



HEAD BOY & HEAD GIRL ELECTION

For the second year, the school community has spoken and elected its Student Leadership Team in the lower school. After a hard fought campaign by our eight candidates, ballot slips were distributed and school-wide voting commenced. Following Headteacher interviews with the shortlisted candidates, we are delighted to announce the following:

Head Boy: Mahmud

Head Girl: Izzy

Deputy Head Boy: Musawar

Deputy Head Girl: Evie

Senior Prefects: Elliot, David, Salome and Summer

"Firstly, I have to say thank you to everyone who voted for me" said Mahmud, newly elected Head Boy. "I am thrilled to be taking on a new challenge and am so grateful that you've supported me in becoming

your Head Boy. Now that I'm elected, I want to see changes brought to the school to make it an even better environment for you. I will always make sure your opinions are heard, and please don't be scared to come and ask me anything if you have any issues."

"As Head Girl, my focus is on environment, education, student voice and mental health" said Izzy, new Head Girl. "Being happy and healthy is key to your success, but going through your teen years can be a challenging time for some students. This is why I want to continue to improve the school's support for mental well-being so you can achieve your full potential. Thanks to all of you who voted for me - I won't let you down."

Following a challenging process, Mrs Heard would like to congratulate the new Student Leadership Team and is looking forward to working with them in the future.

FOOTBALL & EDUCATION PROGRAMME





FULHAM FC PREMIER LEAGUE PROMOTION

FULHAM FOOTBALL AND RPHS PARTNERSHIP ON 'FOOTBALL AND EDUCATION' PROGRAMME

Students and staff were delighted to see Fulham FC promoted to the Premier League after beating Aston Villa 0-1 at the Championship Playoff Final this week. This thrilling victory means that Raynes Park High School now has an exciting and fruitful partnership with a Premier League team, which is already benefiting many of its students.

The Fulham Football and Education programme (RPHS players pictured, left) has become a well-established part of the school offer, with over 30 students taking part in professional football training alongside their studies at Raynes Park Sixth Form.

The programme guides talented young footballers on their journey as student athletes, as they prepare for post-secondary studies and a future in football or beyond. Aimed at students aged 16-18, the programme provides academic support for pupils working towards A-Levels and BTEC qualifications, whilst training like professional footballers every day.

The programme challenges athletes by competing in the FA Youth Cup, Conference YouthAllianceLeague, Southern Youth Floodlit League and the National U19 Youth Football Development League. The programme is crucial in helping students achieve their college scholarship, semi-professional and professional football aspirations. Last season, 100% of participants achieved a positive exit route; moving on to university, work, or apprenticeships. Highlights included two participants receiving scholarships to American Universities, one signing to a professional academy as a scholar, and one signing a two-year professional contract.

Raynes Park High School extends its deepest congratulations to Fulham for this fantastic achievement. We know that this success, alongside the delivery of the Football and Education programme will continue to inspire our young players to push themselves and become the best they can be.

CLORE BALLROOM PERFORMANCE

Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 participated in a workshop run by the world famous ballet/contemporary dance company Rambert Dance last month. They then performed their work at The Clore Ballroom in front of the public and other Merton schools. Students performed the dance with energy and passion and we had many positive reviews. Well done to all who performed!



SCHOOL PLAY AUDITION RESULTS

There were some tough decisions to be made following the auditions for this year's School Play; *The Grimm Tales*. The standard was extremely high and we were so impressed with the number of auditionees who set their stage fright aside and delivered some impressive auditions. We know you'll all put on a fantastic show!



Little Red Cap

Redcap; Abigail T 7AN
Grandma; Jo K 9NX
Wolf; Oscar K 8GC
Huntsman; Jack B 7SA

Ashputtel

Elder; Poppy C 9NX
Younger; Charlotte Brown 9MX
Stepmother; Heejin Lee 9MX
Prince; Ryan Tandy 9NZ
Father; Yosef Abdelhalim 9NZ
Ashputtel; Charlotte Williams 9G

Snow White

Snow White; Jazmin Poole 9NX
Queen; Summer Shott 10H
Mirror; Megan Bicknell 9H
Narrator; Mia Ciano 9MZ
 & Abigail Creaven 9NX
Prince; Ethan Wilkins 9NZ
Huntsman; Anna-Marie Minchin 9NX
7 Dwarfs; Tajhaye Speede 10MZ,
 Katie Robinson 9H,
 Lola Ciano 7JP,
 Livvie Duggin 9MZ,
 Cerys Skinner 8LJ,
 Nicole Heath 8EB,
 Laxshaya Satheeskumar 7JP

