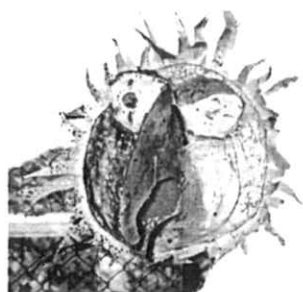
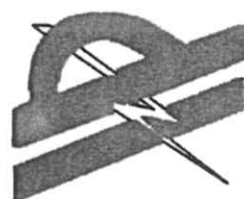


Raynes Park High School

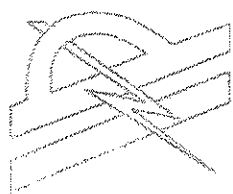


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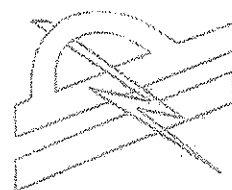


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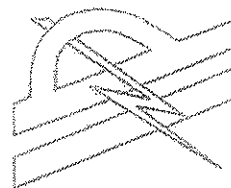
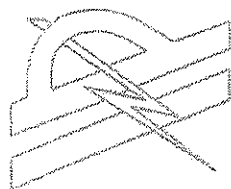
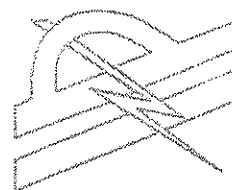
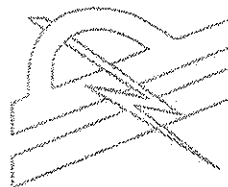
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The Aztec masks pictured on the front cover were amongst those created in Year 7 art classes during 2003 and those in the fruit style of Giuseppe Archimbolo in Year 8 classes

Raynes Park Girls



..... dressed rather differently from
our girls of today these were pupils at Whatley Avenue
School in Raynes Park nearly a hundred years ago

Editorial



Look around you at the optimists and the pessimists. The eternal optimists can go cheerfully through each day believing that all things will work out just fine for them. They'll have a great time and whatever problems arise they will face them, not as insurmountable obstacles, but as opportunities towards success. The pessimists are likely to wake up to the new day thinking about all that is likely to go wrong for them in the tedious hours ahead. They expect the worst. Some might say that the pessimists are the realists and that the optimists are oblivious of all the troubles around them. How much happier though is the lot of the optimist.



Some would argue that it is better to be a pessimist than an optimist as the former will seldom be disappointed. Things turn out badly. "Told you so." When they go right. "It's turned out better than I expected."

Hopefully you will appreciate the oft-quoted lines from the early 20th century New Yorker, McLandburgh Wilson. "Between the optimist and the pessimist, the difference is droll. The optimist sees the doughnut; the pessimist the hole!"



Perhaps it's not as easy to be an optimist as to be a pessimist but it's well worth making the effort. Look around you at the pessimists, always expecting misfortune to be just around the corner. "What will go wrong next?" If only they would make that real effort to look on the bright side. "I can do it, I will do it and I will fulfil my ambitions. Nothing will stop me. Nothing is going to botch things up for me!"



Can you see the point of being other than an optimist? Where will pessimism get you? If you are preparing for the exams face them with optimism. Hopefully you will do well but if things don't work out as you would wish, convince yourself that you will find other great opportunities in your life and that you're not going to have any regrets.

Pessimists far too often turn their gloomy expectations into self-fulfilling prophecies. Beware of developing such traits in your schooldays. Tell yourself often enough that you can't do things and that's just how you will end up. "Can't do it." "Yes you can." "It'll all go wrong." "No it won't." "Not if you join the ranks of the optimists."



Mike Gleed
Spur Editor



From the Headteacher



To each his need from each his power

We have been revisiting and celebrating the school's original motto during the last two years and its succinct message about purpose and vision for schools manages in some way to reflect the underlying strength of our community which has been fully tested during a momentous year.

Expansion

The arrival of 400 new students and 22 new teachers at RPHS in September 2002 was the realisation of our part in Merton's reorganisation dream. The process began some years ago and progressed through consultation, debate (memorable sessions of the *Citizens' Jury* - chaired by Eric Bolton, former chief inspector for the Department for Education - which found in favour of a switch to a 'two tier' system), stormy meetings and understandable anxiety for Merton parents whose children were going to be affected by change and for those staff whose schools were being merged or closed despite great work with supportive and successful communities.

The contribution, success and role of the 'middle school' system to the development of state education in the UK deserve to be properly acknowledged and researched. Whoever does that would do well to use this borough as an important case study. The trend nationally has been to 'revert' to transfer at age 11 and certainly for Merton, in the context of SW London, it had to be the right decision.

The challenge for RPHS, and all schools in the borough, has been to safeguard the education of its students during the inevitable disruption caused by the building and refurbish-

ment programme and to plan for the opportunities offered by such significant capital investment- £57million for the six LEA high schools. There have been some puzzled comments about the arrival of all those new pupils and staff before any new buildings were ready to receive them... but everyone has responded with great energy, flexibility and understanding.

We have worked with 17 temporary classrooms installed around the school for Art, Textiles, Drama, our new provision for autistic pupils and the English Department (or 'English Village' as it is known). We have coped with extremes of weather, incorporated the former Bushey First School (now home for modern languages, geography and history) into our site, witnessed the demolition in November of the Cobbs centre and the main gym and watched with self-interested fascination as the gigantic crane (visible from Oberon and Coombe Lane) was assembled. The new Sports Hall, autistic centre and extension to the main teaching block have steadily taken shape.

Our bid to become a specialist technology college was successful for the September 2002 round and that designation coming at the same time as all the other pressures gave us a strong message that we had the support and confidence of the DfES and the LEA. We believe we are already beginning to repay that confidence as during the past year we beat the attendance targets set by the DfES and LEA, secured renewal of our chartermarks for Investors in People and Sport and achieved our best ever public examination results for GCSE and keystage 3 SATs.

GCSE

	2003	2002
5 A*-C	47%	37%
5 A*-G	88%	85%
1 A*-G	95%	92%

Keystage 3 (level 5 and above)

	2003	2002
English	73%	51%
Maths	66%	61%
Science	61%	59%

Specialist school status will offer us further opportunities to raise standards for pupils of all abilities and to extend our work with the local community. This will increase gradually over the initial four years of 'technology school' designation. During the first year we have worked successfully with four primary schools on a range of projects aimed at enhancing teaching and learning in design, maths, science and information technology.

New colleagues from around the world

Over the last two years we have welcomed staff from different parts of the world and their presence has brought fresh ideas and energy as well as setting us particular challenges in terms of support and induction. Colleagues from South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, India, Jamaica, Ireland and Russia have settled quickly into the life of the school and we value greatly their expertise, dedication and willingness to contribute to and take on professional development. We are fully staffed again this year and look forward to progressing our development plan.

Peter Nicholls

Peter Nicholls had been a teacher for nearly 40 years, most of them at Raynes Park High School, and he retired at the end of August after a distinguished career as a teacher of PE and modern languages, becoming head of PE, then head of year and more recently a senior teacher. In addition he contributed enormously to the wider life of the school as chairman of the common room for many years, as a member of the committee of the former pupils' society, tireless organiser of the 60th anniversary celebrations in 1995, manager of school teams, leader of many school trips and chairman of the Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust. The school will not be the same without him and we will miss his calm and authoritative presence around the place. We wish him and his family all the best for the future and offer him our deep thanks and congratulations.

Peter Gill Award

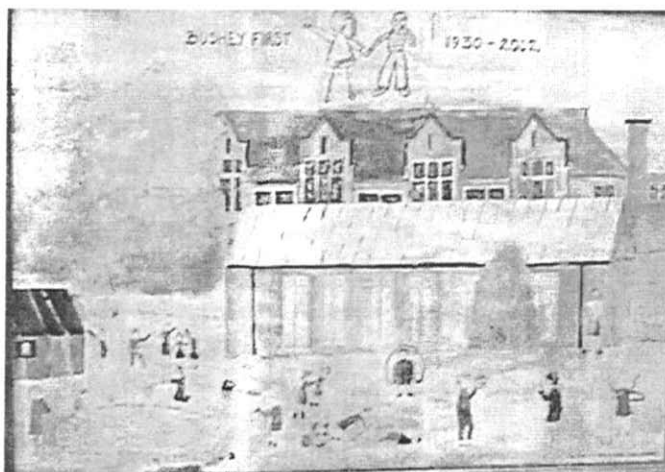
It was a pleasure to welcome Peter Gill's widow, Rose, and family, to school on the occasion of our summer concert. She was present

to oversee the inauguration of the honours board for the *Peter Gill Prize for community service*, established by the trustees of the Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust to reward a year 11 student who has made an outstanding contribution to the life of the school. Rose spoke movingly of Peter's dedicated service to the school over more than three decades as a governor and then chair of the governing body. Peter's commitment to public service (he was also a councillor in Merton and then in Croydon) provides a great role model for our students. Rose was delighted that the first recipient of the award (in 2001), William Pritchard, was present. Peter loved singing and it was entirely appropriate that his honours board came to life on an evening of music, dance and song, the summer concert.

Peter would also have been proud of the efforts of our students to raise money for many good causes. Two examples reflect their energy and empathy. Imagination and good humour were very much in evidence on Comic Relief Day in March while Miss Lobendhan led a special project to raise funds for the Nqabakazulu High School and Isithumbi Primary School. Both schools are near Durban in South Africa. This generated great enthusiasm and many donated books as well as cash and the project should bring many benefits to both schools.

Our well established programme of extra curricular activities and events is well documented throughout the magazine. I have to conclude my contribution by acknowledging the enormous effort and perseverance of our distinguished editor, Mike Gleed, who has ensured that the tradition of the *Spur* is alive and well. Thank you!

Ian Newman



Bushey First School 1930-2002 Rachel Cooper-Liles & Amy Coyne

Alien Puzzle Poems

Each verse is an extended metaphor describing an everyday object as seen through the eyes of a visiting alien.

(Answers to puzzle poems to be found on p33)

Poems and pictures from Year 9

Hannah Cleevely



Most humans have one
It rests on your hand
It makes strange markings
Of different colours
It could be different shapes
But mostly long and thin

Elizabeth Forster

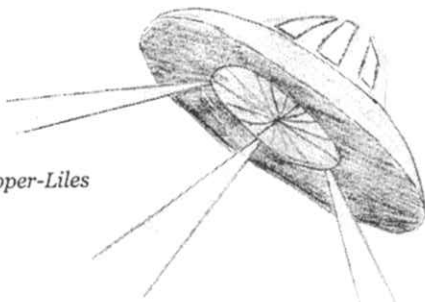
Sean Hensel-Coe



Is as blue as the sky
Waves but has no hands
Has a bed but no mattress
Is transparent but coloured

Hannah Cleevely

Rachel Cooper-Liles



Ryan Morgan



In the deep blue her colours blend in,
The sun is shining as yellow as buttercups
Water pours from the sky,
Gold at each end, or so I've heard
And no one can reach it
It's higher than a bird.

Arienne Bolt



Adam Shawki

He runs like the wind
Colours flash by like lightning
A master of speed
He is the king of mystery
He needs food like us
His grace, endurance and speed
Make him King of the Serengeti

Karl Gawley

Daniel Smith

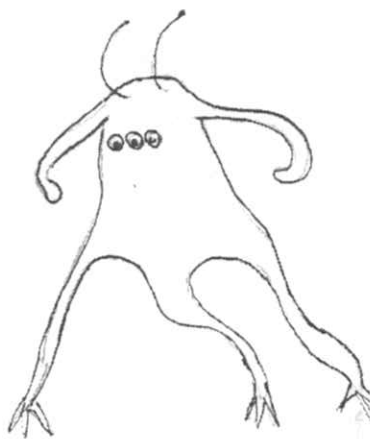


A creature that
Rules the home, has personal
Slaves to look after it and
Has the freedom of the streets
At nearly all times.

Chris Mitchell

Six decades - one School

Chris Mitchell

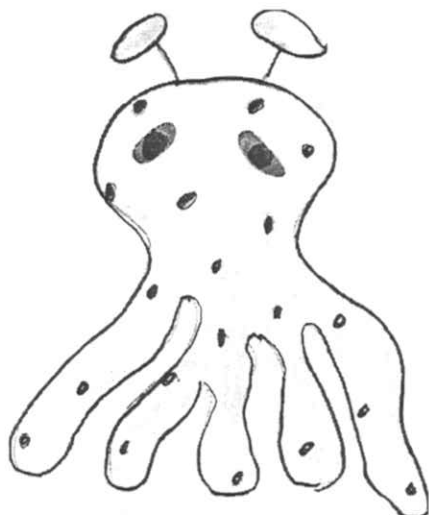


There is something that makes
A double of a person and
Imprisons it in a weird
Frame-like object

James Wyllie

It stalks its leader like a lion does his prey,
It never stops following, day after day
It follows silently, not a bang or a crash
And it just keeps following, even at a dash

Tom James



It can be as shiny as a
Marble floor
It can even fit under a door
Some are a funny shape and
They have a face.

Ryan Morgan

Anybody passing by the school on a recent weekday would have been surprised to see an elderly blue-suited gentleman peering over the wire into the slow moving waters of Pyl Brook. This surprise would have grown when the man solemnly picked up a twig and cast it into the water. Reasonably, the passer-by would have decided the gent was a bit dotty, and gone on his way. I was the twig pitcher. I had last done this in the somber time of 1940 with a close friend. Our pleasures then were not elaborate.

I had come to the school at the kind invitation of the Head for a conducted tour which I was most ably given by two courteous and competent students. It was a strange mix of instant recognition of some parts and pleased surprise at the splendid additions made in the intervening years. The remembered parts were so familiar that I began to wonder if my homework assignment would be adequate or if I would make 4a next year. Did I even detect a scent of incubating boiling cabbage from the long abandoned kitchen area?

My main impression?

Of vibrant and enthusiastic activity. The art class with its energetic students making bold sweeps of colour at once recalled the days of Claude Rogers who taught me. He was exhibited at the Tate who still have six of his pictures. Claude urged us to 'slap it on - don't think too much about it.' This we did with gusto - so much so that my mother said she needed a second washday to cope. The computer room with its rows of staring screens was an evident newcomer. In 1940 these were hardly dreamt of. Although a pulp magazine titled *The Modern Boy* did make odd references to mysterious mechanical brains. Corny by to-day's standards but we loved it

After my tour I was delighted to have a question and answer session. There was no lack of lively interrogation. Some wanted to hear of the war years. I recalled a day in assembly when the siren sounded its baleful alert. The Head, John Garrett, who had a personality that could silence the school at a glance, thundered 'Any boy wishing to go to the shelters

may do so—nobody moved.

Students asked me if I had a particular friend. I did. His ambition was to be a fighter pilot. Sadly, he realised it. His name, E. Fisher, is on the memorial plaque in the hall.

It was he with whom I floated twigs on Pyl Brook in those sultry, desperate days.

John Ellis



*The Raynes Park School Cap
a reminder of days long past*

It's Our World

The Forest of Dreams project has aroused the enthusiasm of many school students, of all ages, in Merton to direct their thoughts to the way in which they would hope to see the world develop towards peace and goodwill amongst all its peoples as well as a more hospitable and safer environment for all mankind. The conservation of our natural resources and wild habitats are seen by many students to be of major importance. The ideas have been set down on drawings of leaves from students throughout Merton and these were placed in a book which we were to present to Cherie Blair. A small group of teachers and students from borough schools were invited to 10 Downing Street to make the presentation and have tea with her.

We made our way into the Houses of Parliament to meet Roger Casale, the MP for Wimbledon. From there we walked to 10 Downing Street. Outside the front door of number 10 we had a picture taken, which was published in the local newspapers. We were escorted to the top floor of Number 10 where we met Cherie



*The Merton Party outside Number 10
Raees Miyan on the left*

Blair and had tea with her. Whilst having tea we were discussing the Forest of Dreams project and how we hope it will develop. During tea we made our presentation.

We had another photo taken, this time with Cherie Blair and she had asked us to display the book in the photo, so that she could remember who gave it to her.

After long talk, and a photo shoot opportunity, a tour guide took us to see around 10 Downing Street. One of the most interesting features was the main staircase, covered with pictures of Prime Ministers since the 16th Century. The rooms were grand and very ornate. Our visit was a truly exciting experience.

The newspapers reported that it is hoped to take this environmental project to Pakistan to encourage similar schemes there and then, if successful, possibly to still more countries.

Raees Miyan 11 HZ

Why "Morden"? In the year 969 you would have known it as "Mordune"— Old English for "hill in marshland".

Artists in Action

Fashion Show

"I enjoyed making costumes with withies. My group and I made a hat and dress and a necklace.

We showed pupils in Year 7 what we had made and I got to show them what I was wearing. I enjoyed it a lot because when I was walking down everyone was smiling and waving at me and I felt like a super-model."

Abigail Igbavboa 7MX



Giuseppe Archimbolo was a stunning artist. He made people's faces out of fruit and vegetables. He always inspired with his great tint and tone and over exaggeration of his patterns. He always filled in any possible gaps with fruit or vegetables. His 3D work was so realistic it was untrue. The way he expressed his feelings in an artistic way was hard to forget.

David Lawrence 8 GZ



What amused these Year 9 Artists?



Year 11 Artists in the Exam

3D Art Club

In the summer term we were able to run a papier-mâché club. The members varied each week with maximum up to eight at a time from Year 10 to Year 7. Wonderful creatures emerged out of wire, newspaper and engrudo (the simple paste of flour and water used for centuries by cultures all over the world). The pupils sketched an idea of the creature they wanted to make and then built the papier-mâché over a wire armature. Once dry the sculpture is painted with white emulsion and then covered in coloured patterns. The decoration is in the style of the Linares family tradition from Mexico.



Study in concentration at the Year 11 Exam

Auntie Maria's Problem Page

Dear Aunt Maria

Ever since I started at the school I've fancied this boy, but I've noticed one of my friends being very flirty with him. I think he likes her too. She knows that I like him. I've confronted her but she won't listen. What shall I do?

Very confused Britney Fan

Dear Britney Fan

Does he respond to your loving gaze? If not ditch him and find someone far better who runs after you. That will be altogether more fun. Your rival doesn't sound too much of a friend and she'll be really fed up when she knows that you don't care anymore.

Auntie Maria

Dear Auntie Maria

The other day I was walking down the wet, slippery stairs and the boy of my dreams was walking behind me. Suddenly my foot slipped and I fell straight on my bum. I looked up and saw him standing there with his mates, laughing. Help!

Very embarrassed Westlife Fan

Dear Westlife fan

Your tale made me laugh and obviously the boy of your dreams has a sense of humour as well. However a gentleman would have rushed to your aid. Give him up and get some better shoes.

Auntie Maria

Dear Auntie Maria

I think I am allergic to work and homework. Whenever I collect a worksheet or exercise book and have to learn something to complete them, I come up in a rash and feel cold all over. I think I might have give up work. Can you help me?

Hopeful Student

Dear Hopeful Student

I know how you feel. Teachers have just the same symptoms when faced with stacks of exercise books to mark and classes to entertain. We all have to grin and bear it. So will you. Hard luck!

Auntie Maria

Dear Auntie Maria

I have a problem about what to get for my birthday. I can't decide whether to get a bike, TV or a CD player. Please help me to make up my mind.

Chelsea Fan

Dear Chelsea Fan

Like Mr Abramovich I expect you've got plenty of everything already. Don't have anything for your birthday but send me a present instead.

Auntie Maria

Dear Auntie Maria

Recently I had a big fallout with my friends over something silly. I really want to be friends again but I don't like to make the first move in case they reject me. Please help!

Britney Fan

Dear Britney Fan

They are probably thinking along the same lines as you. When you next see them smile, wave and say Hi! They'll be only too pleased to make up with you.

Auntie Maria

Dear Auntie Maria

I'm worried about the SATS. What should I do to prepare myself?

Anxious Student

Dear Anxious Student

I was never very keen on exams but they go on being inflicted upon us and we have to do our best. Make sure you pay attention in class and do your best with that other evil – homework. Always ask your teachers for help. Try never to worry, things will work out right eventually.

Auntie Maria

Dear Auntie Maria
How do I get into the School football team?
Real Madrid Fan

Dear Real Madrid Fan
Train hard, always do your best and get yourself a good agent. David Beckham has a good agent but he might be rather too pricey for you at present. Try Mr Gardener, he could negotiate a good deal for you.
Auntie Maria

Dear Auntie Maria
Yesterday my teacher put me in detention because I hadn't done my homework. I repeatedly said that my dog had eaten it, but he wouldn't believe me. So now I have an after-school detention today and Woofy has got too go to the vet. Please help me - he just won't believe me.
Annoyed Student

Dear Annoyed Student
Teachers are not a very trusting lot are they? I am certain that you are telling the truth. Poor Woofy obviously did eat your homework which has given him indigestion and that means a visit to the vet. You might more easily get away with the old excuse about going to the airport to meet your Nan off the plane from Australia. Try that one next time.
Auntie Maria

Red Nose Day



Pete and Kev

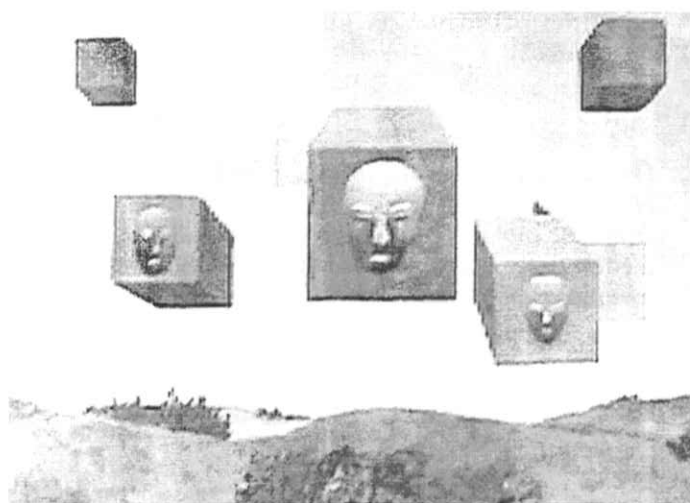
This year's Red Nose Day was one of immense proportion. There was a lot of fun, laughter, singing and fund raising. The theme was the big hair-do and there was no holding back from the Raynes Park High students, there were some amazing colours flying about from red to pink to green. The student with the most outrageous hair do must have been Joshua Smith 9GX, who was sporting a bright pink biffro (or large hair). The teachers put on a concert and there were performances from Elvis (Mr Stapleton) and the lady P.E Teachers. There was an air guitar competition, with a backing track of Jimi Hendrix, Voodoochild.

