



DANCE SHOW 2018

“NEVER MISS A CHANCE TO DANCE.”

Students at Raynes Park High School wow-ed parents, staff and their peers this term with polished, heartfelt performances in this year’s Dance Show. Families, staff and students were treated to a high energy evening which showcased boys and girls from all years dancing a variety of styles including contemporary, street dance and ballet.

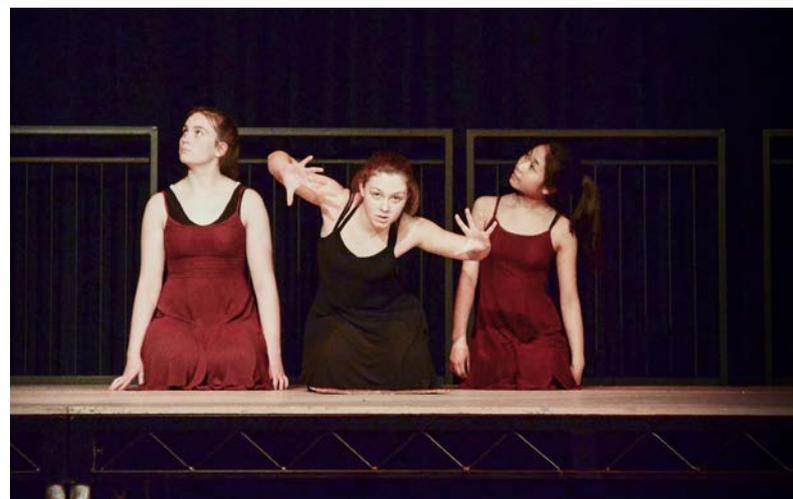
“I would like to say a huge congratulations and well done to all the students who took part in the Dance Show,” said Ms Ward, Head of Dance. “They performed with energy, focus and projection, making the show a success. This year we used many of our younger dancers from Years 7, 8 and 9, they certainly stepped up to the challenge. These younger students choreographed and performed some lovely dance pieces and we really look forward to seeing what they produce in future. I would also like to thank everyone who helped backstage, and made the show run as smoothly as possible.”

Find more photographs of Dance Show on page 2









DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...



HOUSE! *Dance!*

WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE
MAIN HALL 5PM - 7PM



Raynes Park High School has been working with First Give again this term, enabling students to dedicate their skills and time to supporting charities both within Merton and further afield. Students were sent to find a charity which they'd like to pitch to their tutor group, and students were quick to get stuck in. Year 9 students Katie and Megan launched a Facebook, Twitter and Instagram page within the first two days to show support for their chosen charity, World Horse Welfare. They also contacted local and national press in order to raise much-needed awareness for their charity.

After being retweeted by Zara Phillips Tindall, Katie and Megan's story was featured in the Wimbledon Guardian. Katie and Megan have been so inspired by the scheme that they are planning on raising money at local stables for World Horse Welfare outside of school.

"From the very beginning we were blown away by students' enthusiasm for raising awareness and fundraising for charities close to their hearts," said Mrs Heard, Headteacher. "The selflessness and commitment which students have already demonstrated is admirable, and we are thrilled to be working alongside First Give again to nurture these valuable traits which so many of our students have in abundance. Funding from The Jack Petchey Foundation has enabled us to continue to take part in this worthwhile initiative every year, for which our students are incredibly grateful."

Raynes Park High School has been

participating in First Give for a number of years and it has proven to be an excellent scheme which enables students to raise money for their chosen charities alongside honing their presenting, teamwork and research skills. Last year, £1250 was awarded to two Merton-based charities; Faith In Action and Merton Talking Newspaper.

First Give is a philanthropy education programme that develops the professional skills of students and ignites their social conscience. It engages them in their communities and develops more employable and well-rounded individuals.

The programme provides an interactive and fully-resourced scheme of work delivered across an entire secondary school year group. After researching and visiting charities,

students take part in a public-speaking competition to advocate and win grants for their charities in a school final.

The programme sees a combination of in-class learning and active community engagement which inspires a lifelong commitment to charity among young people.