The Hare and the Hedgehog

Hare; Sam Hayes 9G
Hedgehog; Ella Richie-Dickson 9H
Wife; Helen Lawk 9NZ
Narrator; Salome K 10GZ
 & Sam Thompson 9G

Hansel and Gretel

Hansel; Jack Jenkins 7AN
Gretel; Layla Bedford 7AN
Mother; Joanna Nunes 9NX
Father; Alex North 10GZ
Witch; Alex Wyllie 8GC

The Storytellers

Michael Bertagna-Agozzino 7JP
 Roseanna Cross 7MB
 Victoria Kucherera 7AN
 Caitlin Taylor 7MB
 Gennyvee Johnson 7MB
 Amber Murray 7AN
 Storm Smink 7JP
 Ella Leaman 7SC
 Giulia Ghiuzan 7SC
 Frankie Foyle 7SC
 Billy Roberts 7SC
 Lovell Smith 7SA
 Robert Cristache 8EB
 Alice Hill 8JW
 Maddison Sheppard 8ST
 Carlotta Sarango 9G
 Olga Buczkowska 9NZ
 Andrea Martins 9H
 Phoebe Brooks 10GX

WILLIAM MORRIS AWARDS

For one night only, William Morris House was transformed into an art gallery showcasing a wide range of art from anyone living, working or studying in the London Borough of Merton. Raynes Park students Jasmine, Hamza, Kiera, Taliyaah and Angelique all entered their pieces of artwork into the competition. The award was conceived to enhance the reputation of William Morris as a pre-eminent British designer and to remind people that his beliefs, both artistic and altruistic, found their highpoint here in Wimbledon.

A small panel made up of local artists and people connected with the arts presented the prizes to the winning artists. A number of Distinction Awards were given to Raynes Park High, Ricards Lodge and Wimbledon High School.



JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE



On Thursday 26th April, 31 of our Most Able Mathematicians from Years 7 and 8 sat the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. The JMC is a lively, intriguing multiple choice question paper which is designed to encourage and develop an interest in problem solving. Our students did fantastically well achieving 8 bronze, 8 silver and 1 gold certificate. Nathan Hayter who achieved the gold certificate achieved so highly that he has qualified for the next round, the Junior Kangaroo! Well done to all that took part this year.

HOSPITALITY CAREERS VISIT

Thank you to Leroy from the National Careers Service and Dawit from Hub at Premier Inn who delivered an engaging and informative insight into careers in the hospitality industry.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



LOVELL SMITH



MARTIN CHAU &
RICKARDO SUKHDEO



RUGBY ON THE RISE!

Over the last month, the Year 7 and 8 Rugby team have been competing in a number of games against local schools.

Their first fixture was against an experienced Southborough team. The boys, having never played a competitive fixture before, took a while to gain their self-belief but once they scored their first try through the speed and power of Sam Powell, there was no stopping them. Trailing 5 tries to 4 at half time they had more than matched Southborough who had a number of regular rugby players. In the second half the more experienced team pulled away with the game finishing 10 tries to 6. A huge congratulations to Sam P for his man of the match performance, grabbing all 6 tries and being the stand out player.

Raynes Park then took on a Year 8 Holyfield team. Leading at half time 5 - 4 the boys had high expectations. Unfortunately a couple of substitutions by both teams saw the game change in Holyfield's favour and they ran out eventual winners 13 - 5. Despite the result it was amazing to match a Year 8 team for skill and enthusiasm but in the end their physical presence came through.



Finally, Raynes Park competed in an emerging schools tournament against Cheam and Stanley Park. RPHS lost their opening match to Stanley Park but won convincingly against Cheam. The second round of matches was similar with Stanley Park the form side winning all their games. RPHS drew their final match against Cheam and finished a respectable second. The boys were fantastic and a number of boys including, Andrey, Anton, Zeph and Ashton crossed for tries during the tournament. Player

of the tournament was Zeph Stow whose ability to find space and turn the ball over made him a stand out performer on the day.

Well done to the whole squad; Zack, Anton, Toby, Billy, Ashton, Ogi, Zeph, Billy, Andrew, Andrey, Thabiso, Jaydan, Luke and Sam

Lots more exciting initiatives in the pipeline for the 2018/19 season!