Overall it was a very successful day and we raised a lot of money. The day was topped off with a song from a small group of teachers (Mr. Di-Toro included).

It was a day to remember and thanks to all who helped to raise money.



Kev (Elvis) goes solo



Illusion Keith Dray Year11

In 880, had they been invented, trains would have taken you to Cloppaham Junction to call at "the homestead or enclosure near the hills"

In praise of W.H. Auden



From the age of about 13, poetry has played a significant part in my life; I have been through 'stages' of writing my own - at times poignant, at times 'indulgent' at others reflecting the precariousness of youth, relationships or love and hand in hand with this so called creativity of mine has

been a passion for reading and exploring the work of poets.

W.H. Auden inspired me, excited me and has, over the years, provided me with endless hours of pleasure. He is a poet, to me, who captures an incredible world, one that is both intensely personal and at the same time representing, exploring and reflecting a very public and political moment in time.

I have never been quite sure that I've understood the depth of meaning within particular lines within particular poems but that's somehow not the most important aspect of interpreting and enjoying the work of Auden. At times his work appears complex and indecipherable, a puzzle to be solved, a parcel to be unwrapped, an onion to unpeel and the more we do this the greater the pleasure.

Auden was writing during the 1930s and one of the joys of his work for me is the contemporary feel, the evidence of the political scene and the world at that moment: "this point in time and space". He revived many of the poetic conventions from the past and produced poetry using such an amazing range of poetic forms and metres, some of which seemed at that moment in time dead. The period holds a fascination for me, which is there in Auden's work and Brecht's. But alongside this Auden's poetry is also peppered with history and it is in his poetry that the past and present, two different worlds often meet, clash, conflict or in his later work finds some point of painful but interesting resolution.

I still find myself often quoting my favourite Auden lines: "Control of the passes was, he saw, the key to this new district, but who would get it?" Some days it just seems like the appropriate reply to almost everything! In these two lines the private and public join, there is clearly a literal meaning about gaining access and control in a particular

world at a particular moment in time but it also hints at and subtly suggests a feeling of intense flirtation and provocation: an exciting new world available to those who can find the secret way in - what could more enticing to a reader? For me it is finding this 'key' to Auden's poetry, which has happily kept me occupied for countless hours.

In his work we can find and trace Auden's different stages of religious convictions and match his fiercely political views with his personal journey exploring his sexuality. His work is romantic, he mixes poetic styles and achieves many things with rhythm and rhyme we aspiring poets would love to claim! Auden also revised and rewrote many of his works and so we have different versions to read from different periods of his life. This idea has always really appealed to me. as has the fact that many of his earlier poems are untitled - to understand them we must, yet again, find that illusive and all important 'key'!

His influences are many and, of course, he collaborated with others including a fascinating play "The Ascent of F6" with Christopher Isherwood. He wrote poems dedicated to Freud. In Memory of W. B. Yeats, he wrote of war, of love and of a changing world. He lived in England and America and believed totally in the power of words. He believed in the 1930s that political poems could affect attitudes and actions. I still believe this and such a conviction makes Auden's poetry a powerful force indeed. I write today in praise of W.H. Auden a poet of our time, and before and beyond. "Epitaph on a Tyrant" seems a good place to end:

"Perfection of a kind, was what he was after, and the poetry he invented was easy to understand; He knew human folly like the back of his hand"

A terrific three lines so much part of our contemporary culture, for me Auden did achieve 'perfection of a kind', his poetry was certainly not always 'easy to understand' but his understanding of human issues was all consuming ~ praise indeed!

Karen Bastick-Styles

(We are grateful to the former Headteacher of Rutlish High School for this appreciation of W.H. Auden, a friend of our school and of John Garrett, our first Headmaster. Auden wrote the words of our school song and suggested our motto.)

In 950 if tennis had been played it would have been at Wunemannedune, quite likely the hill belonging to a chap called Wynnmann.

Christmas Poems

A Christmas to Remember

Outside there's a pine tree standing straight
and tall
It needs no decorations – Nature's done it all
Pinecones on its branches with icicles glisten-
ing in the light
Snow upon its needles and birds at rest from
flight
Looking around with the world so still
Happiness and joy begin to fill
Bright with children tucked up tight
Wishing and dreaming all through the night
The sky so clear and the moon full as can be
As all the Christmas spirits are let out free
Tiny fairies dancing with the snow at night
Making a blanket soft and white
Covering houses, flowers and ground
But not making a single sound
Ever wondering children lying still
As Christmas magic begins to spill
Snow sparkling all through the night
When we wake the world is white
Think of all this through December
And make this a Christmas to remember
Look at the sky above and take time to say
Thank you for the beauty of Christmas Day

Krishna Patel 7MX

Christmas

It's snowing it's snowing
Hooray hooray
Children are excited
As they run outside to play
The air is chilly
The snow is white
Children begin a snowball fight
For a white Christmas God heard them plead
This made the best Christmas indeed
Mum came out and called time for din
I've cooked turkey, potatoes and stuffing
After the feast it was time for bed
Upon the pillows rested each head
Before they all slept they had to say
Thank you God for this Christmas Day

Junior Mattis 7MX

Christmas Happiness

I wake up early at half past eight,
It's here, it's here, and I cannot wait,
Christmas Eve has already been,
It's wonderful and enchanting, as I have seen.

The snow is white as cotton wool,
It's falling on the ground like a pool,
My family are here they've come to stay,
All my cousins are ready to play.

My friends turn up I'm all-aglow,
I put on the music and we're in the flow,
We all sit around the Christmas tree,
The sparkling lights are blue as the sea.

We quickly rush to open our presents,
We act like scavengers and greedy peasants,
All around there are sounds of rustling bags,
As we look for our names written on colourful
tags.



The most exciting of all were the phones,
All with really incredible tones,
Our house was decorated to look so nice,
But we were not as quiet as creeping mice.

My dad was so pleased with his brand new car,
Now we will visit our family near and far,
We had fun throughout the day,
It was great to spend it in that way.

Rudie Hamilton-Scott 7MX

Circus Skills

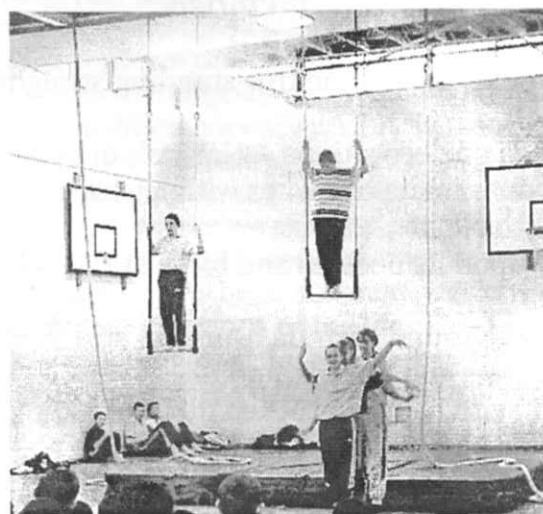
A group of Year 10 students have been learning circus skills from a teacher at Circus Base.



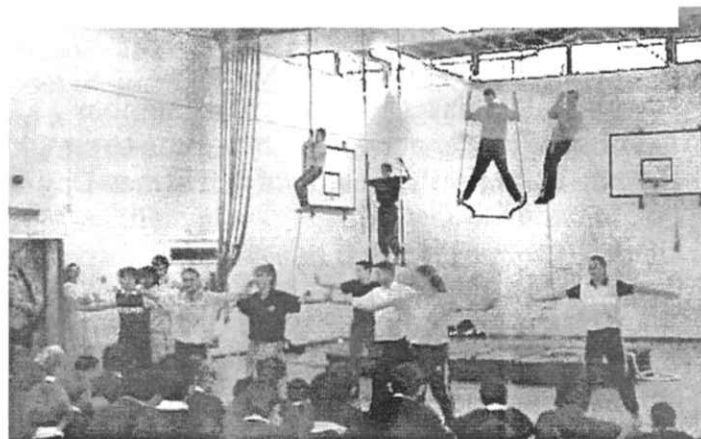
The students have joined in fearlessly and enthusiastically. In addition to trapeze students have been developing a range of skills, foremost amongst which has been juggling



Earlier in the year all the students involved took part in Dancescape, a part of the Merton Youth dance Theatre Scheme, performing at the Wimbledon theatre.



Our potential circus performers are Tom Christie, Terry Medwin, Kate Willoughby, Emma Drewitt, Zoe Langley, Hannah Watkins, Nicola Brightwell, David Speller, David Francis, Ashley Keene, Steven Carrington, Jack Kennedy and Kylie Douglas



Blood Brothers

On Tuesday 15th October 2002 Miss Stuart organised a trip for forty-five pupils to travel by coach to Richmond Theatre to see 'Blood Brothers', the musical.

For many pupils it was their first time to see a production like this at a theatre. The musical was by Willy Russel, a writer from Liverpool.

The musical is about a poor pregnant woman who already has lots of children. She can't afford another child but the doctor tells her she is having twins.

The woman works as a cleaner in a rich couple's house and when she tells the rich woman about her having twins, the rich woman who can't have children of her own asks to buy one of them. The poor woman agrees to sell one of the twins. They agree that the separated twins should never see each other or know they are brothers. The poor woman is very superstitious, for example: it is unlucky to put new shoes on the table.

When the boys grow up they meet each other and become friends, one of them is rich and posh and the other one is common and poor.

One day they discover they were born on the same day and become blood brothers, the rich boy then moves away.

Some years later when they are grown men they meet up again and resume their friendship. The poor man gets into trouble with the police and is sent to prison. When he is released he discovers that his friend is really his brother. Unable to cope with this he kills himself and his twin brother dies at the same time.

The superstition is that twins separate at birth die if they find out the truth.

The musical is really sad but we all enjoyed it and had a great evening.

The aim of the trip was to give pupils a greater insight to the world of musical theatre and live performances. There were great songs and music, great acting and great dances.

Annie Hawkins 9HX

Making Waves

On Wednesday 19th March 2003 over 1000 young musicians from South West London participated in a concert at the Royal Albert Hall. The programme ranged from Bhangra dancing to 20th century film music. The most exciting part of the evening, however, was when seven pupils from Raynes Park High School took to the front of the stage to perform a piece that they had written themselves.

The pupils worked with ten pupils from Tamworth Manor School to perform a piece based on the idea of technology. Lydia Daniels (flute), Julia Evans (flute), Joo Young (piano), Jason Fernandes (percussion), Andrew Douglas (electric guitar), Kayleigh Abbott (vocals), and Jennifer Heapes (vocals) spent a few hours every week in the 3 months leading up to the concert improvising together to create a piece of music based around the theme of "television". The pupils worked alongside a small group of professional musicians and composers called "Action Dog" who came to school on a weekly basis, bringing with them a small mobile studio. They lifted the initial musical ideas of the pupils and developed a piece for a full orchestra to perform on the night. The final version was a melodic rock piece (with vocals) that formed the final movement of a larger piece involving pupils from other schools. The piece was performed at the front of the main stage, accompanied by full orchestra and video projected images.

Congratulations to all pupils who took part in what was a once in a lifetime opportunity and one that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Well Done!

E. Stuart

*Russell Baker
9MZ*



In 1086 many of you would have made your way to the shops, had there been any, along Sudtone High Street, a place which changed its name to Sutton

Raynes Park Revisited

I recently found myself in Merton with an unexpected hour or two to spare. Having reached a time in life when perhaps reflection on times past is proving more pleasing than thoughts of a bleak future, I decided to indulge in an oft-considered proposal to revisit my alma mater, the old school – Raynes Park County Grammar.

Not without some trepidation did I drive through the school gates, in the hope that I would be allowed a brief wander round the corridors of my memory.

Firstly, these were not the entrance doors through which I had been accustomed to run, all those years ago (September 1951 to March 1957) Those were round the other side, fronting onto the playground as we knew it.

Now there was an entrance hall, with an office to the side, where I was obliged to report my arrival and “sign in”.

And here the biggest change hit me. Who were all these females ? Surely they couldn't be girlfriends coming to meet their ‘fellas’ ? No, it turned out that they were pupils ! Girls ? At my old school ? Whatever next ?

Having confirmed that I was indeed at Raynes Park County Grammar School, or High School as it is now called, I introduced myself at the office and signed the visitors' book. I was introduced to the Headmaster.

Formalities over, I was able to wander at will. First off, the Hall. Something was wrong. What was it ? Of course, it was the wrong way round. It was still in the same place but it was now back to front.

The stage, as it is now, is at the other end, against the wall behind which used to be the kitchens. In my day the stage was four feet high, with a full set of curtains (I seem to recall that they were red velvet). Every day all of the masters, with the Head, Henry Porter, at their centre, would march solemnly onto this stage for morning assembly, to gaze out over us lads, standing quietly in rows before them. I often wondered what it was they were actually thinking. After the ritual hymns, sermon and notices, we would be dismissed (quietly please) to file out and go about our daily business.

What of the Quad ? Or to give it's full name The Headmaster's Quadrangle.

Where has the sunken garden gone, and whither the paved paths ? No longer lunch in-

the School Hall ? In those days, we had tables set out in rows lengthwise, house by house, each table consisting of ten boys presided over by a master. Each table would send two ‘servers’ to collect bowls of food from the serving tables staffed and supplied by the Kitchen. They would return to their individual tables and ‘dishing out’ would commence. I could never stand the boiled swede, although I loved the pink or chocolate custard. Not all together with the swede you understand ! When all was finished, the ‘clearers’ appointed (democratically) by the Head of the table, would remove all dirty dishes, plates and cutlery, bearing all back to the kitchen tables, tipping uneaten food into the ‘pig bins’, under the watchful eye of the Head Cook (I can picture her now, but I cannot recall her name).

When I visited recently there was in progress a detention – even that was different. Then we stood, silent, supervised by some master or prefect no doubt anxious to get home. Now they were sitting there chatting. And this was punishment ?

I wandered out through the far doors and the end of the corridor I turned right, past the classrooms on the left. Surprisingly, these seemed not to have changed at all, still retaining the atmosphere I so remembered. It was in one of these that Mr Townend (no ‘S’) clobbered a boy by the name of McDonald round the ear with a red-bound hardback copy of Macbeth, for talking in class. It was in one of these classrooms that Mr. Rudgley (Ruggles to us), taking a history class, suddenly bellowed out “ what was the last thing I said, Bray ?, to which Bray could reply only – “I'm sorry Sir, I don't know, I was looking out of the window. Well, it was a hot afternoon, and I WAS being honest !

It was in one of these classrooms that Mr. Henry Porter, giving a lecture whilst leaning on an upturned lid of a front desk, suddenly found his elbows unsupported as the desk lid crashed shut. He recovered himself with great aplomb (after all, he was the Head Master); none of us dared laugh, not even a snigger.

At the end, if I am not mistaken, there used to be the Woodwork Room, wherein one day my class was collected for a lesson under Mr. Archer, in how to make a model boat out of a single piece of wood measuring 2" x 2" x 6" (that's in good old feet and inches, not this modern European stuff). We all planed away,

until Mr. Archer called a halt. He gathered us together and held aloft a distorted shrunken oddment of wood, originally 2" x 2" x 6" but now horribly deformed. "This" he said with a mean look, "this is an example of how NOT to treat a piece of timber". Some luckless boy had run away with both saw and plane. A lone voice riposted a single word – "crumbs". Mr. Archer went purple with rage and bellowed "OUT" pointing at me and the door to the corridor. Yes, it was I. Funny thing, I often made those little boats for my own children.

Today, I again turned right, heading back towards Reception. The Staff Common Room, as it was then known, seemed still to be on my left. I well recall the one occasion on which I was instructed to "stand outside the Common Room and wait for me" in fear and horror of the punishment I was likely to receive for some misdemeanour or other. Further on was the Holy of Holies – Headmaster's Study, with a small office before it for his Secretary. In those days, we kept as far as possible away from it. Enter there at your peril !

Now, as I mounted the stairs, up to where, as I recall, on the right at the top, was the Art Room, under the firm hand of Mr. Cecil Riley. Here it was that, one afternoon, given a free hand by "Old Riley", I piled high the desks, with a chair and an easel on top, from where I painted a picture entitled "The Art Class", as I saw it. I won a five-shilling (25p) book token for that ! What is it today? A science laboratory.

From there I strolled casually along the upper corridors, which used to be adorned with all the School photographs, those long photographs of the whole school wherein it was not unknown for the same face to appear at both the right and left ends, taken by a revolving camera in the school playground. We didn't miss a trick in those days.

At last I came to the end room, overlooking that same playground. As a first year boy one wasn't allowed to enter this room, the sanctum of the Library. It was for the more studious and therefore, presumably, the more responsible second year and above. Here it was that I developed an early liking for books. Now? Another laboratory of some sort. I am not sure what. I did not stay long enough to find out.

I padded down the adjacent stone steps, down which I had fallen on one occasion. Op-

posite me now was a corridor leading to the new wing, at least new to me, surrounding what used to be The Headmaster's Garden, for the use of the Head, Teachers and the Sixth Form only. This garden was carefully tended by our gardener, and I can picture still, the beautiful roses that grew there. However, for me this new wing was somewhat lacking in soul, being simply another modern structure.

Along the path by Pyl Brook there was (*and still is-Ed*), on the other side of the railings, a walnut tree.



The old walnut tree by the side of Pyl Brook

The Caretaker took me on another tour of the school, and I pointed out the windows through which we would climb to retrieve any balls that lodged themselves on the roof of the Gym. Coming back through the doors at the rear of the Hall well, they were and always will be the rear doors to me, we came to a blue door just round the corner of the corridor, opposite the Gym changing rooms. "Aha", I cried - "The Tuck Shop". "Tuck Shop" ? he enquired. This was a small room, opened for half an hour each morning, wherefrom were sold sweets, chocolate bars and buns – yes buns. The delights of a cream split for 3d (old pennies – that's 1p now) – what memories.

Back now to reception, where it was time to depart, with my complimentary copies of the 'Spur'. This magazine used to be produced on the printing press located in the Woodwork Room, by an after-school activity known as the Printers' Guild, of which I was a member. From copy supplied by all and sundry we would compile the type from trays via handsets

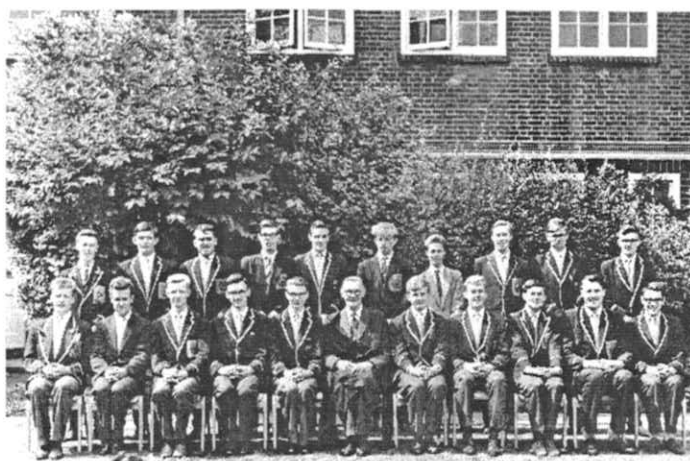
into blocks, which blocks were then inserted into the press, operated by a treadle and fed sheet by sheet by hand. It was quite a feat to get the treadle working at great speed coincidentally with one's hand movements.

As I drove out of the school gates, more memories came flooding back, of the people I had known then, and who had such an influence upon my life. Apart from Henry Porter (sorry – MR. Porter) I remember particularly, in no special order : Paddy O'Driscoll (POD), John Timpson (Slob, for some reason), Paul Townsend, Bill Herdman, Muriel Herdman, Harry Rudgley (Ruggles), R Larkin (Larkie) W H Davies (one didn't mess with him), Cecil Riley, Roy Archer, P Belling and Peter Smith, Fellow pupils as well - Chris Andrews, Gordon Buss, Mick Yeldham, John Davies, Richard Impey. There are others whose faces float upon the inner eye from time to time but whose names I have mislaid. Where are they now ?

Regrets? Yes – one – that I didn't make as much as I could have from my time at Raynes Park County Grammar School for Boys. Believe me, those years are fondly remembered – I hope and trust that today's pupils appreciate just what benefits they derive from the traditions of "my old school".

Bray

Like Harry Rudgley (see first page of this article) I have not been able to discover Bray's first name so I have followed Harry's example. Editor



*Prefects of 1961-62
with Henry Porter— Raynes Park's third Headmaster*

Standing L to R :

*R.J.Crittenden R.A.Barnes P.E.Nicholls H.Dalton A.L.Smith
I.Stephenson N.A.Preece B.T. Elsdon P.F.White J.M.Crocker*

Seated L to R:

*C.L.Courtenay J.J.Brown D.I.Shaw M.J.Lawrenson B.W.Spencer
T.H.Porter A.J.Phillips M.K.Wood I.Corbett J.H.G. Wilbraham
D.L.Forster*

Ready for Final Assembly



Putting a shine on the trophies



Mr Nicholls shows them how to do it!



