

Raynes Park High School



The Spur



March 2002



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Editorial



You might well ask what all these little creatures are doing on the editorial page. Funny things to have in the Spur. Ah but, they are there because they are amusing. At some time or other, they have given every one of us a good laugh. Everybody likes Teddy Bears and the first one saw light of day one hundred years ago, in February of 1902. They all have their individual expressions and their own characters and never fail to raise a smile. So what? Well laughter is good for us.

Physiologists have now come up with the discovery that if we laugh a lot we are less likely to suffer from a whole range of bodily ills not least some of those that affect the heart. You don't need to take the advice of a psychologist to realise that laughter puts you in a good frame of mind. Now, life should be fun and not taken too seriously. You are here to enjoy yourselves while you can and since your allotted time on this Earth is likely to be no more than a century, and that only with luck, get cracking and have a good time now. Make up your mind that you are going to enjoy yourselves. When problems beset you, maybe at school, or wherever else, laugh.

It is not very easy to be fed up or worried if you have a smile on your face. I look at my fellow passengers on the train to London and at people walking along the high street and wonder why some of them look so glum. Miserable lot - why don't they brighten up? On some of them a cheery "Good morning" is totally wasted, much to my disappointment. Remember the old saying "give your face a treat - smile".

Laughter is said to be infectious so your laughs may do other people a deal of good, perhaps they will join in and become jolly, happy souls just like you. If people are unpleasant and grumble at you, smile. I have always found it very difficult to vent my anger on anybody who smiles nicely. So when things are not going your way forget the sulky, resentful or angry response and try smiling - it probably will work in your favour. How very misguided are those who think that a grim countenance is essential to impress others. They seem to gain satisfaction from perfecting a miserable image and they take life far too seriously. Laugh at them, you will enjoy life far more than they do and you will probably last a lot longer than they will. Seize your opportunities, do those things you want to do, have fun and get the most out of life.

Mike Glead
(Spur Editor)

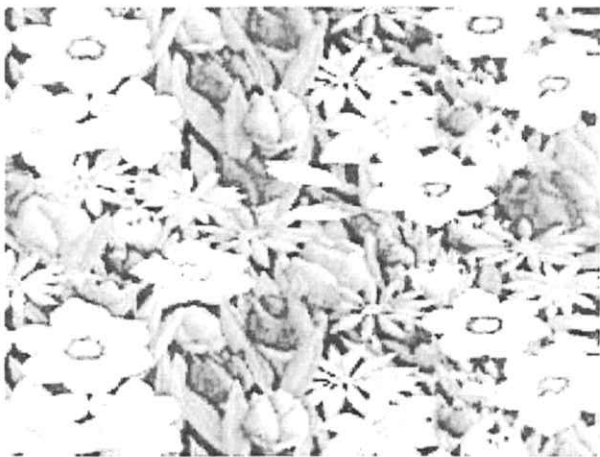


The Seasons

Natalie Vineer

Spring

Spring is time for many things,
 Along the way its fun it brings.
 Baby lambs, cows and pigs,
 The tiny bunnies learn to dig!
 Trees once bare now fully bloomed,
 Blossom trees are the prettiest, yet they're
 doomed.
 At Easter we get chocolate eggs,
 And chocolate lollies and chocolate kegs.
 Buzzy bees start to appear,
 They are annoying at this time of year.
 Scenic walks in the park,
 You must be home before its dark.
 The month of April brings us showers,
 Buds appear those of flowers.
 Spring is the start of Hayfever stress,
 Sore eyes, stuffy nose, you'll look a mess!
 You start to put away winter clothes,
 And bring out your summery pretty pink bows.
 It's nearly time for barbecues,
 The cars on the motorway start to queue!
 Sweet smells like honey and sticky sweets,
 Mum will 'Spring-Clean' till everything's neat.
 Hens lay eggs which hatch to chicks,
 Chicks break through their eggs with a kick.
 Kids start to play out on the streets,
 Whist parents try for a tan and take a seat.
 Take a walk through the country and you'll
 see,
 Tiny animals, jumping with glee!
 When summer comes and Spring is over,
 It's time to look for your four-leafed clover!



Summer

I really love this time of year,
 It's full of happiness and cheer.
 The sun beats down with its rays,
 Summer's the time for fun-filled days.
 Waterfights and picnics in the park,
 The day grows old before it's dark.
 Ice cream, lollies and barbecues,
 Summer's an excuse to buy some brand new
 shoes.
 Strappy dresses and summer sports,
 Strawberries and cream on the tennis courts.
 Kids splash about in the paddling pool,
 Ice-cold drinks will keep you cool.
 In summer, all animals come out to play,
 Summer is best in the school holidays.
 Family days out, at the seaside,
 At funfairs, screaming on hair-raising rides.
 Fun and games with your friends,
 Little kids like hiding in dens.
 Having holidays, away from home,
 No excuses for the grown-ups to moan!
 All the flowers, finally at full bloom,
 The sun's at its hottest about noon.
 Getting frustrated with little buzzy bees,
 Bug repellent will put your family at ease.
 Too hot and stuffy to be stuck inside,
 Go out and let the sun be your guide.
 No other season gets this much sun,
 England loves summer, and its fun.
 By the end of summer, everyone's tanned,
 And everyone's shoes are filled with sand!



The Aqua-copter

I looked up at the sky above
 I saw the crystal clear aqua-copter
 Diving and splashing through the clouds
 I heard the engine crashing on the rocks so loud.
 With its salt propellers spinning high
 Causing ripples in the sky.
 Feeling the top-speed air-conditioned breeze,
 Landing on its coral skis
 Like a whale breaching up through the waves,
 It went to its heliport through the cave.

Keisha Baker-Benjamin &
 Lorren Morris



We have a varied selection of modern art displayed around the school. Well worth looking at. Plenty of food for thought. An example is the *Great Bear 1992*. What do you make of it all? Whatever your views surely you can't just ignore it? Go and visit the Tate Modern. Some of it may infuriate you as a load of rubbish but it does make you think. Remember that what appeals to one person may have no meaning for another and it is always interesting to have some inkling of what the artist had in mind. Spend a while looking at our display.

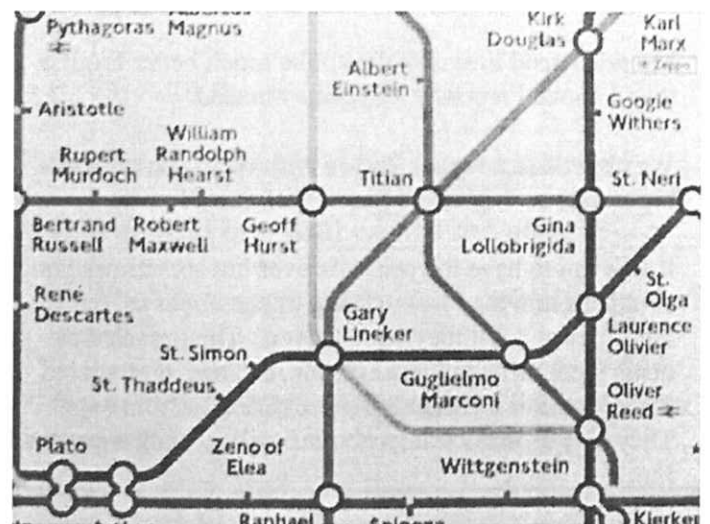
The Great Bear 1992 Instead of stations on a London underground map, Patterson has substituted the names of philosophers, film stars, explorers, politicians and other celebrities. This print is titled after the constellation of Ursa Major (Great Bear) which is a reflection of Patterson's interest in human attempts to make and chart the universe. Maps and diagrams are usually seen as relevant and factual sources of information but Patterson's playful map draws unexpected connections and associations. The work is a humorous reminder that the links between things are often random and depend on a particular viewpoint.

The Flower Bomb

The new Eurofighter in its flowery style.
 Sitting in the cockpit is the stem in charge.

With wings like petals.
 The new rose cuts through the air.
 Flying with such aggression,
 Buzzing its wings like a bee.
 Completely radar-free,
 No one will smell this flower coming.
 And if a missile is fired
 Use your pollen and flares.
 The fertile engines sway to and fro,
 Floating passionately through the air,
 Like falling leaves.
 More than one hovers together
 Amongst the foliage and trees.

Sophie Archer



French pen pals at RP

Impressions from several RP students

I tried to talk to them in French (it was quite funny!). In our French lesson I worked with a French girl I had met at lunchtime. I needed some help but the French girl didn't, her English was very good. I stood up and talked about her in French and she talked about me in English. She was much better than me though!

In our French lesson we divided into groups and discussed some likes and dislikes. Then we shared our thoughts with the whole class. I thought that both the days were quite successful and I hope I did all right. I did find it quite hard trying to communicate, but it got easier as the day went on!

I think that it was quite a good experience but I honestly would have preferred to have done PE than show them around because it was quite hard getting through to them

I enjoyed having the pen friends over and we should go to France to see what their schools are like.

When the French students arrived my first thought was I hope they speak really good English." Luckily they did.

I felt that it was really good to have French visitors. It was a strange but good experience meeting someone the same age as you but from a different country and who could not speak your language very well.

During the day we took them to lessons so that they could experience what an English school is like. It was hard trying to explain simple things like what the next lesson was. By the end of the day everyone was exhausted and glad to go home.

My pen friend Emmanuelle spoke much better English than I spoke French. I was quite amazed.

We never had a French lesson with them, which was a big shame as they could have given me a few tips!

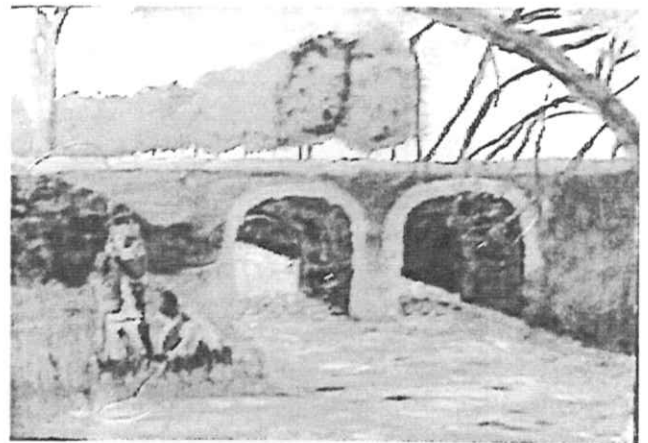
It was fun to have the pen pals over but sometimes you could tell that they were saying things about us, but we didn't know what they were saying. The French students were different because, for instance, they shared their food and their clothes were different from ours. They told us many things about France. They were good fun.

Encore une rencontre (mais pas du Troisième Type) , très bien réussie d'ailleurs, entre nos deux collèges. Nos élèves se sentaient bien dans leur peau comme hôtes et attendent déjà pour renouveler l'expérience - ce qui est évident quand on lit les lettres "Chères élèves" écrites à la suite de la visite en mai 2001.....et on a parlé beaucoup...pendant les cours de français, quand les correspondants se sont réunis, dans la cour....Le beau temps nous a accompagné partout ces deux jours.

Merci pour la visite et à la prochaine!

Another encounter (not too Close and not of the Third Kind) , very successful nevertheless, between our two schools. Our pupils took to being hosts and are already looking forward to renewing the experience - this is evident on reading the "Chères élèves" letters, written after the visit in May 2001....and we spoke a lot... during French lessons, when the pen-friends met, in the playground...and we were blessed with good weather on both days.

Thank you for the visit and till we meet again!



Fishing

Peter Georgiou

Dark dimensions

After many weeks of hard work this year's school play certainly and quite literally went with a 'bang' (or six!) Filled with strange language and pyrotechnic surprises Dark Dimensions involved its audience in the desperate and bizarre struggle of Esme Burton and her friends to save her mother from the clutches of 'Price Charmless'. Having found an ancient book while in detention, Esme and friends accidentally open a portal between two worlds allowing

Prince Charmless to enter into the 21st century and begin harvesting the imaginations of those who dwell there. In order to survive he must find a wife by the next full moon and what's more her foot must fit the slipper!



The play reunites us with many old favourites such as Goldilocks and Snowwhite, the evil stepmothers and Jack (from Jack and the beanstalk). However due to Prince Charmless' evil rule these characters were portrayed with rather an unusual twist and the nasty, Texan-thug-style Goldilocks played by Natalie Staden is certainly one character we won't forget in a hurry!

Indeed the cast portrayed a range of unusual and slightly peculiar characters with flare and gusto. Prince Charmless was frighteningly unhinged as Jordan Tchillingarian's chilling and powerful performance dominated the stage and placed the audience on the edge of their seats. Backed by his superbly ruthless deputy Mordrid (Faisal Abdullah) and psychotic generals (Charlotte Higgins and Helen Smith) the audience could not help but realise the terrifying and unpredictable power of the dark side'.

Indeed Kirsty Vallance gave a strong and dynamic portrayal of the heroine, Esme Burton, who not only had to take on the likes of the excellently vicious school bully Griff (Donal McAuley) and attempt to rescue her dear

friend Bryony, but who had to tackle the darkest dimensions, as she attempted to save her mother from the clutches of the evil Prince Charmless himself.

However she was not alone and an excellent supporting cast helped to speed along the action and draw the loose ends to an exciting conclusion. Magic and mayhem was provided as the dynamic magician Frost (Fedden-Rin-Orph-Se-Tav 5th) sought to use his magic powers to help Esme in her quest. This led to some exciting and dramatic spell duelling complete with loud and colourful sound effects, which managed to have the audience leaping out of their seats (quite literally!)

As the police interviewed Esme and friends as to their mysterious conducts and as PI Rick Spacey and sidekicks honed in on the mysterious disappearances at the school all looked like it was going to be rectified in Fairytale land. Unfortunately as Rick Spacey fills us in with the rest of his story we realise that he is also filling in someone else: none other than Prince Charmless.

As the pupils are released from questioning by the police, in a state of triumph and near exhaustion, they pile into the police van ... only to find Mordrid at the wheel!!!

N.Jones

Riddles - you'll groan

1. What driver doesn't have a licence?
2. What has a neck, but no head?
3. What kind of can never needs a can opener?
4. What did the mayonnaise say to the mustard?
5. Why did the clock get sick?
6. Why did you get rid of your watchdog?
7. What did one wall say to the other?
8. What do people make that nobody can ever see?

If you look through the pages of the magazine you will find the answers somewhere.

Blood-stained battlefields

The landscape is now so peaceful with beautiful rolling hills, it's hard to imagine it as a muddy wasteland littered with mutilated corpses and strewn with the litter of war.



Ramparts Cemetery, on the banks of a moat at the southern gateway of Ypres, contains the graves of one hundred and ninety two British soldiers.



soldiers who died in Ypres!

On remembrance day we need to remember that all who fought in the war did so for their reasons and beliefs and we should remember all of those who died, Germans as well.

Laurie Underwood

The visit to the museums was a striking reminder of the horrors that had occurred there so many years ago. It was not like seeing exhibits in the Imperial War museum, the photos were of things that had happened right where we stood. It made the first World War seem like more than history. If you looked hard enough everywhere you could see the scars on the landscape, no trees older than eighty years old, all the buildings had been painstakingly restored by the people who lived there. The war is everywhere in these towns and farms they remember the war every day, wherever they look.



The huge crater we saw was a horrific sight to say the least, to imagine all the soldiers who lost their lives in one massive explosion is not a nice thought. It gives you just some idea of the vast casualties suffered by all the countries that took part in the war. The cemeteries we saw just reinforced the scale of deaths and these were only a few of hundreds. The soldiers that were mutilated beyond recognition by explosions and have only unmarked graves, those blown to pieces and their bodies never found.

The Menin gate was a very dramatic monument with more names than I would like to count and that was just for the British



Vicky Patching reads at our Remembrance Day Service

Belgium

Last May during half term a group of forty-two staff and pupils headed for Ypres and the battlefields of WWI. The three day trip was made up of a relaxing couple of cross channel ferry crossings, a full day being guided around some of the most famous WWI heritage sites and a trip to the city of Bruges. Our hotel in Tournai was excellent.

The highlight of the trip was the visit to the trenches, museums and memorials of the Ypres salient. The "In Flanders Field" museum, Sanctuary wood with its preserved trenches and tunnels, and the large cemeteries with their rows of headstones all grabbed the attention. The most atmospheric moment came when we were led up to a chapel in the rafters of a soldiers' rest house' just behind the lines. We sat on the wooden benches worn



The German cemeteries have a very different, darker atmosphere from the Allied ones. Smaller, with few individual monuments, and often in the shadow of tall trees, they are sombre places.



The largest British war cemetery in the world is at Tyne Cot, on the ridge overlooking Ypres. There are 11,871 graves.

smooth by the hundreds of soldiers, who had been there all those years before, many of whom never returned home. Then Sam Francis of Year 10 played on an old, worn harmonium that had been heard by the soldiers in that very chapel. It was a small, human memorial in a region where memorials are commonplace, but it was most impressive.

In Bruges we enjoyed a canal trip, shopping, eating and sightseeing. After a relaxing evening we set off for home. It was a most worthwhile trip and the whole party made a real effort to take in the atmosphere of a unique part of our history. We hope to repeat the trip with a new group of students next year.

D.Bracken

To his Love

He's gone, and all our plans
Are useless indeed.
We'll walk no more on Cotswold
Where the sheep feed
Quietly and take no heed.
His body that was so quick
Is not as you
Knew it, on Severn river
Under the blue
Driving our small boat through.
You would not know him now...
But still he died
Nobly, so cover him over
With violets of pride
Purple from Severn side.
Cover him, cover him soon!
And with thick-set
Masses of memoried flowers-
Hide that red wet
Thing I must somehow forget.

Ivor Gurney (1890-1937)

After being wounded and gassed, Gurney was discharged, but he never recovered from his war experience – indeed, after the war, Gurney was tormented with the idea that it was still going on and he spent the last fifteen years of his life in a mental hospital.

Creepville

Children call this house Creepville. It is down a long drive at the edge of the town. One night, a long time ago two children had moved into the house two doors away from this supposedly haunted house, with their mother and older brother, Simon. Simon was 19 and was often at home pigging out in front of the T.V or out with his mates around town. All this had changed, however, since we moved away, away from our friends, away from our school, away from dad. Mum and Dad were always arguing, shouting and screaming at one another and one day Dad exploded – he couldn't handle it any more and just left. We left too, away from all those awful memories.

It was the first day of the summer holidays and Kirsty was so excited, she was always like this at the beginning of a holiday. "Yes a whole six weeks off!" she screamed with joy. "Enjoy it while it lasts you do have to go back" Jason, Kirsty's older brother said to her. "So what are you up to today?" Simon asked curiously. "Oh, we're just going to have a look around, you know and explore." Kirsty and Jason replied.