HOUSE UPDATE

I'd like to start off by thanking all the students in Halliwells House for your continued approach towards both House and charity events that have taken place over the past term. I am very pleased to say that your efforts have not gone unnoticed neither have they been wasted as we have continued to not only dominate in the sporting events but also massively improve in other areas of the House system.

Since our last update, Halliwells have gained yet another sporting title after winning House Basketball back in March. Well done to the students that took the time to come and represent their House during this lunch time event and I know we are all so happy to remain a dominant force within the House events so far, winning four out of the five competitions.

An area of improvement and therefore something that has been a huge focus within our House assemblies this year has been our attendance. Up until the Easter holidays, Halliwells were regularly coming last in the attendance race but I am thrilled to say that we picked up the trophy for best attendance at the end of April and we are currently still holding that title.

Another significant event that occurred during the last half term was Halliwells charity week. Our house worked incredibly hard to raise money for our charity 'Breast Cancer Care' through events such as ice lolly sales and cake sales as well as one of our Halliwells staff members; Mr Arnot raised nearly £300 for coming into school on the last day of the Spring term with his hair dyed pink!



I want to say a huge thank you in particular to my house leaders as well as the Year 7s and 8s who gave up their time in helping raise this money for such a fantastic cause.

Halliwells have done incredibly well so far and with only a half term left until the end of the academic year, I encourage them to continue working hard and doing their best in all aspects of school life. Bring on House Dance and Sports Day in particular!

PEER MENTORING SCHEME



Since last year, RPHS has been running a Year 10 Peer Mentor Programme. Students who have been recognised by their Head of Year for demonstrating a mature, responsible and compassionate attitude, are selected to go through a two week training programme and then assigned a Year 7 student for a six week mentoring block. Some of the issues that may arise for the mentees range from general confidence or friendship issues to behaviour, bereavement or self-esteem, with mentors being able to offer support, refer students to relevant staff members if needed, and generally having a positive impact on the Year 7 student's school life.

Mr Smith,
Peer Mentor Co-Ordinator & Achievement Mentor



PI-TOP ROBOT BUILDING

As a result of our continuing collaboration with BECSLink, pi-top and the Tim Henman Foundation, RPHS student Matthew stopped by the pi-top headquarters in London this term. He got to meet the team and their PiWars robot! The team were thrilled to have him visit and tweeted: "This morning we had a very special guest, Matthew. He is passionate about designing and building robots. Thanks Matthew for paying us a visit!"



GIBBS REWARD TRIP

Selected Gibbs students who had assisted and participated in House events went on a reward trip to the schools cricket day at Kia Oval. Every season Surrey CCC, in partnership with the Cricket Foundation, invite every school in south London and Surrey to attend a match at the Kia Oval completely free of charge. Students had a brilliant day, and were further filled with House Pride!



RPHS STUDENT INSPIRES

RPHS student, Summer had her animation 'Summer's Story' shown at 'Inclusion Meet' at Turnham Primary School to inspire local teachers. Turnham Primary tweeted: "In awe of Summer's story about living with epilepsy. WOW! You are awesome Summer!"



95% ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Pupils were delighted to be rewarded with a trip to Krispy Kreme for improving their attendance over a period of 6 weeks. With many sticky fingers and plenty of doughnuts consumed, there were many happy faces all round for a trip well deserved. Well done everyone!

*Mr Smith,
Achievement Mentor*



ALUMNI SUCCESS

Rhys Morgan, RPHS Alumnus, made the TRU National 2 South Team of the Year. The TRU team stated; "In the half-backs, Wimbledon's Rhys Morgan was a standout performer at 9 despite the Dons suffering relegation."



Following recent feedback, we are thrilled to include some content from students, with more exciting articles and comic strips to come! Thank you to the students from 8EB who have contributed this term. Please come to the IT Heldesk and speak to Ms Burnham or e-mail rburnham@raynespark.merton.sch.uk if you are interested in contributing to future newsletters.