The final is being held at Raynes Park High School in March, where students will give a short presentation about the social action they have undertaken and one class will win an additional £1,000 grant for their charity. To find out more about the fantastic work which First Give are doing in schools, please visit their website at:

www.firstgive.co.uk







GIBBS CHARITY ACTION WEEK



What a week! Thank you to all students and staff who helped raise money for the Gibbs charity week. All proceeds will be going to the Teenage Cancer Trust. With final sponsors coming in all the way up until half term, we have beat our £500 target and are currently sitting on a huge £520! We're hoping the charity auction (on the next page) will inspire people to donate even more to this fantastic cause.

The money which Raynes Park High School raised will go towards Teenage Cancer Trust. The funds will go towards creating world-class cancer services for young people in the UK, providing life-changing care and support so young people don't have to face cancer alone.

Lots of events have been going on, including; guess the teacher, beat the keeper, cake sales, staff vs. Yr 11 football and the cycle-a-thon. The cycle-a-thon had students cycling on an exercise bike in shifts, and we saw some potential tour de France winners on the bike! We also had some students who were surprised to find out that the bike wasn't going to move... We managed to smash our 100 mile target, and in total managed to ride an impressive 149.2

miles. That would take us from Raynes Park to Dunkirk! All of the charity events were very well received by all involved. However, we couldn't have raised so much money without the willingness of the pupils to donate and the members of Gibbs who help to run the events.

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved and hope to raise more in the coming months.

Have a good half term!

- Mr Wheel



STAFF, FRIENDS & FAMILY CHARITY AUCTION

In addition to our recent charity week within school, Mr Wheel has put together a small Sport memorabilia auction in the hope to raise some additional funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The opportunity to bid on an item will run from now until **11.59pm on Sunday 18th February**. Please e-mail jwheel@raynespark.merton.sch.uk with your bid before this date.

Even if you don't want these items for yourself, these would make brilliant gifts! Think about putting in an offer and helping us with the final push before the end of our charity week.

Lot 1) A pair of match-worn KASPER SCHMEICHEL gloves.

Lot 2) A signed Fulham FC 1st team shirt with official merchandise certificate (inc. Ryan Sessegnon).

Lot 3) A signed Leicester City 1st Team shirt (inc. Riyad Mahrez & Jamie Vardy).

Lot 4) A Leicester City signed shirt by JAMIE VARDY, with a personalised message chosen by the winner.





NEWSOMS HOUSE UPDATE



Newsoms! I want to start with some massive belated congratulations to everyone on our successes from last term. As I said in the Christmas assembly, I am so proud of all your achievements, both academically and in extra-curricular events, of which there are so many!

By winning the highest number of House Points and overall Achievement Cup you are showing what a fantastic work ethic and attitude to learning you have, and we continued to top the leader boards in both TT RockStars and the Accelerated Reader Cup. This half term has flown by and it is so important to look back and reflect on all our good work and to keep focused on what is ahead as we approach Easter.

Keep it up - I am expecting a few more trophies by the end of the year!

- Ms Totty





HALLIWELLS HOUSE UPDATE

Halliwells is a House steeped in history and as we begin our 83rd year of this hard-working house, we look to add to our previous successes.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the Halliwells students that applied for the House leadership positions. I was overwhelmed with the number of application letters I received. The maturity and time that went into these letters made my job extremely difficult when making the final appointments. I am very proud to announce and give big congratulations to our House leaders Sade Anderson (Year 7), Harry Bolfrey (Year 8), Valeria Naydenova (Year 9) and our House vice-captain Megan Thomas and House captain Luisa Restrepo. I am excited to work closely with this team and am optimistic that they will be the driving force to propel Halliwells to the top!

I am thrilled to announce that we ended October half term with victory as Team Halliwells won the first House event of the school year; House Dodgeball. My optimism for this winning streak to continue was not unrealistic or too ambitious as we then went on to securing a second win when Halliwells won the House Plays competition. I had the pleasure of working with the Halliwells directors and cast and I am so proud that 'The Witches' was a huge success and fully deserving of the House Plays crown.

After two successive victories in the House events of term 1 at RPHS, the pressure was on for Halliwells to stay on top. The next event was tapping into the academic side of the competition with TT rock stars. Team Halliwells worked incredibly hard to try and win each battle with a special mention to 9H and Miss Holledge for their contributions but no House could match the outstanding performance that Newsoms demonstrated and so Halliwells had to suffer their first defeat.