Jason and Kirsty got out of their seats and made for the door. The sun was shining down onto their new home, a typical summers day, or it seemed. As they walked past the house, everyone calls Creepsville House, they felt a shiver, as if someone was watching them with burning eyes. They both turned round and looked at the house. There seemed to be a force pushing them towards the house and before they knew it they had walked through the wild, uncut grass, past the gravestone and were standing at the door bell which gave off a creepy ring.

The door slowly opened with a creak which made Kirsty jump. It frightened her inside, Jason followed curiously.

"I wonder if anyone lives here, Jason do you think someone lives here?" She whispered. "No, I hope not, it looks too dirty and why has the house got so many broken windows and smashed mirrors?" Jason replied.

Jason looked at his distorted face in the broken mirror a misty, blurred face looked back standing behind him. He snapped out of his gaze and quickly trotted off after Kirsty who was now in the downstairs bathroom. The room was covered in silky cobwebs. There

were no windows. A burning candle flickered. Jason and Kirsty looked at each other and then back to the flame. Suddenly there was a grumble from upstairs, as if someone was in pain.

"What is that noise, it sounds like someone's hurt" Kirsty said worriedly. "Let's go and see" Jason replied fearlessly. They climbed the dirty, dusty stairs slowly. The whimper grew louder and louder. Kirsty slowly pushed the door with the creaky squeak and then terror ran through her, she stared with shock there



lying right before her was a skeleton which had a dagger through the rib cage, the corpse's lifeless hands were clinging to the bed helplessly. Kirsty tried to move but she couldn't. All she could do was stand there. Suddenly there was a piercing scream, Kirsty automatically be-

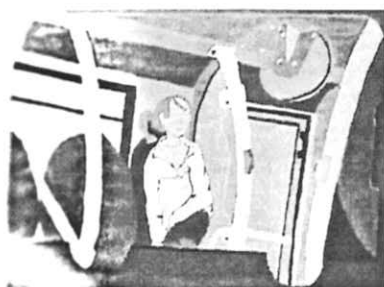
came glued to the spot, she ran and turned only to see her brother being dragged along by a dark blurry shadow. She ran back to the room grabbed the dagger from the dead person and ran towards the shadow. As she got nearer she saw the dark shadow was in fact someone or something wearing a long, black dusty robe. She quickly pierced the dagger through this creatures body and it fell to the ground it rolled over and took its last breath. Kirsty looked into its eyes they glowed and then he smirked and died. She took a closer look he had fangs and his eyes were most weird, the pupils were like slits, she helped her brother up and made for the stairs but the rooms all were gone. Her heart beat like a drum, her eyes burned with the tears she held back, the walls were closing in and the words whispered: in this house you'll stay forever and ever, you will die and no-one will ever know you were here, we can wipe everyone's memory forever, and then the words slowly faded, and there they stayed forever, and no-one, no-one at all heard their screams. The house is still standing today awaiting for its next victim.....



The art class



Umbilical Vicky Grant



Girl on bus
Lana Humphrey

Action-Expression-Creation



The art exhibition



Round & About



Hurry to your lessons!



Peace and quiet

SCHOOL UNIFORM

(A student's thoughts on the school uniform review 2001 -02)

As most quite like the school uniform I think it should stay navy blue. Most people would like the school jumper to be hooded. Most people decided that the boys should wear ties and that girls should not. Many questioned the idea of wearing leather shoes and wanted black trainers to be considered. A lot were in favour of girls being allowed to wear higher heels. Everybody decided that the school uniform should be similar for boys and girls. Most people thought that the current school uniform is comfortable and practical enough. Most wanted girls to wear skirts and wanted the skirts to be straight and not pleated. The majority said we should be allowed to wear some jewellery - chains, studs and small rings. Socks should be dark if dark trousers are worn. Nobody wanted school caps. Nearly everybody would like the teachers to wear school

BOYS' UNIFORM

I don't think the boys should have to wear ties.

Lots of girls said they would quite like to wear ties!



The boys' uniform should be the same as the girls' uniform. The jumper is navy blue and hooded, with plain black trousers and plain black shoes, maybe black trainers.

GIRLS' UNIFORM

I think we should have the choice of wearing jewellery, but not BIG hooped earrings!

I'd like to wear a navy-blue hooded jumper and it should be made from a light-weight material.

I like the school colours we already have and want to keep black and blue!

This is how I would like the school uniform to be. I think we should be allowed to choose whether we want to wear trousers or skirts. I think that the skirts should be just above the knee and straight. I also think that if girls want to wear longer skirts they should be allowed to.



Underneath the jumpers we should be allowed to wear a white or blue T-shirt or three quarter length white top

I think that we should wear black trousers, not too baggy but also not too tight.

I think we should be wearing black shoes which need not be leather. I think that the shoes maximum heel-height should be around two inches.

Hayley Bannister 10GZ

Last year's leavers

Nathaniel

The move from high school to college is very challenging. At Richmond upon Thames College the first term has gone very smoothly but the work and the course is very intense.

You have plenty of free time in college to study and there is an excellent range of facilities

Ben

College is good, course is good and I've made loads of new mates. I miss the old days of RPHS and all the good times. Life goes on.

Michael

Life in college is good but can be boring at times, but you have to remember it can lead to a well-paid job. There are some fine chicks in Richmond and that makes college really enjoyable.

Ross

Going to a new place and starting afresh, meeting new people and feeling more independent. Studying something that you have always wanted to study.

At college there's a wide range of subjects. There's something for everyone.

College allows you much more independence.

Charlie

Meeting new people is really enjoyable.

Focusing on your best subject can be tough but rewarding.

More independence can be good or bad. You choose whether or not you work.

Faisal

I meet new people every day at college and my social life couldn't be better. Studying however involves many hours of concentration and effort. It's all a great experience.

William

Life at college is hard work but it's also a lot of fun. I do, however, miss the teachers and pupils at Raynes Park.

Laura

College work is hard but I am coping. I miss RPHS a lot and would like to come back.

Louisa

RPHS was great and the move into college was hard at first. The courses are harder but once you get into it it's really good fun. You get loads of free periods which is great and meeting new people is fun and now I'm really enjoying myself.

Neil

College life is different in many ways from school as it is a lot more relaxed, but it's a big change from Raynes Park High School where I made many friends. Overall I'm enjoying college and my carpentry course at NESCOL.

Jordan

College is great. I'm loving every moment. The work's not too hard but there is just so much of it. I'm studying Politics, History, English Language and Theatre studies. At the moment I'm trying to become college president, DJ at our student parties, act in the play.... Oh and work now and again! I'm missing RPHS all the teachers and friends, plays and PE lessons!

Alan

College is good, but a bit hard. All of you moaning about school now, you'll realize how much you miss it once you've left!!!

Joanne

I love Raynes Park and no other school will beat it!

Rebecca

It's nice to meet new people, but I miss people from RPHS. The work is really, really hard but I seem to get there in the end! High School was easy!!! So enjoy it while you still can.

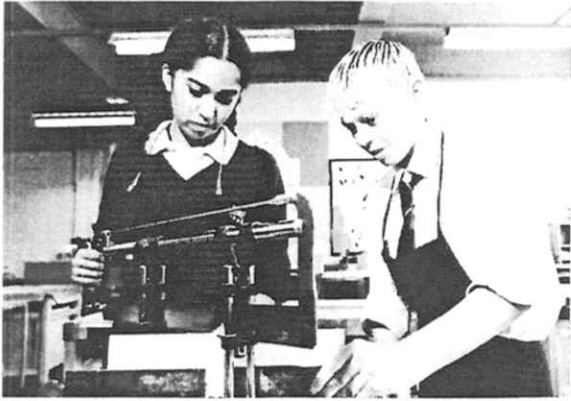
You learn something new every day:

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

A group of kangaroos is called a mob.

In the great fire of London in 1666 half of London was burnt down but only 6 people were injured

Studies in concentration



Our first term

I am pleased because lessons consist of practical things as well as just writing.

Einar Charvy 8HX

My classmates are really nice and the teachers we have had up to now have not been toobad.

Nicky Watson 8GZ

The friends in my class are really kind. At Raynes Park, I like the way that they made sure that you were put into a class with people that you knew and that there is someone from your old school in your class.

Oliver Cottle 8GZ

I think my first term was great.

Abdullah Muhammed 8NZ

One thing that got on my nerves was my Mum and Dad going on about not getting enough homework. I feel that we already do get enough!

Dominick Leeson 8GZ

My favourite subject is P.E. but I want the girls to be allowed to play Rugby.

Hollie Blenman 8HX

I was surprised at the size of the school. I expected that because it's such a big school there would be some bullying but they handle it very well.

All in all I like Raynes Park a lot and will be happy to spend four years here.

Keisha Knight 8MX

Cockney rhyming slang – not taught in school!:

'Ullo, mate. Come in awf (out) of de **frog an' toad** (road) an' 'ave a cuppa **Rosie** (cup of tea). It's on de **Cain an' Abel** (table). But wipe yer **plates o' meat** (feet) 'cos de ol' **trouble an' strife** (wife)'s just scrubbed de **Rory O'More** (floor). She's up de **apples an' pears** (upstairs) 'avin' a **bo-peep** (sleep). I'm still on de **cob an coal**, (dole). Get into that **lion's lair** (chair) and let's **chew the fat** (have a chat).'



Scramble

Jenny Rose

A musical year

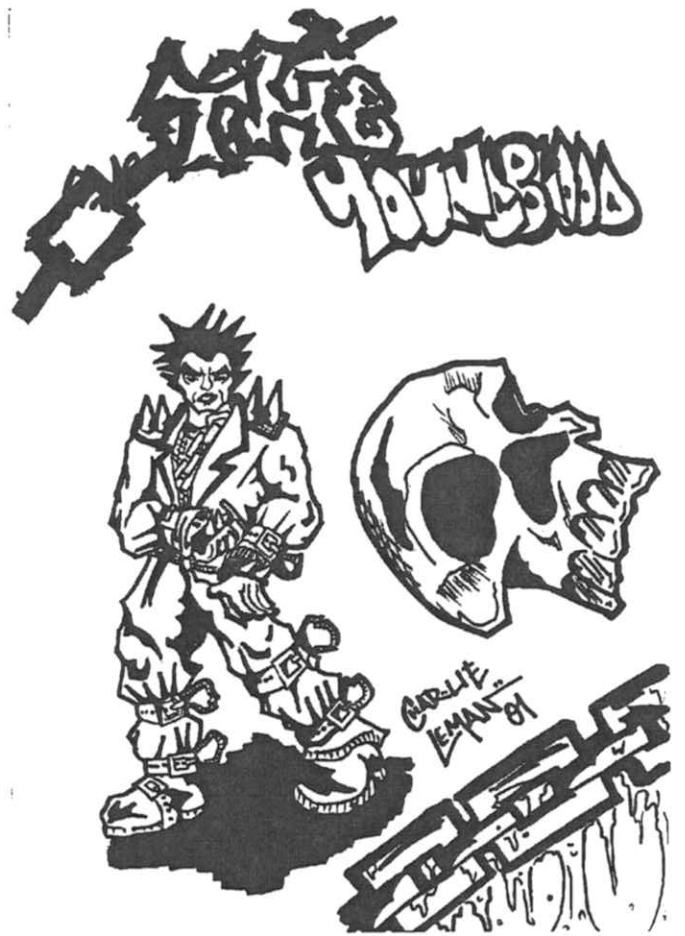
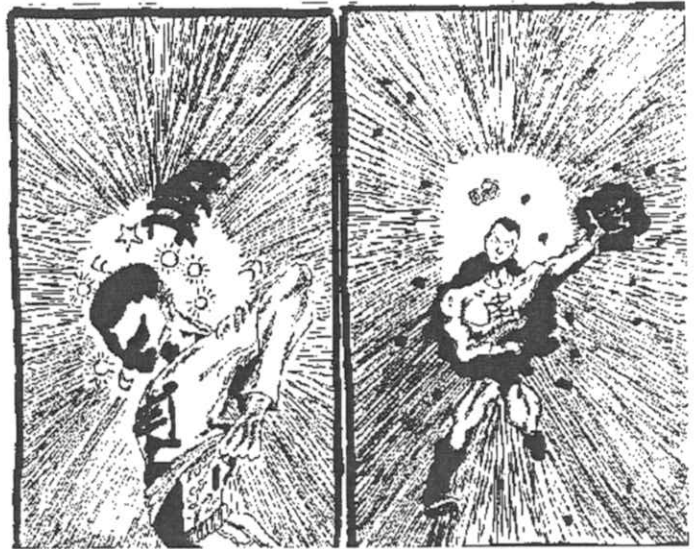
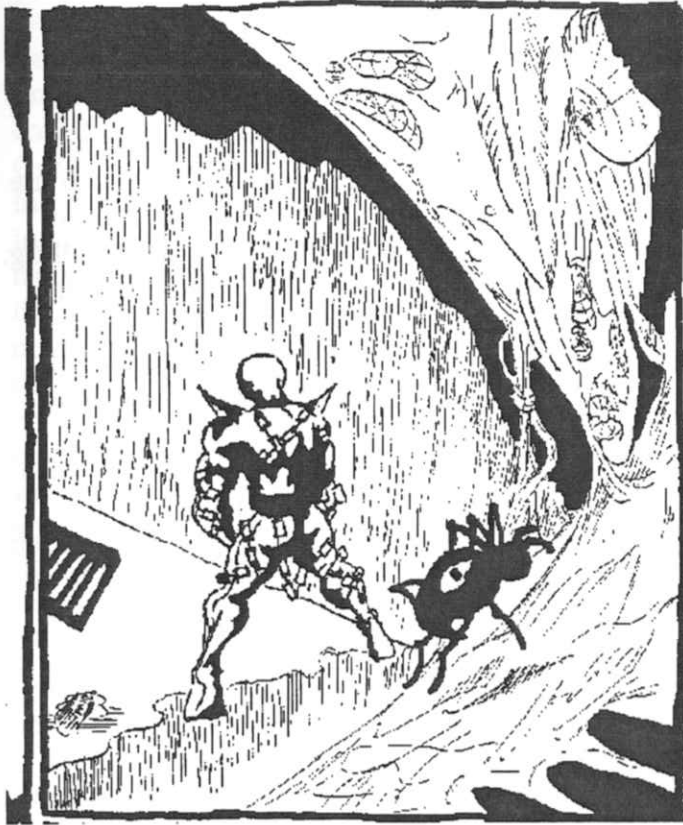
I arrived at Raynes Park High School not really knowing what to expect in my music lessons. Miss Battong was very strict, but made our lessons fun. Everyone worked on playing "O when the saints....." on the keyboard at whatever level they could. In groups we made pieces of music out of our voices and nothing else. We had to write this piece of music down using our own symbols.

I got the chance to perform in the Royal Albert Hall with thirty nine other Year 8 pupils. In September we began to put together the song we were going to sing. Rehearsals began in December and the concert was in March. This was a fantastic experience, as we joined ten schools from other boroughs in southwest London, to make and sing a twenty-minute song called Voicetruth, which was about different emotions. The emotions were hope, joy, fear and anger.

I got to play my accordion on three occasions: in the Christmas Concert, in the RPHS Charitable Trust Concert in October, and the House Music Competition in March. We also had a music week with performances in assemblies and some lucky pupils are going on a concert tour with the Merton Music Foundation. I heard that they would be playing on a floating stage, in a fjord, at the top of a mountain and in a boat! I hope that I can go next time they tour!

Henry Newman 8MX

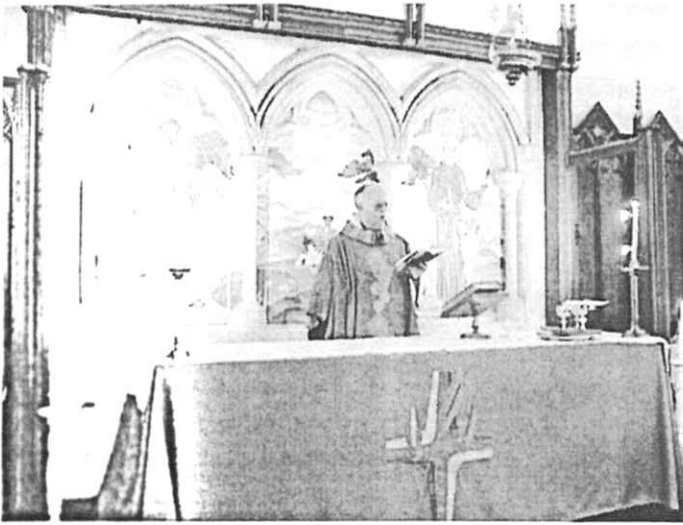
The Charlie Leman gallery



Charlie Leman 9MZ

Fr Graeme Elmore

(Raynes Park 1959 – 1966)



My academic record when I left Raynes Park in the late spring of 1966 was moderate – to say the least – and if I hadn't had the personal support and encouragement of my housemaster in Gibbs – Harold Pratt – then perhaps it would have been even less. I've got lots to be grateful for in Mr Pratt!

When I left and for the next two years, I had a fascinating job with The Daily Mirror Group in the West End of London, where I worked as an advertisement space salesman and copy writer – initially on “*Horse & Hound*” magazine and then on ‘*Woman’s Realm*.’ It was great. I travelled up to Waterloo from Wimbledon every day and at work had an expense account and took clients out for drinks and lunch...and more drinks! However, earlier in my school career I had joined the school scout troop (GSM Mr Peter Grange) the woodwork master, whose claim to fame was that at the end of each lesson in the craft room he would issue the order: “Stand by your vices.” Something to which many of my colleagues have been seeking to live-up to ever since! On one scout camp in about 1962 we went to Ashburnham Place near Battle in Sussex and whilst there I thought it might be quite a good idea to become a Christian...the paid-up, card-carrying kind rather than a merely nominal one that is. So all through my time at The Daily Mirror I was considering whether or not I had some sort of vocation and went off to

join a monastic community – The Society of the Sacred Mission – at Kelham in Nottinghamshire. A year in the cloister convinced me that although the monastic life was a great and worthwhile calling – it was not *my* calling. If God was “calling” me to anything then it was as a regular, normal parish priest (is there such a thing??). So in the summer of 1969 I trekked back to Wimbledon and had two jobs during the next twelve months – again in the world of advertising. Firstly with the South London News Group, which included The Wimbledon and Merton & Morden local newspapers, and then back to the West End to work for ‘Medical News Tribune.’

By 1970 I had convinced the Church of England that I was just the sort of chap they were looking for to become one of their clergy, so I embarked on a four-year course taking me to ordination. Initially I went to Durham for a year’s foundation course in theology and then on to a seminary in the beautiful cathedral city of Salisbury. It’s great being a student for four years! It’s even better being a student in your twenties rather than as a late teenager. There was a lot of work and studying and essays to be completed – to say nothing of exams that had to be sat. But there was also a wonderful round of cocktail parties, dinner parties and visits to the local crematorium to see how it worked. There was also an all-girls teacher-training college in The Close at Salisbury, so one was never short of good company – all of which, of course, provided excellent training for a would-be vicar!