TEN THINGS HIGH SCHOOL HAS TAUGHT ME

by Demi, Year 8

1. I have learnt not to always believe everything I hear, especially online and in the news
2. I've learnt to talk about my problems and issues instead of keeping them bottled up inside
3. The person I thought I would be in Year 7 is not the person I am in Year 8, and that's OK
4. Even though you may not think so at the time, the things you learn in class can definitely benefit you in the future
5. People can change *a lot* over the summer holidays. Don't let it get to you
6. You can express yourself in whatever subject you do if you think creatively and have the right attitude
7. If you are in an argument with someone, it's better to face the situation head-on rather than letting it build up. It's best to be honest about your feelings and really listen to how the other person feels
8. I have to ignore any silly rumours and playground drama and focus on my work. In the grand scheme of things, it's not important
9. I have learnt to be more careful of what I say and be aware of other people's feelings
10. I really believe you really can do anything you set your mind to. If you put the time and effort in, there are so many people willing to help you achieve

by Jacob, Year 8

1. I have learnt that you should take your education seriously if you want to succeed
2. Take pride in whatever you do and always make the extra effort because it will pay off
3. I have learnt to question things rather than just accepting them
4. Whenever you get stuck, there is always someone you go to for help and it's OK to ask. Asking for help *doesn't* mean that you're stupid
5. You don't have to change yourself to please others
6. People and friendships don't stay the same forever. It's all part of growing up so you shouldn't take it personally
7. I am a lot different to last year. In Year 7 I was nervous to be in a new school but now I am much more comfortable and independent
8. Everything we are taught now can help us in the future, even just skills like teamwork and communicating
9. I can always speak my mind without being judged. Also, people disagreeing with what I've said isn't a bad thing because we can have a discussion and not an argument
10. You can learn anything with the right support and a positive outlook

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Whether it's a week-long break at half term or the long six-weeks over summer, it's important to make the most of the free time you have outside of school. Here are ten ideas for what you can do over the summer holidays.

by Najma, Year 8

1. Rest and relaxation

After a busy term, resting your mind, body and soul is very important. Read a book, paint, go for a walk, watch TV, whatever it is that gets you chilled out and ready for the next term.

2. Learn something new

Just because you're not at school, doesn't mean you need to stop learning! You can teach yourself something new through YouTube or apps, skills like learning a language, how to knit or even how to cook really well!

3. Play in the water

Make the most of the sunny weather while it lasts. If you don't live near to a pool, get out the hose, paddling pool or the sprinkler. Put on some sunscreen, grab your sunglasses and it's like you're on holiday!

4. Outdoor Events

There are lots of events around Merton and London over the summer, such as plays, musicals and films. There are free street performances at Covent Garden and Trafalgar Square.

5. Grow a small garden

You can grow small plants in flower pots, or even just herbs on the windowsill if you don't have a garden.

6. Listen to music

Music will calm you down and make you feel happy. Make a summer playlist with all your favourite tunes.

7. Make a scrapbook

Rather than just uploading photos onto Instagram or Snapchat, print out all of your photos from the holiday and put them in a scrapbook. It's a nice way of keeping your memories of the holidays in one place and it really good to look back on.

8. Invite friends over

Have a sleepover with your friends. Grab your favourite snacks, films, video games, magazines and books and stay up late while you still can!

9. Have a picnic

Picnics are a fun way to get out with friends. Even if you can't get to a park, a picnic is just as good in your garden!

10. Go camping!

Invite a group of your friends to go camping. You don't have to go far - if you prefer, you can camp out in your garden.

So, that concludes my list of ideas about what to do over the school holidays. I hope that you enjoyed it and that you may find time to do a couple of these things.

EARTH DAY 2018

by Ms Barrett, Head of Humanities

Every year on 22nd April, Earth Day marks the anniversary of arguably the birth of the modern environmental movement. At the beginning of the moment in 1970, global shifts in how we consumed resources started to leave a visible and disturbing mark on our environment. As industry grew and started to spread out into Asia, as a consequence of our more globalised world, public awareness and concern started to grow as people started to make links between the polluted landscapes, waterways and public health.

"While climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, it is also our greatest opportunity..."

The idea for a national day to focus on the environment came to the founder of the Earth day movement, Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator, after he witnesses the ravages of the 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the anti-war movements of the time, he realised that if he could take the energy and passion that he witnessed and infuse it with the message for greater environmental consciousness and protection, that he could bring environmental policies to the forefront of the national political agenda. He succeeded, and on the 22nd April 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks and auditoriums, to demonstrate for a more sustainable and healthy environment. As people stood together on this day, the realisation that there were many different groups fighting for a common cause became clear, realising that they shared common values and a common goal in fighting against the oil spills, polluting factories, toxic dumps, and development at the cost of the biodiversity of the planet. Earth Day was truly born.

In the years since, the annual event has provided the opportunity to bring environmental issues to the forefront of public attention. Over the years the event has grown, with well-known celebrities such as Leonardo DiCaprio campaigning for the public acknowledgement of our degrading global environment, with campaigns focusing on global warming, climate change and water insecurity.