I believe that our main strength is our natural ability to give peer support and respect through our House leadership team. I was always confident that we would show resilience in the upcoming House events in order to achieve more victories. I am delighted to confirm that this respect and resilience shone through in the last House event of 2017; House Netball. Every Halliwells member conducted themselves in a mature and focused manner and their determination paid off with yet again another victory.

I have been incredibly proud of what Halliwells have achieved so far this academic year and am confident that the victories will continue to come our way. I have been astounded by the passion and pride Halliwells students have displayed for their House and trust this continues to the end of the summer term.

- Ms Bartle





YEAR 10 DROP DOWN DAY

Year 10s took part in a PSHE Drop Down day this term, in which they took part in two workshops; money management and online safety. To tackle money management, students worked with staff from MyBnk, who delivered workshops on personal finance, budgeting and money matters. MyBnk is an award-winning UK charity that teaches young people how to manage their money and set up their own enterprise. Their mission is to “empower young people to take charge of their future by bringing money and enterprise to life.”

The charity aims to help young people to be financially literate in order to give them the best outcomes. Students found this workshop very engaging, and they enjoyed learning about topics such as the legal requirements surrounding the minimum wage and how students can safely navigate their way around all these issues.

The second workshop was delivered by Saltmine Theatre Company. This is a production company that tour around schools offering interactive performances covering issues of sexting, cyber bullying, online grooming, and how to stay safe online. The students enjoyed this performance by the four actors, were quick to get involved and were fully engaging with the characters within the performance. A fantastic day for Year 10.





Spectra

Peer services, improved lives

STUDENT SUPPORT

We are currently running support groups in partnership with Spectra. If any students would like to join our school support groups on **LGBT** or **Safe Relationships** please let Ms Morris or Ms Milton in Student Services know. Students from all years welcome.

UK INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE



On Thursday 1st February sixty students from Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. Over 200,000 pupils from across the UK take part in the challenge each year with 1500 pupils being invited to a follow-up round. The Challenge lasts for an hour and consists of 25 multiple choice questions. Five marks are awarded for each correct answer to the first 15 questions and six marks are awarded for each correct answer for

the rest, however, for questions 16 onwards there are penalties of up to two points deducted for incorrect answers. Certificates are awarded proportionally with the top 6% of students nationally awarded a Gold, 14% a silver and 20% a Bronze.

Below is a question from this year's paper. Can you do it?

Someone has switched the numbers around on Harry's calculator!

The numbers should be in the positions shown in the left-hand diagram, but have been switched to the positions in the right-hand diagram.

Which of the following calculations will *not* give the correct answer when Harry uses his calculator?

789	987
456	654
123	321

- A. 79×97 B. 78×98 C. 147×369 D. 123×321 E. 159×951



CHINESE STUDENTS VISIT RPHS

Last week the school welcomed twenty-six Chinese students on a 5-day exchange. Our visitors were paired up with Year 7 & 8 students and experienced what life is like at Raynes Park High School, including attending the same classes as our students all week. Our visitors had the opportunity to work with the Raynes Park students on a video project comparing their experiences here within the UK and school life in China. "We had many stereotypes about Chinese students before they arrived, and they were shy at first, but once we got a chance to spend more time with them, the more they warmed to us. They were just ordinary kids like us," said one Year 7 student Ambassador. This was a valuable experience for the students to gain opportunities to share ideas and work with other students from around the world.

The week ended with a farewell celebration, during which our visitors exchanged gifts, performed a beautiful traditional Chinese song and we all wished happy birthday to Gu who was celebrating her 13th Birthday away from home. Our Student ambassadors were awarded certificates by Mrs Heard to congratulate them for being exceptional hosts and buddies for the week.

We would like to give a massive thank you to all of our Year 7 & 8 students who acted as buddies throughout the week, including acting as guides, interpreters, co-ordinating the video project and offering their friendship to those away from home for the first time. Thank you and well done to those students.





MESSAGE FROM THE Governors

RE: Volunteering at Raynes Park High School

We are constantly looking at ways in which we can help our students by building on the many initiatives that are being undertaken at RPHS. One particular way we can help is to increase the amount of parent/carer involvement with what we do. This involvement can take a number of forms, but what we are asking for now is whether you would like to volunteer to help us.