In 1974 I was ordained as a deacon by Archbishop Michael Ramsey in Canterbury Cathedral and became a curate in the parish of St Oswald’s Norbury – near Streatham. A year later I was ordained priest and stayed at St Oswald’s for a further two years picking-up a wife (Fiona) on the way. Then in 1977 I was offered my own parish. Well, two parishes actually. St Erme & St Allen two tiny rural parishes to the north of Truro where I was also

chaplain to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary. Whilst in Truro my son was born and I also became a local civilian chaplain to the nearby army training camp, which led me on to becoming a chaplain in the Territorial Army. Great stuff. Lots of weekend soldiering – training camps in Germany – meeting lots of interesting people from many different walks of life, a nice (brown-olive colour) uniform and I got paid for it...which on the salary of a parish priest was most welcome. But we were allowed this rustic idyll for only two years, as the bishop moved me further west to Newlyn, just ten miles from Land's End. At St Peter's Newlyn we had the most enjoyable six years living and working in the biggest fishing community in the south of England, and where my second child, a daughter, was born.

From Newlyn I was asked to go to the post-industrial town of Redruth as Team Rector, but alas it lasted only eighteen months. I'm not sure whether the people of Redruth failed to take me to their hearts as much as I had an aversion to that town – or whether it was the other way round. The long and the short of it is that we didn't get on, and the only thing to do was to leave before there were any more tears. Bishop Peter Mumford of Truro was marvellously understanding and supportive and suggested – wisely – that I might consider joining the regular army as a chaplain as I was enjoying the TA so much. However, army (and RAF) chaplains wear both rank and uniform, and I wasn't convinced that it was a good idea – far preferable is the tradition of the Royal Navy where chaplains have no rank – and where, although there is a chaplain's uniform for every conceivable occasion, they are rarely worn. RN chaplains tend to wear the civilian equivalent – although there are exceptions especially when at sea and on exercise.

Twenty years after leaving RPCGS I hung up my biretta and exchanged it for a sailor's cap (unworn!) and ran away to sea – and I've been

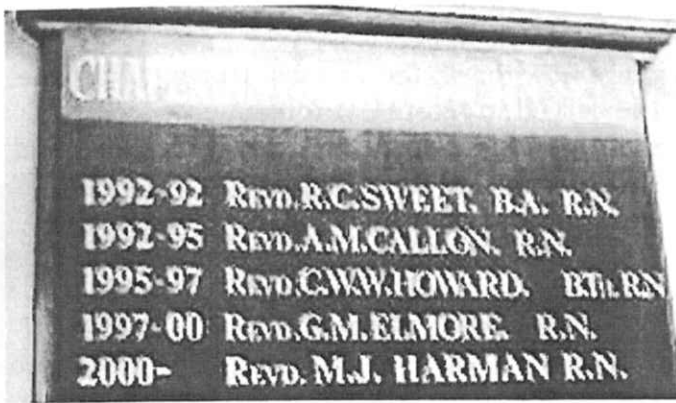
there now for sixteen years. During that time I've served in shore establishments in Plymouth and Portsmouth and Deal in Kent and had three years as the military chaplain in Gibraltar. I've been to sea with frigates and destroyers; with *HMS FEARLESS* an amphibious assault ship, and even a short trip on *HMS TRENCHANT*, a nuclear powered submarine. I've been up the rivers and into the jungles of Borneo and Malaya – flown over the Angel Falls in Venezuela, said mass on beaches, in mud huts, up mountains; on mess decks of ships, in the all-but deserted snow-bound church at Grytviken in South Georgia and in some wonderful cathedrals around the world. The Navy has taken me to well over a hundred different countries on every continent including Antarctica, and I've met



Graeme in the King's Chapel Gibraltar

princes, prime ministers and presidents. I've also been to some of the most desperately impoverished places in the world like Djibouti where the poverty and the violence over-spilling from nearby Somalia and Ethiopia was impacting deeply on the lives of a people already lacking the most basic human needs. More recently I've visited Sierra Leone twice in the past year, a Commonwealth country ripped apart by both foreign intrusions and internal strife – a land at war where thousands of the population have been maimed and slaughtered. Undoubtedly it was the intervention of the British that has brought any semblance of peace to that land and reinstated the ousted democratically elected president.

I'm now in my last job in the Royal Navy as chaplain to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary which is a group of twenty-two supply ships and tankers that keep the RN's ships re-supplied at sea. My job now is taking me constantly around the world to join any one of HM ships wherever they may be – because they are deployed literally all over the world. The task of the RN today is a busy and as varied as it has



from those far away days. I have had – and indeed continue to have – an exciting and challenging life as a chaplain ministering to the needs of the mainly young constituency of the Royal Navy. But I must leave it in a couple of years time...so if you're looking for a new vicar in 2004 – remember the name! I wish God's blessing on Raynes Park School "and all who sail in her!"

Graeme Elmore

ever been and the demands made upon the ships and the men and women who crew them is substantial – the task of the chaplains in the Navy is to minister to our sailors who may be away from home at sea for many months. Indeed, as I write this in mid-November I have just come back from a couple of months out in the Arabian Gulf and off Oman...an interesting place to have been posted to on 11th September.

Often the words of our school song ring in my mind. "Time will make its utter changes, circumstance will scatter us, but the memories of our schooldays are a living part of us. I have always been grateful for the firm and enlightened education I had at Raynes Park. I am grateful too that thirty-five years on, I am still in contact with half a dozen of my chums



The King's Chapel Gibraltar



Charlie Leman's Christmas card

Winter's coming around again

Winter's coming around again
When it comes it's so cold
All the sleet snow and rain
Wearing your jumpers worn and old

In the evenings it's getting dark
The leaves are falling off the trees
Its going to flood as for Noah's ark
Not the season for the bumble bees

The leaves are turning yellow and red
Put on hat and scarf
All the frosts go to your head
You're freezing come in for a bath

But I love winter it's such fun
Snow doesn't come every year
Soon it's spring and there's the sun
When winter's here days are full of cheer

Hayley Sponder

The best days

After more than forty years my memories of the days spent at Raynes park had become more than dimmed. Thanks to the School's kindness in allowing me to read through copies of the Spur covering my stay, memories have come flooding back. The best days of our lives such a worn and disregarded phrase, but oh so true. "Inky" Eatough, "Kit" Carson, "Charlie" Hopper, "Dick" Hampden, "Mev" Evans, Pete Davies, Roger Cottee, George Iles, Phil Tibbles, and so many more, all good friends at the time but for so long forgotten.

I so clearly remember my first day at Raynes Park County Grammar School as it was in my day; wondering if ever I would find my way around, wondering what indignities would be heaped upon me by those apparently full grown men towering above most of us the dreaded 5th and 6th formers! However it was not too long before I began to feel at home. My memories are of the teachers, super humans clad in mortarboards and black gowns, who over the years revealed themselves to be dedicated to our education and well being. Every teacher was addressed as "Sir" on all occasions, strange since one of them was a woman! "It prevents the boys becoming confused" she was quoted as saying. The most revered and respected was, of course, our Headmaster, Henry Porter. Amongst others I remember were Cecil Riley, our Art master, a most gifted man, Mr Bellis in charge of PE, "Larkie" King who taught French and was much involved in school sports, "Bert" Ayton who taught Science, Bill Herdman, English and Drama, "Happy" Pratt, History and Economics, Pete Smith, a chemist, Paddy O'Driscoll, Geography.

Sport was my great love at school, a decent all rounder, rather than a star, although the records show that I won the junior long jump back in 1955 and came second in the 440 yards in 1957.

My "claim to fame" - rave reviews as the Cannibal king in the Junior School play in '56. Yes, I do remember, but time has dimmed those memories of times not always well spent.

As I write another memory comes to mind, that of Georges Zaraha, a refugee from the 1956 Suez crisis. He flattened the biggest guy in our class with a single punch, when provoked beyond all endurance. Much respected after that, I can assure you.

It was a different life in those days, but it was our time and things always change a little from generation to generation. There is one constant, the need to respect each other's cultures and beliefs, not to be jealous of what others achieve, but to be happy for them. There are no winners without losers, and yes, it is important to take part, not just to spectate. If at the end we have done our best, no one can ask for more. Enjoy your days at Raynes Park and I hope that you too, in years to come, will recall "the best days of your life".

R.G. Huggins

Chris Powell - a student interview



Who are the best players you've played with?

Ian Wright and Paul Scholes.

Who was the best player you've played against?

Gabriel Batistuta.

Why did you turn down Jamaica?

I didn't turn it down I just didn't get in the squad.

Is Sven Goran Eriksson a good manager?

Yes he is very good and good at tactics.

House plays 2001



At the end of an excellent evening's entertainment, Gibbs house found themselves the only gold award winner as Halliwells, Miltons and Newsoms were each awarded silver. This is the first time a single house has been

awarded gold for several years and Gibbs deserved to be proud of their achievement.

Gill Roberts, from Esher College, proved to be an excellent adjudicator and she gave generous praise to the performers and directors of each house. Individual awards were given as follows :

<i>Best actor :</i>	<i>Ricci Mcleod</i>
<i>Best actress :</i>	<i>Raissa Ibrahim</i>
<i>Best supporting actor :</i>	<i>Anthony Green</i>
<i>Best supporting actress :</i>	<i>Natalie Staden</i>

ROMEO IN THE HOOD : GIBBS

Directed and written by James Carey, Andre Cooke, Paul Harrison, Faye Ketchell and Stephen Igbavboa



Gibbs, this year's glorious winners, presented a very entertaining play within a play. Set in a tough inner-city school, it showed a group of students making up a story between them while they should be working. As their imaginations begin to catch fire, the story they are telling between them comes to life before our eyes. Robin, a new boy to the school, outshines local hero and leader Romeo and wins popularity. Unknown to any of his new friends, and these include the beautiful Juliet, Robin is son of the Reverend and Mrs Jackson who run a nearby church. When Romeo discovers Robin's secret life as a choirboy and tells everyone, Robin's new friends turn against him. Juliet, to whom he has lied, dumps him and his sudden and total isolation leads him to hang himself. His body is very dramatically discovered on graduation day as the principal and his assistant Mr Lewis unveil the school honours board. At the end of the play we are

reminded that it was all in the imaginations of our creative truants as Mr Lewis finds them and promises the longest ever detention.

It is very hard to mention all of Gibbs' cast as a grand total of 45 actors performed in a highly involving and entertaining play ! The cast was hugely committed and well-directed by a highly conscientious and hard-working set of directors. Ricci McLeod and Raissa Ibrahim won the evening's best actor and actress award and Anthony Green gained best supporting actor. Paul Harrison and Faye Ketchell stood out as the forces of good and evil, a memorable mixture of humour and dramatic presence. There were some particularly memorable moments - the bumbling principal played with his usual

comic invention by Patrick Milnes; the fight between rival school babes Juliet (Raissa Ibrahim) and Marion (Suzanne Catlin making a very promising debut in House plays); the gospel preacher and his formidable wife (ably played by Budi Mabeleng and Wendy Acheampong); the impromptu MC-ing contest between Romeo and Robin (Anthony Green and Ricci Mcleod); Mrs Bartholomew's obsession with her mobile phone (Kate Willoughby). Joanna Rose gave a promising performance in her own part but also understudied Juliet and ensured that important rehearsals went ahead at key moments. Although it is not possible to mention every Gibbs actor by name, they should all be praised for the enormous team effort which secured the gold award. The directors operated very well as a team and each played a key role but Andre Cooke deserves a special mention not only for his Rastafarian Mr Lewis but also for his role in co-ordinating the huge Gibbs team - a responsibility which meant enormous work but even greater satisfaction. Last but definitely not least, Gemma Kavanagh deserves special mention.



LIGHT AND FLAKEY : MILTONS

Directed by Louise Gaskin, Donal McAuley, Glen Armstrong and Byron Walker

Miltons presented the funniest of the evening's plays with many excellent moments and great audience reponse. Samantha Harlow and Steve Campisi are the less than talented



presenters of a totally awful new daytime TV chat show directed by a camper than camp floor manager. During the course of a disastrous programme, two TV chefs end up in a

WWF-style wrestling fight, several rare pigmy hamsters are used for juggling practice by Samantha and Steve before being squashed, we see Mariah Carey and Jennifer Lopez in a vicious catfight and the studio chef runs



amok after running over the children's presenter.

Louise Gaskin and Davin King linked each scene together skilfully whilst ably playing the hopeless hosts and were complemented by Nick Moses in a memorable, funny and seriously

OTT performance as the camp floor manager. Warren Bovell and Robert Blegay

were hilarious as the catering students standing in for the missing TV chef and their very realistic wrestling throws had the audience wincing while laughing. Brenda Walugembe and Pete Stringer made excellent debuts as the poor pigmy hamster handlers. Workshy, a satirical amalgamation of all the worst aspects of boy bands, featured some very funny posing by Jack Roberts, Sam Francis, Michael Cashmore, Donal McAuley and Byron Walker and the fashion police - Michael Warwick, Oscar Gustaffson and Thomas Babington - raised their eyebrows in amusing disapproval of the many fashion disasters fea-



tured in the show. Lucio Giannicoli gave a very funny cameo as a distinguished mountaineer storming off at the incompetence of Samantha and Steve and Glen Armstrong and Byron Walker were memorably amusing in drag as Mariah Carey and Jennifer Lopez. Miltons also featured several Year 8 debutants who performed very promisingly including Libby Alexander and Michaela Morris.

Miltons presented the first of the evening's plays and are to be congratulated for getting the evening off to such an enjoyable start.

EGYPTIAN BOOK OF TALES : HALLIWELLS

Directed and written by Keisha Baker-Benjamin, Siobhan Connolly, Ellen Ferriter and Harry Smart

Halliwells presented a slick and well-constructed play which took an intrigued audience into an apparently innocent museum. This museum, however, was run by the evil Doyle whose only intention was to turn unsuspecting visitors into macabre exhibits! Once collected by Doyle and his sly helper Josephine, there is absolutely no chance of escape.

Three clear and confident narrators (Siobhan Connolly, Leon Whittle and Ellen Ferriter) took it in turns to set the scene and comment on the action, a device which linked the scenes of the play together in an involving and easy-to-follow way. The play presented a school trip and a group of pupils who would forever regret getting their parents to sign that consent form! Annie, Katie, Johnny and Bill made the mistake of touching then opening the legendary Egyptian Book of Tales. A dazzling flash, a whirlwind of movement and our four heroes found themselves trapped in the darkest and most mysterious corridors of the museum.



Following a bizarre talking museum cat, the lost pupils were confronted by zombies, evil spirits and even Cleopatra and her slaves. Finally they were led into the clutches of Doyle himself and the final scene of the play showed four *new* exhibits doomed to spend the rest of their existence in the museum from hell.

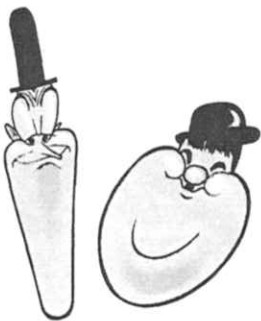


Doyle was memorably played by Harry Smart in traditional villain style complete with evil sneer and mad, cackling laugh and he was well supported by Amiee Howard whose apparent niceness hid a devilish streak. Keisha Baker-Benjamin amused the audience as the museum cat with her repeated jingle of "Follow

me, you will see!" The zombies - Richard Seschie, Glenn Lilley and Annie Hearne were suitably green, evil and frightening and Ben Ransome, Glen Calligari, Daniel Herridge, Zena Carty and Hayley Coyne were versatile in doubling as evil spirits and slaves. Cherrelin Lockwood had definite stage presence as Cleopatra casting spells upon the unlucky pupils.

The four lost pupils were, of course, the central characters of the play and Vicky Patching, Lauren Pearson, David King and Ike Mba all ably played a range of emotions and reactions very convincingly gaining favourable comments and special mention from the adjudicator

Halliwells presented an enjoyable and imaginative play and one which teaches us all the valuable lesson . . . beware of school trips to strange museums !!



CINDER'S FELLA :
NEWSOMS

*Directed and written by
Natalie Staden, Natalie Nolan and Rebecca Flaherty*

Newsoms provided the last of the evening's plays and followed one of the traditional themes of the long-running competition by adapting a fairytale, in this case Cinderella. In Newsoms' version, however, Cinderella found that she exchanged one life of drudgery with her evil step-mother and ugly step-sisters for a new life of drudgery with a prince who quickly turned into a less than charming slob of a husband - once he had



given her several demanding children to look after ! Newsoms also featured the play within a play convention : as a group of girls read a book of children's stories, the audience sees the story come to life though the twist at the end comes as an amusing surprise.

There were many memorable performances and some very funny moments in Newsoms' production. Natalie Staden, as the scheming evil stepmother, deservedly won best supporting actress overcoming illness to be on stage but Rebecca Flaherty as an Ab-Fab fairy godmother, Rachel Smith as a hilariously frightful ugly sister and Lisa Ball as Cinderella must have also been strongly in the running. Lisa

Ball provided one of the night's most amusing and memorable moments with her broomstick air guitar miming to 'Wild Thing' and she looked wonderful in Cinderella's wedding dress. Newsoms cast gave a good team performance with a large cast and it is hard to pick out individual performances but this reviewer will particularly remember Jake Humble as the vicar

knocking out Daniel Moore for ruining the wedding by kissing (or should that be snogging !) the unsuspecting Cinderella before Prince Charming knew what was happening as well as the very funny ugly sister pairing of Rachel Smith and Hayley Sponder (complete with hideous dayglo costumes) and Rebecca Flaherty's very alternative fairy godmother. Newsoms also performed the best dance with Nicole Bastow deserving special mention for her strong lead. Newsoms' directors are to be congratulated for an enjoyable and entertaining final play in an excellent evening's entertainment.



From the Headteacher

Schools Reorganisation A Return to a Two Tier System for Merton in 2002

I reported a year ago on the secretary of state's approval of Merton's plans to restructure its school system so that RPHS would become one of six 11-16 secondary schools in the borough. Governors and staff are delighted to 'recover' year 7, though this will mean a sudden expansion to a roll of 1110 (currently 820) in September 2002 as we absorb two year groups (of 240 each) simultaneously. The roll will eventually increase to a maximum of 1200 by 2005. Since the previous reorganisation in 1989, our year 11 students have gone on to post-16 education in increasing numbers (now averaging 90%) to undertake ever more challenging academic and vocational packages. The most popular destinations are Merton College, Esher College, Kingston College, Nescot and Carshalton College.