Many years ago- but some things never change

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2002 -03

EVENT	Order 4 th 3 rd 2 nd 1 st	Points				Junior shield			
		G	H	M	N	G	H	M	N
Swimming	H N M G	4	1	3	2	4	2	1	3
Athletics	M (G/N) H	2.5	4	1	2.5	1	4	3	2
Volleyball	N H M G	4	2	3	1	2.5	1	4	2.5
Tug-of-war	N M H G	4	3	2	1	2.5	4	2.5	1
Netball	H M G N	3	1	2	4	4	1	3	2
Rugby	N G M H	2	4	3	1	2	4	3	1
Hockey	M N G H	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2
Girls Football	N (G/H) M	2.5	2.5	4	1	3	1	4	2
Boys Football	G M N H	1	4	2	3	2	4	1	3
Tennis	G H N M	1	2	4	3	1	2.5	4	2.5
Rounders	M G N H	2	4	1	3	1	4	3	2
Debating	G M N H	1	4	2	3	1	4	2.5	2.5
Drama	(G/H/N) M	2	2	4	2				
Music	(GMN) H	2	4	2	2				
Superteam	H M N G	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3

JUNIOR SHIELD

HALLIWELLS	1 st 36.5
MILTONS	2 nd 34
GIBBS	3 rd 32
NEWSOMS	4 th 29.5

CHALLENGE TROPHY

1 st	HALLIWELLS 42.5
2 nd	GIBBS 38
3 rd	MILTONS 36
4 th	NEWSOMS 33.5

YEAR 11 - FINAL PRIZES AND AWARDS SUMMER 2003

Prize	Recipient(s)
Sportsperson	Dan Lyle
Eric Parker	Laura Dolby
RP Former Pupils	Katie Evans <i>Lifetime Membership of RPPPS</i>
David Giles (Overall Arts)	Katie Evans
Drama	Ike Mba, Vicky Patching
Debating	Privashti Singh
Music (Senior)	Nadeen Ahmed
John Massey (Music KS3)	Lydia Daniels
Mike Nancarrow	Amy Coyne
Junior Sportsperson (KS3)	Marianne Edwards
Headteacher Awards	Luke Morgan/Lauren Pearson
Peter Gill Community Service	Tanser Ozdemir

English	Sean Cooper-Liles Tanser Ozdemir	IT	Craig Fenton
Art	Max Breese/Joe Laffar	Business Studies	Max Breese
MFL	Hayley Bannister		
Geography	Christine Hourahine-Brown Michael Warwick Roberta Spence Ugo Ikechi	Progress Award	LDD – Sarah Norton EAL – Konstantin Zaboev, Jonathan Castillo
		GNVQ	Abu Harun (IT)
History	Katie Evans	Mathematics	Michael Cashmore
Science	Michael Cashmore Konstantin Zaboev Hristo Hristev Jonathan Castillo		
Technology	Food: Kelly Fancourt, Amy Edgeworth Graphics: Komal Patel, Nathalie Gledhill, Luke Morgan, Hristo Hristev Resistant Materials: Privashti Singh, Christina Hourahine-Brown Textiles: Lisa Clynschaw, Hayley Bannister		
Drama	Dylan Haswell, Danielle Drewett, Rachel Smith, Hayley Sponder, Charlie Bowers, Katie Evans, Johnny Greenfield, Hannah Ledwith, Sam Francis, Lucy Stroud, Suzanne Catlin, William Sanderson, Michael Warwick		
Debates	Suzanne Catlin, Rachel Smith, Ike Mba, Catherine Burns, Sam Francis, Stephanie Watkins, Thomas Babington, Shahid Hussain, Abubakkar Harun, Charlie Bowers, Dylan Haswell, Hayley Sponder, Thomas Ferriter, Danielle Drewett, Michael Warwick		

Bagshot Manor

I have not told this story to many people, as I fear they will just laugh at me, but I have gathered up my courage and strength to tell my strange tale.

It was a school trip, there were thirteen of us and the month was November. It had been snowing heavily and the journey to Bagshot Manor had taken a long time and we were all very weary.

When we finally arrived at the Manor it took us by surprise. We thought it was going to be luxurious, but we were wrong, very wrong. It looked like the house of Count Dracula himself. It was cold and dark and the walls were covered in old portraits of people who had lived there long ago. As we walked along the passages their eyes seemed to follow us, making the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end. We were shown to our rooms and we unpacked our bags. I was sharing with my friend Adrian and was really glad that I was not alone. After we had unpacked we went outside. Adrian and I wandered around the back of the Manor House where we found an old stone birdbath, full of ice. We looked for a strong stick with which to break the ice.

Adrian found a large stone and I found a big stick. We both began to bash away at the ice. I looked up at a large arched window with ivy clinging to the cracked wall. There, looking out at me was the pale face of a very old woman with long silver hair and staring eyes. I blinked and she had vanished. "Did you see that", I shouted to Adrian. "See what", he replied. At that moment we were called in for dinner. After that we were taken for a tour around the house. We passed the room in which the old lady would have been. I asked our guide whose room it was. "No one has been in that room since the old Lady of the Manor died", he replied. "But I saw someone in there" I said. "You couldn't have, no one goes in there any more".

That night strange creaking noises woke me up. I crept out of bed and put my slippers on, trying to be as quiet as a mouse. I slipped out of the door and turned my torch on. The pictures on the walls seemed to glare at me; the creaking noise was getting louder as I approached the abandoned room. A shiver ran down my spine as if a cold bony hand touched

my shoulder. I turned quickly, but to my surprise nothing was there, my hand trembled as I turned the old brass doorknob. I opened the door and shone my torch into the room. An old rocking chair was gently rocking back and forth, but with no one sitting in it. I quickly shone the torch around the room to see if anyone was there, but the room was completely empty. I slammed the door shut and took a deep breath; it was then that I heard faint eerie laughter from within that same room.

Sam Chandler 9GX

The Match

When you play football there is a certain kind of feeling you get before the game. It is as though you feel sometimes that you know you're going to win but other times you feel as if you know you are going to lose. But when it comes to playing the game, you have to put all these things aside and just play your heart out.

Sometimes the keeper will make mistakes and shots will go past him and you may lose. However, there are times when the keeper will surprise himself and make brilliant saves and keep your team in the match. Then it is up to the strikers to score goals. Sometimes their shots will be "scuffed" or "spooned". ("Scuffed" means when it goes wide and you hit the ball with the bottom of your foot. "Spoon" is when the ball is set up perfectly and the striker manages to put it over).

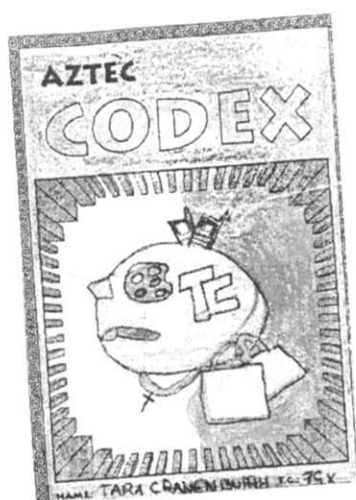
When your team is attacking, you are praying that you score. Your striker is running with the ball. He shoots the ball, is heading for the top corner of the net. Suddenly, their keeper comes out of nowhere and makes a great save. Their team is coming down the pitch with a counter attack and they are going towards your goal. Their striker shoots.....GOAL! One-nil to them.

In the second half your team play much better and with good fortune you manage to win 3-1.

Tom Sexton 8GZ



Katy Ellard 7GX



Tara Cranenburgh 7GX



Hankyul Park 7GX



Danny Hong 7GZ



Hankyul Park 7GX

The Aztecs - Art theme in 2003

I liked the Aztecs because I liked their colours. Their colours were turquoise jade, blue, green, pink and pearl, used in decorating beautiful masks. The Aztecs lived in Tenochtitlan, which is now Mexico. They sacrificed themselves by giving their hearts to the gods, because they believed they were doing the right thing, by feeding the gods. When children did something bad they were held over a chilli pepper fire or laid on ice and snow.

Laura Houston

We have been learning about Aztec culture and we made masks and shields. I made a mask using shades of blue, green, red and purple as these are the colours the Aztec gods are supposed to have worn.

Our researches showed that the Aztecs used to sacrifice people to keep the gods happy. We discovered that the Aztecs didn't write but used symbols to represent things. I really enjoyed the project, even though it has been hard work, but it was really interesting to see how they lived in the 12th century.

Danielle Bonds

MY FAVOURITE SUBJECT AT SCHOOL IS...



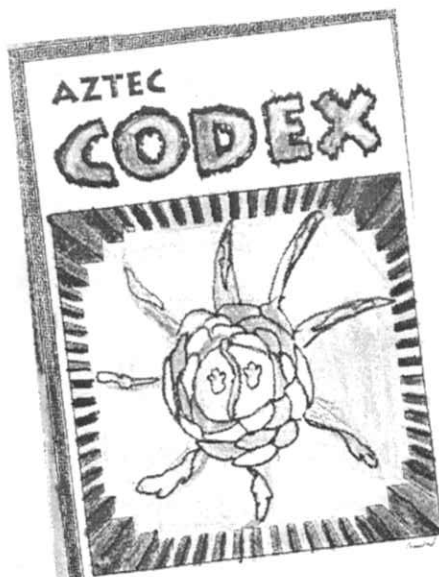
Katy Ellard 7GX

The Aztecs worshipped many gods such as the god of rain and the god of sun.. They believed they had to make sacrifices and feed the gods with human hearts to keep them happy. Although many of those sacrificed were prisoners of war, some were volunteers, even little kids because they believed that if they died really gruesomely they would have a better after-life.

Justina Borisaite



Hankyul Park 7GX



Andrew Ludlew 7GX

During the time we were making Aztec masks we had four weeks of homework to design and produce our Aztec-style codex. In this we drew and coloured our favourite things, such as food. I thought that this was a good project because we learned about Aztec culture and were involved in a lot of creative activities.

Jack Bardwell

Aztec culture was very fascinating. They had gods and symbols for everything. They lived in Mexico. A god had said to them "When you see an eagle on a cactus holding a snake that is where you will live". They made sacrifices to the gods because they believed they would then go to heaven.

Chris King

Aztec people were farmers and lived in the 12th century. They made sacrifices to the god of rain to stop droughts. Sacrifices were made to all the gods to keep the world running smoothly.

I loved working on this. There times were very interesting and making my mask was great fun. We used materials like tissue paper and cardboard. The Aztecs used feathers, charcoal, pretty tiles and mosaics. Aztecs were weird but wonderful.

Rebecca Beacham

MY FAVOURITE FOOD IS...



Justina Borisaite 7NZ

MY FAVOURITE SUBJECT AT SCHOOL IS...



SOMEONE SPECIAL...



Justina Borisaite 7NZ

Technologists get Around!

With the advent of our new Technology Status in September 2002 it has been an exciting year for the department. We now have 8 purpose built technology rooms – 3 Graphics and Multi Purpose, 2 Resistant Materials, 2 Food Technology and 1 Textiles.

All classrooms have computers or laptops and access to the school computer network. We have also new Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) facilities in line with the National Curriculum requirements.

We are looking forward to using these new facilities to raise the technological achievement of our students and to keep them updated in our ever-changing technological society.

In addition this year the Technology Department has:

Run successful primary school projects with local feeder schools.

Carried out Intensive Coursework Days for Year 11 students focusing on practical work to raise achievement.

Linked with industry to run a Year 10 Interior Design Project.

Run a range of activities to highlight National Technology Week (23rd – 27th June), including a 'Ready Steady Cook Competition' and a 'Textiles Patchwork Display'.

Operated extra-curricular clubs including our new 'Photography Club' and a family 'Cooking Session'.

Food Technology has also seen excellent practical work throughout the year especially Year 10 G.C.S.E. students who produced some brilliant 'Celebration Cakes and Gateaux'!

Visiting examiners have also been very impressed with our students' practical work especially in Graphics and Resistant Materials.

We all look forward to next year and achieving even more!

Jane Lawner

Hillcross & Aragon cause a stir!

Year 5 and 6 primary school students from Hillcross and Aragon visited our Food Technology Department during the summer term and cooked up a storm!

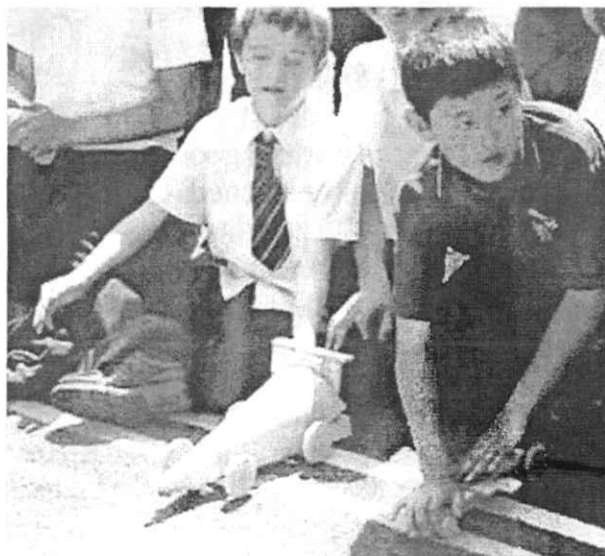
They used our facilities and made food products linked to topics they had been covering at school e.g. Victoria Sponge Cake linked to the Victorian topic of work.

All those involved enjoyed the experience and we look forward to repeating this in the coming year.

Hillcross solve problems



Technology teachers and students from Raynes Park spent the day at Hillcross Primary School, where they ran a problem solving activity for Year 6 pupils. The problem was to design and make an elastic-band-powered vehicle that could travel the longest distance using the energy stored in stretched elastic bands.



"Ten Year 9's went to Hillcross to help run a Technology day for Year 6 students. We began by helping the kids learn about aerodynamics, then, by using straws, we helped the kids make a model of what their vehicle would look like. We helped them cut pieces, drill holes and glue the framework for their vehicles together. We helped them work out how the elastic bands could be used to power their vehicles and to test them out.



At the end of the day all the vehicles were tested to see which vehicle would travel the furthest.

All in all the day turned out great!"

David Pickett and Amy Walsh

Making Models at Aragon



We have been working with Year 6 students at Aragon Primary School during the Summer Term. Year 6 students have designed and made their own model fairground rides. They have explored pulley mechanisms to control the movement of the rides and simple electronics to power them.

It's been exciting to work on this project with Aragon students and they have worked very hard and come up with some great designs!

L.Filby & K.Rechter

Some comments from Aragon Primary School students

This year I have enjoyed Technology with Raynes Park High School. I liked making the model of the fairground ride.

Jack

I've had a lot of fun in Technology lessons, and it's been brilliant working with Raynes Park High School teachers.

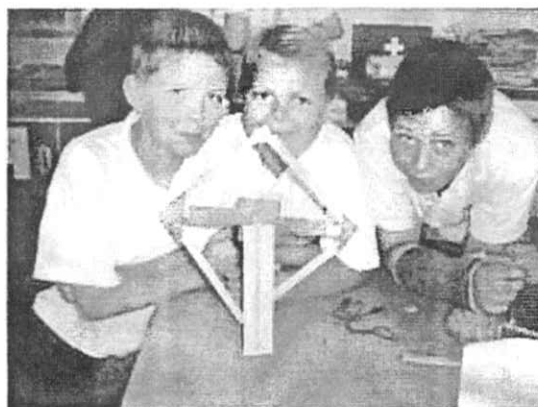
Adam

This has been wicked!

Alex

I've enjoyed doing Technology with Raynes Park High School. I found it fun and interesting. Thank you Raynes Park High School!

Stevie



West Wimbledon make it in metal



Year 6 students from West Wimbledon came to Raynes Park to do a mini project in the new resistant materials room.



They produced designs for a 'funky' key fob that would be made out of cast pewter.



To make the key fobs they used a range of different materials, tools and equipment that they had not used before, including the brazing hearth, that they used to melt the pewter, before pouring the molten metal into a mould that they had made themselves.

The Access Centre

In September 2002 Raynes Park High School welcomed Year 7 pupils for the first time. At the same time the Access Centre was established. This supports the school in its aim of enabling pupils on the Autistic Spectrum to benefit from the curriculum facilities of the school.

In an ideal world we would have had at least a term to obtain resources, visit the incoming pupils and generally organise ourselves. We had just a few days! However, we must have done something right as the pupils have had a very successful year.

In spite of all the building work and uncertainty around the opening of the new Centre and the difficulties associated with the massive reorganisation for the school as a whole, pupils in the Centre have been able to access all areas of the curriculum.

It is a big decision for all parents to make when selecting a High School for their children. It is an absolutely massive decision for parents who have children on the Autistic Spectrum. Their particular vulnerability causes understandable anxiety for their parents. Children on the Autistic Spectrum have difficulties with day-to-day social interactions, which the rest of us take for granted. This can lead to difficulties with peer friendships and picking up on cues from teachers and other adults. The mainstream staff and pupils of Raynes Park High School have made the possibility of including pupils on the Autistic Spectrum into a reality. Well done everyone!

*Lesley Kaufman
Head of Access Centre*

In 1235 only the really adventurous ones amongst you would have made your way to Cresaulton "the farm by the river spring where watercress grows". Try finding some growing at Carshalton now!

A Night at the Movies

The school concert at the end of the summer term was sheer delight. All the performers looked truly happy and were undoubtedly enjoying themselves, as was a very appreciative audience. The singing was lively at just the right tempo and one could clearly hear every word of a most entertaining and varied range of songs. For me this was the best concert of all the many I have attended at Raynes Park. I only wished that it could have gone on for another couple of hours. I cannot praise Miss Stuart and Miss Valmarana too highly both for planning such a successful production and for singing their solo numbers so enchantingly.

Mike Glead

Scenario:

It was a Tuesday afternoon, just a few days before the summer holidays. Amy and Jack were bored. They turned on the television in the hope of some relief from their boredom. Suddenly, a strange thing happened. They were drawn in, into a peculiar world, and taken on a strange journey, a journey that was "A Night at the Movies"

Act 1

1. "Pick a pocket or two" - 7NX
"Oom Pah Pali" - 7NX and 7HX, from *Oliver*
2. "Circle of Life" - Year 7 & 8 Choir
"Can you feel the love tonight" - Julia Evans, from *The Lion King*
3. "Everything I do. I do it for you" - Year 9 Choir, from *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*
4. "Bridge over troubled water" - Year 9 Choir, from *The Graduate*
5. Sister Act Medley - Company
6. "Somewhere over the rainbow" - Michaela Jenkins & Sridevi Singh, from *The Wizard of Oz*
7. "Bohemian Rhapsody" - Staff Choir, from *Waynes World*
8. "Bright Eyes" - Year 7 & 8 Choir, from *Water-ship Down*
9. "My Heart Will Go On" - Kayleigh Abbott, from *Titanic*
10. "Fame!"

Act 2

1. "All That Jazz" - Leah Rutland, from *Chicago*
2. "The way we were" - Miss A. Valmarana
3. "Summer Nights" from *Grease*
4. "Beauty and the Beast" - Raquel Dos Santos & Julia Evans
5. "Moon River" - Company, from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*
6. "I will always love you" - Miss E. Stuart, from *The Bodyguard*
7. "In His Eyes" - Leah Butland & Kayleigh Abbott, from *Je*
8. Moulin Rouge Medley - Company

Carrot Cake

This looks a tasty recipe provided by Ms Bellasis for the Raynes Park Food Technology Department recipe book. Do try it and then buy the book to find some more very appetising recipes.

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 150g self raising wholemeal flour
- 100g soft brown sugar
- 10ml cinnamon
- 100g grated carrot
- 75g chopped raisins
- 150ml vegetable oil

Icing:

- 50g cream cheese
- 50g butter
- 100g icing sugar
- 10ml lemon juice
- 50g chopped walnuts

Method:

1. In a small bowl beat eggs and mix with oil.
2. Combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, raisins and carrots in a mixing bowl. Pour egg and oil mixture into flour and stir until well combined.
3. Pour into a ring mould and cook on Medium power on a microwave for 8 minutes or until cooked.
4. Stand for 5 minutes before turning onto a cooling rack
5. Icing: Beat cream cheese and butter until smooth. Gradually beat in icing sugar and lemon juice. Spread over the sides and top with chopped walnuts.



Many illustrations by Nick England add humour to the book

Our first Headmaster

"I think I'm going to be sick".

That's an unusual way to begin a speech, but those words, muttered to one of his assistant masters, graphically express the pitch of excitement and nerves that overwhelmed John Garrett in the minutes before he addressed his new pupils in their new school for the first time. Some of you know what those early days were like from the pupil's point of view, others of you will have read about them. I shall try to give you glimpses from the other side of the Headmaster's door.



The report of his appointment was formal. I expect that the committee members were bowled over by his energy, his charisma and his wealth of ideas. They weren't the first and they wouldn't be the last.

"... the Joint Sub-Committee ... Recommend the appointment as from

the 1st September 1935 of Mr. John W P Garrett, MA Oxon, Head of the English Department at Whitgift School, Croydon."

The successful candidate's reaction was not formal at all. Mr. John W P Garrett was very, very pleased indeed, and he wrote to his friends and acquaintances with a characteristic blend of self-advertising and self-deprecating. The anthology which he and W H Auden had compiled, according to legend at the Dog & Fox on lavatory paper, was about to be published, and he combined his news with a sales pitch to various schoolmasters of his acquaintance. He wrote to F.R. Worts, Headmaster of Leeds Grammar School, who had been his mentor when he did teaching practice.

"You will be amused to know that I have become a Headmaster. The Surrey County Council has seen fit to make me Headmaster of the new Raynes Park County School for Boys. I am still a little bewildered by their rashness, and my presumption. However, I take over in September and have to start from the very beginning, even to appointing my own staff."

He wrote to his old Headmaster, J W Henson of Trowbridge High School for Boys:

"Dear Mr Henson,

Thank you very much for your kindness and congratulations. I shall need all the good wishes I can accumulate, but it is a great consolation to have the goodwill of old friends with one. I am sending you copies of an Anthology which the young poet Auden and I have got together" There's presumption!

He writes from his home in Trowbridge to his publisher, Mr Bickers of George Bell & Sons.

"Thank you for your kindly note. Yes, you are about right as to the need of a few weeks' rest. Until this term I always thought T.E. Lawrence was right when he said

"Happiness lies in absorption" I now have my doubts. What with having in one school 150 Matric candidates, and in another having to choose equipment ranging from test tubes to T. squares, from curtains to com-modes, I am tired!"

Autumn Term 1935: JG's first report to the Governors

"Raynes Park County School for Boys opened on September 19th, having on its register 160 boys, greater by forty than in June we anticipated.

The school got down to work as quickly as any school I have ever known, a fact the more surprising as we were starting from scratch.