We have a dedicated staff at RPHS, but their main focus is quite rightly on teaching and the administration of school activities. Many are also involved in extramural work but there still remains tasks that can be undertaken by volunteers by giving up just a little of your time to help the school and our students.

There are three main areas where we would welcome more parental/carer involvement:

- Fundraising to help the school provide the little extras that can make student life that bit more worthwhile. We have an excellent Parent, Teachers Association at RPHS and they would certainly welcome more support. If you are able to help them they would love to see you at one of their meetings or you can get in touch with their staff contact, Ms Hearn on hhearn@raynespark.merton.sch.uk. The PTA welcomes fundraising carried out independently by parents/carers on their behalf, or perhaps you know a local company who would be happy to donate to or sponsor an activity.

- Working with the local community to promote the school and its activities, perhaps through local organisations, businesses or charities. We are officially designated as a community school and we and our students would love to get further involved in our local area with your help.

- Helping our administration teams with some of the many tasks that they have to undertake in addition to their everyday duties. The nature and timing of these can be adapted to suit volunteers' requirements but could take the form of an hour or two's work occasionally.

We are open to other ideas where volunteers can assist the school. The sky is the limit! If you feel you can help or if you would like to discuss your options further please contact Ms Smith on asmith1@raynespark.merton.sch.uk.

We have an excellent team of teachers, administrators and students and we want to build on these strengths to make Raynes Park a truly exceptional school. If you feel you would like to work with us to achieve this goal, we would love to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,



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



CRACKING THE CODE

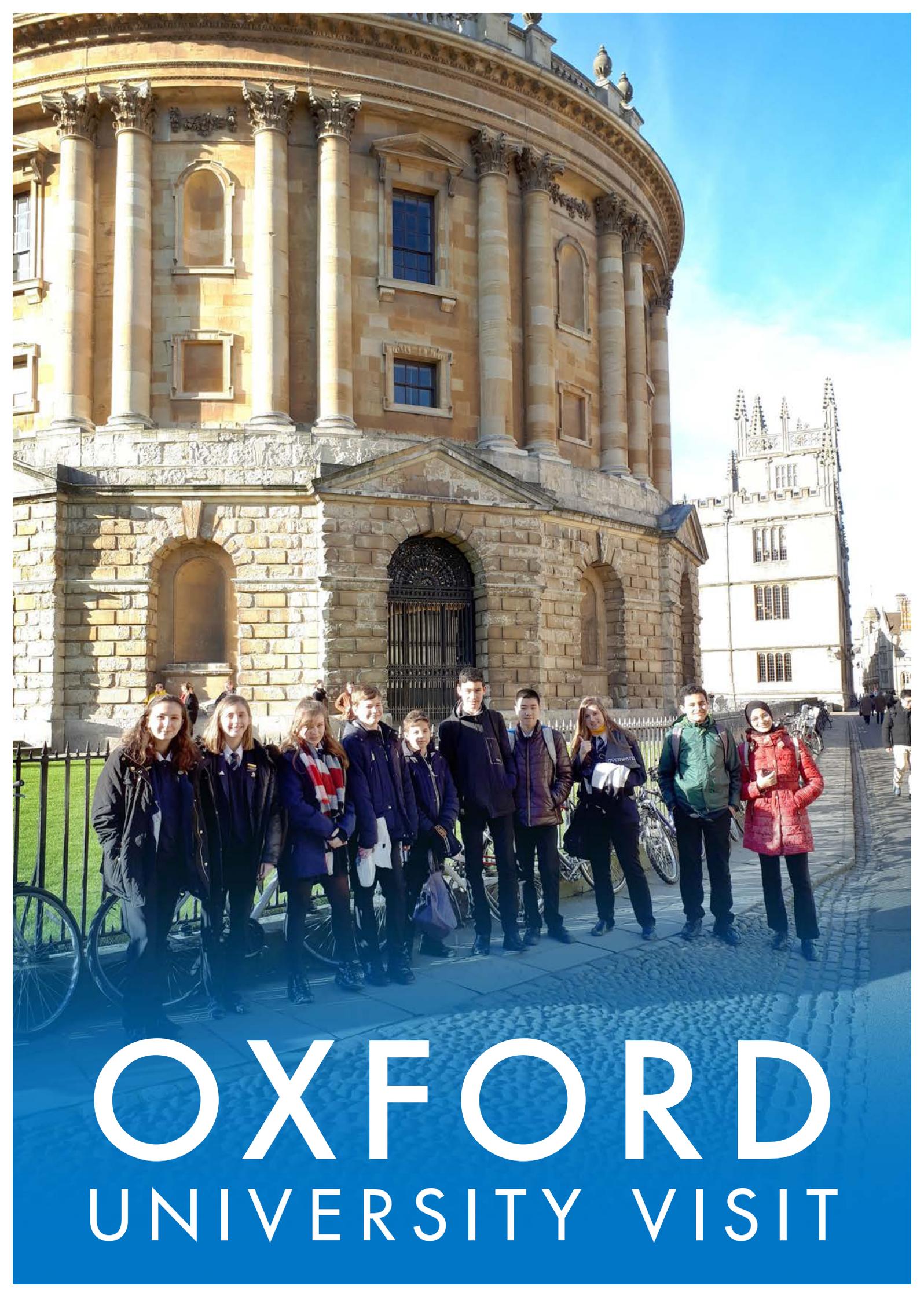
On Thursday 1st February, thirty-one Year 7 students were invited to the Science Museum to attend the induction event of 'Cracking the Code'. Inspired by The Crystal Maze and growth of escape rooms, this nationwide challenge is a competition for teams to design their own escape room. The challenge is designed to engage students to apply their creativity, maths skills and collaborative problem solving. Team's escape room concepts must contain at least four mathematical puzzle questions to reach a 4 digit code to unlock a padlock.