The secondary part of the reorganisation is subject to an ambitious and complex private finance initiative (pfi) aimed at releasing the 'facilities management' of the high schools to the private sector for an initial period of 25 years. In July 2001 this process identified a 'preferred bidder' - a consortium called 'NewSchools' comprising the following companies - WS Atkins, Innisfree and Wates Construction supported by West LB. RPHS will remain an LEA school and the pfi group would be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the school buildings and grounds.

The Local Education Authority, the 'NewSchools' group and school governors and staff have faced a daunting schedule of meetings since September 2001 to agree design proposals to present to the Environmental Agency and to local planning authorities. In addition, all the complex financial commitments have to be sorted out to the satisfaction of all parties. The final contract will then be scrutinised by the National Audit Office to ensure that it represents value for money.

As I write (at the beginning of March 2002), I think it would be fair to say that we are in the final straight. Merton high school governing bodies will be asked to signal a definite commitment to the pfi deal later this month - a momentous and very sensitive decision. Since the general election, there has been much comment in the media about the private fi-

nance initiative. Its advantages over traditional (public sector) funding routes remain uncertain for some and all of us have had to work hard at grasping the detail and the potential consequences of the project. Among the advantages claimed for this educational pfi are:

- a higher level of initial investment in the project
- an undertaking to deal with the backlog of repair and maintenance
- an ambitious, efficient and responsive approach to ongoing repair and maintenance which would enable the management of the school to focus on educational matters

Whatever the potential doubts or misgivings, our aim will be to achieve the best possible deal for the school. Construction work will not begin before June 2002 and will almost certainly continue until July 2003. There will therefore be special arrangements to ensure that the full school curriculum can be delivered appropriately during the redevelopment period.

The plans are available for inspection and include the following *new* facilities:

- a larger library (learning resource centre);
- expanded IT facilities;
- two music rooms;
- three art studios;
- two drama studios;
- a sports hall

There will also be new classrooms for Maths, Business Studies, expanded resources for the Learning Development Department, two new science labs and improved admin and reception areas. We are delighted too to be the site for the borough's new secondary autistic base which will operate in close collaboration with the existing primary autistic facility at Bushey Middle School. Modern languages and geography will move to refurbished classrooms in the Bushey First building.

These proposals represent an investment of over £6million in the school over the next 18 months and provide us with an historic opportunity to create a radically improved environment for teaching and learning

GCSE and Keystage 3 results

Keystage 3 results showed a big rise in 2001 while GCSE results for 2001 closely followed the pattern of 2000, being more or less in line with expectations for this year group. 30% of our students gained 8 or more passes at 'C' or above and over 10% passed 10 or more subjects at these higher grades. This represents very positive academic achievement but we celebrate the examination successes (including non-GCSE) of all our pupils whatever their ability. Recent hostile media comments detract from and fail to understand the enormous benefits and tangible progress which comprehensive education has brought for the overwhelming majority of pupils. Many more are studying more subjects at higher levels, and staying on in the sixth form, and working harder than ever before. Their teachers too are working harder than ever before.

The 'headline' results as they appeared in the November league tables are:

GCSE

	2001	2000
5 A*-C	40%	41%
5 A*-G	92%	90%
1 A*-G	94%	95%

Keystage 3

	2001	2000
English	61	35
Maths	64	55
Science	59	39

Specialist School Status Technology College

In October 2001 we submitted our bid to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and a month ago we heard that we had not been successful in that competition. We were shortlisted but eventually turned down because of concerns about reorganisation and expansion coinciding with the extra demands of designation as a specialist school. These were understandable concerns but I am pleased to say that, following detailed negotiations with the DfES, we were asked to re-submit our bid for the March 2002 competition. We were able to meet the March 1st deadline and should hear how we have fared sometime in June.

I must emphasise that successful designa-

tion as a specialist school does not mean that other 'non-specialist' subjects will 'lose out'. It does not mean that the school's identity or overall purpose will change and we will not be introducing any kind of selection. Success would strengthen our drive to continue to raise standards, attract significant extra resources, which would benefit the whole school community, and strengthen our position in what is a very competitive educational 'market' in SW London. Our aim will always be to strive for excellence in every area and to enable our pupils to flourish in all curricular and extra curricular activities. I hope that this brief report on the past year reflects that aim.

Lottery Project

Opening Ceremony

The artificial turf pitch has been a great success in its first year of operation. I am sure you will recall the very heavy rain of the last academic year but we did not have to cancel a single PE lesson! The second stage of the project, four new changing rooms and reception area, was finally completed in the summer term and the opening ceremony was held on 20th September. The principal guests were Chris Powell and Katy Roberts, both former pupils and both current England internationals (in football and hockey respectively) and the mayor and mayoress of Merton. We were also delighted to welcome the new director of education, Sue Evans, who was making a memorable first visit to the school. We were grateful too for the presence of Merton Music Foundation's Youth Jazz Band, which included several former RPHS students. The evening concluded with a spectacular firework display provided by the site services team.

Drama

Sport

Groundwork Merton

The full details of our many house competitions will be reported on elsewhere in the SPUR. At this point, however, I would like to thank the editor, Mike Gleed, for ensuring the survival of the re-born school magazine and for his success in encouraging contributions from so many different parts (and generations!) of the wider school community.

Drama has a very strong tradition in the school, inspiring the first house competition (1936). In recent years drama has achieved outstanding examination successes for our pupils as well as maintaining its distinctive extra curricular contributions. Drama offers

our young writers and directors invaluable opportunities to develop the organisational, creative and assertiveness skills which will serve them well in the future.

The outstanding achievements this year in sport concern football and athletics. The u/13 football team triumphed in the County Cup, beating Ashford School 3-1 in the final. They also reached the semi-final of two other larger regional competitions and were unbeaten in all competitions until May! In Athletics, we were delighted to win the overall team trophy in the borough competition again, after several years of playing second fiddle to Tamworth. The Astroturf has seen a renewal of enthusiasm for hockey and tennis has continued its rapid growth.

In December 2001 we embarked on a joint consultative planning process with Groundwork Merton, a local environmental charity, to look at long term issues for the school site. The amazing large scale model, produced by year 9 pupils, enabled the involvement of hundreds of members of the wider school community (parents, governors, local residents... and the mayor!) so that after presentations, discussion and viewing, each group could pin their colour-coded comments to the model. These were then summarised in the final report by Groundwork's professional architects and landscape designers.

If you would like to explore how you could help us out in any small or large way via the school fund or the RPHS charitable trust, or in any other way, please contact me or the bursar, Sue Thurlow, at the school. Please contact the school office if you would like to be put on the mailing list for the half termly newsletter.

I am proud to be Headteacher of this school and I value its traditions greatly. As we prepare for a momentous period in the school's history, with expansion, reorganisation and possible specialist school status, I look forward to the future with optimism tempered by a certain anxiety at the inevitable pressure all these changes will bring for staff and students alike. Next year's report should make interesting reading! Finally I offer my congratulations to Halliwells on winning the Junior House Shield. They were also overall House Challenge Cup winners, with Gibbs second, Newsoms third and Miltons fourth.

Ian Newman

Jurassic Park IV

Year 11s been waiting for twenty minutes. Would the dinosaurs really be able to put out a full team and gain their revenge? We were doubtful but finally Messrs Kilby and Newman appeared and we wondered how many goals we would feast on. It had taken us months to get them to agree to play so although we were not exactly complacent we were certainly not lacking in... er... absolute over-confidence. Let's say we were certain that we were going to give them the run-around.

Initially our expectations were confirmed. In the first minute the year 10 football team manager (alias Mr 'The Cat' Kilby) went down to save and did not appear to be able to get up. Eventually play continued and staff were finding it difficult to get out of their own half. It took ten minutes for us to score - a great shot from the edge of the area by Ricci McLeod. We were shaken by an equaliser within a minute, headed in from a corner by Mr King, PE student.

The teachers were certainly holding out better than we thought they could. Maybe they were lacking speed but they had not lost their positional sense...and they had that wise old coach in goal shouting instructions all the time. Moreover Mr Patterson (PE teacher) and Mr Jones (Sports Development Officer) were proving very difficult to control. It's difficult to admit but it became an even match with chances at either end. Fortunately we got the second, Ricci again. Half time 2-1. Surely the Dinosaurs would collapse in the second half.

We were leading 3-2, Terry Holmes having just converted a penalty after Mr Newman



Send him off! A crunching, sliding tackle - the ball's nowhere near!

had tripped Terry. Then came the turning point. Byron dribbled in from the touch line, past Mr Painter (School Admin Officer), past Mr Blythen and delivered a swerving shot which hit the post, Mr Kilby forced it off the line but only as far as Terry Holmes, unmarked 2 yards out. His first shot was blocked again by 'le chat' (well I am in French set 3) but Terry now had an open goal. Everyone waited for the inevitable. Terry volleyed and the cat somehow became a bird, flying to his right to catch, yes catch the goal-bound effort. General astonishment. How did he do it?

The staff then discovered another star. Learning Support Assistant, Mr 'Martial Arts' Romero who harried and chased everything, proving a very high level of fitness. He scored the winner late on to make the final score 6-5 to the Dinosaurs, despite Ricci's hat-trick. The crowd had gone silent, in fact luckily most had gone home. It's too painful to record any further details of our defeat. Men of the match - have to be the staff goalie and Ricci McLeod.

Spur sports correspondents

The runner

Paul Drake inaugurates our series of interviews with former students and we hope to make this a feature of future magazines.

Spur reporter: What's the hardest thing about being a runner?

Paul: The training is relentless. At the moment I run over 20 miles a week but also have to fit in circuit training, gym sessions and speed work on the track. Friday is rest day.

Spur reporter: OK that sounds tough so what's enjoyable?

Paul: Winning is the most enjoyable part of running but you can't win all the time. Being part of a team and scoring points towards your team's success is also very satisfying. I joined the Hercules Wimbledon club when I was 13 and travelling round the UK and abroad with them has been exciting and rewarding for me. I have been to France, Cuba and the Czech Republic.

Spur reporter: What's your biggest achievement to date?

Paul: I qualified for the English Schools Cross Country Championships as one of the top six runners in Surrey and have represented Surrey four times in the Inter-Counties Championships.

Spur reporter: What's your ambition as far as running is concerned?

Paul: To run for Great Britain. I'm training now in a squad with a senior British Athletics Federation coach.

Spur reporter: After leaving Raynes Park, what did you decide to do?

Paul: I wanted to do something which would help me towards a career in sport and which would allow me to carry on training as much as possible. So I decided to do a BTEC national diploma in sports science, the equivalent of 3 A'levels if I get good grades. I'm at NESOT and it's a great course.

Spur reporter: Good luck for the future and we hope to see you in the GB team soon!

Our investigative reporters uncovered the following further details of his career so far:

- First in the borough cross country on four occasions
- Has represented Surrey since the age of 13
- Qualified for the British Milers' Club by running 2'02" for the 800metres.
- Winner of three u/17 cross country races for Hercules this season
- Winner of the Merton trials for the London mini-marathon on three occasions (including 2002)
- Has represented Merton in the London mini-marathon since the age of 11 (and was joined in the 2001 race by three other RPHS students {Robert Newman, Jason Lowenthal and Henry Newman} who qualified with him in the trials and helped Merton to its highest ever finish in the competition with other London Boroughs, ninth of thirty-two)

While the word is yet unspoken, you are master of it; when once it is spoken, it is master of you.

Arab Proverb

Year 11 Debating

The year 11 competition came to a successful conclusion, though with the usual nail-biting moments when it appeared that speeches had been left at home or that individual speakers (or even whole teams!) would fail to materialise.

The Houses had to debate the merits of compulsory voting in general elections and the legalisation of drugs. Is Britain dumbing down? Do we live in a Big Brother state? All these topics were handled with a good degree of thoroughness and flair, as was the final motion (an old favourite) – “Christmas is Humbug”.

The number of those available for debating differed widely from House to House. Only one was in the fortunate position of having enough debaters to form three separate teams for the three debates; most were decimated by the demands of drama and academic work and there was a great flurry of last minute arrangements. On one occasion two members of a team, let down at literally the last minute by the non-appearance of the third member, scoured the corridors and more or less manhandled a member of their tutor group into the library to deliver a one sentence speech. It was a wise move: it gained them a point, and it is often the odd point here and there that decides the winning team. This year’s victors, Gibbs, only won one debate but gained the prize because of aggregate of points.

Congratulations to them and all praise to the debaters in general who, as always, informed, educated and entertained Madam Chair and the Adjudicator.

Result:

Gibbs	100	92	96	288
Halliwells	84	100	100	284
Miltons	76	100	100	276
Newsoms	100	48	66	214

From a speaker

I took part in all three of the Newsoms debates. The topics of the debates were *Entertainment today is not as good as it used to be* and *Advertising is ruling our lives- the brand name is more important than the product*.

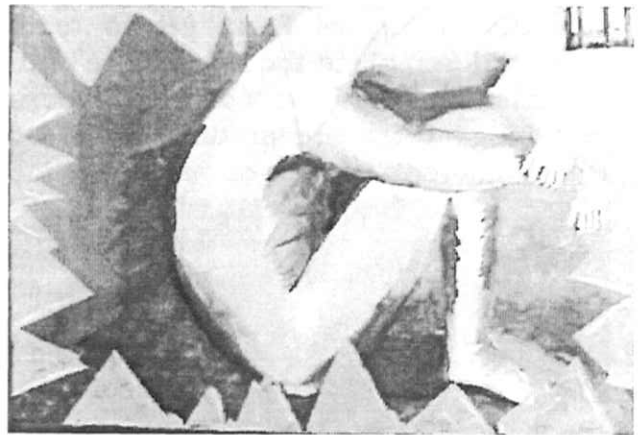
These motions we were proposing and the final motion, *It is time we reviewed our punishment system*, we opposed.

For me the best debate was the one about our punishment system. I felt that the British punishment system worked well. There may be faults in our system but in comparison with other countries’ systems it is fair.

As far as advertising is concerned, we are usually doing the advertisers’ jobs for them with most mainstream products such as Reebok, Nike and Adidas. Just look at the size of their brand name pasted across our clothes. It is a known fact that there is immense pressure on people today to wear the clothes that fit in with their peer groups.

In conclusion I thoroughly enjoyed the debates and would recommend them to all pupils in R.P.H.S. They are a great confidence builder. I am already looking forward to next year’s debates and hope to see many newcomers in action.

Luke Oldfield 10NZ



Inner feelings

Rebecca Hobbs

He who begins many things finishes but few.

Tell not all you know, believe not all your hear, do not all you are able.

Italian proverbs

Environment Group

We are a group of approximately fifty students from a wide range of tutor groups and years. We all have a common interest – making the environment of the school better and making our school more environmentally friendly. We are guided by Miss Whiting in our work on various projects.

We have been involved in several different projects, but our main involvement is with Bushey First School, which has an Environment Area with a pond and natural flora and fauna. We have been to the site on many occasions to name



the plants and find the diversity of natural plants in the area, and to do water tests on the pond. We have also completed safety studies on the area.

The most enjoyable aspect of this project by far has been going over to the site to teach the Year 1 Bushey First students. We take them out into the area in small groups and we (the students of Raynes Park) get to teach the small children about the importance of the environment and how many different types of living things there are around us. We found many different species of natural wildlife in the area including frogs, newts, slugs, worms, larvae and even a whole fox skeleton! The small children loved it!!

Another project the group is involved in is naming all the plants in the school with their Latin species name e.g. *Euonymus fortunei* which is the Silver Queen Plant. Because we have all the plants named correctly, it will allow us to investigate the conditions they grow best in and allow us to look after them better. We want to ensure that all the school plants are healthy. Plants are important because they take in carbon dioxide and give out oxygen for us to breathe, but they can't do this if their leaves are covered in dust.

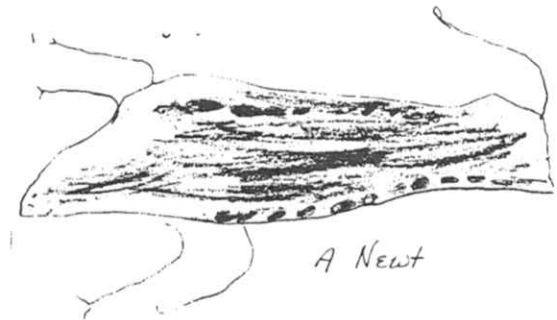
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The Ecology and Environment Group has also had an involvement with the building of a Wind Turbine on the roof of the school. The turbine and attached solar panel will be used in lessons and will help in teaching students about more environmentally friendly forms of energy. We are also the only school in the borough to have one of these turbines!

Other projects that the group are discussing are recycling paper and planting more trees around the school grounds. Not only will this improve the environment of the school, but it means the school is doing its bit for the environment of the Earth as well.

from Bushey Middle

Paul



A Newt

Dear Ms Whiting and the environment group.

Thank you for taking us into the Wildlife Area.

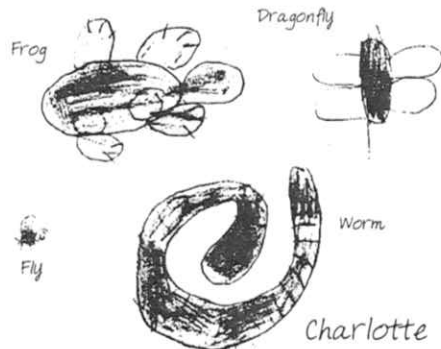
It was fun because we found out lots of things we did not know.

We really enjoyed seeing the frogs, the newts, the bugs, the larva, the beetles and the ants' nest.

Please will you come again and take us into the wildlife area?

From

Green Class



Charlotte

Fun at the fair



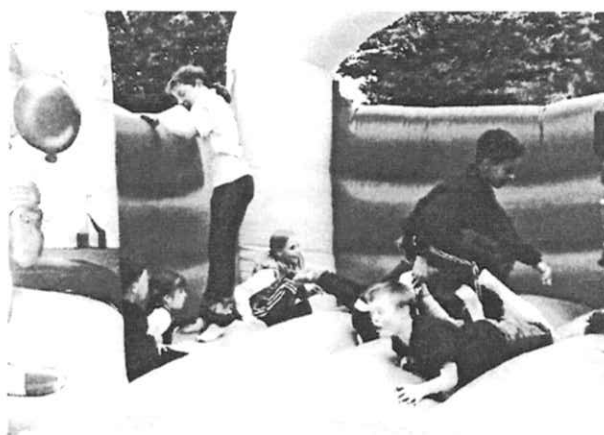
Hit 'em hard!



That's pretty



What's this?



Bouncing along



Did he deserve this?



Missed!