It would be hard not to see the damage that we have done to date. From unseasonal weather events such as the snow and -8 degree temperatures experienced here at Raynes Park High School in March, to the greater frequency of tropical storms in the Atlantic Ocean, climate change is now not a concept with which we cannot personally relate. Many of you may have sat down as families and watched David Attenborough's Blue Planet II series last year, which concluded with a poignant reminder of the consequences of our everyday decisions and the result of these.

"Never before have we had such an awareness of what we are doing to the planet. Never before have we had the power to do something about it."

The final episode of Blue Planet II took an unflinching look at the impact of human activity on marine life, stating 'the future of all life now depends on us'. Earth Day 2018 took up the plea for helped promoting the issue globally. In the UK, we have arguably become a nation addicted to the use of single-use plastics. The average person will use 30,000 plastic bottles in their lifetime, each one of these taking 450 years to degrade. However the scale of the issue does not stop at our shores. It is a global issue. As the world's population continues to grow, so does the amount of plastic waste that people produce. Our on-the-go lifestyles require easily disposable products, the accumulation of which has led to increasing amounts of plastic pollution around the world. Beaches polluted, wildlife living alongside additions to their homes, additions that should not be there. The problem is not just visual as plastic is composed of major toxic pollutants which have the potential to cause great harm to the environment in the form of air and water pollution. Imagine the body scrub that exfoliates our skin, that washes down the plug hole

never to be seen again, only to be consumed by the fish that we eat, or to be found in the water that we drink. It's not just plastic bottles that cause us to rethink our actions, micro plastics are within our food chain and our water. The plastic problem is everywhere.

For our students at Raynes Park High School, Earth Day 2018 marked the birth of our very own eco-council, set up in order to promote sustainability, working with the school council in order to promote a more sustainable future for our school community. Working in conjunction with the Eco-School project, our Eco Committee has been working hard to evaluate how sustainable we are here at Raynes Park High School, celebrating not only what we already do, e.g. having solar panels, but also what little changes we can make as a school community in order to make a more sustainable difference. Meeting weekly, we are currently working towards achieving the Bronze Eco-School award for Raynes Park High School. Currently, our Eco Committee have worked to complete an environmental survey of the school, with findings being presented to the School Council in the first week back after half term, of which an action plan highlighting sustainable changes we could make to improve the environmental quality of Raynes Park High School, as well as changes for a more sustainable planet being produced and presented to Mrs Heard.

"The future of all life now depends on us."

The words that David Attenborough spoke upon concluding the Blue Planet II series are true. 'Never before have we had such an awareness of what we are doing to the planet. Never before have we had the power to do something about it!' At Raynes Park we are passionate about the positive change that we can make in our world and that can be seen through the work of our committee Eco-Community members.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

'Fortnite: Battle Royale' is a free-to-play section of the game 'Fortnite'. The game sees 100 players dropped onto an island where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find items hidden around the island, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game. The game is available on PC, PS4, Xbox One, Mac and iOS.



WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FORTNIGHT: BATTLE ROYALE

MICROTRANSACTIONS

New featured items are released daily and are only available to purchase within 24 hours of their release. These are cosmetic items, called 'skins', 'gliders' and 'emotes', which can change the look of the characters but do not alter game play. The designs are made appealing for players to purchase and even celebrities are endorsing them. Also available to purchase in the game is a 'Battle Pass'. When a new 'Battle Pass' is released, users can play a series of challenges to receive more rewards (cosmetics) by progressing through different tiers. Whatever rewards they achieve can then be used in the game.

'FREE' TO PLAY

The game IS free to play (not including microtransactions). However, if playing on Xbox you would need an Xbox Gold subscription to play the game which is chargeable.

WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE

PEGI has given the game a rating of 12+. Even though the game includes violence and weapons such as crossbows, grenade launchers, rifles, pistols, shotguns and more, PEGI says "more graphic and realistic looking violence towards fantasy characters is allowed. Any violence towards human characters must look unrealistic unless it consists of only a minor or trivial injury such as a slap", making the game 'suitable' for children ages 12 and over.

HACKER ATTACKS

News site Forbes said it had seen "dozens" of reports online by people who said that their accounts had been compromised by hackers. Hackers gained access to users accounts in the game and spent hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Games can last around 20 minutes but this varies with each game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and continue to play until they achieve the result they want. The competitive nature of the game may make it difficult for children to stop playing halfway through as it could affect their position in the game.

TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

Interactivity with other players in the game is part of the fun as players can communicate with their friends and other players in the game. Players will benefit from wearing headphones in the game to hear footsteps from other players trying to compromise their game. Wearing headphones makes it difficult for parents to hear what exactly is being said and children may be exposed to inappropriate language. Fortnite includes a very good reporting feature for players either cheating or misbehaving, and is working towards having one of the best online gaming communities.

NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED

Battle Royale has a 12+ age restriction, however signing up to the game is relatively simple. Users have the option to log in with their Facebook or Google accounts or their email address. When signing up with an email address, there is no proof of age required, meaning that younger children are still able to access the game.

SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

There are many accounts on Facebook and Twitter which claim to give away free money (known as 'V Bucks') for games which will be transferred to their Xbox Live or PSN cards. Any genuine give-away promotion from Fortnite will be in-game. It is important to check the authenticity of these accounts before giving away personal information in order to claim 'V Bucks'. The websites or accounts may ask you to share you account name and password in order to claim the money; if these offers seem too good to be true, they usually are.

IT CAN BE PLAYED ON-THE-GO

The game was released on mobile in April 2018 meaning it can be played without a games console at home. Some schools have reported that the game is distracting their students whilst in the classroom. As the game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is on the game.



BATTLE ROYALE TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

#1 LIMIT GAME TIME

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time your child is playing games on the devices. Be aware that the game is available on iOS and will soon be available on all mobiles. With this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to spend on games. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be hard to take them away from a game mid-play. It may be worth using a limit of the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

#2 RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

'Fortnite: Battle Royale' is a free-to-play game, but there are still options to make additional purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with the account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest using a paysafecard, or a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a linked credit/debit card to be used with the account.

#3 PREVENT THEM FROM TALKING TO STRANGERS

There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means they wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. Your child will still be able to use the in-app chat and hear other people's conversations. To turn off voice chat, open the Settings menu in the top right of the main Fortnite page, then click on the cog icon. Open the Audio tab at the top of the screen. From there, you can turn off voice chat.

#4 SHOW THEM HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should advise them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game feedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, you can report a player in-game when spectating them.

#5 LOOK OUT FOR V BUCK SCAMS

It is important that your children are aware of the scams that they may come across online in association with the game. Open up conversations with them about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything for the game.

#6 USE A STRONG PASSWORD

It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that your child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.

SOURCE: WWW.NATIONALONLINESAFETY.COM

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Instagram is an image and video sharing app that allows users to share moments with the world. The app has a live streaming feature and additional add-ons, such as 'Boomerang', 'Hyperlapse' and 'Layout', which can be used to enhance their feed. Users can choose to add filters and make adjustments to their photos, such as brightness/contrast. To make their content more 'searchable', users can include hashtags in their uploads to make them easier to find.



WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NEW INSTAGRAM UPDATES

LIVE STREAMING TO STRANGERS

The live stream feature on Instagram allows users to connect with their friends and followers in real-time. Followers can comment on the video during the broadcast (which can be turned off in the settings). If your child has a private account, only their approved followers can see their story. It is important to note that they still may have followers that they do not know, which means they could be live streaming to strangers. A public account allows anybody to view their story. We suggest that your child goes through their followers list and blocks people they do not know. An additional risk with live streams is that your child may do something that they regret, but due to the live nature it cannot be deleted. This could be captured by a viewer taking a screenshot and then sharing it around the internet.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE, BODY IMAGE & MENTAL HEALTH

When influencers, celebrities or peers use filters on their photos or videos on Instagram, it can set unrealistic expectations of their own appearance and create feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem. Children may try to strive for a comparable number of likes on their own photo to an image or video that has been edited heavily.

NEW FOR MAY 2018: IN-APP PAYMENTS

Instagram is rolling out in-app payments for products and services directly through the app. It will operate under the same rules as Facebook Payments, which state if you are under the age of 18, you can only use Facebook Payments with the involvement of a parent or guardian.