The students have already participated in an exciting 'escape the classroom' lesson in school and this trip built on their collaborative problem solving skills. The students had a carousel of

activities including solving as many practical puzzles to gain points in a given time as possible, trying to escape the box and get the key to stop their timer the fastest, a treasure hunt around the mathematics exhibition and a buggy building competition.

The students have come away with plenty of ideas for their escape rooms and now have until the middle of March to create their concepts and puzzles before submission. The top ten teams in the country will receive a bursary to visit an actual escape room and the overall winning team will have their escape room concept brought to life and will win £2,000 for their school. We can't wait to see their entries!





OXFORD

UNIVERSITY VISIT



On a freezing cold, but thankfully sunny day, Ms Smith and Mr Duus took a group of Year 9 students to visit Oxford University. Our students visited the Chemistry department and met 3 postgraduate students who are engaged in cutting edge research in relation to the diagnosis of Tuberculosis. We were also lucky enough to be given a tour of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance laboratory where we saw substances being exposed to an extremely powerful magnetic force in order to analyse their composition.

After our tour of the Chemistry department, we went to Merton College where we were given a talk on higher education and on what makes Oxford University special. Our students were able to ask a third year History student all about life at Oxford, including what the admissions process was like, how much work she has to do, and how she has coped with being away from home.

Continued on page 16





Continued from page 15

We enjoyed a delicious lunch in the College Hall surrounded by imposing portraits of the College Wardens through the centuries. We then had a guided tour of central Oxford including the Radcliffe Camera and the Bodleian Library, and finished with a visit to the fascinating Treasures of the Bodleian exhibition, which included the original manuscript of Handel's Messiah and original writing by Tolkien among many other fascinating exhibits.

We had an excellent day which helped to encourage our students to think about their academic futures and raise their aspirations. Alaa commented that it was an 'inspirational day'. We were very well looked after by Merton College and are very grateful to them for organising such an interesting and informative day for our students.







STEM 4 MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The Stem4 conference was an interactive day for students from the Merton and Wandsworth borough to hear from guest speakers and to develop a toolkit and strategies to use in their school to raise awareness of mental health.

The day involved the students attending talks from a variety of people: Stem4 ambassador Naomi Cavaday, a former top 10 British Women's Tennis player who talked about her battle with mental health, Dr Nihara Krause, CEO and Founder of Stem4 and Stem4 ambassadors Michael Maitland and his father Ian Maitland which gave students the unique perspective of a both Michael's experience of mental health in adolescence and a parent's perspective.

The students created and delivered a presentation which involved: a proposal of 3 changes that would help students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health in school, thinking of a slogan to raise awareness of helpful coping strategies and creating a poster. Raynes Park High School students delivered a fantastic presentation and came second out of all the participating schools in both boroughs.