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUENCY**

**STATEMENT AS TO PERSONS NOMINATED
AND NOTICE OF POLL**

Date of Election: 6th June 2001

1. The following persons have been nominated

Name of Candidate	Description	Names of Proposers, Seconders, and Assentors
Bowers, Charlie (& team)	Conservative Party	Kelly Abrahall, Raees Miyan, David Sayers, Miss Rechter
Carey, James Milnes, Patrick (& team)	Universal Party	Peter Georgiou, Omar Mesbahuddin, Mr. Ennis
Gianicoli, Lucio Newman, Henry (& team)	Labour Party	Chris Warren, Zishaan Mirza, David Weatherhead, Harry Worth, Mrs. Radowicz
Harriott, Morgan (& team)	Respect Party	Robert Lever, David Francis, Ashly Keane, Vijay Patel, Mrs. N. Jones
Nicholls, Tyrone Baker-Benjamin, Keisha (& team)	Multiculturals Party	Nick Moses, Shane Baker, Bianca Dawson Bennett, Mrs. Leigh
Valentine, Matthew Staden, Natalie (& team)	European Union Clubbers' Party	Luke Oldfield, Mr. Ashton, Miss Whiting
Welfare, Marcus Laffar, Joe (& team)	Liberal Democrat Party	Tanser Ozdemir, Chris Bullard, Mark Leung, Dan Lyle, Scott Brock Zac Bhatti, Luke Morgan, Miss Finan

The persons above stand validly nominated

2. A POLL WILL BE TAKEN on 6th June 2001 between the hours of 8.45am and 3.35pm

Dated: 25th May 2001

J.R.Carter, Returning Officer

Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
Surrey
SM4 5DX

Printed and Published by the Returning Officer

Mock Election Results

As returning officer for the Raynes Park High School constituency I declare that the final result of the election held on 6th June 2001 was as follows:

Conservative Party – 36 votes

Universal Party – 26 votes

Labour Party – 87 votes

Respect Party – 86 votes

Multiculturals Party – 273 votes

Liberal Democrat Party – 75 votes

I hereby declare the Multiculturals Party is the winner of the election. Thanks to our tellers and scrutineers:- Lauren Armstrong, Cheryl Botting, Joanne Fenwick, Gary Kenyon, Robert Miller, Christine Ollivierre, Vicky Patching, Nabeel Qureshi, Rachel Smith, Roberta Spence, Guy Sumner, Sophie Tedder, Stephanie Watkins

Analysis of Voting

Party	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Staff	Total
Conservative	8	20	0	5	3	36
Universal	6	5	10	3	2	26
Labour	21	25	4	16	21	87
Respect	52	20	1	4	9	86
Multiculturals	96	44	24	6	3	273
Liberal Democrat	5	50	3	5	12	75

Defeat for Labour in Raynes Park Elections

In the school election, a late policy announcement by the spin-doctors of the Multicultural Party (a.k.a. the MCs) offering an instant end to homework was enough to steal a last minute victory from the favourites, Labour.

Mr. Carter, the school librarian ran the hustings and organised a superb election admin team.

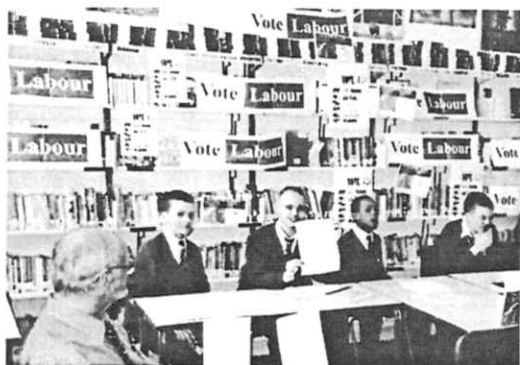
Below, a spokesperson for RESPECT comments on the MCs' last minute election "bribe"!

"The MCs said all the right things. They didn't say anything about hard subjects. They asked the popular GMB union steward questions in the hustings and had prepared a good speech. This was all pretty impressive but that it is not what made them win. They told the voters that if they won they would ban homework and give a five-minute break between double lessons. It is called a Mock Election, repeat mock, and voters should have seen through the MCs "trick!"

Feelings obviously ran high during and after the election but it produced a series of memorable assemblies and a real sense of involvement. As Lucio Gianocoli said, "Thanks to mock elections round the country many people really will go and vote because they know how it's done and how important it is". *An excellent contest!*

Results: MCs – 273; Labour – 87; Respect – 86; Lib Dems – 73; Conservative – 32; Universal – 26

Our results were included in the national schools' mock election run by the BBC's Newsround and the Hansard Society.



Hustings in the library as Mr Carter looks on



No ballot rigging here

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS DAY RECORDS

WORLD RECORDS

UK RECORDS

	Yr 8 Girls	Yr 8 Boys	Yr 9 Girls	Yr 9 Boys	Yr 10 Girls	Yr 10 Boys	Women	Men	Women	Men
100M	M. Williams 13.48s 98	N. Cleghorn 12.56s 96	S. Wellstead 13.03s 94	N. Cleghorn 12.01s 97	M. Williams 12.47s 2000	B. Fitzgerald 11.27s 95	F. G-Joyner USA 10.49s 88	M. Greene USA 9.79s 99	K. Cook 11.10s 81	L. Christie 9.87s 93
200M	M. Williams 29.41s 98	J. Osbourne 25.82s 97	K. Carberry 29.46s 01	N. Cleghorn 24.48s 97	M. Williams 29.25s 2000	A. Yarde 25.00s 97	F. G-Joyner USA 21.34s 88	M. Johnson USA 19.32s 96	K. Cook 22.10s 84	J. Regis 19.87s 94
400M	A. Allison 70.00s 92	A. McCabe 63.73s 01	K. Bailey 70.76s 96	Y. Yusef 61.01s 2000	F. Alayo 68.00s 98	P. Drake 58.65s 2000	M. Koch Germany 47.60s 85	H. Reynolds USA 43.29s 88	K. Cook 49.43s 84	I. Thomas 44.36s 97
800M	J. Crossley 2m49s 93	J. Bone 2m31s 92	N. Andrews 2m56s 93	M. Paget 2m17s 98	J. Webb 3m1.00s 92	S. Hickland 2m16.00s 91	Kratochvilova Czech 1m53.28s 83	W. Kipketer Denmark 1m41.11s 97	K. Holmes 1m56.21s 95	S. Coe 1m41.73s 81
1500M	N. Andrews 5m 48s 92	P. Drake 5m8.17s 98	R. O'Carroll 5m56s 91	M. Paget 4m47.66s 98	R. O'Carroll 5m42s 92	M. Paget 4m44s 99	Q. Yunxia China 3m50.46s 93	H. Guerrouj Morocco 3m26s 98	K. Holmes 3m58.07s 97	S. Cram 3m29.67s 85
4 x 100M	Gibbs 60.34s 95	Halliwell 55.17s 96	Gibbs 60.00s 95	Halliwell 53.68s 91	Halliwell 61.03s 00	Miltons 51.24s 98	Germany 41.37s 85	USA 37.40s 92	42.43s 1980	37.77s 1993
4 x 300M	Miltons 3m44 01	Miltons 3m16.28 98	Newsoms 3m47.18s 97	Miltons & Gibbs 3m01 99/01	Miltons 3m35.48s 97	Newsoms 2m58.32s 00				
Shot	A. Griffin 7.83m 97	A. Oram 9.54m 96	M. Williams 8.16m 99	I. McLeod 10.73m 91	S. Stock 8.95m 94	S. Ismail 11.35m 99	Venedictovna USSR 22.63m 87	R. Barnes USA 23.12m 90	J. Oakes 19.36m 88	G. Capes 21.68m 80
Discus	J. Abrehart 23.70m 98	N. Blythe 24.18m 94	J. Abrehart 23.30m 99	C Rockcliffe 30.20m 01	J. Abrehart 19.16m 00	N. Blythe 26.50m 96	G. Reinsch Germany 76.80m 88	J. Schult Germany 74.08m 86	M. Ritchie 67.48m 81	P. Wilkins 66.64m 98
Javelin	V. Rondeau 17.10m 96	B. Mabeleng 32.20m 01	I. Ahmed 22.10m 99	F. Abdulla 35.40m 99	S. Markillie 23.60m 94	D. Vernon 35.10m 95	P. Felke Germany 80.00m 88	J. Zelezny Czech Rep 98.48m 96	F. Whitbread 77.44m 86	S. Backley 91.46m 92
Long Jump	A. Munson 3.87m 97	O. Cheema 4.85m 94	K. Locke 3.91m 91	A. White 5.26m 96	K. Locke 3.94m 92	S. Downey 5.34m 97	Chistyakova USSR 7.52m 88	M. Powell USA 8.95m 91	B. Kinch 6.90m 83	L. Davies 8.23m 68
Triple Jump	S. Wellstead 9.42m 93	A. White 11.91m 96	S. Wellstead 9.70m 94	A. White 11.40m 96	K. Locke 92 N.Thorburn96 8.95m	S. Hickland 10.69 91	I. Kravets Ukraine 15.50m 95	J. Edwards GB 18.29m 95	A. Hansen 15.15m 97	J. Edwards 18.29m 95
High Jump	P. Balsom I. Hawkins 1.27m 92	J. Weeks 1.42m 92	I. Hawkins 1.30m 93	P. Baker 1.72m 92	I. Hawkins 1.32m 94	P. Baker 1.68m 93	Kostadinova Bulgaria 2.09m 87	J. Sotomayor Cuba 2.45m 93	D. Davies 1.95m 82	S. Smith 2.37m 93

House Championships 2000 - 01

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Debating	Miltons =1st	Newsoms =1st	Gibbs	Halliwells
Netball	Halliwells	Gibbs	Newsoms	Miltons
Swimming	Gibbs =1st	Newsoms =1st	Halliwells	Miltons
Athletics	Halliwells	Gibbs	Newsoms	Miltons
Basketball	Miltons	Gibbs =2nd	Newsoms =2nd	Halliwells
Rounders	Gibbs	Miltons	Halliwells	Newsoms
Football	Newsoms	Miltons	Gibbs =3rd	Halliwells =3rd
Football	Halliwells	Gibbs	Newsoms	Miltons
Cricket	Halliwells	Gibbs =2nd	Newsoms =2nd	Miltons
Rugby	Gibbs	Miltons	Halliwells =3rd	Newsoms =3rd
Drama	Halliwells =1st	Newsoms =1st	Gibbs =3rd	Miltons =3rd
Hockey (Boys)	Gibbs	Halliwells	Newsoms	Miltons
Hockey (Girls)	Halliwells	Miltons	Gibbs =3rd	Newsoms =3rd
Volleyball	Halliwells	Newsoms	Gibbs	Miltons
Music	Halliwells	Gibbs	Newsoms	Miltons
JUNIOR SHIELD	Halliwells	Gibbs	Newsoms	Miltons
CHALLENGE TROPHY	Halliwells	Gibbs	Newsoms	Miltons

Challenge Trophy: 1999-2000 Gibbs 1998-1999 Newsoms 1997-1998 Gibbs



We had a great sports day



Netball

Year 8

Captained by Marianne Edwards the Year 8 team have been determined to improve their skills this year. Although they have suffered several defeats, their improvement has been shown by convincingly beating St. Catherines and Rowan.

Year 9

The team has had a very successful year, convincingly beating all opposition in the Borough.

Ursuline	won 32-6
The Hall	won 42-6
Rowan	won 24-7
Coombe Girls	won 26-17

Earlier in the season Laura Saker, Amanda Brightwell and Hannah Watkins were chosen for the Surrey trials. Although narrowly missing out on selection, the girls gained a lot of experience during the four-week training. Well done!

Of all the successes this season, the one most remembered was the match against the Year 9 boys football team. Overlooking the girls' ability, talent and team cohesion, the boys confidently strode onto the court only to be beaten 17-1.



Danny Jackson and Harry Bayliss played well despite their lack of knowledge of the rules and inability to keep their feet still, but all credit must go to the girls who took a convincing lead after thirty seconds and never looked back. One up for the women!

Year 10

Matches have been dogged by bad weather and illness but the team remains top of the league.

Year 11

The Year 11 netball team are still unbeaten this year. This is due to an outstanding victory over Ursuline, beating them by one goal in the final moments of the game.

We still have matches to play against Tamworth and The Hall school, but are hoping for victory in the league.

The County Tournament is being held in Croydon on March 9th and although we know there will be tough opposition the team are looking forward to using the experience they gained from the Holland tour.

Still to come is the Merton Tournament. The Year 11 team is very committed and deserves to be victorious in their final tournament.

Tennis



Tennis

We have entered the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 Surrey Schools leagues and the Under 13 and Under 15 HSBC competition. Matches start immediately after Easter.

Ball boys/girls 2002

We were fortunate in our numbers this year with fifteen of our students going through for training with Mrs. Rundle and Mr Wonfor (back for his last year). The students have worked hard to qualify and I hope they continue to do well at Wimbledon. Ball boys/girls are: James Boore, Sam Francis, Jonathan Pinn, Louis Mitha, Tanser Ozdemir, Luke Morgan, Joe Laffar, Michael Sexton, Michael Cashmore, Matt Hillier, Vicky Patching, Keiley Stowe, Amy Edgeworth, Dan Lyle and Sam Bordbar.

Mixed Hockey



The Year 9 players have held their own this year, losing only two games in the whole season. Overall they came third in the league and qualified for the finals day.

The Year 10 team won all but one of their games this year, being beaten narrowly by Oxted. The finals day matches will give them all to play for and includes a rematch against Oxted). Good luck to all players.

James Boore, Neil Allen, Rachel Smith and Louis Mitha need a special mention for being top goal scorers in their league table. I would also like to wish James Boore good luck in his trial for Surrey later this year. Lynsey Buzwell deserves commendation for successfully gaining a place in the Surrey hockey team two years in a row. Well done Lynsey.

For the first time Bushey Middle School joined our mixed league as our Junior 'B' team. This meant that we had four teams representing our school in the two leagues. I am happy to say that all four teams have qualified for the



finals day on Wednesday March 20th. The Astroturf has contributed in no small measure to our successes, enabling the development of skills and the blossoming of talent. We would like to thank all those who helped make the Astroturf possible. Our hockey teams are certainly reaping the rewards.

Year 8

The Year 8 team has been successful in qualifying for the finals day on March 20th.

Well played this season to Kenny Mitha, and Hannah Cleevely, our top goal scorers.

Results:

de Stafford	Drew
St Andrews	Drew
Oxted	Lost
Coulsdon	Won

A.Routledge & A.Readings

Changes ahead?

For some time now we have been considering a complete review of house activities. The last one took place at the time of re-organisation in the early nineties.

During the past few years some local schools have abandoned their house systems but ours is still going strong. Each year small amendments are made, new activities are introduced and sometimes others are dropped.

Last year we tried table tennis to see if it would work and it proved successful. This year we tried tug-of-war, which took place in the week before Christmas with two teams taking part from each tutor group. The competition went very well and definitely has a future. If anyone works for Taylor Woodrow, would they please have a word with the management, as Raynes Park High would be most grateful for a fine tug-of-war trophy. Tell them how valuable the publicity would be.

Another competition, once very popular, but which has not been held for a number of years, is house chess. This is going to take place once again this year, adding to our non-sporting events such as drama, music and debating.

J.Derrington

Great netball



Some parts of the training were tiring but we kept going and came second overall. We had a great time. It was good experience and that's all thanks to the teachers - Aimee Howard

It was really good to play against people from different schools and to meet new people - Kelly Stow

It was a great experience. All together it was a good opportunity to make new friends and I feel I have benefited from all the training. There was great competition and the matches were brilliant fun - Side Underwood

The coaches were really encouraging and made me more confident in playing netball - Emma Dry

It was great. I had so much fun. The coaches were brilliant and I felt I learned a lot more. It gave us the chance to meet new friends - Vicky Patching

The coaches helped me improve my skills and the fun never stopped - Cheryl Botting



..... in Holland



The trip was really good fun and the coaches taught us new and exciting things. The trip also gave us a chance to meet new people and make friends with other schools -
Becky Howard

I've never seen so many good-looking boys in a week - Natalie Gledhill

It was excellent making new friends from different schools - Jenny Rose

It was a battle of a lifetime. Tension was rising in the last two minutes, but I had to play on - even with an injured hand! - Laura Dolby



Brilliant! I'm much more confident and it really helps you improve your skills - Katie Evans

I had the time of my life. I enjoyed meeting new and OK people. The boys were 100% OK - Christina Hollarhine-Brown

It was really good to play against different people and learn from new coaches - Natalie Vineer

It was non-stop fun from start to finish - Hannah Baillie



Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

I have a problem with Mrs Bell, she always shouts at me even when I am only two minutes late. When she shouts it is so loud it's like the glass is going to break. When I try to explain she refuses to listen. Please do something about it.

A frustrated student

Sorry, nothing I can do about it. That's just what Mrs Bell does to me when I ask her to write for the Spur. Try not to be late.

Editor

Dear Editor,

I had a problem with my maths coursework and it took about three weeks before I handed it in to Mr Scott. He was very understanding about it but said "if anyone should have handed coursework in on time you should". I am worried in case I have disappointed him.

A keen mathematician

You will get away with anything, as far as Mr Scott is concerned, if you say you are a Newcastle United supporter, but hand work in on time in future.

Editor

Dear Editor,

I think the best year of school is Year 10 because around June you get to do work experience. I think that every pupil should do the two weeks because you enjoy your self as well as learning a lot.

William Miles 11MZ

Yes William, work experience does give you a real insight into why people try to persuade you to concentrate on your studies in school. You see what you might do when you finally manage to escape.

Editor

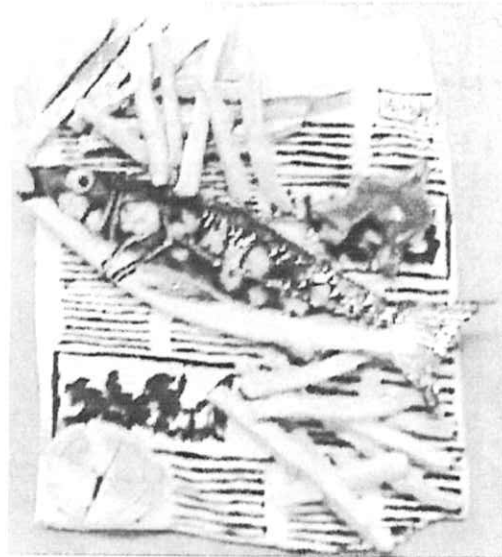
Dear Editor,

I think that it was good that the lottery gave Raynes Park High School the money for the Astro Turf. It means that my football team can now train on it.

Kirsty Steers

It just shows that gambling can pay. So long as it's other people's money and not ours. I hope that your football team tops the table.

Editor



Ceramic
fish & chips

Neil Cottrell

Dear Editor

I loved the talent show, especially since I got the chance to do what I love, choreography and dance. My group consisted of eight people (4 boys and 4 girls). We danced to Lady Dynamites - Boo! and it was mostly dance hall. I have been doing contemporary dance for the past six years, but I would love to be able to breakdance, since it is quite complex and looks good. I have been told that I am a strong performer and street dance is what I am good at, as well as choreography.

