outs and basketball competitions for younger year groups who were thrilled to take part in events led by Sixth Form students.

The enterprises were a huge success and the students are estimated to have raised approximately £300 to contribute to the Sixth Form fund.

Well done everybody!

Mr G Collman
Head of Humanities

Simeon, Son of the Night

Ninja

Wizards of the Coast support Raynes Park High School in Games Knight Launch

Games Knight is the new Design & Technology club that was launched at the start of the year. It was made possible with the help of Wizards of the Coast, who issued Raynes Park High School with all the equipment to get started. The club offers the opportunity to design your own 'Magic the Gathering' cards and encourages students to develop social skills through playing a league style format.

The club already boost over 40 members with a high level of competition and design. The actual game needs the player to have a grasp of both literacy and numeracy skills all while playing strategically to win against either two player or four player matches.

Currently Tetiana in Year 9 sits top of the league with an impressive 13 wins. The club is always open to new members and the leader table has been quite unpredictable. So will Tetiana take the top prize at the end of the season? Only time will tell but all the students are certainly having fun competing.

On the design front Simeon, Year 9, won the Games Knight card design competition with his custom card design. The card named Simeon, Son of the Night was an eye catching design that will add some interesting mechanics to the game. Simeon's design will now be professionally printed and presented to Wizard of the Coast for a concept card idea.

Mr R Harris
Head of Art and Design

Legendary Creature — Hun

: Choose a creature from each of your hand or on the battlefield, and send it to that player's graveyard.

: All creatures with power greater than 5 are sent to their owner's graveyard. Simeon, Son of the Night remains on the battlefield.

Custom card
SIMEON CHOY

Made with Artificer



HARVEST FESTIVAL

'Today I went to the foodbank and helped separate all the food that Raynes Park High School students donated. It was a lot of hard work but felt really rewarding.'
Sienna (7JS)

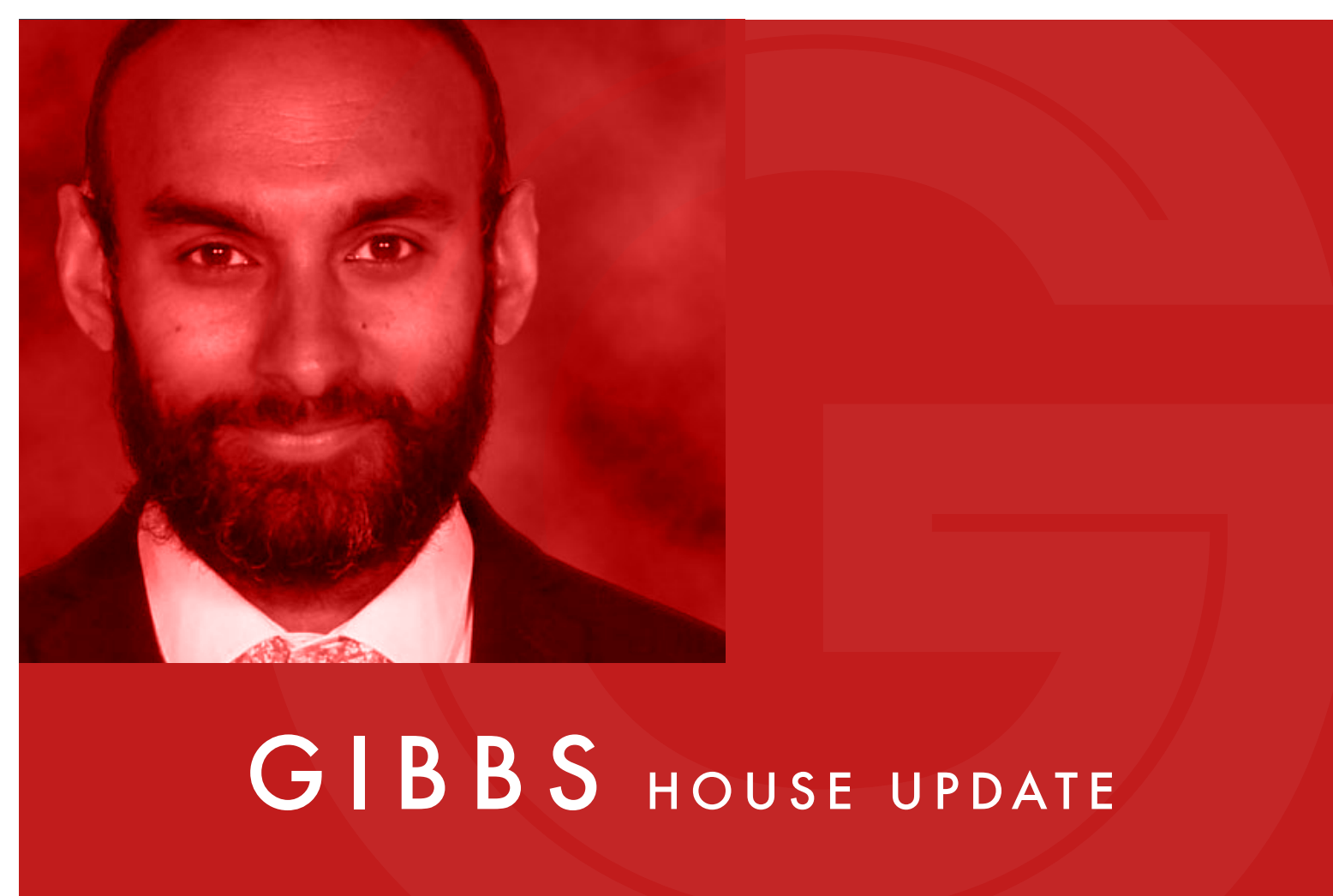
'Today we went to Wimbledon foodbank and we had to try and create meals from the food we had donated. The manager said we had donated enough food to feed 200 families.'
Alfie and Harry (7JS)

Last half term the students in Years 7 and 8 celebrated Harvest Festival by collecting food for Wimbledon Foodbank.