I have been impressed with the energy and patience of the staff; I have been equally distressed at the gross sketchiness of educational background which characterises far too many of our boys. There is evidence of complete ignorance of fundamental principles in Arithmetic, Grammar and Spelling."

The next bit may surprise many of you.

"The school dinners have been from the beginning a magnificent success, and for masters and boys alike it is voted the best time of the day."

But for some hearty appetites school dinner was not enough

"Already a small shop opposite the West Barnes Lane entrance is regarded as a school Tuck Shop. This is a dangerous state of affairs, as I have made it a stringent rule that no boy is to be on either road during school hours and no boy who stays to dinner is to go outside the school boundaries without written permission from his form-master. The result is an inundation of such requests from boys who even after they have asked for more – and unlike *Oliver Twist* have received it – still succumb to the sweet blandishment of "Tuck".

Sadly he missed one of the high points of the school's first year :

"Wimbledon Borough News 1935 December 6

While the new Raynes Park County School for Boys was being formally opened on Thursday, it's 32-year-old Headmaster, Mr John Garrett MA, was lying ill with chicken pox at his home in Trowbridge.

He sent a telegram saying "May the ship be well and truly launched. Greetings to the school and the assembled company".

His ideas were not left to develop unsupervised, though as Garrett seems to have actively enjoyed inspections, there is no suggestion that he was discomfited.

November 1935 Inspection Report:

The Headmaster has indeed gathered around him an almost unique body of enthusiastic workers who, with the exercise of mutual good will and support, will be able to tackle the problems successfully and eventually attain the aim that he has set before him of making the School a local centre for cultural training. With this in view, the Headmaster has undoubtedly called for wholehearted and self-denying service from his Staff, but no whit less than he is willing to give himself.

The Houses are placed under their Housemasters not merely for sport, but for complete tutorship and control, as in a boarding school. The Housemaster is thus directly responsible in all matters for every boy in his House. Already a visitor can foresee that, under these conditions, an **enthusiastic staff will not fail** in due course to reap their reward in the form of equally willing service from the boys."

Garrett built on the report in his dealings with his governors :

"1937 February 25, The Headmaster announced Mr. Brown's Inspection of the school last term. He emphasised the importance of those passages in the report which stressed the difficulties of teaching boys of mixed educational origin. He prophesied that if the present IIIB, took the General School Examination in 1939, so poor was their quality, and so chaotic their background, there might well be a 100% failure."

Gordon Rodrigues claims to have been a member of that class. He seems none the worse for it.

"Garrett also announced the financial and artistic success of "Julius Caesar". They made £ 82.14.0."

Drama was of course his obsession, but he encouraged a wide range of activities and interest, and chose his staff accordingly. He told the Governors that :

"He saw in Mr. Milton's violin playing and his International Hockey cap, in Mr. Beecroft's swimming and his music, in Mr. Rogers exhibition in the Storran Gallery and his Rugby, an illustration of the principle of the "whole man" which he always sought for on the staff."

By this definition, of course, Garrett was far from being an example of the "whole man". He could wield an elegant punt pole and was, I believe, a mean croquet player, but his attempts at cricket and tennis are remembered with disrespectful hilarity. Nor was he artistic. He had no gift for music or poetry or graphic arts, and despite his enthusiasm he did little acting and that not very well. But he could select staff, and that is why Messrs. Beecroft, Milton and Rogers were at Raynes

Park. He built up his staff by any means at his disposal, and certainly in ways which would be frowned on today. In Frank Beecroft's case, they seem to have met socially in Oxford.



"Mr Milton Showing the Way"

This photograph by D. Buckhurst was a winning entry for the Headmaster's Photography Prize in 1939

Garrett was impressed by the young man's qualifications – theatrical expertise, music, swimming and French – and effectively offered him a job without worrying too much about the Governor's role in appointments. Beecroft was impressed too. He wrote "I have thought long and seriously of our conversation in the Mitre and have decided that I should very much like to work on your staff. ... without any desire to flatter, I feel that you are an all too rare type of Headmaster and that you are in sympathy with my own ideas – from my point

of view it should be well nigh perfect."

Sam Newsom also joined Raynes Park with JG's encouragement, but perhaps with some stern admonition from Garrett as to appearance and behaviour. Before the interview for this, his first job, he wrote to Garrett, "I will have my hair cut to a Teutonic shortness. My cherished side-whiskers – which are just becoming a real joy to behold – shall go too. My only suit shall go to the cleaners, and, on Friday morning, I will have a shave. What more can one do?"

Sam subsequently became a senior education officer, in the Eastern Counties and many years later he was to write for *The Spur* in support of the change to comprehensive status, pointing out that this would bring Raynes Park close again to the sort of school it was under John Garrett.

The November 1938 Inspection report suggests that even Mr. Beecroft had difficulty sometimes:

"A very clear example of the difficulties that have had to be faced by the staff was seen in a French lesson given by Mr. Beecroft in form VB. Mr. Beecroft is undoubtedly a very skilful teacher of his subject; this was especially noticeable in the way in which he adapted himself to a class of limited ability. It was a form that, in spite of constant revision, had only the haziest conception of active or passive, transitive or intransitive verbs. It can be imagined that it was a Herculean task to make them grasp the rules of concord of French reflexive verbs." *I calculate that this is poor old IIIB again, two years older but no wiser.*

In his December 1938 report, JG refers to the exam results and to the inspection, but his real problems lie elsewhere:

"The Kitchen Staff have been a problem throughout the term. I am now convinced that Mrs. Brown has not the mental capacity necessary for estimating quantities without ruinous extravagance. Further there has been such internecine strife in the kitchen that I have been called on to intervene, and on one occasion I had to threaten to call the police to have one woman removed from the building."

On the credit side he reports:

"An Old Boys' Society has this term been formed." *There was also the war, but frankly Garrett seems to regard that as a minor irritant, except when it began to erode his hand picked staff.*

"1940 April 4th Report to the governors:

Firstly I would congratulate everyone who has the interests of education at heart on the school's fortunate geographical position. Just outside an area officially scheduled as evacuable, we have, in blessed neutrality, been able to continue our work with a minimum of interruption. On July 26th, at the close of the most successful term in the school's history, I addressed a crowded meeting of parents in the Hall, and endeavoured to give them a lead should war come. On September 25th, we started improvised education according to the area in which boys lived, and gave 333 tutorials a week. On October 7th, we started Homework for the four lowest forms and on the same day we began digging up the grounds for the growing of potatoes."

Philip Polack remembers joining the Raynes Park staff, and how much he enjoyed working with John Garrett. He remembers one incident from this period: "The local primary schools stayed open throughout the summer of 1940, so the teachers were not going to get a break. For one week in August the RP teachers took over to let them have a holiday. The elite of the RP staff found it an unusual experience. Alan Milton understood when a small child asked him "Can I go across the yard?" But he was taken aback when the next request was "Can I go across the yard with paper?"

Staffing was an increasing problem:

Report July 1940:

By the raising of the age of reserved occupation as it applies to Schoolmasters, we stand to lose no less than seven from August 1st. This you will realise is a rude blow in a staff of sixteen full-time men. It is the penalty we pay for a recruitment of young enthusiasts. I would not for a moment have had it otherwise. The school is five years old, and its present state of health is due to their work.

I have engaged Mr. G.M. Haslam. For the last three years he has been at the Slade School, and is now a fully qualified Art Master. He has three times been rejected for the Army on medical grounds, and we are fortunate to have secured his services.

I propose as a general principle to appoint good men when I can get them, but to prefer efficient and experienced women to elderly and retired men."

The school drama carried on. Basil Wright wrote to Benjamin Britten, "Dear Benjy, Are you here on Friday this week? If so would you like to come down with us to John Garrett's school to see the boys performing King Henry IV Part I. We're leaving here by car about 6 and dining there before the show - getting back to London by 10.30."



The First XV 1941

Other activities flourished, like the Pig Club. To give his pupils a break, Garrett encouraged them to try their hand at farming, usually with wealthy friends like Rudolf Messel who had rural estates. One of the boys fell for the pig population, with immediate consequences for the school. Messel offered two of Susan's piglets and Garrett describes his journey with them in *The Spur*, July 1941.

"In the attempt to secure two, chance played a large part, and no one was prepared a second time to risk be-

ing savaged by that great-hearted mother. Disaster stared us in the face when the box intended to contain both pigs was discovered to be large enough to contain only one. A large-sized dog-kennel had hastily to be substituted.

The kennel of pigs was lifted into the luggage van to Waterloo. Both pigs lay passive throughout the journey. At Waterloo, however, their latent exhibitionism got the better of them, and as interested onlookers collected they began to dangle feet through their aperture, to assume wounded expressions, and to make noises of exhaustion. The presumed author of their ills tried to dissociate himself from that monstrous kennel of shame, but without avail. And, anyway, the worst was yet to be. What respectable pedestrians in Raynes Park, out in their Sunday best, can have thought of the sight of a Headmaster pushing a railway truck in the boiling sun, to the accompaniment of two pigs squealing as if their throats were being cut, it is impossible to imagine. We are grateful to Mr. Messel for the pigs, and felt proud to have conducted them personally from the peace of their Fairhaven home to the rackets life of the by-pass."

(Did that poor young enthusiast realise that the pigs would become the School's Christmas Dinner?)

More masters were on the move. In March 1942 he reported:

"With the departure of Mr. Milton and Mr. Cobb the school will have lost ten of its Masters."

And now, after seven years, the school was to lose Garrett.

"Governors' minutes 21.10.42.

The Chairman voiced the very great regret that the Governors feel at receiving the resignation of Mr. John Garrett, the Headmaster since the inception of the school, on his appointment as Headmaster of Bristol Grammar School."

Garrett himself spoke of his pride in his school:

"Wimbledon Borough News 1942 December 11

'I am unashamedly proud of the boys we produce. I find them free, fresh and inquiring individuals, sensitive, tolerant and independent, hard-working and capable of putting first things first.' So said Mr. J. Garrett, headmaster of Raynes Park County School, in presenting his last annual report at Monday's speech."

Ambition took him to Bristol, but he stayed in touch with Raynes Park; he employed at least two of his former pupils, and to one of these, Dennis Randall, he wrote affectionately of 'my previous and greatly loved school.' It was to Wimbledon and Raynes Park that he returned when ill health forced an early retirement. One of the last entries in the only diary which has survived reads: 16 December 1966 'To Richard III, Raynes Park.' Meticulously, he puts brackets around the entry, as he was too ill to go.

He died on the 23rd.

Here is a final word of encouragement from John Garrett, even for the weaker brethren, even for that infamous IIIB :

"1941 November

Education always pays in the long run, even if only regarded as training from which materials benefits will accrue."

Report of a speech to RPFPS Annual Dinner 2002 by Ann Bradley (Archivist of Bristol Grammar School and biographer of John Garrett)

Friends in France

Pendant cette année scolaire 2002 - 2003, la classe de 7NX a écrit des lettres aux élèves d'une école en France située près de la ville de Troyes, en Champagne. On a établi un lien avec le Collège de la Villeneuve il y a quatre ans déjà. Nos profs ont visité le Collège, la ville et la région deux fois; on a accueilli un groupe des élèves du Collège chez nous deux fois quand on a eu l'occasion d'organiser des rencontres amicales à l'école et avec une visite inoubliable du "Millenium Dome".



Here are the letters from our French pen friends

Voici les élèves de 7NX qui expliquent:

Our class 7NX have been organising and receiving letters from our pen friends. I have sent 4 letters to my pen friend in France. His name is Simon and he is 11 years old. The letters I sent were an introduction about myself, Christmas, Easter and a letter about the summer holidays. At Easter I designed my own Easter card with lots of decorations and pictures. It was great fun!

On the 1st of May we received cards with pictures of Lilies of the Valley, which is traditional for that important day in France. I have sadly only received one letter so far. It was fun and enjoyable sending letters to a pen friend in France, but it was quite tricky, as we had to write in French. I hope we are able to continue writing letters to our pen friends next year.

Shirwa

This year 7NX have been writing letters to another school in France. We sent our first letter in October. We received lovely cards from

them at Easter with a Teddy bear on the front. They asked questions about our school and found out a bit of information. On the 1st of May we got letters about flowers called Lilies of the Valley, which are popular in France. They give them to their friends and family from their gardens or picked in the woods. The person I was writing to was called Simon. I've enjoyed writing to my pen pal and hopefully get a new pen pal in Year 8.

Jade

We have been writing letters to a school in France. We all have pen friends and when we first wrote last year we were not sure if we would have an answer. When the pen friends wrote back they asked us for our addresses, telephone numbers and a photo. It has been fun writing to people in France and I am waiting for my next letter from Alexis.

Carrol

I've sent 3 letters to my pen friend, Florian, about Christmas, Easter and the summer holidays. Writing letters in French was fun, but hard. I want to write more letters next year.

Umyndan

We sent our first letter in the first term.... and then we waited andfinally they replied. We sent our next letter at Christmas. My pen friend was a girl. This pen friend scheme is a good idea because you can make friends in different countries.

Michael

Justification?

*"Coin flicking is an honourable profession".
Discuss.*

As Karl Marx once said, religion is the opium of the masses. Well, in modern British society sport is the opium of the masses. Everyone likes some kind of sport, whether it is football, snooker or indeed coin flicking. Communist governments set up football teams in Eastern Europe to keep the people happy. Even though communism offers no great support for religion, its creator said that without religion, people are automatically unhappy. In our society the same goes for sport.

Henry Newman Year 9

(Henry's response to an imposition for failure to desist from the aforementioned activity)

Business Activities

This summer we were able to obtain tickets to enable all three groups of Year 11 Business Studies students to attend the Blue Skies Entrepreneur Presentation. One venue was at the National Film Theatre, Waterloo which was very easy to find. The next was at the cinema at the Barbican rather a different proposition. However, we all arrived safely!

The afternoons were a mixture of modern music, video, interactive game shows and interviews with entrepreneurs. We met people who had started businesses in fashion, jewellery, ICT, and music. It was very entertaining and proved a good revision opportunity for our students.

At each event one of our students won a prize in the game show answering business studies questions. Congratulations to Kyleigh Ashwin and Lauren Peek and thanks to Mrs Wishart, Mrs Hasler and Mrs Painter who accompanied the trips and therefore made them possible.

S Williams

African Still-Life theme

Louisa Turk 9GZ



Catastrophe

It was a sunny Monday morning. I was looking for my book. I was worried, as next day in English we had to write a story, so for the rest of the day I was searching for my book. Then I realised my teacher had stolen it. She took it from my bag and marked it, but she wouldn't admit it. I searched her whole desk then I saw the doorknob turning. I realised – Mrs Williams was back.....

I searched for a place to hide. I went under the table. The door was opening. I realised the table was too exposed. I looked and looked but there was nowhere else. I had to stay under the table. She came in, walking like a mean street kid with that sort of swagger of a mean street posse. Glasses black, that evil look in her eye, she yelled out of the window "Late-

comers posse."

I was shaking like crazy.

"Right", she said to herself.

"Time to sort out this book. Do the only thing he doesn't want me to do. Mark it. Ha, ha, ha, ha!"

Oh, no! My world was over. Never before had Mrs Williams marked my book. She was about to. What could I do? I thought quickly. I started to make sounds. She dropped my book. I went for it. Pulled it in with one hand. I made another distraction. She fell for it. I ran to the door, turned the knob it was stuck. Oh, no! She turned around and saw me.

"You!"

"Give me the book", she snarled.

"No", I squeaked. I was so scared. She got out her mobile phone.

This was it, her whole gang was coming. My life flashed before my eyes. I was only twelve. I had to ask for a rerun.

"Here, have the book. Just don't hurt me", I begged.

She took my book and said,

"I'm gonna do what I should have done a long time ago."

She sat at her desk, marked the book, got her mobile 'phone and recontacted her posse.

"Don't worry. Sorted. Right you, Gary-Jay.

This is superb work. Here's a sweet. Now run along, see you tomorrow."

She turned on the charm again. I gently walked out of the door.

"Did that just happen?" I thought.

I was confused but then I realised something even worse. I was late for History!!!!!!

Gary-Jay Bourley 8GZ



A happy Year 10 artist, Charlie Leman, at Kew Gardens

"Contest" by Matthew Reilly
a review

Like a spark inching its way slowly along a gunpowder trail to a crate of high explosives, Contest starts slowly, then explodes into a burst of fiery, earth-shaking action.

Dr Stephen Swain is leading a fairly slow, normal life ... for a New Yorker, that is.

Then suddenly, with no warning whatsoever, he and his eight-year old daughter are pulled into the New York State library. There they learn that they have been chosen to take part in a horrifying contest, a contest where unless you leave as victor, you do not leave at all...

To put this into a simpler context, he and his daughter are trapped inside an unfamiliar building with six vicious aliens that he must find a way of killing. The building has been electrified – there is no way out until only one contestant survives. And these aliens will be equally bent on killing him as well.

And as if that wasn't enough, Swain must also contend with the Karanadon – a monster whose only purpose is to destroy all that it encounters...

Put like this, we can clearly see the sort of book Contest is. Barely a paragraph goes by without another monster trying to kill Swain, a really, really large explosion or a burst of gunfire. Even during the odd quiet parts, there is a terrible sense of dread and foreboding. As the author notes in a 'Special edition' introduction, "Contest is easily the fastest of all my books... Just raw, non-stop energy."

I was scarcely able to put this book down once I started reading it. I was caught in this flow of energy and although this book is rather long, the action came so thick and fast I didn't even notice the length. In fact, it's more like watching a film than reading a book.

In short, Contest is a non-stop roller-coaster ride of pure action that will keep you reading until the final, ultra-explosive conclusion.

8/10 "Contest wins by a chunk of exploding rubble".

If this review lit a fuse for you, this book can be found in our school library.

David Langdon Year 11

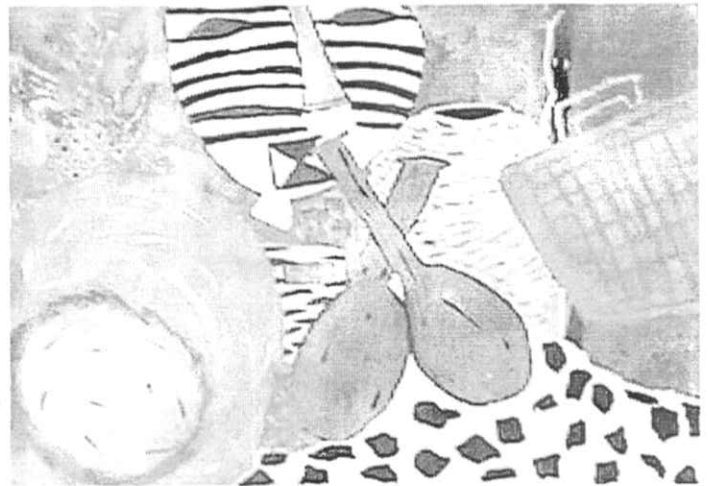
My Work experience

On the 23rd of June I began my two weeks of work experience at a playgroup. I was really excited on my first day and got straight to work. The staff were all really helpful and easy to talk to. As day one came to an end, I felt really pleased with the work I had done and couldn't wait for the next day. As week one went on I started to gain the trust of the children there. Some of the things I had to do were setting up and clearing away equipment, helping prepare the daily activity, joining in at story and song time and helping with preparing the refreshments.

On the Friday of the first week the playgroup had a coffee morning to raise money for the playgroup fund, I helped prepare tickets for the tombola and also ran the stall. I enjoyed it very much and the playgroup managed to raise £106.63.

I have really enjoyed my work experience and wish I could do it all over again....

Hayley Coyne 10HZ



Leanne Sullivan 9GZ

The best of gifts

To your mother Great hope
To your father Good example
To your friend Love
To your enemy Patience
To your animals Kindness
To yourself Confidence and satisfaction

Vandana Gaur

Drama

House Play Competition 2002

Gold	Miltons
Silver	Halliwell's
	Gibbs
	Newsoms

Once again a fine tradition was upheld, with over one hundred and forty students involved. Admirable commitment to producing the best possible plays was shown by so many students, mostly in their own time.

One marvels at the drive, hard work and imagination shown by the Year 11 directors in encouraging and providing the stimulus for their casts.

We were delighted to welcome as our judge for the competition, Jim Vaughan, an executive producer with ITV and Granada TV. Jim's father was a pupil at Raynes Park and is known to many of us through the medium of radio.

Miltons – Dead Famous

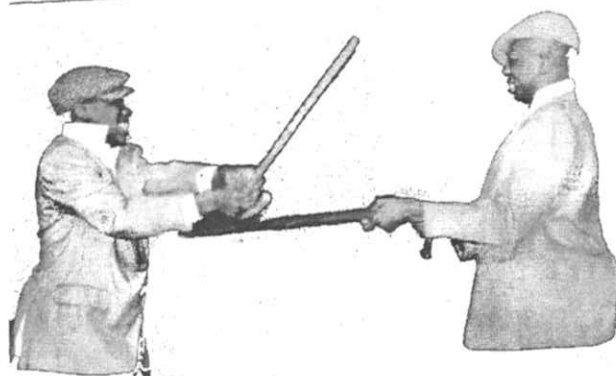
Who would have thought that Big Brother



would arrive at Raynes Park? It was a very interesting and original perspective. Some very efficient detectives investigated a murder in "The House".

Halliwell's – Who am I?

A new superhero sweeps into town, with a family almost as strange as the tights worn by Charlie Bowers. Dylan Haswell as Ultra Man was aided by the old timers played by Vicky Patching and Charlie Bowers. We had the se-



cret agents and not forgetting the vibes from the 'one on high' Ike Mba. There were visits from old favourites Spiderman and Superman.



Newsoms – Cinderella meets Adams Family

An on-stage feud between two sets of students with different views on what play they should do for the House Plays, "a play within a play". We enjoyed the horrid but charming Adams family, with a particularly scary Grandma (Lucy Stroud) and sleazy Gimez (Dan Dooley). In contrast the sweet Cinderella and her faithful friends were all being gossiped about by our narrator / Gossip Queen, Rachel Smith.