The performance went really well and everyone participating wanted to do again. I got a rush out of performing, so did the rest of my group. Hopefully we can do it again!

Lisa-Marie Hawkins 11MZ

The talent show was great. You were all brill. Get to work on the next show. It sounds as though you have a career in mind. Look forward to seeing your name in lights. All the best.

Editor

Dear Editor

"And we're back in 5 kiddies." Those were the words from Nicholas Moses who played Neil, the camp floor manager in the Milton's house play 'Light & Flaky'.

We started the whole thing in the summer holidays but 'Light & Flaky' wasn't our original play. It was called 'Teacher's'. However we decided that it wasn't for us, so we decided to do 'Light & Flaky'. Even though the original idea wasn't ours, Davin King wrote every scene. The directors were Louise

Gaskin, Davin King, Donal McAuley, Byron Walker and Glen Armstrong. However even though Nicholas Moses didn't direct the plays he still was a key part in our production and I feel no one else could have played the role. Over ten weeks I think it would be fair to say that it wasn't easy, we didn't have the quietest of casts or the politest.

A critical correspondent

Despite your rude and noisy cast (You said it!) the play was the tops. Well done all of you

Editor

Dear Editor

The Multi Cultural party were the deserved victors in the mock elections with their opponents. Labour, Liberal Democrats and the Universal party trailed far behind.

The European Clubbers party had a sorry campaign.

The Respect party led bravely and boldly by Morgan Harriot, did well, largely by promising to give the pupils graffiti wall at school. He was asked "wouldn't people go over somebody else's graffiti". Morgan's quick wit and fast thinking made his debate very strong, he replied "Do you see people getting out a pencil and drawing on the Mona Lisa". For this I had to applaud him, even though he was my rival and probably the only party that I thought could actually give my party (the MC's) some sort of competition.

After a couple of hard weeks of performing in assemblies and long hard debates, the MC's came out the victors and not to get too big headed or to blow my own trumpet I thought we deserved to win. The debate was won not only on popularity but also on the debating skills of myself and my fellow candidates Keisha Baker-Benjamin and Nicholas Moses

Tyrone Nichols

Congratulations! Like all politicians you do have a high opinion of yourselves. Westminster awaits you.

Editor

Dear Editor

When I was in Year 9 we had the chance of a lifetime to travel to Austria skiing. When the time came you could see the excitement on my classmates' faces. However when we arrived at the hotel or hostel as we liked to

call it was not quite what we had expected. Food was served in a large hall (the mess hall) where you had to collect your own food and lay your own table. The food was somewhat below gourmet standard. The rooms were quite nice. The skiing was fantastic and I really enjoyed it

Winter sports enthusiast

Always go for 5-star luxury in future. Next time tell Mr Kedge what you require and let the others go elsewhere. No doubt the skiers will have a great time in America this Easter.

Editor

Dear Editor

I wonder if you can cast some light on what seems to me a baffling problem. Why is it that captains of England's cricket team just cannot win the toss? The records of Atherton, Stewart and Hussain are astonishingly consistent. They just don't know how to call correctly. This puts us at a severe immediate tactical disadvantage when we are already struggling to put out a competitive team. Surely this goes against what Mr Scott taught us about equal probability. How can Hussain lose the toss eleven times in twelve matches?

Robert Newman

Well Robert you will just have to accept that mathematicians don't live in the real world.. Can you still believe that the square root of 144 really is 12?

Editor



Can you identify this picturesque local scene?

Bribery & corruption?

The house debating competition is quite often seen as a dull and uninspiring event. However secrecy and controversy surrounded last year's contest.

As the final debate loomed, the scores were tied. If Miltons won the debate we would be crowned champions for the second year running. We needed to be certain that we would win, second place would not suffice.

After a desperate appeal in assembly we found the chink in the "learned and honourable" armour of Mr Carter, the librarian, who judges the debates. The library was in a frantic search for Walkers' "books for schools" vouchers. We had found what we were looking for, the plan was simple, we would bribe Mr Carter! We would collect as many crisp packets as we could before the crucial debate.

Of course we had to communicate with the adjudicator in a non-suspicious manner. We devised a cunning method to do this - a book with a hole in it! It was time to begin our operation. We placed a letter and around fifty crisp packets in our special book. We then positioned the book on the



second from top row in the literature section of the library. At break we gave an unsuspecting small child no choice but to give Mr Carter a letter explaining our offer and where to find our initial instalment. However we needed to collect a lot more tokens, this was not a task that could be completed easily. We gathered crisp packets from wherever we could. Families, friends and even unsuspecting pupils from other classes. We were astounded by the response we had to our pleas, receiving over one hundred tokens in the first week. Break times were turning into a frantic pursuit for more packets.

We were to get a surprise the next day when we received a reply from the library. To our astonishment Mr Carter accepted our offer with great enthusiasm. Over the next few weeks we contacted the library regularly leaving "taster" packets to assure the adjudicator that we were not bluffing.

The final debate was closing in and we had already surpassed our initial targets. To show how well we were doing we included a picture with our next letter. It showed us with our booty of over two hundred and fifty tokens in a briefcase. Of course we concealed our identities, so that we could not be incriminated. On the day of the debate we decided to inform Mr Carter that, if Miltons were to lose, plenty of other schools would be happy to accept the tokens. This sent an impression of shock and panic across his usually bland face.

After the debate had taken place (a very close, tense and well-fought battle) everybody waited for the results. It was expected to be very tight, as this was the decider. There was great surprise when Mr Carter announced Miltons had won by a large margin. He then gave us an assuring gaze.

The following morning three packages arrived on the library desk. They were stuffed with Walkers tokens from crisp packets and newspapers. Mr Carter had a real job cutting out all three hundred of them, but his love for books kept him going. Nothing has been said since about the whole incident in case Miltons should be stripped of the title. Now, after nearly a year has passed, we believe it safe to reveal what happened in the debating competition of 2001.

Miltons Yr10 Debating Team

Dear Mr Carter

As you well know there is currently a Year 10 debating competition under way in the library. It has come to the attention of the Miltons debating team that you will be marking these debates. We realise that this is a very important and skilful job. We have also noticed that you are currently collecting "books for schools" vouchers which you receive with packets of crisps and newspapers. To assist you with your campaign, Miltons debating team have decided to "donate" some vouchers to you. This initial "donation" will hopefully be followed by some more, but Miltons only like to "donate" when they are happy.

You can collect the first "donation" by finding the big brown book in the literature section. There is a hole inside this book (don't worry it's not one of yours) where the vouchers are secreted. If you would like to leave a message for us there you may, and this will be our means of communication from now on. Please do not show this letter to anybody or mention the "donation", as we would not like people to think that it is a bribe. Do not even mention it to the people you suspect may have left this letter. Let's just keep it our private little "donation" for now, eh? We look forward to seeing you at the debate.

**REMEMBER MILTONS EAT MORE CRISPS
WHEN THEY WIN!**

Miltons Yr10 Debating Team

Dear Librarian

We are now only a week and a half a way from the final stages of the debating competition and maybe Miltons winning the championship. Luckily for you, librarian, we have been eating lots of crisps late. In fact we ate so many crisps over the holiday that we can now offer you over one hundred "books for schools" vouchers. We've given you a little taster here but nothing like you'll get soon. Of course though, if Miltons do not end up winning we may have to give our little booty to Bushey Middle.

To give you a little more incentive we will also include over one hundred "computers for schools" vouchers.

We would also like to thank you for your reply note. Remember you can always contact us through *the book*. Please place it back in the literature section when you are finished. Remember not to talk to or make contact with us, as we wouldn't want anybody to find out about our private donation.

Miltons Yr10 Debating Team

A follow up note to the 'Honourable Adjudicator':

We now have over one hundred and fifty "books for schools" and two hundred computer vouchers.

I have heard that Bushey Middle are desperate for more crisp packets. We are sure that

there will be no contest between Miltons and Gibbs.

You will receive your last 'donation' tomorrow depending on the circumstances.

Sincerely
'M'

A response from the Librarian;

I must be honest. I was tempted and I fell almost.

In my defence let me just draw to your attention the unscrupulously calculated nature of the plan. Not for these devious Miltonian characters anything unsubtle, such as nobbling the opposition speakers. No they aim to suborn the adjudicator himself. Do they simply offer him a bundle of used banknotes? No they realise that my character is such that I would indignantly refuse anything so sordid, so demeaning. Anyway it is the bounden duty of every pupil, parent and teacher to collect "books for schools" tokens by the barrow-load and deliver them to the library. In this way we can collect at no cost to ourselves a fine selection of books covering every sort of topic, both fiction and non-fiction, such as Harry Potters, English dictionaries, atlases and countless others. This not only gives the Librarian and the readers great pleasure but also affords the said pupils, parents and teachers the opportunity of gorging themselves on a variety of Walkers' crisps and reading the Sun and the News of the World until they're cross-eyed- all with a feeling of virtue, however spurious, because they are advancing the cause of education. But I digress.

Yes, I was tempted, but came the actual day of the final, deciding debate, my conscience twinged, impartiality ruled, honesty prevailed and Miltons won purely on merit. Their corrupt scheming was all in vain but I kept the tokens.

J.R.L.Carter

Do not blame God for having created the tiger, but thank him for not having given it wings.

Indian proverb

Demon's Lodge

It was a cold, winter's night. The moon was sparkling through the bare branches of the trees and the wind was rustling the leaves that had settled on the ground. There was a narrow country road that ran along the edge of the lifeless forest. Peter was driving home from a hard day at work and was looking forward to sitting down and spending some time with his wife and kids. Peter knew the roads around the area well but didn't know how he had strayed off course and managed to come across this great big house.

The house was old and had a large ground floor balcony with an oak timber framed staircase leading to the front door. Although he was tired he was puzzled as to how he had never seen the old house before. As he got nearer he could see the state of the tiles on the roof and the condition of the old style window shutters.

There was something very special about the house. There seemed to be a certain beauty to it that attracted him to the stairs at of the house. As he walked forward he could feel the bitterness of the wind that shot a shivery sensation down the centre of his spine. The wind blew through the tall grass and made the lose shutters rattle against the house. The door mysteriously opened and a weak and breath-

less voice invited him inside "welcome to the Demon's Lodge. Please come in and make yourself at home." The voice repeated. Peter was in a ghostly trance. Despite his attempts to escape the bitter evil of the house he staggered slowly through the front door. He could see dusty cobwebs and old staves. The door slammed behind but did not make a sound, just sending a wave of cold air and dust through the hallway of the old house.

Peter jumped and shivered for a second and looked around. There must have been someone living there as he could hear footsteps coming towards him. the footsteps got louder but he was all alone in the hallway. Footprints were engraved in the thick layer of dust over the floor and as they got nearer he could hear the ghostly whisper that he had heard when he was invited in the old house, it said "welcome to the Demon's Lodge, you will be staying your last ever night here.....tonight!" he trembled and tried to head towards the front door, he was trapped, something had taken over his body. He couldn't move, he couldn't speak he was a prisoner of his own body. As if he were a zombie he walked along the narrow hallway and through a great big oak door. He turned around, closed the door and was never seen again.

Chris Warren 9MX



Demon's Lodge Max Briese Yr 10

PRIZES AND AWARDS SUMMER 2001

<i>Prize</i>	<i>Recipient(s)</i>
<i>Sportsperson</i>	Joanne Abrehart
<i>Eric Parker</i>	Robert Newman
<i>RP Former Pupils</i>	Jordan Tchilingirian*, Louisa French*, Kirsty Vallance*, Danny Brunt*
<i>David Giles</i>	Jordan Tchilingirian
<i>Drama</i>	Kirsty Vallance
<i>Debating</i>	Danny Brunt
<i>Music</i>	Louisa French, Helen Lander, Iman Ahmed
<i>John Massey</i>	Nadeen Ahmed
<i>Mike Nancarrow</i>	Katie Evans
<i>Headteacher's</i>	James Daly, Helen Smith, Nicola Holmes, Christopher Dick, Amy Fraser, John Mooney, Emma Arnot, Helen Evans, Lauren Harwood, Faisal Abdalla, Joel Cox, Chris Glover
<i>Cross-Country</i>	Paul Drake, Jason Loewenthal
<i>Peter Gill Community Service</i>	William Pritchard

<i>English</i>	Louisa French Robert Newman	<i>Information Technology</i>	Michael Cullen Payal Patel
<i>Art</i>	Stuart Boyd Nicole Pullen Helen Lander	<i>Business Studies</i>	William Armstrong Annabel Pearson
<i>MFL</i>	Robert Newman	<i>RE</i>	Mohammad Qureshi
<i>Geography</i>	Annabel Pearson Rebecca Rudd Chana Guy	<i>Progress Award</i>	James Gathercole
<i>History</i>	William Armstrong	<i>GNVQ</i>	Emma Arnott
<i>Science</i>	Nick Warren Rhys Jones Charlotte Higgins	<i>Technology</i>	Graham Winters Emma Winslow Elnaz Niknani
		<i>Mathematics</i>	Nick Warren Helen Lander Cally Walker

<i>Drama</i>	Louisa French, Charlotte Higgins, Helen Smith, Faisal Abdalla, Ross Shrubsole, Charlie Bonnett, Sean Millward, Michael Ogunjobi, Wilfred Rockcliffe, Magalia Williams, Stephen Leach.
<i>Debates</i>	Stuart Boyd, + Simon O'Meara, Faisal Abdalla, Emma Arnot, Charlie Bonnett, Jamie Bordbar, Nathan Carty, Rebecca Gould, Kevin McLeod, Sean Millward, John Mooney, Michael Ogunjobi, Wilfred Rockcliffe, Ross Shrubsole, Emma Winslow

* Lifetime Membership of RPFPS

Linguist in action



Looking at holiday destinations amongst colleagues - USA, Spain and France, as well as home in the garden (echoes of Voltaire's *Candide*), made me feel that my choice of Nem-



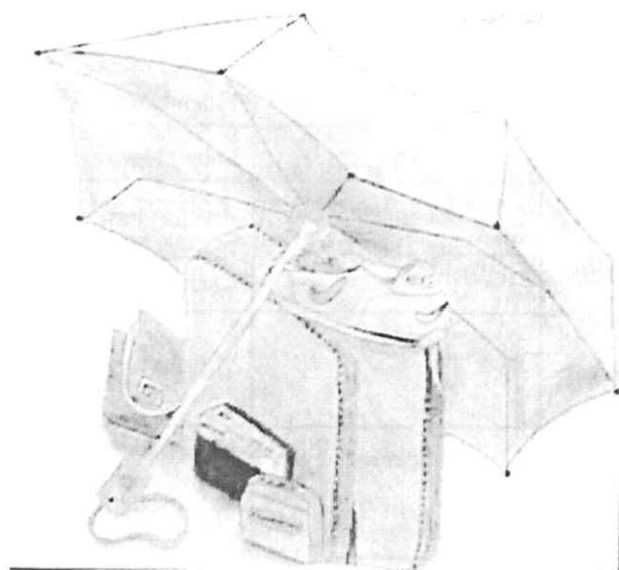
icky Dvur, right in the depths of the Czech countryside, matched up to any ideas of escapism, getting away from it all, needing a real break! And indeed, that is exactly what I got - a holiday free of pollution, louts, noise and Brits. We relished the slow pace of life and the expansive golden landscape, visiting quality world heritage cultural sites, not forgetting the good food and drink, with very friendly and helpful people at every corner, especially when spoken to in their own language, be it just the set phrases from a phrase book with doubtful pronunciation! I felt quite pleased to have a taste of another language in this European Year of Languages. Having taken up the Languages Challenge for the EYOL by learning Spanish from scratch and sitting the Initial exam in May, I was pleasantly rewarded in August, by the news that I had passed.....and here was another opportunity in the Czech Republic to tackle a

language - not so difficult for me, already familiar with a few grammars and vocabularies, and with the Polish language. The difference my efforts at "Dobry den, nashledanou, dekuji, jak se mate?, prosim" made, were amazing and led to more confidence. Faces lit up, people spoke to us and laughed. I was not always sure I understood the directions or helpful suggestions, but it did not seem to matter. We got there in the end; we had made contact. By the end of our stay, we were no longer religiously reading the English texts of the Czech-run guided tours; we were listening and understanding the gist. We were sad to leave the Czech Republic, which has so much to offer, and is as yet relatively uncontaminated.

Our subsequent week in ultra-organised and more densely populated, what was once Eastern Germany, took some getting used to. People insisted on speaking English at the slightest hint of a foreign accent.

Holidays are about people - Languages are the key.

Alex Radowicz



Beneath the umbrella

Claire Downs

Did you know?

Emus cannot walk backwards.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten.

No word in the English language rhymes with month.

At the Royal Albert Hall



On 14th March 2001 the Royal Albert Hall rang with the sound of eight hundred young people aged twelve to seventeen, all making music to a near-professional standard.

All these schoolchildren benefit from the work of the music services in the boroughs of Richmond upon Thames, Kingston, Merton, Hounslow and Sutton.

The Massed band, one hundred and eighty strong, gave dazzling performances of film and theatre music including 2001- a space Odyssey, Star Wars, Les Miserables, Where Eagles Dare and West Side Story.

The Classical Orchestra, including a string section with fifty-nine violins, wowed the audience with works such as Mars and Jupiter from Holst's Planets, Walton's Coronation March and Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

The famous cannon fire in the overture was excitingly performed by the choir bursting five thousand paper bags, kindly supplied by McDonald's Restaurants, one of the sponsors.

The choir of five hundred, working with the Curious Opera Company, performed an exciting world premiere, Voice Truth.

A sizeable contingent from Raynes Park thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and made a sig-



nificant contribution to its success

All who took part in this event will never forget being part of such a musically challenging and brilliant event. We can be very proud of our hugely talented local schoolchildren.

European year of languages

The EYL began in January with a display in the main foyer. Greetings of Happy New Year and Merry Xmas were on display in several different languages written by students.

In February, to celebrate Valentine's day the phrase 'I love you' was again put in many languages and displayed in the foyer.



Throughout February and March themed lunches were offered in the canteen. This occurred every Thursday over a period of weeks. The menus ranged from Italian lasagna to Greek moussaka.

In April students once again contributed to a 'welcome' in twenty-five different languages. These photos were mounted and the words were put into speech bubbles. This poster is now displayed in the foyer near the main entrance of the school. It was used for a competition entered by Years 8 and 9. The challenge was to find out what the twenty-five languages were. The winner was Jenani Jegatheswaran and there were three prizes for runners up.

The final event of this year was an assembly for Years 8 and 9. Students in these years all said six basic sentences in their languages and the rest of the students tried to work out what they had said. These students were presented with certificates for their participation in the assembly.

A little too late, is much too late.

A teacher is better than two books

German proverbs

Geography Isle of Wight



I thoroughly enjoyed the trip. As well as work there was fun. The fieldwork was very interesting. Our activities made us think and work as a team.