Each tutor group had to decorate their box around the theme 'woodland animals' and fill the boxes with long-life food. The displays were amazing and there was so much food we had to make a second minibus trip. The Form Captains and Deputy Form Captains in Year 7 visited Wimbledon Foodbank with our donations. The students were set to work sorting the food and trying to create different meals for families. All of the students were enthusiastic and helped to support over 200 families in our local area.

Ms J Fowler
Assistant Headteacher





GIBBS HOUSE UPDATE

It's lovely to back at the helm of Gibbs House. I joined Raynes Park High School in 2012 as the Head of Gibbs and we achieved so much together including all of the House Trophies.

With the re-launch of the House system in the Autumn Term it was great to lead our first assembly and set our targets and goals. Our first challenge was to elect the House Leaders from each year group and I was so proud to have received so many letters of application from every year group. The first set of competitions are underway and although we have not won as yet the effort put in by members of Gibbs House has been inspirational. Added to this, the number of awards winners in last weeks' assemblies was impressive too.

I look forward to next term where will no doubt shine again and come together to celebrate our diversity and togetherness.

Mr R Liyanage

Head of Gibbs



NEWSOMS HOUSE UPDATE

In 2012, I joined Raynes Park High School as Head of Newsoms House and nearly 10 years on I am proud to be in the role again. Since the beginning of COVID-19 the students have not been able to meet or compete in their Houses, due to strict regulations of year group bubbles. Therefore, it was with great excitement to re-launch the House system this Autumn term.

Each House has a House Leader in every year group. The House leaders for Newsoms House are:

- Year 7 - Drew
- Year 8 - Ethan
- Year 9 - Basma
- Year 10 - Bisan
- Year 11 - Millie
- Sixth Form - Aaron

Every half term there are a range of activities for the students to get involved in. This half term Year 7 competed in a Spelling Bee, Year 8 battled in Benchball, Year 9 contended in a Catering Cook Off competition, Year 10 solved Maths puzzles and Year 11 competed in House Football.

I am over the moon that Newsoms House won the first competition, which was the Year 10 Maths Challenge. A special well done to Farrukh, Max, Alex, and Bany.

Ms J Fowler

Head of Newsoms



We are finally back to school being as close to normal that we can currently be and as such are ensuring traditional House competitions are an intrinsic part of our school life. Miltons have met as a House for our first assembly so we are all clear on our vision of being the best we can be.

Our House Leaders have been chosen (with a reserve) and they will be supporting fellow Milton students in their year group to raise money for our charity the 'Cardiomyopathy Association'. This is a charity that supports individuals (and their families) who may develop this genetic disorder that affects their heart.

We have had two House competitions so far coming joint third in the first. We did manage to improve this to second place in the DT competition coming second. We are definitely warming up and fighting our way to the top! Bring on next year.

I hope you all have a wonderful, safe Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing all of the members of Miltons House in 2022!

Ms L Finan

Head of Miltons

I am really pleased to introduce myself as the new House Leader for Halliwells. This term we have relaunched the House system and reintroduced the House Captains. Following many applications, I was able to appoint Harry, Stella, Prayer, Zoe, Emilie and Anna. As a team we will be working at promoting our House and lead on our House charity events as well as ensuring that we are well represented at the various House competitions and sports day later in the year. Whilst we have had a fantastic representation and effort at the initial House events, our most successful team have been the Year 9 Enterprise team, led by Zoe, whose chocolate company was voted the best by our external panel of marketing managers. I hope to be able to celebrate more success stories like this throughout the year.

As a House, Halliwells, will have an equality focus on sexual orientation awareness and our nominated House charity is Spectra. This is a charity who do lots of work with our school student wellbeing and pastoral teams and we will look to raise money for them with events later this school year.

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!



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



NEWS FROM THE Governors

This has been something of a topsy-turvy term. It started with a return to school in improving COVID conditions. With the ending of classroom teaching in 'bubbles' Governors hoped that life at Raynes Park High School was returning to something like normal. But as the end of term approached, the Omicron variant, its effects as yet unknown, cast a long shadow over all of us, and the school sensibly took a precautionary approach to its spread.

So Governors' activity has accordingly been varied. We were delighted to start the term with our first in-person Full Governing Body meeting for eighteen months. It was a chance to meet and welcome our three new Parent Governors, Hiren Patel, Oduwa Idehen and Chris Hopkins, and our new Co-opted Governor, Rita Patel, all of whom were elected in the course of the summer term. We were also able to hold some of our committee meetings at school, while others took place on Zoom. But by the end of term, our second Full Governors' meeting was held on Zoom and my own regular round-ups with Kirsten continued throughout the term to be held by telephone.

One bright spot in the term, however, was the restoration of our Strategic Visit in October. We devoted this to a look at our new Year 7 and how well they are settling in to the school after the disruption of the last 18 months in their primary education, and a necessarily modified

induction process when they entered Raynes Park High School. It is good to report that they are doing exceptionally well, and that the students themselves are very happy with their first experiences of Raynes Park High School life. A big well done to them and to the Year 7 tutor team.

Governors were also glad to attend this year's moving Remembrance Assembly on 11th November – again, it was good to see this event held in real time once more.

Throughout the term, Governors have checked and been impressed by the school's operational plans for maintaining the safety and security of our students and staff. We are sure that this is responsible for the low levels of infection relative to other schools in the area. Attendance at school is important for the continuing education of our students, and the way they and their teachers continue to respond to the ongoing difficulties posed by COVID has been excellent. Our thanks and congratulations to them all.





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