PHOTO / VIDEO SHARING

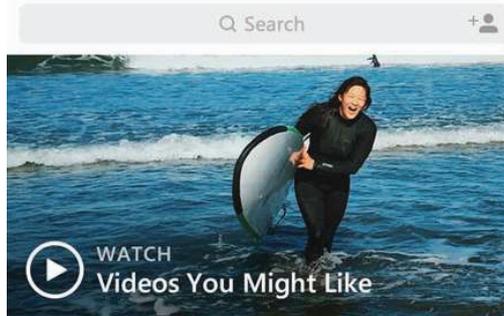
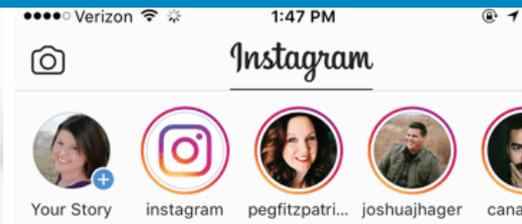
Posting photos and videos is Instagram's biggest selling point, so with sharing images comes risks. A photo which includes landmarks in the area, their school uniform, street name, house or tagging the location of the photo uploaded to Instagram, can expose the child's location making it easy to locate them. If their account is not set to private, anyone can access their account and see their images.

LOCATION TAGGING

Public locations can be added to a users photos/videos and also to their stories. While this may seem like a good idea at the time, it can expose your child's location; this is particularly more of a risk if it is on their story, as it is in realtime.

HIJACKED HASHTAGS (#)

Like Twitter, hashtags are also an extremely prominent tool in Instagram and with that, comes potential risks for your child. One person may use a seemingly innocent hashtag with one thing in mind and before you know it, hundreds of people could be using the same hashtag for something inappropriate or dangerous that your child certainly shouldn't be exposed to.



TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

NEW FOR MAY 2018 **#1 FILTER INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS**

Instagram announced on 1st May that they now have an 'anti-bullying' filter on the app. The new filter hides comments containing attacks on a person's appearance or character, as well as threats to a person's wellbeing or health. The filter will also alert Instagram to repeated problems so they can take action on the user if necessary. This is an automatic filter, but it can be turned off. Make sure this is turned on in the apps settings.

#4 RESTRICT MESSAGES

If your child's account is not private, anybody can message them and reply to their stories. If they do wish to keep their account public, we strongly recommend changing the message reply settings to restrict who can message them.

#2 TURN OFF SHARING

Even though this feature will not stop people from taking screenshots, it will stop others being able to directly share photos and videos from a story as a message to another user. This feature can be turned off in the settings. We also recommend turning off the feature which automatically shares photos and videos from a story to a Facebook account.

#5 USE A PRIVATE ACCOUNT

By default, any image or video your child uploads to Instagram is visible to anyone. A private account means that you have to approve a request if somebody wants to follow you and only people you approve will see your posts and videos.

#3 REMOVE PAYMENT METHODS

If you are happy for your child to have a card associated with their Instagram account, we suggest adding a PIN which needs to be entered before making a payment; this will also help prevent unauthorized purchases. This can be added in the payment settings tab.

#6 USE A STRONG PASSWORD

It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that your child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.

SOURCE: WWW.NATIONALONLINESAFETY.COM

Do you have an area of e-safety you'd like us to cover?
E-mail rburnham@raynespark.merton.sch.uk with your suggestion



TEENTECH CITY OF THE FUTURE: INSPIRING TOMORROW'S INNOVATORS



TeenTech welcomed hundreds of school children to its festival of science, technology, engineering and maths, including a lucky group of Raynes Park High School students. The TeenTech event at Emirates Stadium in London helps pupils understand they are the makers and the creators of Tomorrow's World. 750 primary and secondary school pupils joined 200 scientists, engineers and technologists to get a taste of the careers of the future.

They took part in a line-up of activities and experiments led by some of the UK's pioneering science and technology organisations – showcasing how their passion and skills could lead to rich and fulfilling jobs in industry,

TeenTech celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, and the festival was their biggest event to-date. They work face-to-face with over 10,000 young people across the UK every year. Thousands more use TeenTech resources in school.

Students took part in a day of challenges and experiments hosted by leading science and tech organisations. Workshops included cyber security, animation, robotics, AI and data science: helping students see how digital skills are increasingly changing the game across every sector and revealing opportunities they may never have realised existed.





MERTON CELEBRATES DUKE OF EDINBURGH SUCCESS

387 of Merton's young people were invited to attend an annual Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award Achievement Ceremony this term, including many students from Raynes Park High School.

The young people from 13 secondary schools across the borough were recognised for their perseverance and hard work which led to them completing their awards over the past year at bronze, silver and gold levels. Endurance adventurer Jamie Ramsay presented the certificates and badges to Merton's worthy DofE winners. Jamie Ramsay left his job in the City of 12 years to run in an expedition solo and unsupported for 17,000km across the Americas. Starting in Canada, he ran through the USA, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and ended in Argentina. Fighting extreme dehydration, desert terrain and the Andes mountain range, it took 367 running days to complete averaging over 46km a day.