We plunged into rivers and measured the speed of the current using high tech equipment. We studied erosion on the nearby beach.



After our work we enjoyed playing laser quest, football and a cool game called Aero-Ball. To top it all off a disco was laid on for us!

Luke Oldland



No sooner had we arrived at the Kingswood Centre than we were off to our classrooms to begin our studies of river erosion. Obviously relaxation was called for after that. Laser Quest and Aero-Ball were on offer. Equipment for the latter was a big court divided into four sections, a trampoline and a hoop. Teams of two.

Make what you can of that but it's really fun. Then hungry time, nice dinner.

We spent the next morning in Smallbrook River measuring current speed. It was really tiring and we needed lunch to restore our energy. We followed this up with computer work, constructing graphs.

Quad biking was next on the list, the hardest activity of all. Good for a laugh, even if you do fall off like Dipesh Patel.

The disco and TV's Match of the Day finished off our evening.

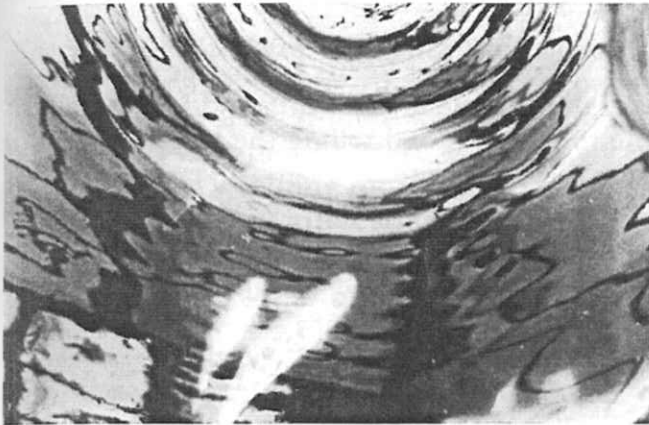
Next morning off to the beach, not for the sunloungers but for work. That was interesting and in fact I enjoyed the whole weekend.

Louise Gaskin

Examine what is said, not he who speaks.

For every glance behind us, we have to look twice to the future....Arab Proverbs

Artists at Kew Gardens



As we walked towards the gardens we picked up leaves for our drawing work back at school.

At the gardens our first stop was at the Marianne North Gallery. Unusually for a young woman in Victorian times Marianne had travelled to many far away countries producing many beautiful paintings in the course of her travels. We were each asked to select a painting and to sketch a section of it. I drew some aquatic plants.

We then toured the temperate house, the palm house and the Princess of Wales conservatory. The next part of our exercise was to make three drawings, one line, one tonal and one showing structure. My line drawing was from the temperate house and the other two from the palm house. Altogether it was an enjoyable excursion.

James Boore

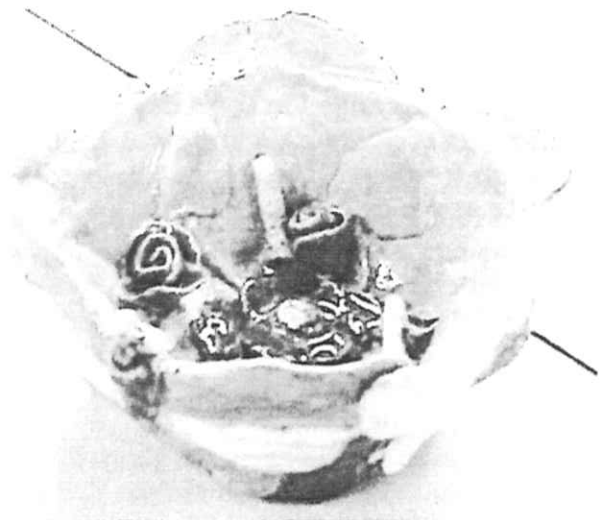
Photos at Kew by members of the art class



King's Day bread

For the past term our Food Technology group have been doing Tex-Mex food. We did a variety of different recipes including Burritos, Mexican Burgers, Tomato Salsa and lots more. At the end of the course we could choose our own Tex-Mex meal to make. We chose to make Kings Day Bread, a recipe we found in a Mexican cookbook. When we saw it we didn't really think much of it, so we moved on. But it ended up being our choice. We had to use about twice the amount of flour that it said in the recipe and we never imagined that it would turn out as good as it did. We had to wait for two hours for it to rise, and then it had to cook for half an hour. When we had to decorate it with fruit and icing. The end result tasted very nice, but was a bit of trouble to make.

Stuart Hemmingway & Edward Carey



Rose bowl ceramic

Cally Walker

Secrets Revealed

I look at you – it makes me think
 I glanced at you and saw you wink
 My heart feels light and full of love
 For you're as pure as a free white dove
 When you're around my heart goes boom
 If you weren't here there would be gloom
 I want to tell you how I feel
 I would even get on one knee and kneel
 To tell you how I feel for you
 And hope its what you feel like too
 I love you more than life itself
 And really hope you keep good health
 There's just one thing I want to say
 I think about you every day

Mark Clevely

Auntie Maria's problem page

Dear Auntie Maria,

I can't concentrate on my coursework at home. I've tried a lot of things from sitting by myself without music or with music or even with my family in the room. It's just so boring!

Please can you give me some advice?

Dear Emma,

Pack in the work and go clubbing.

Auntie Maria

Dear Auntie Maria,

I cannot get on with my English teacher because any little thing I do he tells me off for it.

Sometimes he might ask the class who wants paper and because I'm too busy getting my books out of my bag, I can't hear him. When I ask him for paper later on in the lesson he shouts at me or sends me out.

Now that I have coursework I am finding it hard but I am too scared to ask for help.

What should I do?

Westlife fan

Dear Westlife fan,

Your teacher obviously has a problem. Tell him that if he sees a psychiatrist you'll give him just one more chance.

Auntie Maria

Dear Auntie Maria,

The teacher keeps telling me off. The boy next to me is annoying and keeps getting me told off. I tried telling the teacher but she won't listen to me.

Dip

Dear Dip

Emma *Try shouting, your class may be so noisy that the teacher can't hear you.*

Auntie Maria

Dear Auntie Maria,

I am finding it really hard to deal with the pressure of exams and I can't concentrate when it comes to revising for them. What's the best way for keeping calm when it comes to exams and revising for them?

Help!

Worried Blue fan

Dear Worried Blue fan,

Make up your mind that you know it all already, relax and hope for the best.

Auntie Maria

Dear Auntie Maria,

I am really feeling low at the moment because of all the stress from the house plays. All of my close friends are arguing over silly things, like the colour of a skirt or the style of someone's hair and it's really getting me down. I feel like everyone hates each other and that it's going to go on forever! What should I do?

Natalie Vineer 11MZ

Dear Natalie

There's nothing like a real good laugh to drive away the blues but make sure you run before your friends catch you. When you think about it they really are a funny lot. Not like you and me.

Auntie Maria



Year 8 Science Club

On 28th June the Year 8 Science Club visited Earls Court for the Tomorrow's World Expedition. When we arrived there we had an hour by ourselves to explore. There were many gadgets, such as talking robots, the latest computers and very interesting and exciting simulators!

When the hour was up we went to see Robot Wars being filmed. The robots were huge in comparison with what we see on television. It was extremely exciting to see it being filmed and to see all the destruction. We saw the presenter Craig Charles and his guest Mick Foley (Mankind from WWF).

After that we had another look round the exhibition and guess who was filming and signing autographs, it was Philippa Forester and Peter Snow from Tomorrow's World! We also saw actors from the TV show Grange Hill, they were trying to cook, and eat, exotic food. The exhibition covered a wide range of subjects including travel, music, health and entertainment. We had a go at playing with the Cyber Pets and we talked to a giant robot and shook hands with a life-size alien.

At the end of the day we didn't want to go because we'd had such a fantastic time and hope to go again. On behalf of everyone who went on the trip we would like to thank Mr Ashton and Mr Stapleton for organising such a wonderful trip.

The Weed Bus

*Bright green natural glow.
Killer lights growing annoyingly.
Wiry screeching wheels,
With the wild non-stop puff of smoke,
Filters out pretty daisy chains.
Naturally seeming uglier as its
Mysterious rattle keeps on growing
And growing towards the sunlight.
The weeds shout disturbingly,
Tangling up the silent thoughts of the weed killer.
Urging him to stop nature's racket.
This never-ending monster will always be there.*

Tanya Buller & Katharine Lister

Wind & solar energy



Our school is the first school in Merton to have a wind turbine and solar panel. The system was donated by the local environmental charity RENEUE (Renewable Energy in the Urban Environment). The power from our system will be used to run some of our computers.

"This device is installed at Raynes Park High School to generate not only watts but especially inspiration. It is vital to ensure that the next generation is familiar with the concept of renewable energy to be able to combat the problems that arise by using fossil fuels and nuclear power", said Tuija Halonen, the Renewable Energy Manager at RENEUE.

Accompanying the system there is software, which will enable us to display output on the Merton Schools Intranet, so that all students in Merton can study such power generation. Our own website will make this information available world-wide as will a national website where UK schools will share information on renewable energy projects.



Boots

Martin Fields

Northern line

..... some fascinating facts from an article by Stefanie Atchinson (*Metro Reporter*) in the *Metro* free paper 5th December 2001

Balham, butt of Peter Sellars' joke of being "the gateway to the south", was the last station to be completed in the extension programme in 1926. It was the year of the General Strike, the birth of the Queen and the invention of television by John Logie Baird. Then the cost of a weekly ticket between Charing Cross and Morden was just five shillings and sixpence – 27.5p in today's money. In 1900 Morden had just nine hundred and sixty inhabitants. Its population shot up to 12,618 within five years of the line opening. Success, however, brought its own problems. As trains approached the centre of London, they became crowded. By the 1930s, the letters pages of *the Times* began to carry complaints and correspondents exchanged guesses at the numbers of passengers being squeezed into train carriages. Now the Northern Line is providing the most reliable service in its history, with record-breaking reliability levels.

A few facts:

- The line runs 36 miles between Morden and Edgware, Mill Hill and High Barnet
- There are 51 stations with 204 million journeys being made last year
- Between East Finchley and Morden, via Bank is the Tube's longest tunnel- and one of the longest rail tunnels in the world – at 17.25miles
- A 20-year, £1bn improvement programme for the line is underway, particularly south of Balham
- It is now the Tube's top performing line



En route for Morden

Recipe of the year!

King prawns in tomato & chili sauce

Serves 4:

Ingredients:

750g (1lb 10oz) Fresh or frozen king prawns (In their shells)
5tbsp Olive oil
250ml (9fl oz) Passata
3 Cloves of garlic
2 Dried red chillies
Pinch of salt
Fresh chopped parsley

Preparation & Cooking:

Give the prawns a quick rinse in cold water then pat dry.

Heat the oil in a large deep frying pan with garlic and chillies.

Cook over a medium heat for 5 minutes, stirring frequently to prevent burning.

Stir in the passata, cover and simmer for 5 minutes.

Add the prawns and season. Stir constantly and warm prawns over a high heat for about five minutes.

Cover with a lid and remove from heat.

Leave them to stand for three minutes, then transfer to a warm platter, and sprinkle with parsley.

Serve at once with plenty of Italian bread.

Answers to the riddles:

1. A screwdriver
 2. A bottle
 3. A pelican
 4. Close the door, I'm dressing
 5. It was run down.
 6. He couldn't tell the time.
 7. Meet you at the corner.
 8. Noise
- Bet you didn't get all of them!*

The Seasons

Natalie Vineer

Autumn

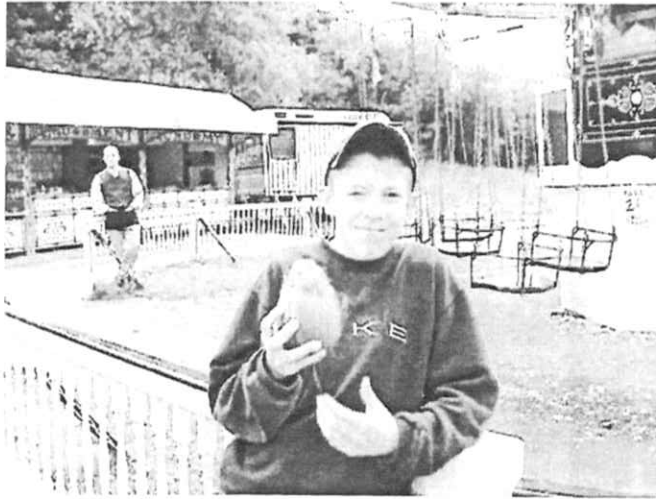
Autumn is filled with pretty colours,
Like red, orange, yellow and brown.
Leaves fall from trees leaving them bare,
As they fall, they float to the ground.
Animals prepare for hibernation,
Collecting food such as nuts.
Sleeping in burrows until summer.
Keeping their eyes tightly shut.
The days get shorter and we gain an hour,
Giving us more time in bed.
Dreaming about what the next day will hold,
Going over what people have said.
Halloween takes place in October,
Dressing-up gives people a fright.
Guy Fawkes takes place in November,
Giving us another fun night.
New school year is well under way,
Learning new things, building a career.
Sometimes you make brand new friends,
Starting new schools sometimes brings fear.
Conkers are associated with Autumn,
And so are leaves and wind.
Twigs and small branches cover the ground.
These kinds of things need eventually to be
binned.
Some people like Summer, some like Spring,
Others like the Winter months.
Everyone else likes Autumn,
Each of the four seasons are made up of three
months,
Autumn is here and Autumn is fun, Autumn is
a season for everyone.



Winter

Winter brings us ice cold days,
And the Christmas holidays.
Snowflakes fall from the sky,
As excited kids pass us by.
Lakes freeze over to solid ice,
Animals hibernate, such as mice.
Hats, scarves, gloves and big warm jackets,
It's the time to walk on wooden rackets.
Skating and skiing are some winter sports,
Just make sure you hide all the Christmas pre-
sies you've bought.
Cups of cocoa, by the fire,
With the people you admire.
Slipping and sliding on your journey to school'
If you get seen you'll get called a fool.
The trees and hills look white not green,
When you build snowmen it's the kids who are
seen.
On Christmas eve Santa comes,
And delivers presents for the little ones.
We have mince pies, turkey and lots of drinks,
Everyone's faces turn different shades of pink.
Holly and mistletoe are two winter plants,
And people in pubs enjoy a friendly dance.
Fir trees are used for our Christmas trees,
Can we help put the star on the top please?
Christmas records are played over and over
again,
After a while they become a bit of a pain.
Rosy cheeks and a glowing red nose'
I think I have frost bite on my toes!
Winter is really, really fun,
The only thing is there is no sun!

Staffordshire here we come!



From the pictures you can see that there were some strenuous activities for all our students at the Blist Hill Centre where we were located.

The day of our Iron-bridge expedition began at 7am after a night of little sleep and much fun trying to get scores of children from several schools to settle down. We trooped into breakfast and then



headed with our trusty driver to Ironbridge. The museums at Ironbridge are well worth a visit, although some students weren't too sure of this. We arrived early and had time to visit the cafe, where fifty students, four teachers and one long-suffering bus driver formed a long queue for bacon butties, cakes, coke..... the poor girl behind the coun-



ter didn't know what had hit her. After all of us were served we set off to the museum.

It is a living museum, set out as a street



about 100 years ago and our first port of call was the bank, where we were greeted by the "Victorian" manager who changed our money into "old" money. He commented with surprise on the fact that some ladies these days wore trousers and often not a hat!

We took a long stroll down the street, visiting the various shops - the chemist, the baker, the tin smith, the forge and so on, oh and the pub with beer at a penny a pint! A highlight was encountering the policeman pursuing a poacher, and the ensuing row that followed.



At the end of the village was the fun fair with swingboats, swing chairs, rifle range, coconut shy amongst its attractions. So that's where Peter, Kate, Lesa and Denise were immortalised photographically as teachers in 1901 and our students experienced something rather different from daily life in Raynes Park.

Yr8 comments on Spur 2001

The poems on the first page were very good.

I liked pictures in between the writing.

I thought the magazine was alright but some of the articles were too long and they needed to be more eye-catching.

I think the magazine is quite good because it has lots of pictures, which make it more interesting. It has something about every subject and has something for every year group.

One thing that could make it better is having colour pictures!!! *(The editor agrees but at present that would make the Spur far too costly.)*

The magazine has every single detail of what the School has done during the year.

I think that the pictures that people drew are excellent.

I think that the magazine is really good but it could do with some puzzles and games. Also I think a story written by a pupil would be good.

Do a monthly edition of the Spur *(Aaaagh! Editor)*

It shows how the pupils work hard.

I like the idea of having quite a few photographs as well as writing. I like to try and see if there is anyone I know.

The stories written by pupils are fun and interesting to read.

I thought the Spur was good because it not only included teachers' thoughts but it allowed pupils to express their feelings.

People don't want to read lots of writing!

To guess is cheap, to guess wrong is expensive.

An egg today is better than a chicken tomorrow.

African proverbs



*Charlie Leman's
Chinese Dragon*

A sporting year 2000 - 01

Already in September, in the Year 8 Super-teams competition, I was joining in sports activities and team games. Since then I had been eagerly glancing at the Sports notice-board at school every time I passed....and I made sure I did that quite often. Finally I saw that I had been chosen for the football team. I was really excited and then proud. Since then I have been busy. We progressed quite far in all three London Cups. We were knocked out of the London Cup and the Coca Cola Cup in the quarter finals. Our best achievement came in the Surrey Cup. I could not believe that we made it to the Final, and then we won the Cup! Overall I scored ten or more goals. I really enjoyed the season. I also, surprisingly, managed to get into the cricket team after one session. We won our one game against Rutlish 76 for 20 overs and they had 34 all out! I felt quite privileged to be in the cricket team.

My favourite sporting event this year was joining the tennis team, because it meant playing against Rutlish. We lost, but I still enjoyed the event. I will try to be in the team again next year. I like tennis, and had a lot of fun playing in the tennis ladders too.

Sports Day was very enjoyable, but in my tutor group we don't talk about it much, as Miltons came third! We had competitors for every event, and even Henry's Spanish visitor did an event.

Next year I'm definitely going to trials for a lot more things! (...and I hope I'll get in!).

David Weatherhead 8MX

Images of Merton



The Images of Merton project, involving our Year 10, had, as its stated aim, the encouraging and supporting of creative, critical and celebratory response to the diverse communities and landscapes within the borough.

Merton is a borough of strong contrasts both demographically and in the quality of its landscape. With such contrasts

in mind the Images of Merton project has set out to provide an opportunity for the people of Merton to reflect on and to engage with places in which they work and to consider the diversity of their communities.

Community workers from Groundwork Merton are working with professional photographers from the arts co-operative, Kitchen studios, to run a high profile borough-wide photography competition and to organise photography workshops to encourage schools and disadvantaged groups to take part. The project will culminate in a launch event, displays in community venues and the publication of a book of selected entries.



publication of a book of selected entries.