Gibbs – Bugsey Malone

Okay it's been done before, but definitely not like this, Bugsey Malone – both scary and fun with real slurge guns at the end- indeed a fitting and exciting end to the evening.

Both gangs were fighting for control. The gangs were supported by glam girls, especially

Sabina as Telulah. A fine song was rendered by Piggy (Wendy). All were being investigated by



two strange detectives. Strange indeed and in many different costumes.

Acting Extras

It was very exciting when Rikki McLeod, one of our students, was picked to take part in a new Sunday evening ITV series, called William and Mary, starring Martin Clunes. Over a hundred other members of the school were involved in the filming of a funeral scene. What fun! One minute of stardom! So Raynes Park gloried in a special mention in the credits. Our next appearance will be in the ITV series MIT (Murder Investigation Team).

Castle of Horrors

"Escape from the Castle of Horrors"

An almighty struggle between good and evil was presented to the audience at Raynes Park High School, when the school's production played out a drama of cruelty, compassion, bravado, steadfastness, malice, goodness and much more besides.

The multitudinous cast created a palpable tension between the contending parties, when humble decency overcame numerous dangers to conquer both fear and the capricious cruelty of heartless bullies. Goodness, of course, won both the day and the audience's applause.

The R.P.H.S. tradition of writing it's own plays to meet the possibilities of a huge and

willing cast was, thanks to the inventiveness of the author, Mr R.W. Jones, and skill of the producer, Miss Jager (and no doubt many more besides) faithfully upheld.

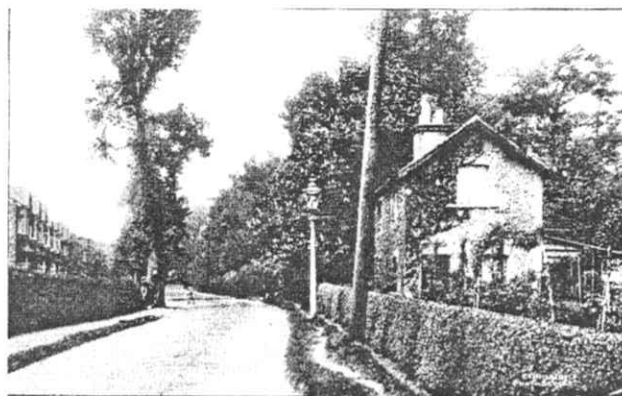
The cast, many in dazzlingly colourful costumes, and ranging from the worryingly frantic Terror Twins to the reassuringly decent father of the family, met the challenge boldly, and gave the audience both a morality lesson and an evening of pleasure.

Congratulations to all involved, including the behind-the-scenes stage management who worked wonders to marshal such numbers of students in so little space, in silence and on cue.

J.Massey

Answers to Alien Puzzle Poems:

Elizabeth Forster	A pen
Hannah Cleevely	The Sea
Arienne Bolt	A Rainbow
Karl Gawley	A Tiger
Chris Mitchell	A Cat
James Wyllie	A portrait
Tom James	A Shadow
Ryan Morgan	A Coin



*A country lane not far from where our school now stands
but just a shade more tranquil in 1915
West Barnes Lane is not quite like this today!*

Athletics

Merton Champions:

Ike Mba – Triple Jump
Richard Vanderpuije – 400m
Danny Jackson – Javelin
Amanda Brightwell – Long Jump
Billy Clayton – Javelin
Stephanie Mattis – High Jump
Charlie Rockcliffe – Discus

Over 120 students took part on a hot, sunny day at Wimbledon Park. They all participated to their fullest as they came up against the Borough's best. There was pride at stake as we wanted to retain the Mixed Schools' Cup for the third year running, and with the combination of boy athletes in years 10 and 11, we were well set to give Wimbledon College a run for their money! As it was, it came down to the line on the relay, with Wimbledon College beating us by one point. Listed above are all those who came first in their event and who was selected to represent Merton at the Surrey Schools Athletics Championships at Kingsmeadow Stadium. Good luck to Ike Mba who goes on to represent Surrey at the National Schools Tournament.

A. Routledge



A happy Year 10 relay squad at the championships



Neil Fraser makes a splash!

Rugby

The Raynes Park Junior Rugby Team had a very successful season this year. At the beginning of May, a group of thirteen Year 8 boys met for the first training session of the year. As ten out of them had never played a game of Rugby before, we focused on fitness and a variety of tackling techniques. It was a tough first session and as a result five of the boys were never to return. We managed to recruit a few more players and started some serious Thursday afternoon training. The forwards: Robert Lewis, Alfie, Cole, Luke, Lei and Chris, worked very hard on rucks, mauls and the occasional lineout. Many thanks to Daniel (Year 9), who assisted with the coaching of the forwards. The backs: Shannon, Richard, Leon, Jamie, Aaron, Russell, James, Harry, Jordan, concentrated on positional play, tackling and passing.

The six weeks of intensive training prepared the boys for their first game against Glenthorne. Alfie won the toss and chose to run with the wind. Glenthorne scored from the first touch of the ball and our chances started to look grim. Richard evened the score with a runaway try, which brought a smile to the boys' faces. Tries from Alfie, Luke and another from Richard saw us lead by fifteen points at half time. The tackling in defence was hard and effective, ensuring Glenthorne turned over the ball nearly every time they got close to our line. The forwards started to put a few phases together while the backs made a number of excellent runs through the Glenthorne line. When the final whistle blew the boys were ecstatic and could not believe they had won. 75 to 24.

The boys are looking forward to another undefeated season next year. Rugby is back at Raynes Park High School!

Team: Robert Lewis, Alfie Rawbone, Luke Douglas, Cole Pepal, Lei Chau, Chris King, Shannon Hefer, Richard Bodou, Leon Mitchell, Jamie Anderson, Aaron Boardman, James Neasmith-Stark, Harry Harman, Jordan Leach, Russell Vickery

Soccer

U14 Girls



In the Soccer County Cup Final Raynes Park u14 Girls played Overton Grange

We had already beaten the holders and the runners-up from last year by three clear goals each and were now just a game away from the only trophy at county level that we had never won..

The game was played on a pitch with a slope and a more than decent breeze blowing down the slope. It wasn't long before we put the Overton Grange defence under severe pressure. We were almost camped in their goal but couldn't score. The ball rarely found its way over the half way line and when it did it was played back smartly to put them under pressure again.

Against the run of play our opponents scored. One down and approaching half time, the advantage we had in terms of both wind and slope would soon run out and then we would be really up against it.

Second half, we scored!!!!!! Allison Wratten put us on level terms. We scored again through Jodie Fernandes. In front with twenty minutes to hold on but up the slope and against the wind. We didn't. With a short time to go we conceded a goal. Extra time loomed, as long as we didn't concede another goal.

Extra time. 2-2 in normal time, we lost the toss, and were forced to play up the hill against the wind with a golden goal in mind. With five minutes gone we had had several chances but had not scored. Thanks to a speculative lob from the edge of the area we conceded the softest of soft goals and lost the game.

The girls' Under 14 County Cup is still a trophy which, though we have won just about everything else in the county, still eludes us....

Well there is always next year.

J.Derrington

Year 7 Boys

This season has been very successful for the Year 7 football team, especially considering that in the entire history of R.P.H.S., there has never been a Year 7 Football Team. After the 1st football trial, a squad of about 20 was chosen to attend extra training every Tuesday on the Astro Turf Pitch. These players have remained the core of the team although some personnel have changed.

We have had some memorable victories in the London Cup with the 3-2 win away at Glen-thorne after extra time, and the 4-2 win against Southfields particularly pleasing before we were knocked out in the Quarter Finals. Unfortunately we did not go as far in the Surrey Cup, however after proving on several occasions that we can play good football. We look forward to still better performances next year.

Squad

Will Burns
Matt Kiberd
Mark Smith
Junior Mattis
Fabian Reid
Harry Harman
Jack Malin
Reece Szreider
Grant Szreider
Frank Tchonang
Martin Guyot
Jamie Streat
Marcus Olliffe

Luke Belto
Frazer Haswell
Jonathan Fagan
Jonathan
Walugembe
Simon Borg
Josh Dooley
Luke Neale
Danny Campbell
Daniel Earl
David Brown
Roger Franklin
Tom Craske

Year 8 Boys

The team reached the Surrey Cup semi finals and the London Cup quarter finals.

A Year 8 squad side went down 3-6 to a full strength Year 9 team. Altogether this was a commendable and encouraging performance.

Well done to everybody in the squad, particularly Tom Hutchins for leading by example and Richard 'The Rock' Boadu for superb performances in every game.

R.Cannon

Mixed Hockey

Year 9

The Year 9 players have held their own this year, only losing 2 games in the whole season. Overall they came third in the league and qualified for the finals day.

This also applies for the Year 10 team who have won all but one game this year. They were narrowly beaten by Oxted.

James Boore, Neil Alien, Rachel Smith and Louis Mitha need a special mention for being top goal scorers in their league table. Lynsey Buzwell also deserves commendation for successfully gaining a place in the Surrey hockey team for two years in a row. Well done Lynsey.

Year 8

The Year 8 mixed hockey team have 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

Year 10:

This season has brought mixed fortunes for the Year 10 Hockey Team. Training began on a warm Thursday evening and although these were not particularly well attended, I think some progress was made. Our first league match was played in Croydon on November 21st where we had a double header against Hayes and Edenham. These games were made up of a comedy of errors, not least the fact that we forgot the goalkeeper's helmet and so had to borrow one for the first game and play the second without keepers.

The Hayes match was a fiercely contested game, eventually ending in a 1-1 draw thanks to a Tom Christie goal following a fine move involving Jack Kennedy and Terry Medwin.

Without our goalkeeper, Zara Felgate, who has been in inspired form, we were given a

torrid time in the second half although we did compete well early on. We lost to Edenham 4-7 with goals from Tom, Terry and Jack with two.

A week later we returned to Croydon, this time to face St Andrew's and Darrick Wood School. Against St Andrew's we battled hard and won a difficult match 3-2 with goals from Jack, Tom and our inspirational Captain, Faye Ludlow. It must be mentioned that Amy Knight and Zara defended very well and at times kept us in the game.

The second half of the season followed on from the first with RPHS often playing well before coming unstuck late on in games. When the final games had been played, we finished a respectable 3rd in a league of 6. Hopefully, if we can be a little bit more committed to training, next year can be even more successful.

Squad:

Zara Felgate
Faye Ludlow
Amy Knight
Jack Kennedy
Tom Christie
Terry Medwin

Jade Gregson
Joely Dighton
Harry Bayliss
Robert Warren
Robert Lever

Year 11:

It was a difficult year for us as it had been decided to change the league format and combine Years 11, 12 and 13 together. Not having a 6th form, and a goal keeper in Year 10, at times we found ourselves up against hockey players who were twice and even three times our size. Having come 2nd in the competition last year, we found that we could not return to our previous form as the opposition were just too big and too strong. As a result we had some close matches but failed to qualify for finals day. Well done to all players.

Louis Mitha
Dan Lyle (captain)
Craig Fenton
Ben Burnett
James Boore
Rachel Smith
Lauren Pearson (captain)
Lynsey Buzwell
Jackie Ford
Roberta Spence

Hockey Overview

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 qualified for the finals day. Our teams are certainly reaping the rewards of being able to play on the Astroturf. Thank you to all who made that possible.

Netball



Year 7s celebrate Borough Tournament win

Year 7 Squad:

GS Justina Borisaite
GA Danielle Bonds
WA Carrol Masango
C Corrine Hall
WD Laura Houston
GD Abigail Igbavboa (captain)
GK Vicky Clark



Corrine Hall Yr7

We started the year with lots of training because our teachers wanted us to learn different positions and some of us had never played before. Some of us ended up playing a position we had not played before, but we found that we were better in some of the new positions.

Our first match was against Mitcham Vale.



Year 7 in action at the Borough Tournament

We were very nervous but there was no reason to be as we won 54 - 3. We then played matches against Ursuline, Tamworth and The Hall, and we won all those as well. One of our best matches was against Coombe Girls' School as they are a strong team, but we beat them 34 - 6. At the end of the season, we went to Ursuline for our Borough Netball Tournament and walked away with more medals. We would like to thank Miss Routledge and Miss Ball for their time and effort, and I hope we have similar success next year.

Abigail Igbavboa

Year 8 Netball:

The team had a brilliant season. We have played four teams and have been undefeated.

On Wednesday 2nd October we played Mitcham Vale. We were all quite worried as it was our first match, but we all worked really hard and won 11 - 1. The player of the match went to Leila Button.

On Monday 11th November we played Ursuline, they were harder than we thought, we were losing in the first half but came back in the 2nd half and we won 15 - 13. It was a very hard-fought game. Player of the match was Jodie Fernandez.

On Wednesday 15th January we played Graveney. We all put 100% effort in and walked away with it by winning 14 - 2. In this case two people deserved player of the match and that went to Carly Holmes and Leila Button.

On Thursday 6th February we played Coombe. This was a very hard game, but we knew we needed to give it our best if we wanted to win. We were losing at first but came back and decided that we were not going to be beaten on our own home ground. We worked as a team and finished with a very close score 14 – 11. Once again there were two players of the match and they were Jodie Fernandez and Sidone Bryan.

Many thanks to Mrs Readings, our coach.

Our players :

GS Holly Carder
GA Leila Button
WA Kate Jones
C Carly Holmes (Captain)
WD Jodie Fernandez
GD Leyla Pierce/Nazanin Tayebay
GK Louisa Francis

Carly Holmes

Year 9:

The Year 9 netball team has had a very successful year this year, convincingly beating everyone

in the Borough.

Ursuline won 32-6

The Hall won 42-6

Rowan won 24-7

Coombe Girls won 26-17

Early in the season Laura Saker, Amanda Brightwell and Hannah Watkins were chosen to try out for a county position. Although just narrowly missing out on selection, the girls gained a lot of experience from the four-week spell of training. Well done!

Despite all the conquests this season, the one that holds most in our memory was the match against the Year 9 boys football team. In complete denial of the girls' ability, talent and team cohesion the boys confidently strode onto the court 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 30 seconds and never looked back. One up for the women!

Year 10 :

It was a season dogged with rain and cancelled matches. The season started well against Mit-cham Vale and Ursuline with us beating both schools quite convincingly. We also played against Tamworth, The Hall and Coombe Girls and we remained undefeated throughout the year. Congratulations go to Amanda Brightwell, Hannah Watkins and Laura Saker for being selected to attend County Training, but narrowly missed out on being selected for the final team. We also attended the Borough Netball Tournament, where we came back with medals around our necks. It was a weird final as it was against our Year 11's, but we ended up beating them 12 – 7. Good luck to all those who decide to attend county training next year and thank you to Miss Routledge for training us – we are looking forward to using the sports hall next year.

Kylie Douglas

GS Hannah Watkins
GA Laura Saker
WA Lucy Powell
C Amanda Brightwell
WD Kylie Douglas (captain)
GD Hayley Goodall
GK Zoe Longley
Res: Jo Rose
Vicky Kupzack
Rachel Woolley

Year 11 :

We have had a very successful season this year, although training and matches have had to be cancelled due to bad weather – hard luck that we get a sports hall the year after we leave. We remained undefeated throughout the season – for the 3rd year running – which left only the Borough Netball Tournament. Unfortunately, due to the fact that Year 10's and 11's were in the same tournament it meant that we ended up facing our year 10's in the final. We were unlucky on the day as the year 10's were too

fast for us, and Laura Saker was a shooting machine. I would like to thank Miss Routledge for her support and thank the rest of the team for 4 years of good netball. The team had an outstanding victory over Ursuline, beating them by one goal in the final moments of the game.

Laura Dolby

GS Keiley Stow
GA Laura Dolby (captain)
WA Miki Crump
C Becky Howard
WD Side Underwood
GD Amy Edgeworth
GK Vicky Patching
Res Katie Evans
Hannah Baillie
Hannah Ledwith
Sarah Edmonds

Tennis

The tennis teams had a busy and successful summer especially since we were one of only three state schools in the Surrey Schools Competition.

We entered Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 into the leagues. All years played close and competitive matches against schools such as The Royal Grammar School Guildford, Cranmore, Trinity and Hampton. Every match was well fought with the Year 9 team narrowly losing to Tiffins by 4 sets to 5. They continued their progress and triumphed against Reigate Grammar School, which delighted everybody enormously. Well done to everybody who played in the tennis team this year, who can all be proud that they all won at least one set over the summer. The standard of the competition is very high and each player always played with complete determination.

Team players this year included:

Year 7- Freddie Thumwood, Jack Harris, Jamie Streat and Matthew Kiberd.

Year 8 – Joshua Whiteman, James Hutton, Tom Neale, Chris Lyle and Stuart Higgins.

Year 9 – Tom James, Neil Sarkhel, Charley

Cox, Alex Callegari, James Connolly and Sam Walter-Smith.

Tennis Tournament

On 3rd July we went to St Georges College in Weybridge to play in the Surrey Tennis Festival. The opposition was very strong, but everyone had fun and enjoyed the challenge of playing tough opponents.

Wimbledon

We had a fantastic day out at the Wimbledon Tournament. As we had the tickets for the first Tuesday there were lots of matches going on as we arrived in the sunshine. Ten students were chosen to go and were accompanied by Mr Cameron and myself. We took it in turns to sample the atmosphere on Centre Court, watching stars such as Serena Williams and Andre Agassi. Unfortunately we didn't catch the Henman match but were able to hear the cheers from Court 1. We all had an thoroughly enjoyable day.

A. Readings

Ball boys/girls 2002

We were fortunate in our numbers this year with 15 R.P.H.S. pupils going through for training with Mrs. Rundle and Mr Wonfor (back for his last year). Ball boys/girls were James Boore, Sam Francis, Jonathan Finn, Louis Mitha, Tanser Osdemir, Luke Morgan, Joe Laffar, Michael Sexton, Michael Cashmore, Matt Hillier, Vicky Patching, Keiley Stowe, Amy Edgeworth, Dan Lyie and Sam Bordbar.

Youth Games

Congratulations to the students who were selected to represent Merton at the London Heathrow Youth games at Crystal Palace Stadium on Saturday 12th July. The competitions included netball, soccer, hockey, swimming, judo, trampolining, rugger, gymnastics, archery and athletics.

Well done Marianne Edwards, Corrine Hall, Jade Ludlow, Brogan Nicholls and Matthew Hamilton, who all participated in various events.

Holland 2003

After the successful Netball tour to Holland in 2001, many students asking for a return trip - but this time, they wanted a variety of sports to choose from. The PE Department decided to expand the tour to include Netball, Hockey



and Football. This involved involve forty-two students and five members of staff - Miss Routledge, Mrs Readings, Ms Jager, Mr Derrington and Mr Horton.

Kit and new equipment was ordered and before we knew it, we were at school, waiting for



the coach to take us to Dover at 6 am. The crossing was really noisy, as pupils and staff alike were excited at the prospect of taking our skills to another part of Europe and playing our Dutch counterparts. Because Netball isn't played in Holland, we arranged to play other teams from England and have a variety of coaching sessions. The Hockey and the Football players were scheduled to have training sessions in the morning, free time in the afternoon and then to play a range of Dutch teams

in the evening.

The training sessions were very useful as they gave the players the opportunity to receive top-class advice from international players and coaches. This would obviously lift their game and stimulate the practicing of existing skills.

Overall, the Netball players did exceptionally well, and proved to be unbeaten throughout the trip abroad. They played with passion and determination, using their existing skills from being unbeaten in Merton and Mrs Readings saw a distinct improvement in everyone's level of play. At the end of our tour, the coaches decided that the most improved player was Vicky Patching.

The girls playing Hockey found the standards in Holland far higher than they were used to. The team - which included two county players and several others of a high standard - are currently Merton champions, and have been for five years. However, Hockey is one of Holland's favourite sports, and we soon came up against fierce competition. Although they lost every match, the girls worked hard to improve and never gave up, showing a high level of competitive spirit and a desire to win. Player of the tour was Jackie Ford.

The Footballers also encountered some very big teenagers amongst their opponents, and were soon without their top player, David Francis, who was injured in training. Nevertheless, the team also fought for supremacy, only falling short in the semi-finals of the tournament on the last day of the competition. Player of the tournament was Matthew Holmes.

Although this tour didn't see us return with much silverware, it did teach the students a valuable lesson which was always to play to the best of their abilities until the final whistle sounds.

Thanks to all those who bought raffle tickets and supported the tour. The destination for the next tour is under consideration - Barbados looks attractive!

Peter Smith (1902-1972)

Born Frank Henry Smith in Bristol, the son of a clock repairer (actually apprenticed as a clock maker, but when he was out of his time in 1896, it was obsolete as a trade; watches and clocks were mass-produced in factories.

Peter, as my mother re-christened him when they met in Bristol University, read Chemistry, but was more interested in amateur dramatics and speleology in the Mendip Caves. In 1924 he got a job as an analytical chemist working for Capper Pass, in Bedminster, analysing samples of solder, a job he loathed, but at least it paid 30/- a week. The founder of the Firm, a man called Pass, Capper being his Christian name, had made a fortune buying up vast quantities of brass buttons and insignia after the Napoleonic Wars, when the British Army was greatly reduced. They continued as non-ferrous metal smelters and refiners, basically lead smelters.

He finally changed his career to teaching, going back to Bristol to qualify. His first training job was at Dartington Hall School, in 1930, which rather spoiled him for subsequent teaching posts. In 1931 he was living in digs and working as a Supply Teacher for the London County Council, where he waited every morning, with dozens of other teachers, for whatever was available. It was a complete lottery, periodically a clerk would come in, produce a sheet of paper, and tell the head of the queue "*Athelney Street, Bellingham, Junior Boys*", and *what* you were to teach was mystery until you got there. In this case it was a single day, but it might equally have been a whole week, or a whole term, you never knew in advance. Certainly there was no question of whether you were *competent* to teach the subject: the assumption was that if you were a teacher, you could, and in 1931 you would have been crazy to turn anything down.