Ms Morris received the following feedback the day after the event; "We were very impressed with the Raynes Park High students' approach and attitude towards the presentation and also their willingness to join in with sharing and presenting ideas. Please could you pass on my thanks for their excellent behaviour." The students should be proud of how they represented the school.

Stem4's aim is to foster the development of good mental health in teenagers through enhancing early understanding and awareness, promoting shared early detection and signposting towards prompt action and intervention. Collaborative work with young people, their families, and schools will help an individual to enhance their resilience and sense of individual responsibility. Stem4 hope to combat mental illness and follow through on a mentally healthy path to adulthood.



TIM HENMAN FOUNDATION



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN: TIM HENMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

As part of the association with BECSLink, we are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant of up to £12,000 over 3 years by the Tim Henman Foundation to be awarded as scholarships to some of our students.

The aim of these scholarships is to identify and nurture talent by giving our students opportunities to access extra-curricular activities that they otherwise would not be able to afford.

The students may be talented at sport, art, music, drama, dance, academic excellence and it will be up to members of staff to identify and propose students that they think would benefit from these scholarships.

The money is targeted at students in financial need so PP/bursary students will qualify automatically. Other students that apply will need to demonstrate a financial need for the scholarship. All students that apply must also demonstrate their motivation through a personal statement.

The scholarships may be used to pay for anything that will support the student in nurturing their talent. This might include outside tuition, purchasing kit or equipment, attendance at a residential programme etc. The amount awarded will be up to a maximum of £500 in any one year but students may apply again in the following year.

To apply the student must complete an application form – and they must be sponsored by a member of staff. We will also expect the parent/carer to sign the application form.

If you would like your child to apply for this funding, please contact their form tutor in the first instance.

This is a fledgling programme but we are very excited about the opportunities that it will open up to talented RPHS students in a range of diverse fields and we are very grateful to the Tim Henman Foundation for making this initiative possible.



RAYNES PARK RAIDERS ROAR



The U19s Raynes Park Raiders strutted their stuff in the Sports Hall on Monday 5th February with a 71-34 hammering of Glenthorne School. Local rivalries added spice to the match as two brothers from either school battled for bragging rights in the family.

Some stunning slam dunks provided the spectators with both entertainment and inspiration for the younger generation of Raiders.

Keep an eye on our website to stay up-to-date with our fixtures after half term:

www.rphspe.com

Spring Term

EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORT TIMETABLE

Pride . Participation . Performance

BEFORE SCHOOL

Basketball: Tuesdays & Fridays Boxing Fitness: Tuesdays

LUNCH TIME OFFER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
CWB: Basketball all years	SH: Indoor Cricket all years	JW: KS4 Indoor Football	EB: All years Badminton	

AFTER SCHOOL OFFER 3:00 - 4:00PM

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
U14's and 16's Basketball Squad Training	Rebound Therapy	All Years table tennis club – EB	U14's and 15's Football Squad Training - CWB	U14's and 16's Basketball Squad Training
All Years Girls Football with Tilly Penfold		All years Rugby on the RSA – IB	U12's and 13's Football Squad Training - JW	DofE with SH
Dance - Contemporary Club		Indoor Cricket Training – SH	Dance – Street Dance RW	GCSE Intervention - JW
		Dance – GCSE/BTEC rehearsal	All years' Trampolining EB	



NERVE-WRACKING 3RD ROUND VICTORY FOR U15s

The U15s secured safe passage into the quarter-finals of the Surrey Cup after an epic 4 - 3 penalty shootout win. Having gone in to the half time break 1 - 0 down, Mr Wilson-Boyle decided to bring on the pacy winger Krystian. The decision turned out to be a masterstroke with a quick fire brace from the super sub. The game looked in the bag until a dramatic last second equaliser sent the game to penalties.

The boys had to pick themselves up from such a gut wrenching setback but ultimately prevailed with a cool Chris Sindika slotting the ball in to the top corner to send the boys through!

Having lost in the first round last year, the victory marks yet another fantastic achievement for a team on the up.

Well done lads! The journey continues #unbeaten.



BOROUGH CHAMPIONS AGAIN!