The project ran from May 2001 until March 2002. Konstantin Zaboev 10GX came second in the under 16s section of the Images of Merton photography competition. Konstantin had four out of his six photographs exhibited in the exhibition at The Colour Theatre, Merton Abbey Mills.



The other pupils who had their entries displayed were: Lyndsey Tilt 10 NX, Chris Bullard 10 MX, Craig Laird 10GX, James Boore 10 GX.

The brief from Steve Owen (Head of Art & Design at Merton College) was to share a camera donated by GroundWorks between two or three pupils and capture contrasts in the environment. The judges considered the standard and choice of subject to be very high which made the judging very difficult.

P.Bellasis

Horror!

Repton was sitting inside the cold – looking cottage, he had been lost in the murky, wet night as his car had broken down. He was in the company of a weird, old woman who made him sit on a torn sofa and drink the tea she gave him. Repton was uncomfortable with the woman as something didn't feel right.

Later he was about to leave.

"It's too far to get help, you must stay here. I will show you to your room," insisted the old woman. He didn't complain and was in his room soon after, he was left with just a single stump of candle. He felt uneasy and put a chair under the handle of his door. Repton tossed and turned, he then began to hear deep breathing outside his door. As he opened it he saw a creature, black-fur and foaming at the mouth. It ran off and Repton saw it standing beside the woman, an axe in her hand.

He had made a dash for the window and ran for his life back to his car, he locked all doors and shut the windows-was he really safe? A shadow appeared on the steamy window and the glass started to shatter as she axed her way through. The beast was clawing at him, after this, all that could be heard by the empty murky night was the sound of Repton being killed by the beast and the voice of the woman saying "we must dump his body in the marsh!"

Amy Coyne 8NX

Sow much, reap much; sow little, reap little.

A smile will gain you ten more years of life.

Chinese proverbs

Future Floriferous

I am a garden designer and work on the design, planting and maintenance of gardens. I studied for a City & Guilds in soft landscape and design at Capel Manor Horticultural College in Enfield, North London. There are also courses for hard landscaping which entails the construction and layout of permanent features such as paving. There are degree courses as well.

I have been planting up beds and borders around the school and started near

the school entrance. In the porch you will see a container with *Cordyline* and trailing ivy. *Cordyline* comes from New Zealand and is hardy in our climate. It is frequently used by landscapers as it is so reliable and is tough enough to survive in a windy aspect.



Cordyline

Autumn is the perfect time to plant shrubs as there is no risk of the plants drying out and the roots continue to grow in warm spells in the winter, establishing the plants before the spring. The ground being moister is easier to dig over. I have started to clear the borders of weeds and old stumps.

I have so far planted *Cotoneaster simonsii* to cover the walls – these shrubs have leaves, which turn a beautiful orange and red in the autumn and have red berries. They have been underplanted with mixed narcissi and daffodils to give some welcome spring colour. Along the wall, which is north-west facing, I have planted *Chaenomeles*, which once established, will produce red flowers in the autumn and continue to do so right through to the spring. *Chaenomeles* is a form of quince and the flowers are followed by large, lemon-like fruits. The shrub is quite happy in a north-facing aspect and can be fan-trained to cover the wall.

Soon there will be more shrubs as I gradually plant up the borders.

Nancy Rodgers

Our first computer

As recorded in the Computer Society notes in the *Spur* towards the end of the 1960s there were exciting happenings in the school – a computer was on its way!

It was proposed by Mr Brunt that the School should build a digital computer from a design in an electronics magazine. A record of its progress follows:

September 1968

About twenty boys attended an inaugural meeting and it was decided that we should meet at least once a week to discuss the working of the computer.

Easter 1968

The Society has been divided into small groups, each of which is responsible for the design and construction of one of the units of which the computer is comprised.

Autumn 1968

The term has been devoted mostly to the actual construction of the computer – based on a technique known as printed circuitry, a method of construction in which wires are replaced by 'patterns' of copper foil bonded on to a paxolin lamina. The computer comprises fourteen of these boards and two boys have been allocated to each board: that is, they have to design it and build it themselves. Three or four of these boards have been completely finished and tested. Amongst these boards are the "adder/subtractor" unit built by D.C.Woodcock and M.A.Warner, the "counter transfer gating" built by J.Hider and P.F.Goldsmith and the "comparator" built by R.S.Shaw and A.R.G.Jackson: these last two units are concerned with the multiplication circuits.

February 1969

Unfortunately not much work has been done on the computer this term: most of our members appear to have been too busy on their schoolwork and the School Play.

Pelly and Pilkington have spent a lot of time on their printed circuit board, with the result that it has now been completely wired and tested: the board forms part of the computer memory.

July 1969

"This is the School Computer speaking: I am now about two-thirds complete lately I have been rather neglected and have become extremely lonely at home in the corner of the Advanced Physics Lab."

Spring 1970

The biggest joke in the School at present is to be found in the Advanced Physics Laboratory. That, is what most of my Sixth Form colleagues consider the School Computer to be. It adds, subtracts, multiplies and divides perfectly when it has warmed up- after about five minutes.

Ominously there were no further reports from the Computer Society!

CARTOON PAGE

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

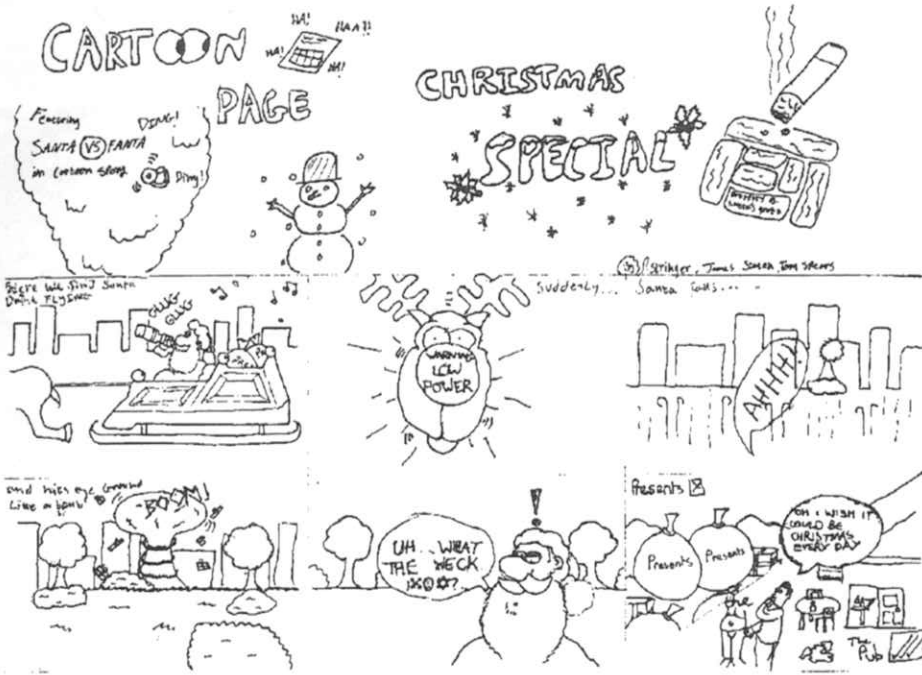
Cartoons by:
Pete Stringer

James Stayton

Tom Spears

Max Obee

Year 8



THE END

Forward

Once there was an area of rough terrain called the redgra pitch, dusty, filled with deep holes and unusable most of the time, especially after it had rained!



James Bentley rounded the opening ceremony off with a big bang

Now in its first full year of use we have the all weather pitch. The facility has proved highly popular not just with the pupils and teachers of the school but also with the community and surrounding schools. The pitch has provided us with a solid base for the development of sport, in particular hockey and football. This, combined with partnership agreements with Wimbledon Football club and Wimbledon Hockey club, has helped us apply for the coveted

Sports Mark Gold Award. This award is a nationally recognised award operated by Sport England and rewards schools for providing

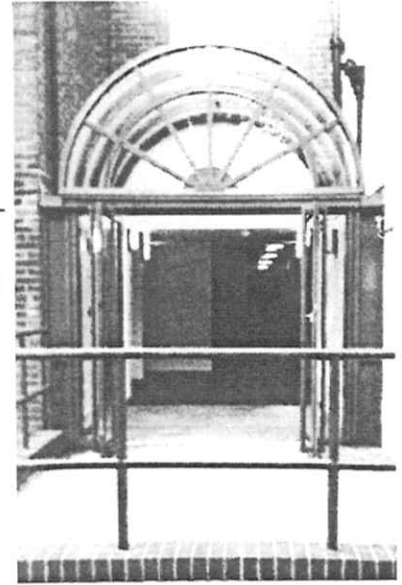
quality sports development programmes and an out of hours leisure service for the local community.



Ever-popular Gianfranco Zola interrupts his training session on our astro turf to sign autographs

During the evenings and weekends the pitch is hired out on a regular basis to local teams for various sports from grass roots to national

standard. The income received from this is re-invested in development programmes in the borough and used to supply sports equipment for the school and other groups which need support. This process is operated by the Leisure Development Officer based at Raynes Park High School.



Entrance to the new changing rooms

Our mission at Raynes Park High School is to provide the best opportunities in sport for

all, whatever the ability or age. We look forward to providing a wide range of sports and activities for all to access and hope that people will continue to enjoy and profit from the facility in years to come.

Danny Jones



A rough tackle

Dipesh Patel

Farewell - we're on our way



Friends together at the Year11 farewell prom summer 2001

Hi there - we've arrived

I was really looking forward to using the facilities at RPHS had to offer. I couldn't wait to use the Astroturf because I love to play sport. When I arrived I was amazed at the computer room because it was huge.

I was excited about wearing the uniform because it looked fashionable and simple. At first moving around for lessons was confusing, especially when hordes of people were going in different directions and you were just standing in the middle thinking aaaaaahhh!

The food in the canteen is very nice and there is plenty of choice, which is good. The only thing I don't like about the canteen is having to wait ages for lunch, but that is better than colliding with 11th years!

There is a wide range of subjects in RPHS which are very interesting. My favourite subjects are Drama and English and my worst is Maths, but I still work hard in Maths because I know it is going to be very useful in the future.

Libby Alexander - 8MX

Raynes Park is much bigger than my old school, Hillcross Middle school. I thought getting around would be harder than it is. Everything is set out well so it is much easier to find the rooms you have got to get to for all the lessons.

I'm very glad I came to Raynes Park and I'm glad I made the correct choice in picking my High School.

Eren Sergil - 8MX

When I first came to the school I thought that the uniform was really uncomfortable and it made me itch. I thought it looked very good on all of the students. I felt really small once I had got inside Raynes Park High School because the school was so big.

Sarah Braham - 8MX

The canteen is very useful, especially if you've missed breakfast and you're running late in the mornings. You can also get food at break-times not only at lunch.

Lauren Faulkner - 8MX

The first day we came, only Year 8 were here. At lunchtime I bought food from the canteen. I waited five minutes to get it. The next day I thought I would have canteen food again, so at half past twelve I went to queue but the queue went out the door and around the corner. It took twenty-five minutes to get to the serving counter to get my food. I stepped out the door and into the playground and the bell rang so I ended up with no lunch!

R.P.H.S. has lots of different sports activities and clubs such as football, netball, hockey, table tennis at lunchtime and much more! I am going to try out for the football team. My mates say I am a good goalie.

Holly Johnson - 8MX

I think this school does very well on their sports. We have a nice astroturf which we can play football and hockey on. We have lots of facilities to play with and we have two big gyms to play in as well.

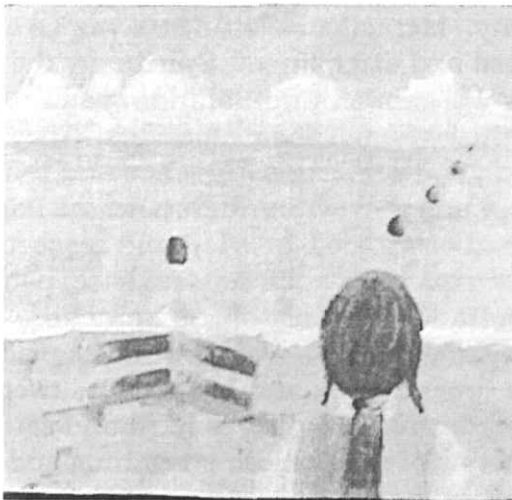
The teachers are strict but I suppose they have to be.

The facilities in this school are great. We have over fifty-five computers in one room.

Michaela Morris - 8MX

My first half term at Raynes Park hit me hard. At Raynes Park it is as if we are writing for England.
Go Gibbs!

Aaron Doyle



On the beach

Gemma Elnaugh



Do you know where this is?

A good laugh

What car is like a sausage?
An old banger.

Why do people never starve in the desert?
Because of the sand-wich is there.

How do you stop a fish from smelling?
Cut its nose off.

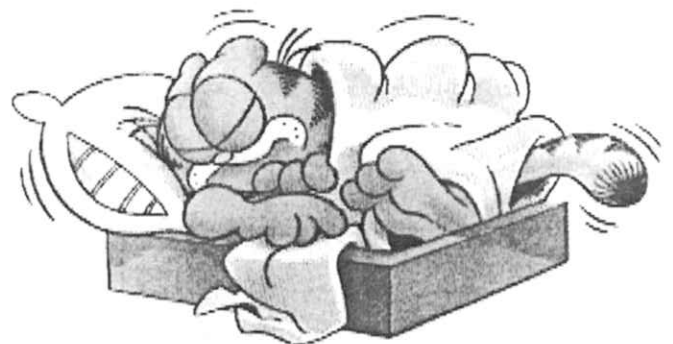
Why does the jelly wobble?
Because it saw the milk shake.

What animals in Noah's ark didn't come in pairs?
The worms - they came in apples.

Why couldn't the orange get up the hill?
Because it ran out of juice.

What does a vegetarian earn?
A celery.

Rachel Smith



Anyone for golf?

The Former Pupils Golf Society has a group membership at the Patchesham Park Golf Centre. This is in lovely countryside just North of Leatherhead and 12 miles from the School. There is a friendly clubhouse, a 9-holes golf course and a driving range with a number of professionals who can help to develop your game. One of the professionals, Gary Clements, is a former pupil of the School.

The Golf Society caters especially for beginners and improvers. The best way for a beginner to learn the game is to attend one or two group lessons at the driving range. To start with the golf swing feels rather strange. If you try to hit the ball along the ground it balloons up in the air. Then if you try to hit a high shot the ball dribbles along the ground. Soon, though, you are taught the dos and don'ts and you can then venture forth onto the course. You have a few duff shots, then one or two are hit just right, and the ball flies away over the blue yonder and you are hooked.

Last year several pupils played at Patchesham Park during the School's Activity Days and finished up having an exciting competition. Some have continued with the Society and join in the Saturday morning meetings. This is very encouraging - long may it continue, as we aim to establish a junior section for those wishing to play regularly.

We have five Society Days at Patchesham for which we run different competitions, followed by a meal in the evening for those wishing to stay and socialize.

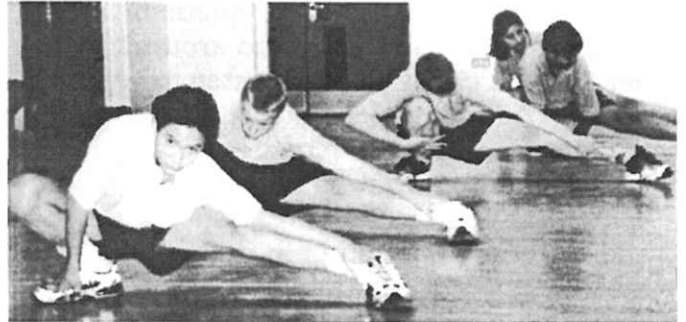
If you want to spend a few hours out in the country, on a pretty course, you are very welcome to come along. To join the Golf Society, you need to become a member of the Former Pupils' Society, which is a single payment of £20 (or four payments of £5) and, whilst you are in full time education, you may play golf as many times as you like at Patchesham absolutely free. Other members of your immediate family can also join at very favourable rates.

Aubrey Pengilly (Chairman)

*For further information contact the Secretary:
Graham Francis,
Coombe Gate, 10 The Mount, Fetcham,
Surrey KT22 9EE. Tel: 01372 378603*

Kung Fu Raynes Park

Kung Fu is the practice of martial skills for the health and strength of the body, mind and



spirit. It was originally created by Buddhist monks at the Shaolin Temple in China over fifteen hundred years ago. The monks studied

animals such as snakes, eagles and tigers to copy their movements and characters which were then added to their meditation and physical health exercises to form these fighting skills. For these monks the daily practice of Kung Fu was a path to enlightenment



and it allowed them to defend themselves against wild animals and bandits. Kung Fu has evolved into many different forms today, and has influenced many other styles.

Physically the students will be fit, strong and healthy. Mentally the students will be calm, focused and disciplined. Spiritually the students will gain an understanding and control of themselves and their emotions. They will gain a great sense of confidence and self-esteem and they will understand the importance of being good-hearted and respectful. Gaining qualities such as tolerance, patience and humility is a part of good practice.

The Kung Fu class at school takes place three times a week and has around twenty-five members. Training is hard and serious, consisting of meditation, stretching and conditioning of the body and the practice and application of fighting skills. All pupils who have persevered with the training have made great progress.

Renato Romero

Raynes Park High School Song

The original version:

Time will make its utter changes,
Circumstance will scatter us;
But the memories of our school days
Are a living part of us.

Chorus -

So remember then, when you are men
With important things to do,
That once you were young, and this song
have sung
For you were at school here, too.

Daily we sit down in form - rooms,
Inky hand to puzzled head:
Reason's light, and Knowledge power;
Man must study till he's dead.

Man has mind but body also;
So we learn to tackle low,
Bowl the off - breaks, hit the sixes,
Bend the diver's brilliant bow.

Man must live among his neighbours,
For he cannot live alone;
Friendships, failures and successes
Here we learn to make our own.

Tractors grunt where oceans wandered,
Factories stand where green grass grew:
Voices break and features alter,
We shall soon be different, too.

Boys and cities, schools and natures,
Though they change, like you and me,
Do not simply grow and happen,
They are what they choose to be.

W.H.Auden

*The slightly amended version, so that
the girls neither laugh too much nor ob-
ject too strongly:*

Time will make its utter changes,
Circumstance will scatter us;
But the memories of our school days
Are a living part of us.

Chorus -

So remember then, when you are
grown
With important things to do,
That once you were young, and this
song have sung
For you were at school here, too.

We must live among our neighbours,
For we cannot live alone;
Friendships, failures and successes
Here we learn to make our own.

Children, cities, schools and natures,
Though they change, like you and me,
Do not simply grow and happen,
They are what they choose to be.