He stood this for a little over six months, during which time he joined the Communist Party, apparently for one week. It would probably have been longer, but he got a job in Lewes, down in East Sussex, in July 1932, and left South London, to work in Western Road, a mixed, elementary school with 150 pupils. The headmaster was quite a bad alcoholic (a few years later he had to be superannuated – and put in charge of an infants' school in Newhaven), and Peter was the only other male

teacher at this school. East Sussex were notorious at the time for being one of only three local authorities in the UK who refused to pay teachers on the Burnham scale, and had been blacked by the N.U.T as a result. They also employed the highest percentage of uncertificated female teachers in the UK *because they were cheaper*.

In Lewes there were five elementary schools, of which Western Road was considered one of the most successful, but something had to be done, and in 1937 a new, large, county secondary school was opened in Mountfield Road, at the far side of the 1930 boys' county secondary school, where I had just started. Peter transferred to Mountfield Road, and was actually given a laboratory to teach the boys in (the girls did not do science, they did cooking and needlework). It was a great step-up, and he actually spent £2 on buying a 1924 bull-nosed Morris, mainly to take his family away on camping holidays. It did have some repercussions; a few months after he got it, he received a letter from the local tax inspector, who interviewed him to find out "how can you afford to run a car on a teacher's salary?" and was only partially convinced.

Pre-war there was a gap between teachers in elementary schools, and secondary schools. Even I was perfectly conscious of this. Our masters all wore gowns at assembly, and, usually in class as well, to keep chalk off their suits. Except for our woodwork master they had all been to university. Peter was the only teacher in Mountfield Road who had a degree of any kind at all.

Peter had joined the Lewes Little Theatre in 1932, almost as soon as he moved to Lewes, and had always done make-up as well as acting. The elementary school did no acting at all, but the secondary school did, and Peter often helped with the make-up.

Normally he would have remained in elementary schools for the rest of his career, except for the war. As more and more schoolmasters were called up there was even an acute shortage of science masters, whilst the supply of women qualified to teach even biology, was rapidly disappearing. In 1942 he was offered a job in Raynes Park County Secondary School by John Garrett, where, within one term I followed, to join the VI science form. He never actually taught me, his pupils were younger, though I enjoyed embarrassing him by calling

him "sir" when I thought I could get away with it. My own teachers were Frank Halliwell (Chemistry), Eddie Hanson (Physics), Dolly Whitman (Biology), "Tiger" Raynham (Mathematics) and Kenneth Horne (RE).



Peter in the Laboratory

For some reason I was shifted from Halliwells and into Miltons. Not that this had much effect on me.

Peter started doing school plays in earnest as soon as he got to Raynes Park in 1942, first junior house plays, and after a term or so, had a monopoly of all the school plays, at least until he retired in 1967. He was then head of the science department. In both functions, he was very good, this I do know, for he was a natural teacher. My whole family were teachers, with the exception of myself. Teaching is a peculiar profession. I know of no other where the effects of what you do survive you by decades after you have gone.

M.J.Smith

A Teacher's Holiday

With my nose and lungs full of dust and cobwebs from packing those bright green heavy-duty crates and then from cleaning my own personal abode, I set off for my long-awaited two-week holiday in Northern Spain. Another one of those linguistic holidays in my never-

failing attempt to learn languages, to get to know other peoples and cultures.

Browsing through the literature at the airport I came across the title "Who's moved my cheese?" Apprehensive about my future, banished to the Bushey Building, I felt my cheese had been moved. Why? By whom? How? Many questions floated through my mind - without any convincing answers. Maybe I would find them in this book? Maybe it would help me accept change and make the most of it? More and more platitudes - I just cringed! You can't disguise reality - but you can forget about it for a while! Which is exactly what I did in Spain.

In Galicia people spoke to me in Spanish, patiently waited for answers, and even wanted to continue chatting. Although considered to be the "green" part of Spain, we had hardly any rain - only the token hour in Santiago. Then on to Asturias where we felt the pressures of modern living more. It was not so easy to get around. Everyone we met wanted us to speak Spanish and really appreciated it when I tried; the instant praise worked wonders. I'm sure we also had better service because of it.

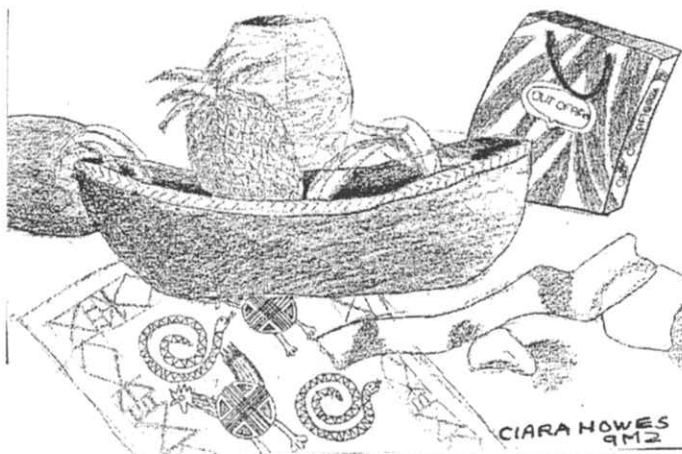
I returned home much refreshed and in a very positive frame of mind.

Needless to say I never read the book, but I did enjoy my holiday.

Facing reorganization with all its implications is still too hard, even now that we are over half a term in to it.

Time has made some utter changes, circumstances have scattered us! My memories are already a living part of me!

A.Radowicz



African Still-Life theme

Ciara Howes 9MZ

RP pupil from Day 1

John Wm SPURLOCK
Unit 27/69 Gladstone Ave
SWANVIEW W.A. 6056.

11th August 2003

Dear Headmaster,

My name is John Spurlock I am 79 years old and one of the pupils at your school when it first opened.

How the world has changed! I wasn't a very academic pupil, only top of the Woodwork Class and won a prize in art. I have made woodwork my hobby, recently making some Rocking Horses, pull-along toys for toddlers, they are very popular. I enjoy working with wood and find it very relaxing.

Thinking back, we had a wonderful selection of dedicated teachers, and feel sure the school left its mark on many pupils all through their lives. I was also a member of the School Scout Troop.

When I left school I had an apprenticeship in a Motor Engineering company. As it was war-time, we were reconditioning Army lorries.

At the age of 20 I had a bad accident on my bike and ran into a lamp-post causing Osteomyelitis, I had three brain operations in 18 months, and came through fine.

I joined the Government Training Scheme on Agriculture and was sent to Merristwood Agriculture College where I specialised in Milk Production. After that I joined Gascoignes in Reading, the Milk Machine people. They trained me and I travelled all over the South of England, fitting machines and teaching farmers to milk by machine. I also fitted the large Milking Parlours. The company sent me to France for six months doing the same over there. When I returned to England I was sent to Scotland as a Sales Service Rep. I was there for two years. During that time I met my future wife. I returned to London to settle down and worked for an office furniture company. Then I answered an advertisement and found it was for hearing-aid company and they trained, in turn trained me. I then went out on the road as an audiologist, fitting people with hearing aids. I spent 25 years in that business before I retired.

After three years of retirement my wife was terminally ill with cancer, I looked after her for six months before she died, we had had 39 years of wonderful life together. I had a heart-attack three months after, and spent two months in the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. I was sent to Southampton General Hospital where I had an operation on my heart, I had a by-pass and a Pigs valve fitted to the aortic valve. When I woke-up I felt like a new man! !

My daughter decided to move to Western Australia with her family. When I felt well enough, I decided to join them, I lived with them until my immigration papers came through then I bought my own home nearer to Perth. I joined an Indoor Bowling Club and the local Church, where I made many friends. I met a nice widow who had recently lost her husband, we later married and now live in a pleasant retirement complex and are very happy.

I just wanted to tell you that all my life I have been able "pick myself up and start again". I have tried to be resilient. I have my training at Raynes Park County School to thank for this.

Do get your students to make up their minds what they want to do in life, and specialize and work at it. As you know, it is a very different world they have to live in, where jobs are not easy to get.

Kind regards

John William Spurlock



A scene you will never see but John Spurlock could well have seen these very haymakers in Morden in 1936 as he made his way to school

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

When I moved to this school last year in September I was a bit nervous as I didn't know any one in the school except for my brother and a few of his friends, but soon after I got to know everyone. The reason I came to this school is because Eren (my brother) was here and because I had heard it was such a lovely school. When I came to the induction day I was sure this school was by far the best. Raynes Park is a very big school and has a friendly environment so everybody is lovely to one another.

When you first start the school you obviously need to know your way around so you can get to your lessons. I think secondary school makes us more mature and responsible e.g. if you forget your PE kit it's your fault there's no one else to blame except yourself.

We have a lot of building work in our school at the moment so it can be a bit noisy at times. We are going to have more facilities like our Astroturf. They are building a new gym and another building for more classrooms. Our school is getting bigger and still better.

Deniz Sergil 7GZ

Dear Deniz

I am so pleased that you are enjoying your first year at our school and I hope you will continue that way. It is particularly pleasing to read your comment on the friendly environment.

Editor

Dear Editor

I would just like to say how much I am enjoying Raynes Park. I have joined most of the clubs and activities like the netball team, girls' rounders and football teams. The netball team did very well this year as we won the Borough championship. We all received medals and a shield. The Astroturf is brilliant. I also got involved with the Year 7 and 8 choir. We put on a music concert with different instruments and the Year 9 choir, we got quite a big audience and I think everyone enjoyed it. My favourite lessons are art and P.E. I like art because I like drawing and making things. I like PE because I love sports. When I first came to Raynes Park I was really nervous because everything was so big but once I got to know my way around the school I was fine.

Danielle Bonds 7GZ

Dear Danielle

You have certainly made a good start to your time at Raynes Park, by joining in so many and varied activities. Congratulations on winning the medal.

Editor

Dear Editor

When I first came to Raynes Park I was scared as well as surprised. I had imagined it to be a lot smaller and with far fewer pupils. After time I got used to it and liked it a lot more. There are plenty of things to do at Raynes Park, especially at lunch time like playing on the Astroturf, going to clubs, playing tennis and ping-pong or going to the IT room.

Another thing is that the lessons are shorter than most schools so pupils won't get bored, but the downside is that the teachers are more strict, especially about uniform and homework, but overall Raynes Park High School is a really good school and I like it a lot. I'm glad I chose it!

Adam Honey 7GZ

Dear Adam

There is always plenty to do at Raynes Park, so make sure you continue to join in as many activities as possible. I reckon you are right about the length of the lessons. It really does give you the opportunity to fully focus your attention and involve yourself in what is going on.

Editor

Dear Editor

Ms Jones has just returned from maternity leave and is now giving us Olympic rations of homework. She must have spent the last six months devising such torture. She is a brilliant teacher and makes us work really hard but is pushing us to our limits now. She utterly refutes any suggestion that it is all too much for us. Can you have a word with her?

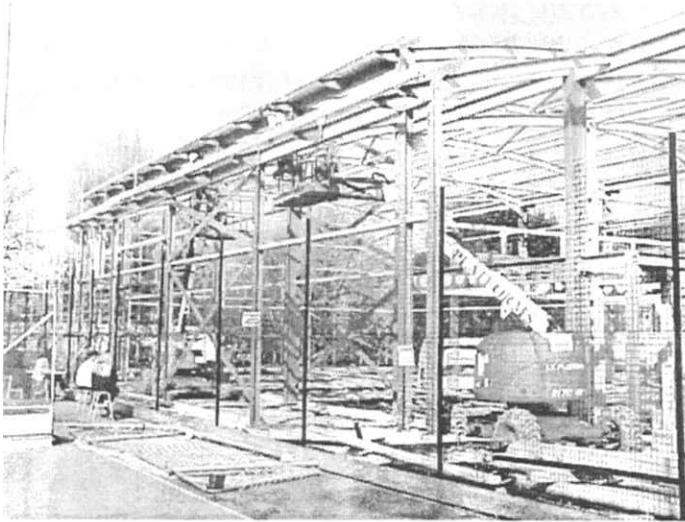
Year 10 NSJ English group

Dear Sufferers

I don't think Ms Jones would take any more notice of me than she does of you in this regard. All I can suggest is that you keep buttering her up, just as I do when asking for Spur contributions, using words like brilliant, genius, delightful, favourite. You could hope that her baby keeps her awake half the night and that she runs out of energy. Try telling her how tired she is looking and that she shouldn't be doing so much work. You never know she might begin to believe it.

Editor

Looking Ahead



It is apparent, even to the casual observer, that Raynes Park High School is at an exciting stage of growth and change. The appearance over the last few months of a large crane and all the other paraphernalia of a major construction site has been evidence that something is happening!

To give some background to the process, September 2002 saw the school expand to take in Year 7 pupils for the first time, as part of the Merton Schools reorganization process. In order to accommodate the new intake the school has now incorporated the former Bushey First School building. In addition to this, new accommodation is being built, funded by a government PFI scheme. The new building includes an addition to the main teaching block, housing a Music suite and practice rooms, library and Learning Resource Centre, Art and Design areas and a new staff room, as well as new subject classrooms. There has been extensive refurbishment of the Design Technology block, with the provision of an additional Food Technology room and newly equipped Textiles, Graphics and Resistant Materials areas.

Another new major area is the Access Centre which will be the borough's centre for secondary age pupils with autism. This purpose-built suite will enable pupils to be taught according to their needs while enabling them to be an important part of the school community. Probably the most spectacular new addition to the site is the Sports Hall, which can be seen under construction at the West Barnes Lane

side of the school. This will be an invaluable addition to the school but also, we hope, to the wider community, offering as it will provide facilities for local clubs and societies after school hours. The Sports Hall will also incorporate a first floor training area, suitable for dance, aerobics, martial arts or other similar activities and, in conjunction with the existing artificial turf pitch will provide state of the art sporting facilities.

The pupils and staff at Raynes Park High School are eagerly awaiting the completion of the building project in 2004, and look forward to using the new facilities and sharing them with the local community.

Sue Thurlow (Bursar)

A Chat with the Librarian

Question: How long have you been the librarian for Raynes Park High School?

Answer: I have been librarian for six years and previously taught here for thirty or so years.

Question: Do you find being the librarian as fulfilling as teaching?

Answer: Not quite as fulfilling - I don't get quite as much contact with teachers or pupils, but it is more peaceful (*laughs*)

Question: What is your favourite book of all time?

Answer: (*smiles*) Non-fiction; The Romany Rye by George Borrow. Fiction; This Fair House by Robert Neil.

Question: Have you ever had aspirations of becoming a writer yourself?

Answer: No that's an easy one. I don't believe I have the imagination.

Question: What do you think of the GCSE art in the library?

Answer: Yes indeed I enjoy all the exhibitions. I enjoy them all as paintings. The students are all very talented and imaginative.

Question: Are you looking forward to the new library being built?

Answer: Yes. I believe it will be very good for the school. Although it may take a bit of time to get properly organised.

Question: What are your favourite pastimes?

Answer: I enjoy reading overall. I also enjoy the old black and white films.

Question: Do you think students misuse the library?

Answer: No. Yet every so often I have to lay down the law, but the odd ban is the worst I have yet to give.

Question: For how long do you see yourself staying at Raynes Park High School?

Answer: I will be leaving in July 2004.

Phil Ronayne, Nick Davis and Josh Smith

James Daley - Tennis Ambition



How old are you?

Eighteen

How old were you when you started playing tennis?

Nine.

Did you enjoy your time at RPHS?

Yes, I had a fab time at Raynes Park High.

What's your greatest ambition?

My greatest ambition is to make the top 200 men's world rankings and progress from there.

How do you fancy your chances of getting into Wimbledon?

Tough, very tough.

What has been your worst injury?

About 2 years ago, I tore all the ligaments in my right ankle, which put me out for 3-4 months.

Have you gone abroad to play tennis anywhere?

I played in the Spain futures, which is the lowest in the men's tour. I am hopefully going to Sri Lanka in October.

What lessons were you good at in school?

Obviously PE but also Science, English and History (but I wasn't very good at it!).

Do you still enjoy tennis as much as you did when you first started?

A. Yes & no, When I first started it was just fun but now more commitment is required and sometimes its hard work.

Who's your favourite tennis player?

Pete Sampras.

What is your LTA (lawn tennis association) ranking?

1.5 (Tim Henman is 1.1).

How many times do you train a week?

5 days a week, 6 hours a day. Weekends are for games.

Was it hard to get to 1.5?

Yes & no, it consists of luck and skill with the games. The LTA systems have changed also.

When did you first think that one day you might become a professional player?

I started to get good 13 - 14. I'm a full time amateur at the moment but I guess it was 13 when I wanted to become professional.

Tom Cross & Charlie Cox 9HZ

House Swimming Gala

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	G	H	M	N
Yr7	Gibbs 32 pts	Halliells & Newsoms 23pts		Miltons 21 pts	4	2.5	1	2.5
Yr8	Newsoms 33pts	Gibbs 32 pts	Miltons 24pts	Halliells 10pts	3	1	2	4
Yr9	Miltons 35pts	Halliells 26pts	Gibbs 19pts	Newsoms 10pts	2	3	4	1
Yr10	Gibbs 34pts	Miltons 24pts	Newsoms 20pts	Halliells 19pts	4	1	3	2
Yr11	Gibbs 18pts	Miltons 13pts	Halliells 11pts	Newsoms 6pts	4	2	3	1

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

1 st GIBBS	17 pts
2 nd MILTONS	13 pts
3 rd NEWSOMS	10.5 pts
4 th HALLIWELLS	9.5 pts

Once again the swimming gala was won by a very determined Gibbs house. Although Miltons pushed them hard throughout the gala it was Gibbs who came out clear leaders in the end.

Newsoms and Halliwells had their own victories Halliwells winning the Year 9 boys and Newsoms winning the Year 8 competition outright. Miltons won the Year 9 competition outright and came second in both the Year 10 and 11 competitions. However with victories in Years 7, 10, and 11 it will be Gibbs picking up the silverware at the end of the year.

Individual winners:

Year 7 C. Hall D. Baxter T. Brown
H. Harman D. Bond W. Hicks

Year 8 N.George C.Meedy A.Cobson
M.Hamilton L.Long

Year 9 L.Alexander C.Cox G.Staden
M.Morris W.Trayford

Years 10 & 11 C. Whipp S. Hemmingway
R. Lever S. Catlin G. Jones C. Laird T. Jones
J. Greenfield



Sky Walker
Michael Woodland 8MX

Sports Day 2003

18th July at Kingsmeadow

The use of a high quality sports facility adds a great deal to the day. Having long and triple jump areas in front of the stand, with a proper high jump area and being able to hold shot, discus and javelin on the day adds so much to the atmosphere.

This was the best sports day we have had for participation. With about 1000 spaces for athletes - 8 per event, 12 events plus relays in each year for both boys and girls, there were only a few gaps. This is possibly due to the fact that we had plenty of preparation on the track at Taunton Avenue.

It was clear from the outset that it was going to be a good day as pupils from the main stand pushed forward and were hanging over the fence to get a better view of the long jump. Runners in the 800m were also getting a big cheer as they ran down the main straight and it didn't matter if it was the first or second lap.

It didn't take long to set a record, in fact the first race of the day saw a new record. But then again all year 7 events will have set records, as it's the first sports day with Year 7's. There were some outstanding Year 7 performances. Jack Malin in the 100m and Merrick Hibbert in the shot were excellent performances. However the best performance of the day for year 7's was probably Carol Marsango in the Javelin. She threw 22.79m which was better than the present Years 8 and 9 records and only 80cms short of the year 10 record set in 1994 by Sara Markillie.

Year 8 were second to year 10 in the amount of new records set. Five girls records and three boys records were set. The longest standing record to be broken by a Year 8 pupil was Isha Hawkins and Polly Balsom's high jump record which had stood for over 10 years.

Year 8 record breakers were R Mba (100m 13.35s) G Negus (Javelin 18.28m) S Bryan (Long Jump 3.98M) A Mathis (High Jump 1.30m) Newsoms (Relay 60.03s) L Chau (Shot 10.31m) R Bondeau (Long Jump 4.95m) Halliwells (relay 54.4s)

Year 9 set fewer records than any other year group however there were a number of outstanding performances to gain individual points scored. Lauren Coker won the High Jump and the Long Jump. Cherrie Swallow won the 100m and the 400m Becky Fairbrother won the 800m and the Triple Jump. However the outstanding all rounder from Year 9 girls must go to either Cherrie Swallow or Becky Fairbrother who both competed in four events. Cherrie scoring 27 points from 100m, 200m 400m and long jump and Becky Fairbrother who scored 28 points from 200m 800m triple jump and long jump. Did they both run the relay as well? Year 9 boys set 3 new records Halliwells (relay 52.81s) J Early (400m 59.73s) and the oldest record to be broken on the day was Ian McLeod's shot record from 1991 which was broken by Jamie Connolly with a massive 11.87m

Year 10 broke the most records. One girls' record and eight boys' records were set. Marissa Golding broke Katherine Lockes 11 year old record by 2cms in the Long Jump leaping 3.96m.

It was however the Year 10 boys who stole the show in terms of breaking records. In the Triple jump a new record was set with the first jump of the competition by Jack Kennedy (10.78m) this was subsequently broken with the second jump of the competition Robert Lever (10.83m) in the second round Jack broke the record again (11.28m) this was then equalled by Robert, leaving Robert technically in front as his second best jump was better than Jacks. In the third round Jack jumped 11.28m again leaving him in front by the same rule. However, with his next jump, which was in fact the next one in the competition and his last Robert broke the record again with a leap of 11.40m. Alas Jack had no more jumps so Robert won the medal. Consolation for Jack was breaking the discus record.