Year 7 and 8 took part in the Merton Indoor Athletics championships for the opportunity to represent the Borough at the London Youth Games. Students competed in a mixture of track and field events at Ursuline High School on consecutive Thursdays at the start of January. Events included long and triple jump, sprints, relays and even the unique 8 lap parlauf. All 4 teams did incredibly well against some very tough competition.

The results were extremely good with 2 teams placing inside the top 3.

Results: Year 8 Girls 3rd
Year 8 Boys 4th
Year 7 Girls 4th
Year 7 Boys 1st

Huge congratulations to the Year 7 boys who won the event and will go onto represent Merton in the London Youth Games.

(Squad: Amere, Ashton, Zeph, Jack, Ogi, Reece)

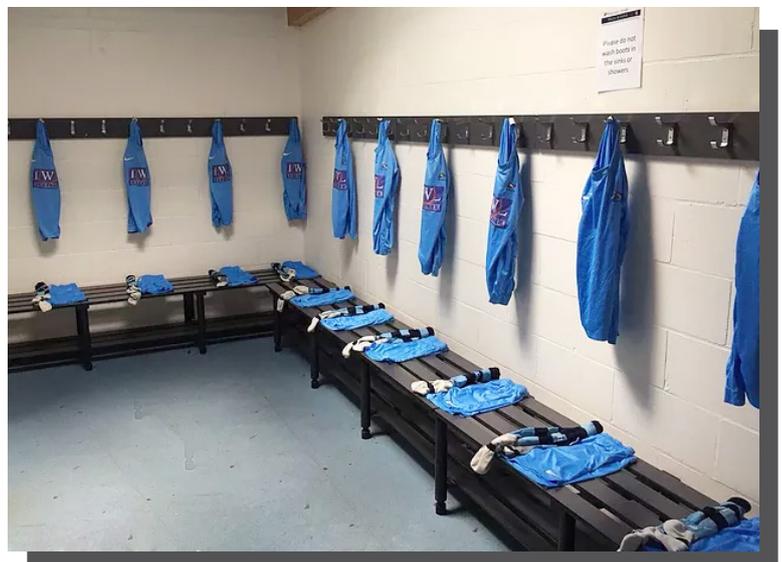
U13'S CRUISE INTO SURREY CUP QUARTERS

The U13's secured an emphatic 8-0 Surrey Cup 3rd round victory over Hollyfield School on Wednesday 31st January 2018.

Braces from Jayden, Harvey, Jack and Tyelan and Sam ensured a comfortable victory for the boys, joining the U15s boys and girls squads in the quarters.

Onto the quarter-finals of the Surrey Cup - with The Beacon awaiting in the next round.

Well done lads!





ABBY & HEEJIN COMPETE IN THE GREAT BIG DANCE OFF

RPHS dancers Heejin and Abby competed in The Great Big Dance Off this term, performing a contemporary duet dance piece. We are thrilled to announce that they performed beautifully and got through to the second round of The Great Big Dance off! The girls competed against many schools in the London Borough so they should be incredibly proud of themselves.





University of
Roehampton
London



Thinking of becoming a teacher? Come to our **Train to teach open evening**

Ursuline High School, Wimbledon.
Wednesday March 7th 2018, 5 – 8pm

Teach Wimbledon in partnership with the University of Roehampton is hosting a multi-provider Train To Teach open evening in Wimbledon on March 7th.

A wide variety of teacher training providers – universities and school alliances – will be exhibiting and offering one-to-one advice about their primary and secondary PGCE courses. If you have questions about the best route into teaching, your eligibility or any aspect of the application process or future career this is an ideal opportunity to get professional advice. Ursuline High School is a 10-minute walk from Raynes Park station, or there is free parking at the school.

To book your place at the event please visit
www.roehampton.ac.uk/traintoteach
We look forward to seeing you there.

The University of Roehampton has been at the forefront of teacher education for 175 years and is one of the biggest providers of teacher education in the UK.

Teach Wimbledon offers School Direct PGCE training, in partnership with Roehampton, at 16 primary and secondary schools in the London Borough of Merton.

SUPPORT STAFF VACANCIES

Exam Invigilators

Closing date: Monday, 19th February 2018 at 9.00am

Volunteering Opportunities

Applications currently open

Coming soon...

Casual Displays Assistant

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

visit 'staff vacancies' page on the school website

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 rburnham@raynespark.merton.sch.uk