Merton's Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is part of the London Borough of Merton's Youth Service. The DofE requires young people to get involved in different activities, develop a variety of skills such as music, drama or cooking and get involved in sports with challenges in activities for example rowing, Tae Kwon Do and football.

Volunteering is also a key part of the DofE and the awardees represented almost 7,000 hours of volunteering in Merton over the past twelve months. This has included helping at primary schools, libraries and fundraising for charities. At gold level, residential trips were to Mexico for marine conservation, on a tall ships trip and helping at a Ghanaian hospital. A major part of the awards at each level is also the expedition which has been to locations such as Dorking, East Grinstead, the New Forest and the South Downs for bronze level, and to the Brecon Beacons, Snowdonia and Cumbria for the silver and gold expeditions.

Acting Director of Children, Schools and Families, Jane McSherry said: "We can all be proud of Merton's many young people who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh award. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to develop skills that they will then have for life as well as helping their community and good causes along the way. With Merton enjoying one of the highest completion rates for DofE in London this year, it clearly demonstrates the tenacity and level of commitment Merton's young people possess. I congratulate them all and wish them huge success in their future chosen path having accomplished this commendable achievement."





FREE OPERA IN THE HIGH STREET

Last year, local theatre company 'Baseless Fabric' visited us and delivered an opera workshop to our students. Their next production, *Così fan tutte* - in modern English, fun and up-to-date, is coming back, with performances on Saturday 9th June in Mitcham (free performance in the High Street at 2.30pm) and Wimbledon.

2.30pm, Mitcham, London Borough of Merton.

Free Promenade Street Opera starting at The Kings Arms, CR4 3HD
Tickets: FREE unticketed performances

7.30pm, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton.

An indoor immersive production.
Venue: Merton Arts Space, Compton Rd, Wimbledon, London SW19 7QA
Tickets £12/£10 available at: <https://tinyurl.com/bf-cosi-tix>

For further information:

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www.baselessfabric.co.uk/cosi
@BaselessFabric

"Mitcham has probably witnessed these human scenes many times before; the only change is that, this time, Mozart is involved, and everybody sings." Operissima

"What amazed me about the Baseless Fabric experience is how naturally this production fits into its locations, a testament to the scrupulous research work which must have gone on beforehand, as well as the quality of everyone's performances." Operissima

"Leo Geyer and Joanna Turner have done a wonderful job in creating a modern libretto and production suitable for this High Street Format Opera" LondonTheatre1.com

WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE 2018



HOUSE! *Dance!*

MAIN HALL 5PM - 7PM

TICKETS: ADULTS £6 / STUDENTS £3

NEWS FROM THE Governors

Governors have been busy this last half-term monitoring and encouraging a number of initiatives designed to add further to the quality of education at RPHS. We have been particularly encouraged by the high numbers applying to join the school in Year 7 next September – a sure sign that parents are responding to the improvements that are being made. At the other end of the age spectrum, we have also been pleased to note the sustained success of our link with Fulham Football Club: their academy members in our Sixth Form are a credit both to the school and their club.

Governors devoted their Strategic Visit this month to Year 10. We were pleased to note the progress students were making as they move towards their GCSEs next year. We visited them in class to see their work first-hand and were pleased to meet a group of them and to listen to their comments on school life. Our thanks to Mr Duus, the Head of Year, to his year tutors and to the students themselves for a very rewarding day.

We have also been maintaining a focus on school finance, where we have worked hard with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure the quality of our curriculum offer while living within our means. We also know that to keep

and grow our student numbers we need to keep promoting the benefits of an RPHS education to local families, and we have been working with the Marketing Manager on a marketing plan for the school.

On the membership front, we shall be sad at the end of term to say goodbye to Rebecca Shingleton, who is retiring as a Parent Governor. Rebecca has been an active and persuasive voice on behalf of RPHS parents and we will miss her. There are currently two Parent Governor vacancies and it is good to see that these are being contested by three candidates in the election that is taking place. At a time when many secondary schools have trouble finding Parent Governors, it is good to see this interest from our own mums, dads and carers.



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:

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Do you have a story you'd like to share in our next newsletter?
Please e-mail rburnham@raynespark.merton.sch.uk