Other records in year 10 were set by S Johnson (Long Jump 5.54m) R Vanderpuje (400m 55.65s) J Kennedy (Discus 33.95m) C Bullet (Javelin 35.10m and shot 12.3m) Halliwells (relay 50.37s)

HOUSE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2003

YEAR 7 RESULTS

YEAR 8 RESULTS

	GIRLS	BOYS	EVENT	GIRLS	BOYS
100m	Naomi PRESCOD LEE (H) 14.76s	Jack MALIN (N) 13.11s	100m	Rebecca MBA (G) 13.35s (REC)	Song YOUNG (M) 13.76s
200m	Naomi PRESCOD LEE (H) 32.06s	Jack HARRIS (H) 29.44s	200m	Rebecca MBA (G) 29.55s	Richard BOUDU (H) 26.57s
400m	Laura HOUSTON (N) 76.0s	Jonathan FAGAN (M) 67.00s	400m	Kate JONES (M) 76.0s	Josh BRENNAN (M) 69.00s
800m	Corrine HALL (G) 3m 0.76s	Merrick HIBBERT (H) 2m53.00s	800m	Kate JONES (M) 2m55.0s	Luke JONES (N) 2m33.0s
1500m		Richard HEMMINGWAY (G) 5m54.00s	1500m		Luke JONES (N) 5m12.4s
SHOT	Meagan SALIH (N) 5.35m	Wesley BURROWS (H) 8.67m	SHOT	Sidone BRYAN (H) 7.33m	Lee CHAU (M) 10.31m (REC)
DISCUS	Lauren ABBOT (N) 12.20m	Harry HARMAN (M) 20.30m	DISCUS	Stephnie TRAORE (N) 15.70m	Lee CHAU (M) 22.10m
JAVELIN	Carol MARSANGO (N) 22.79m	Michael GRANIL (M) 22.87m	JAVELIN	Georgette NEGUS (H) 18.28m (REC)	Chris LYLE (N) 24.40m
HIGH JUMP	Lauren ABBOT (N) 1.20m	M KNIGHT (M) J MALIN (N) 1.30m	HIGH JUMP	Antoinette MATHIS (N) 1.30m (REC)	Ferron MARSHALL (H) 1.30m
LONG JUMP	Naomi PRESCOD LEE (H) 3.76m	Jamie STREAT (M) 3.59m	LONG JUMP	Sidone BRYAN (H) 3.98m (REC)	Richard BOUDU (H) 4.95m (REC)
TRIPLE JUMP	Abigail IGBAVBOA (M) 8.27m	Harry HARMAN (M) 9.47m	TRIPLE JUMP	Lania LONG (N) 6.43m	Leon MITCHELL (H) 8.55m
RELAY	NEWSOMS 61.00s	HALLIWELLS 57.17s	RELAY	NEWSOMS 60.30s (REC)	HALLIWELLS 54.4s

Year 7 Boys 1st Miltons 140 2nd Halliwells 122 3rd Newsoms 96 4th Gibbs 76
Year 7 Girls 1st Newsoms 131 2nd Miltons 91 3rd Halliwells 82 4th Gibbs 72

YEAR 8 Girls 1st Halliwells 103 2nd Newsoms 84 3rd Gibbs 78.5 4th Miltons 76.5
YEAR 8 Boys 1st Halliwells 120 2nd Miltons 105 3rd Gibbs 101 4th Newsoms 84
Halliwells won it on the last event

Overall YEAR 7 1st = Halliwells Miltons Newsoms 4th Gibbs

Overall year 8 result 1st Halliwells 2nd = Gibbs, Miltons and Newsoms

Outstanding Girl Naomi Prescod Lee 1st 1st 1st
Outstanding Boys Jack Malin, Harry Harman 1st 1st 2nd

Outstanding year 8 Girl Antoinette Mathis 1st 2nd 2nd
Outstanding year 8 boy Richard Bodou 1st 1st 3rd & 1 record

YEAR 9 RESULTS

YEAR 10 RESULTS

EVENT	GIRLS	BOYS	EVENT	GIRLS	BOYS
100m	Cherrie SHALLOW (G) 14.75s	Johannis WILLIAMS (G) 13.20s	100m	Amanda BRIGHTWELL (H) 13.95s	Sam JOHNSON (H) 11s.5
200m	Carly LEAVER (H) 31.24s	James EARLY (H) 26.20s	200m	Amanda BRIGHTWELL (H) 30.94s	Danny JACKSON (G) 25.77
400m	Cherrie SHALLOW (G) 74.00s	James EARLY (H) 59.73s (REC)	400m	Hannah WATKINS (H) 80.0s	Richard VANDERPUJE 55.65 (REC)
800m	Becky FAIRBROTHER (N) 3m0.7s	Dominic LEESON (G) 2m36	800m	Marissa GOLDING (N)	David FRANCIS (G) 2m23.0s
1500m		Dominic LEESON (G) 5m23s	1500m		Harry BAYLISS (H) 5m06s
SHOT	Annie HAWKINS (H) 6.14m	Jamie CONNOLLY (M) 11.87m (REC)	SHOT	Susan DANPURE (G) 7.08m	Chris BULLER (H) 12.30m
DISCUS	Jade HARWOOD (N) 14.10m	Nick DAVIS (G) 25.3m	DISCUS	J JEGATHEESWARAN (N) 12.30m	Jack KENNEDY (G) 33.90m (REC)
JAVELIN	Sara OSMAN (N) 13.98m	Nick WATSON (G) 25.91m	JAVELIN	Laura SAKER (G) 19.44m	Chris BULLER (H) 36.01m (REC)
HIGH JUMP	Lauren COKER (G) 1.20m	Lewis LUFFMAN (N) 1.40m	HIGH JUMP	Stephanie MATHIS (N) 1.15m	Vijay PATEL (G) 1.40m
LONG JUMP	Lauren COKER (G) 3.80m	James EARLY (H) 4.87m	LONG JUMP	Marissa GOLDING (N) 3.98m (REC)	Sam JOHNSON (H) 5.54m (REC)
TRIPLE JUMP	Becky FAIRBROTHER (N) 6.50m	Alex CALLEGARI (N) 9.00m	TRIPLE JUMP	Roxanne NICHOLS (N) 6.45m	Robert LEVER (G) 11.40m (REC)
RELAY	GIBBS 61.50s	HALLIWELLS 52.81 (REC)	RELAY	HALLIWELLS 61.94s	HALLIWELLS 50.37s (REC)

YEAR 9 Girls 1st Halliwells 118 2nd Gibbs 106 3rd Newsoms 104 4th Miltons 59
YEAR 9 Boys 1st Halliwells 125 2nd Newsoms 113 3rd Gibbs 4th Miltons 86

Overall Result 1st Halliwells 2nd = Gibbs and Newsoms 4th Miltons
Outstanding Year 9 girls Becky Fairbrother Lauren Coker and Cherrie Shallow
Outstanding Year 9 boy James Early 1st 1st 1st + 1 record

YEAR 10 BOYS 1st Halliwells 147 2nd Gibbs 138 3rd Miltons 92 4th Newsoms 68
YEAR 10 GIRLS 1st Gibbs 112 2nd Newsoms 102 3rd Halliwells 85 4th Miltons 52
OVERALL RESULT 1st Gibbs 2nd Halliwells 3rd Newsoms 4th Miltons

Outstanding Year 10 girl Amanda Brightwell 1st 1st 2nd
Outstanding Year 10 boy Sam Johnson 1st 1st 1st + 1 record

HOUSE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP

1st HALLIWELLS

2nd GIBBS AND NEWSOMS

3rd HALLIWELLS

My visit to India

Saturday 12th October

We have just got off the plane. It is too hot, in fact 38deg.C. I can't really breathe it's so hot. We are now in a cab on the way to the bus terminal. Now for a drink and some chips. Eventually we boarded the bus and after a few hours stopped for dinner a *duhba*, a curry shop. Then back on the bus until 4 o'clock the next morning.

Sunday 13th

We had a race to the hotel in three-wheeled, petrol-driven rickshaws. Tonight dinner with Koyalu.

Monday 14th

Now, in the morning, we are in a jeep, heading for the Vashisht hot springs. After that we went to a temple dating from 1553. We prayed to the god and received sweets and a *tikn*, which is a red dot on the forehead, just above the nose. We saw a woman making wool on a stick, but she wouldn't let take her photo.

Tuesday 15th

We made our way to Burua, a really old settlement, where we played football with the village children. We gave them some kit and a football, as they don't have very much money. We took the 3.30pm bus back to Delhi in time to catch the train to Agra to stay at the Mayur Hotel.

Wednesday 16th

We arrived at the hotel at 10 o'clock this morning. We had a look around and a swim at a neighbouring hotel. We went in a pedal rickshaw to the Pizza Hut, where I enjoyed a large, supreme, stuffed-crust pizza. Then I shopped for souvenirs – a mini Taj Mahal and some marble place mats for my Mum.

Thursday 17th

Hi! I'm really excited as we are on our way to the Taj Mahal – one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It was built of white marble and encrusted with precious stones. The Taj Mahal is five hundred years old and is the tomb of Arjumand Banu, often known as Mumtaz Mahal, the Emperor Shah Jahan's third wife. She was the mother of his fourteen children, seven boys



The Taj Mahal

and seven girls. Eventually Shah Jahan became ill and he was overthrown by one of his sons who imprisoned him at the Agra Fort (the Red Fort). I thought it looked more like a palace than a prison. During his imprisonment his eyesight deteriorated so he made a hole in the marble wall of the fort and put a piece of glass in it so that he could see the Taj Mahal, the tomb of his beloved wife.

Friday 18th

We are going to the abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri. The Emperor built a massive city with a mosque and a white tomb for the mullah whose blessing had given him a son.

Saturday 19th

We are heading by jeep to Pushkar in Rajasthan. No meat and no alcohol there!

Sunday 20th

Very exciting today as we are going to ride camels into the desert and sleep the night there. Four hours on the camels. I nearly fell off when my camel jumped around as the driver was urging it furiously up and down the hills. It wasn't very comfortable sleeping on a blanket in the desert.

Monday 21st

I awoke to find a camel staring at me. We mounted our camels and made our way back to Pushkar in the morning.

Tuesday 22nd

A lazy day for all of us as we have done so much travelling during the past week or so.

Wednesday 23rd

We went to an observatory – rather boring and then to a weapons collection – good. There were big weapons, small weapons and disembowelling-weapons. We saw knives that sprung spikes and had two pistols to shoot the victim.

Thursday 24th

We got up at 4.00am to catch the train for Delhi. We had a rest at our hotel and then went to Nirula's, a world-famous ice-cream shop. At the end of the day we went to bed, intending to watch television for a while, but it was in Hindi, so we went to sleep.

Friday 25th – going home

A long flight to England with some rather boring films. When we arrived home I was so happy to see my Mum.

Alfie Rawbone Year 9

The Battlefields

Sunday 25th May 2003, thirty pairs of designer trousers are stuck in a World War I trench. The stagnant water and foul-smelling mud is washing over the shoes of the party of Raynes Park students. They are standing in the trench listening to our guide and battlefield expert Bill McQuade, ex warrant officer in the Scots



Guards. Bill is giving them an idea of what it was like to be an ordinary soldier in the Ypres Salient during the Great War. We have already visited the huge cemetery at Tyne Cot and seen how the army kept control of the soldiers at the "shot at dawn" site in Poperinghe.

The trip had started bright and early on Saturday morning. We took a ferry from Dover and reached the Bellewaerde Theme Park by

early afternoon. For three hours some of us had a fantastic time on the roller coasters and other rides or whilst the more sedate members of the party spent their time in the restaurants. We reached our very comfortable hotel later in the evening where Bill mapped out the rest of our trip for us.

We visited the 'In Flanders Field' museum and the V2 rocket site at La Coupole but the majority of our students thought the most memorable part of the trip was the 'Last Post' ceremony at the Menin Gate. A choir from Sheffield sang hymns, a drum and pipe band played 'Flower of Scotland' and as the music echoed around the huge monument inscribed with the names of thousands of soldiers with no known grave some of the crowd shed tears. Their sobs could be heard during the minute's silence, a reminder that while we might be visiting as tourists many in the crowd were there for more personal reasons.

D.Bracken

Family Cooking Course

This term saw the first trial of Raynes Park's family cooking course. It ran for four weeks, offering families the opportunity to learn together in the school's superb food technology suite. Denise Stocks, food Technology teacher, was the resident expert, and Shirley Kavanagh, from the Student Support Centre, was on hand to make the teas, coffees and orange squashes. Sessions lasted from 7.00 pm until 9.00pm. As the sessions got under way, word of mouth made sure that the numbers steadily increased.

By week 4 there were six families confident enough to try some really ambitious menus. On that last night the following dishes were cooked: two pizzas, one chicken curry, two chocolate gateaux, two swiss rolls and three lasagnes. The participants enjoyed themselves hugely, and many of them want to carry on next term. We plan to run the course again, so contact the Food Technology Department if you would like to bring your family along.

Shirley Kavanagh

In 675 should you have ventured a few miles up the road towards London you might have met Tota and his family who lived at Totinge.

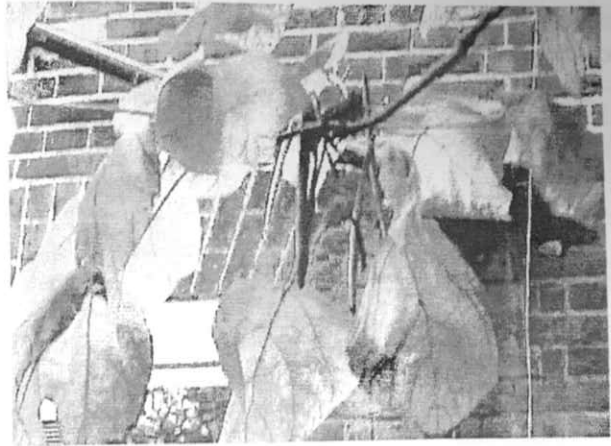
Trees in Merton



Our splendid Indian Bean tree (Catalpa) - reputed to be one of the finest in southern England - planted by Tom Cobb, one of the original Housemasters

Merton Council's strong commitment to the environment and volunteer work was awarded last week at a House of Commons ceremony. The Tree Council presented a plaque to honour the Council's environmental dedication and good work with voluntary organisations in co-ordinating local Tree Warden Networks for a decade or more. Dave Lofthouse, Arboriculture Manager and Coordinator of the Golden Jubilee Woodlands at Morden Park, accepted the award on the Council's behalf.

"The award ceremony was a fantastic event following the launch of the Jubilee Woodlands earlier this month," Dave said. "We have worked with our Tree Wardens on so many different projects to widen the interest in our local environment and to engage people of all ages. "It is wonderful to see that the hard work of these volunteers is not going unnoticed. Merton Council was one of a number of tree champions from across the UK at the ceremony on 12th December to receive awards for protecting the nation's trees and woodlands through the Tree Council's decade-long National Grid Tree Warden Scheme. Tree Wardens, their local network co-ordinators, officials and politicians met at the special reception in the House of Commons, hosted by Brian Donohoe MP, Vice President of the Tree Council. The Tree Council, the leading UK tree campaigning charity launched its countrywide



Close-up of the fruits starting to ripen this August

Tree Warden Scheme in 1990. Ever since it has continued to co-ordinate the scheme and work with partners to develop and maintain local Tree Warden Networks. National Grid has sponsored the Scheme since 1997.

The Tree Council's Director of Community Projects, Jon Stokes, National Coordinator, said: "Without long-term support from local authorities and other co-ordinating



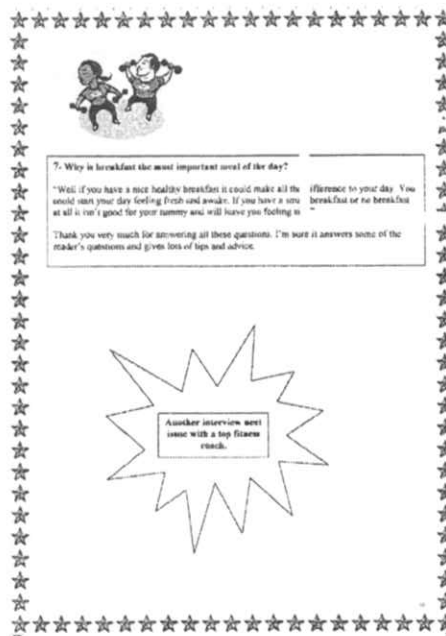
The Hornbeams on the school field - before Bushey Road was widened there were trees such as these on the grass verges on both sides of the road between Grand Drive and the School

organisations the efforts of individual Tree Wardens would not be so effective.

Raynes Park High School, with its fine array of mature trees, dating back to the founding of the school and indeed with still a few trees from the days of farmland, together with later plantings, is proud of the part it has played in contributing to an attractive local environment.

*(based on an article in the Wimbledon Guardian
2nd January 2003)*

My Magazine



Three elements of a
magazine
produced for the
media component
of GCSE English
by Rebecca Jewson
(10GX)

DID YOU KNOW.....

1. **EXERCISE** is for everyone. Whether you are young or old, male or female, your health will benefit from some form of regular exercise.
2. Good **NUTRITION** is vital for good health. Food provides the body with the energy needed to sustain life.
3. **SLEEP** is essential for a healthy life. Growth hormone is released during sleep, renewing tissues and producing new bone and red blood cells.
4. **FISH** is healthier and lower in calories than red meat.
5. Eight glasses of **WATER** per day should be drunk to keep healthy.
6. **ALCOHOL** - People who drink heavily are likely to suffer from high blood pressure, a heart attack or a stroke.
7. **DRUGS** - Any drug abuse is likely to lead to various physical, psychological, social and financial problems.
8. **SMOKING** kills - Smoking impairs lung capacity and can result in difficulty in breathing or chronic bronchitis.
9. **HAIR** - Your hair grows for three years and then is replaced by new hair. Wash and condition your hair regularly to keep it in a healthy condition.
10. Good **PERSONAL HYGIENE** is essential. It will help prevent the spread of bacteria which can lead to infections.

The Intruder

Sam was sure she had heard a noise. The more she tried to ignore it and the more she told herself it was nothing, the more convinced she became that there was something downstairs!

The wind howled through the large open window and blew her straight blond hair back off her face. A comforting voice came into her head, maybe her mum and dad had come back from the Halloween party, but then a deeper more frightening voice drowned the last and this one said, "maybe it's a murderer, maybe they want to get you, kill you!!!"

She shook her head as hard as she could as if to try and shake the unpleasant thoughts out of her mind.

Just then, with a bang, the bulb blew and darkness swept through the hallway, leaving Sam in a vast corridor of blackness. She spun around and headed for the bedroom, quickly shutting the pale blue door behind her. She reached for the light switch rapidly turning it on and off, but no relief came from this, it seemed all the other lights in the house had also blown. She dived onto her bed clutching her most reassuring cuddly toy.

She sat upright with her back against the wall, her eyes fixed on the wooden door, sitting, waiting for something to happen. After what seemed like a lifetime of waiting an eerie moon-like glow swept across the corridor passing her bedroom, letting a small amount of light into her room from under the door. The light came and went and Sam was left in the darkness again, alone and vulnerable. She leapt off her bed and ran over to her dressing table. She pulled open one of the drawers and frantically searched for any kind of weapon, until she came across a pair of scissors and some hair-spray.

She desperately wanted her mum and dad to return home. She clutched the scissors and spray so tight that her hand began to shake.

What had the light been? She didn't know. Many thoughts passed through her mind.

All of a sudden she heard a loud bang, the front door had been closed. Had the intruder gone or had her parents returned? She desperately hoped it was her parents, and without sparing a thought she flung open her bedroom door, raced across the hallway and sped down the stairs. To her dismay her parents were nowhere in sight, she called for them cautiously hoping they would appear, but no one replied. It scared her that it had not been her mum and dad and so she feared being once again on her own, then the thought came into her head it must have been the intruder leaving. Her heart-beat began to slow down to normal, and her breathing returned to its usual pace. To Sam's horror another door closed just behind her, this time it was the kitchen door. Her eyes grew larger and,

still gripping her 'weapons', she gathered her courage and headed for the kitchen hoping to scare off the intruder for good!

Still afraid of who the intruder was, she walked towards the kitchen door looking sharply from side to side with every step she took.

Sam took hold of the brass door handle; it felt as cold as ice. It sent a chill up her arm and down her back; she shivered and loosened her hand. She was too scared to move.

Through one of the many hall windows, the bright moon shone down and twinkled on the handle like fairies. She knew she had to turn the handle and if she didn't she would stay petrified. Sam knew anything could happen to her and so she had to get the intruder out of her house.

She firmly grabbed the brass knob, turned it and yanked it open. Her eyes were wide open as she carefully scanned the kitchen. Sam couldn't see any form of life. She breathed in and out, trying to figure out where the intruder had gone.

Her breathing slowed down until she stopped altogether. However, the breathing didn't stop, someone else was breathing now and every breath was getting louder. It was coming from behind her and she could feel the cold breath on her neck that made her hairs stand up on end. She froze, petrified, too scared to turn around, too frightened to find out who it was. The air turned winter cold and her breath became visible. It was times like this she wished she wasn't an only child. She hated her parents for making her move away from her friends into this big creepy house away from civilisation.

She quickly and forcefully lunged the scissors behind her, hoping to wound the trespasser. However, the scissors sliced through thin air where Sam expected a leg to be and no cry of pain was heard! She spun around and screamed, a child-like banshee was floating in front of her, a sinister grin upon its face. It's purple frilly dress, torn and moth-eaten, swayed as it hovered closer towards Sam. A path where tears had once fallen stained her pale face, her grey eyes, lifeless and without emotion. Sam dropped the scissors and the hair-spray and stood there horrified staring at the young child. Sam couldn't move she was in too much shock. Sam's eyes were glued on the banshee. The young banshee's head looked hard, as if it had been preserved, although cracks had appeared around her mouth and on her cheeks. A dirty, ripped and torn bonnet had been tied around the girl's brown curly locks!

It was so silent; Sam could hear her own heart beating like a drum, louder and faster with every beat. Sam was still staring at the banshee; she couldn't believe what she was seeing. It seemed too unreal, like a nightmare! She couldn't move, like she wanted to wake up from this nightmare but

she wasn't able to! The glaring eyes of the banshee stared back at young Sam.

The banshee floated closer to her and when it was in reach, it took its white, hard hand and uncurled its finger, which prodded Sam softly on her shoulder. At the same time it whispered, "Play with me girl, I want to play, be my dolly!" Although the banshee said this, its lips did not move. It was as if someone else had spoken.

Sam began to rock slightly and all over she was shaking, however she didn't move and didn't reply. She still stood staring at the child-like banshee. It poked Sam again on the shoulder but this time harder.

"I told you to play with me! I want to play and I want to play NOW!!" shouted the banshee. Its child-like voice echoed through the otherwise silent kitchen. This time Sam stepped away from it and fell backwards onto the floor.

"I want to play, you'll play with me won't you and be my dolly!" Its voice sounded mysterious.

"Come on, I'm waiting..." It was shouting now in a very demanding voice. "I want to play and you will be my dolly even if I have to force you!"

screamed the terrifying banshee. Its face was now going paler than ever, its eyes glared back at Sam. It had now started to spit as it spoke and its hands were clenched tightly, swaying by its lifeless body.

Sam suddenly shook her head from side to side, her face was now going pale and she was still shaking with terror in every part of her body.

"Noooooooooooo!" she screamed, her voice echoed through the cold kitchen. She could still see her breath and she felt that if her heart pounded any harder or louder it would explode. The banshee poked her faster and faster until it said, "You're all alone and there is nobody here to help you, you can scream but nobody will hear you..."

Right then Sam turned round and darted towards the kitchen door, she grabbed the doorknob and turned it, but was unable to open it.

"You can't run or hide, you're my dolly, you're my toy and you belong to me!!!!!" The banshee screamed repeatedly, it rose in the air and looked down at helpless Sam...

"Saaaaa?" shrieked the childlike banshee. With that it floated through the air and pounded on top of Sam, repeatedly thrashing and scratching Sam until Sam dropped on the icy floor. She slipped backwards and hit her head hard on the solid pine door, which made her head bleed. The banshee took its fingers and wrapped them around Sam's neck. Sam struggled, kicking her legs around and trying to pull its hands away from her, however the banshee was too strong and her hands just swiped through them as if nothing was there.

Sam soon stopped moving. She was dead. This thing, this evil banshee as though from a nightmare, had killed her. Killed an innocent girl, who had died terrified and was now to be held a pris-

oner, a slave for this creature from hell. A creature so terrifying not one can imagine. Sam was to stay with it forever. She would never get free. It would send her evil and insane. This was the fate of a once happy schoolgirl.

Hannah Cleveley 9GZ

This story is one of a kind, winning two national academy awards!!

"Nail biting, horrifying stuff!" - The Sun

Spur 2002 -Yr 8s opinions

Dear Editor

I liked the pictures. Some of them are really old. In my opinion everything is good. There is a lot of information in it. However you need to improve it by putting in some colour pictures.

Divan Olawayi 8NZ

Dear Divan

Thank you for your kind comments. Colour would be great but very costly and Mr Newman and the Bursar would both have seizures when they received the bill!

Editor

Dear Editor

I like the pictures on the cover showing what the students did, because it looked strange and funny. To make it better have more pictures and less writing.

Kazim 8NZ

Dear Kazim

I will try for more pictures if you and your friends send them to me.

Editor

Dear Editor

I think you put too much writing in the magazine. You should have more pictures. Why is it called the Spur?

Jodie Fernandes 8NZ

Dear Jodie

We try for a reasonable balance of pictures and text. It is intended that the magazine should provide a record of what has happened in the school during the past year or so.

The School Emblem is a spur shape and was chosen in the early days of the school as it represented the layout of the surrounding roads at that time. The lightning flash across it represents the electric railway.

Editor

Dear Editor

The Spur had plenty of information and it was very interesting but you should not have too much writing. You should have fewer words than pictures so that people can understand quickly.

Stephanie T 8NZ

Dear Stephanie

Please take a look at my comments above. I do hope that you will find that what people have written is interesting.

Editor

Dear Editor

Your magazine has no good information in it, just rubbish. It needs games and competitions where you can win money and other prizes.

Aimee Steptoe and Lamia Long

Dear Aimee and Lamia

Thanks very much, your comments really have made my day, most encouraging of you. Anyway I've had a good laugh. If you want games and competitions send them in for next year's Spur.

Editor

Dear Editor

I think the pages to do with History in Action were very interesting and descriptive. I think that there should be even more exciting pages to do with trips.

Leanna 8NZ

Dear Leanna

That should encourage Mr Bracken to produce plenty for next year's Spur. When you go on any trips please write up your experiences and send them to me.

Editor

Dear Editor

The best thing about the magazine is the pictures because the old ones have pictures of my friends who were here some time ago. It is funny seeing them young again!

Ellie Roberts 8HX

Dear Ellie

Do keep your copies of the magazines during your years at Raynes Park and in many years to come you will find, as I have done, a great deal of pleasure in recognising one's old school friends.

Editor

Dear Editor

I think you will need to add some colour pictures. I liked the cartoons and jokes, also the front cover, with the picture of everybody in the school.

Sarah Brooker 8HX

Dear Sarah

I hope that it will not be too long before we can have an all-colour Spur, but cost always rears its ugly head. Keep sending in your ideas and perhaps some other contributions as well.

Editor

Dear Editor

I think the magazine is brilliant! Its sixty pages were packed with information. The problem page is a really good idea. I think that it should have a few more pictures in it.

Gemma Wellbelove 8GX

Dear Gemma

Thank you for your opening comment. You're indeed my friend. Please gather together some letters for next year's problem page. Start now!

Editor

Dear Editor

I liked the magazine but it should have more cartoons, more action and some colour. The cover was really good. I enjoyed the editorial page and the horror story.

Jake Lowe 8GX

Dear Jake

I am pleased that you liked the magazine. Do remember that we depend upon all of you to send in contributions.

Editor

Dear Editor

There were lots of good pictures in the Spur but it would be nice to have them in colour instead of black and white. Could we have more cartoons and jokes?

Louisa Hendry 8GX

Dear Louisa

Please take on the role of jokes and cartoons correspondent of the Spur.

Editor

Dear Editor

I didn't really like the Spur. It had nothing interesting in it. It should have more pictures of sports, not articles about school. It's boring and has too much writing. I hope you will think about my letter. It will make the magazine much better, believe me.

Nicolas Lorica

Dear Nicholas

Go down the road and buy the Sun. If I gave too much thought to your comments I would pack it in as editor. The Spur is intended to be about the school, not about David Beckham.

Editor

Dear Editor

I like the magazine because it has some interesting stories and I really liked the idea of a problem page. However, I think you could improve the magazine. You could add some colour to make the pictures stand out. You could make the magazine smaller so that people won't groan when they see sixty pages to read.

Joanne Edwards 8GX

Dear Joanne

We have a very big school with many students and I hope that we have a great deal to tell everybody. I agree there is always scope for improvement and I will do my best to please you.

Editor

Dear Editor

I think you should have more interesting items like comics, games and things to do. At present the Spur is OK, but gets a bit boring. The front cover was a bit dull. You need more pictures and drawings to liven it up. Colour would help.

Jack McGoldrick 8GX

Dear Jack

How about sending in comics, games and things to do also pictures and drawings? It is your magazine.

Editor

Uprooted

Wrenched from my cosy midget room
at Cobbs; torn away amidst floods of sobs;
forced to pack those Pickford crates
and now in the hands of Wates -
life has changed beyond compare
for me it is just no longer fair.
Far away from many companions
my eyes are tearful, as from onions
as I remember our celebrations and fun
which are all now difficult to be done.
I miss the old life and my friends
and am wary of what life sends.



I have in my new palatial Bushey abode
lots of space to use as I my pupils goad.
Out of the windows tall trees I see
as marking books I drink my cup of tea.
The RPHS logo is clear and present in my mind,
as watching the whizzing trains I do unwind.
Often our motto too I contemplate
as I ponder my very different fate.
"Who's moved my cheese?" "and why I pray?"
I ask these questions many a day.
I feel uprooted, as I sing this song;
to a RPHS I know, do I still belong?

A.Radowicz

African Still-Life theme

Jo— Anne Mathura 9GZ



Mathematical Mystery Tour

This has been busy year in the RPHS Maths department as we have introduced the advances that our technology college status has brought.

All the maths teaching rooms have been fitted with interactive whiteboards connected to online computers, so we now have immediate access to school-based and online teaching and learning resources.

Planning has also begun for the maths garden that will be a feature of the redeveloped school grounds. We have identified a suitable space for the project, and are now working on a design which will incorporate several interesting and stimulating mathematical ideas.

A further element of our new status is the Maths Roadshow – a self-contained and interactive bank of activities developed by the department, which we have begun to use with pupils at local primary schools.

One piece of technology that is already being extensively used is the set of Casio graphic calculators that the department bought two years ago.

These offer more sophisticated options than the scientific calculators used at GCSE level, and have been used by students in the higher years for studying the curves formed by linear and quadratic equations, and more recently in programming activities to generate interesting mathematical formulae.

Extracurricular work has continued to be very important. In the context of the public examinations, there have been opportunities for Year 11 students of all abilities to spend an extra hour a week after school looking at problem topics, and Year 9 SATs revision classes have again been run with pleasing results. These sessions have once again been very well attended. Attendance is not compulsory of course, but giving up just a few extra hours really seems to make a difference when the exam comes along!

Enthusiastic Year 10 Students have formed the Ace of Clubs, which has met once a week to look at mathematics from a lateral perspective under the watchful eye of Mr Scott, the head of department. Topics covered have ranged from the square root of -1 to Euler's Equation, and the group has overcome the tricky problem of remembering the quadratic formula by pro-

gramming it into the graphic calculator. Sadly these can't be used in examinations!

As usual, the department has entered a large number of students from all years into the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge, and congratulations go to the following students for their excellent results in earning silver and gold certificates:

Gold:

Year 8 - Daniel Jennison

Year 11 - Michael Cashmore

Silver:

Year 7 - Hans Chan

Year 8 - Fei Wang, Andrew Ford,
Patrick Kajura

Year 9 - Will Trayford, Stephanie D'Souza,
Neil Sarkhel, Sohail Ahmed

Year 10 - Sharon Vincent, Lucio Gianicoli

Year 11 - Leashan Arasilango, Lisa Clynshaw,
Sean Cooper-Liles, Lucy Stroud, Lisa Davis,
Jonathan Greenfield.

You will be Happy!

The Student Support Centre, based in G7 is a new venture for Raynes Park High School. It is run by an independent company called PEAT (Prevention of Exclusion Activities Team) and offers support to a variety of students. Some of the students explain what the room means to them:

'PEAT is about a room where 5 people work, which are Ben, Tara, Natalie, Annika and Mrs Shirley Kavanagh. They also work in other schools. Mrs Kavanagh runs PEAT. The PEAT room is for people who are bullied, don't like lessons, lack of confidence and lots more reasons. The room is small and quiet. Sometimes courses and groups are held here; for example, Circle of Friends, anger management and personal development. A personal development course is to help you to make friends and to get more confidence. Also the course helps you to approach people in the right way.

Not a lot of people come into PEAT, but when they do they really enjoy it. Everybody here is extra friendly and extremely supportive. I still find school life extremely hard, but the PEAT room makes my time at school a lot easier and a lot happier.'

Year 7 girl



Dare Devil
Danny Leman 8MX

'I like G7 because if you need help or just to talk it is the place to go. It has helped me control my anger in class and around other people. The teachers in here are easy to talk to; they are more like friends than anything else. It is a good place to chill and calm down.'

Year 8 boy

'If you are bullied and you have to change classes, or you just moved from a different school and you're nervous about your new class you can stay in here and slowly go to lessons until you are ready to go to all your lessons. They also have anger management lessons to help you control your anger. When you are in here there are usually people in here for the same reasons and you can talk to them. I really helps.'

Year 8 boy



Raynes Park runners received their medals after their run in the London mini-marathon.

This run was over the last five kilometres of the London Marathon course.

Poetry Lives!

In January we arrived at Westminster Central Hall for a poetry seminar, based on our GCSE anthology. The poetry was live and the poets each recited four or five of their poems. Their poems were expressed from what they saw around them, their families, and their ambitions, and memories both bad and good.

Their inspiration came from what they saw, thought and had done. The chief examiner explained how we should tackle questions and how to plan our answers.

Zishan Mirza 10MX

One of the first poets to read was Carol Ann Duffy. I found her delivery lacking in excitement although the poems themselves were very good. She invited us to ask her questions to help us understand the poems better. Next was John Cooper Clark, my favourite poet— at first I thought he was a bit weird but he livened up the proceedings by telling jokes and reading some humorous poems.

James Vineer 10HX

I was quite excited beforehand as I had never previously heard poetry delivered by a real poet. I soon began to see the different ways in which poets looked at their work. Simon Armitage and John Cooper Clarke were full of life when performing. Both poets had a sense of rhythm to their poems, especially John Cooper Clarke with his focus on punk poetry.

David Francis 10GX

One of my favourite poems was 'I wanna be yours' by John Cooper Clarke. This poem was fast, funny and well performed.

The question and answer sessions with the poets were enjoyable. I now know what inspired them to write certain of their poems and what they think of their own work.

Kate Willoughby 10GX

I enjoyed most of all the flamboyant punk poet John Cooper Clarke. He read his poems in a bizarre and supernatural way. He was very entertaining and changed the whole atmosphere in the hall. His poem about marriage was very funny and had everyone in stitches. Another poet I really liked was Simon Armitage. He read his poems to you like he was your mate – in a very laid-back sort of way.

Richard Vanderpuije 10HX

I wanna be yours

Let me be your vacuum cleaner
Breathing in your dust
Let me be your ford cortina
I will never rust
If you like your coffee hot
Let me be your coffee pot
You call the shots
I wanna be yours

Let me be your raincoat
For those frequent rainy days
Let me be your dreamboat
When you wanna sail away
Let me be your teddy bear
Take me with you anywhere
I don't care
I wanna be yours

Let me be your electric meter
I will not run out
Let me be the electric heater
You get cold without
Let me be your setting lotion
Hold your hair
With deep devotion
Deep as the deep
Atlantic Ocean
That's how deep is my emotion
Deep deep deep deep de deep deep
I don't wanna be hers
I wanna be yours

John Cooper Clarke

Poetic reading of the 6 o'clock news in Scottish dialect

this is thi
six a clock
news thi
man said n
thi reason
a talk wia
BBC accent
iz coz yi
widny wahnt
mi ti talk
about thi
trooth wia
voice lik
wanna yoo
scruff. if
a toktaboot
thi trooth
lik wanna yoo
scruff yi
widny thingk
it wuz troo.
jist wanna yoo
scruff tokn.
thirza right
way ti spell
ana right way
to tok it. this
is me tokn yir
right way a
spellin. this
is ma trooth.
yooz doant no
thi trooth
yirsellz cawz
yi canny talk
right. this is
the six a clock
nyooz. belt up

Tom Leonard

Of the poets John Cooper Clarke was quite easily my favourite. He read with amazing speed, and sounded quite funny, but you could understand him. I found Tom Leonard entertaining with his strong Scottish accent, but it was very hard to understand him.

Stuart Hemingway 10MX

Half-Caste

Excuse me
 Standing on one leg
 I'm half-caste
 Explain yuself
 Wha yu mean
 When yu say half-caste
 Yu mean when Picasso
 Mix red an green
 Is a half-caste canvas/
 Explain yuself
 What yu mean
 When you say half-caste
 Yu mean when light an shadow
 Mix in de sky
 Is a half-caste weather
 Well in dat case
 England weather
 Nearly always half-caste
 In fact some o dem cloud
 Half-caste till dem overcast
 So spiteful dem don't want
 de sun pass
 Ah rass
 Explain yuself
 Wha yu mean
 When yu say half-caste
 Yu mean tchaikovsky
 Sit down at dah piano
 An mix a black key
 Is a half-caste symphony
 Explain yuself
 Wha yu mean
 Ah listening to yu wid de keen
 Half of mih ear
 Ah looking at yu wid de keen
 Half of mih eye
 And when I'm introduced to yu
 I'm sure you'll understand
 Why I offer yu half-a-hand
 An when I sleep at night
 I close half-a-eye
 Consequently when I dream
 I dream half-a-dream
 An when moon begin to glow
 I half-a-shadow
 But yu must come back tomorrow
 Wid de whole of yu eye
 An de whole of yu ear
 An de whole of yu mind
 And I will tell yu
 De other half
 Of my story

John Agard

I liked Simon Armitage's style of poems and I enjoyed his performance. He impressed as a very easy-going person with real purpose behind his writing. He said that when he cannot think of how to start a poem, he starts a tune in his head.

John Cooper Clarke was also very interesting and amusing. He came across as mad and often read the poems fast, however he kept the audience interested. He made you keen to find out what he was thinking.

Lauren Egan 10GX

Kid

Batman, big shot, when you gave the order to grow up, then let me loose to wander leeward, freely through the wild blue yonder as you liked to say, or ditched me, rather, in the gutter ... well, I turned the corner. Now I've scotched that 'he was like a father to me' rumour, sacked it, blown the cover on that 'he was like an elder brother' story, let the cat out on that caper with the married woman, how you took her downtown on expenses in the motor. Holy robin-redbreasted-nest-egg-shocker! Holy roll-me-over-in-the-clover, I'm not playing ball boy any longer Batman, now I've doffed that off-the-shoulder Sherwood-Forest-green and scarlet jumper for a pair of jeans and crew-neck jumper; now I'm taller, harder, stronger, older. Batman, it makes a marvelous picture: you without a shadow, stewing over chicken giblets in the pressure cooker, next to nothing in the walk-in larder, punching the palm of your hand all winter, you baby, now I'm the real boy wonder.

Simon Armitage

My favourite was 'Half Caste' by John Agard. Unfortunately John couldn't make it to the seminar and so we didn't get the chance to hear him deliver his poem and comment on it.

I really liked Simon Armitage as his poems had deeper meaning when he read them himself.

Kylie Douglas 10GX

Island Man

(for a Caribbean island man in London who still wakes up to the sound of the sea)

Morning
 And island man wakes up
 To the sound of blue surf
 In his head
 The steady breaking and wombing

Wild seabirds
 And fisherman pushing out to sea
 The sun surfacing defiantly
 From the east
 Of his small emerald island
 He always comes back
 Groggily groggily

Comes back to sands
 Of a grey metallic soar
 To surge of wheels
 To dull North Circular roar

Muffling muffling
 His crumpled pillow waves
 Island man heaves himself

Another London day

Grace Nichols

We listened to readings by a number of poets including John Cooper Clarke, Tom Leonard, Imitaz Dharker, Grace Nichols, Gillian Clarke, Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage. Simon Armitage was one of my favourite poets. The way he read his poems made them seem really lively. While he read his poems you could easily imagine yourself there, actually watching what he was reading about. I also liked John Cooper Clarke because he just seemed to enjoy himself and this showed as he read, putting so much energy into his performance. I also liked the way he rapped some of his poems because it was different.

Victoria Kupczak 10HX

Schools with so little

The week after the autumn half term I was lucky enough to be accepted on a trip to Durban, South Africa. The week was funded by the League of Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers.

While I was in Durban I visited eight different schools. They varied very much, from having excellent facilities and amenities to having literally nothing.

The schools in the rural area were the ones that affected me most. It made me realize how lucky we are and how we take so many things for granted.



I was so moved and concerned about the children in these schools that when I returned I was determined to share my experiences with staff and students at Raynes Park.

Their response was fantastic. After my presentations to classes many students came up and offered money. A special 'Durban' account was started where we could collect funds.



The first big drive we had was collecting books to start libraries in two of the schools I visited. We collected 1,140 books and sent them to these schools through a charitable organization called Community Heart.

We collected over £800 through the following events; Christmas card money donated instead of being sent, students individual sponsored events, swimming and silence. Classes held cake sales and raffles, ran wet-sponge-throwing at teachers and organised short drama skits where money was charged. Students requested the use of mufti money too.

By June 24th we had 61 boxes packed to go to the headquarters in Kent. These boxes contained books, clothing, games, toys, a computer, a scanner and general classroom equipment such as glue, scissors and card.

We also sent a cheque for £450 to Kent Council to buy larger items, as well as money to be spent in Durban by teachers visiting again in the summer.

Thanks go to all who supported in many diverse ways. We hope to continue our support next year.



USA Ski Trip 2002

Ski Trip 2002 to the USA. From 23rd March 2002 to the 31st March 2002, forty-five pupils and four teachers with their families went on the Ski Trip 2002 to Stowe in Vermont. We travelled by coach to Heathrow and boarded a Boeing 777 plane that took us to Boston. After a four-hour coach ride we reached our hotel. The hotel was really nice and the food was good! We had a swimming pool, Jacuzzi and a sauna. There was a nice cosy bar for the teachers! We would get up early for our skiing lesson. We were driven up to the slopes every day by a yellow school bus. We were put into groups each with an instructor. The instructors were great! They were so good that by the end of the first day most of us were confidently skiing from the top of the mountains to the very bottom. We had a regular two-hour skiing lesson in the morning and a two-hour skiing lesson after lunch every day. On Sunday (our first evening) and Monday evening we were allowed to do what we wanted to, so long as we did not go too far away from the hotel. Tuesday we had a laugh at a quiz night. Wednesday night was the disco at the Rusty Nail. Thursday night we went bowling and on Friday night we had a presentation evening which our instructors attended and followed that with a karaoke. Mr Hoban tried singing American Pie, he was only half way through when he realised it was the eight-minute long version! What a great laugh that really was!

Vicky Patching 10HX

The Golden Locks and Boxer Shorts

On the second day while we were on our way to the mountain the teachers told us about a special prize that they used their last few trips. This award was a pair of blonde plaits attached to a hair band which must be worn under the hat with the plaits showing. This prize was given to the person who had the most stacks (falls) or the most spectacular stack while in their lesson. Each day the award was passed on to a different person and on one occasion it had to be shared by two people. Half way through the week the teachers started receiving complaints from students saying it is unfair on boys as if a girl won the award they wouldn't suffer any embarrassment. So Miss Routledge, not wanting to upset anybody, went out and bought the biggest pair of boxer shorts

she could find. These were then handed to the girl who made the most or best falls, these boxer shorts to be worn on the outside of the ski salopettes for the entire day.

Last Night Awards

On our last night at the lodge all the teachers decided to keep up with tradition and arranged an awards ceremony. The previous day the teachers had asked all the instructors if they would come to the awards and say a short piece about their group. On the night an award was handed out to each person for something memorable they had done such as the widest snowplough or for the dumbest thing done while skiing. Then each group took it in turn to give their instructor an award they had chosen personally so the instructors would remember them.

Sam Francis 10MX



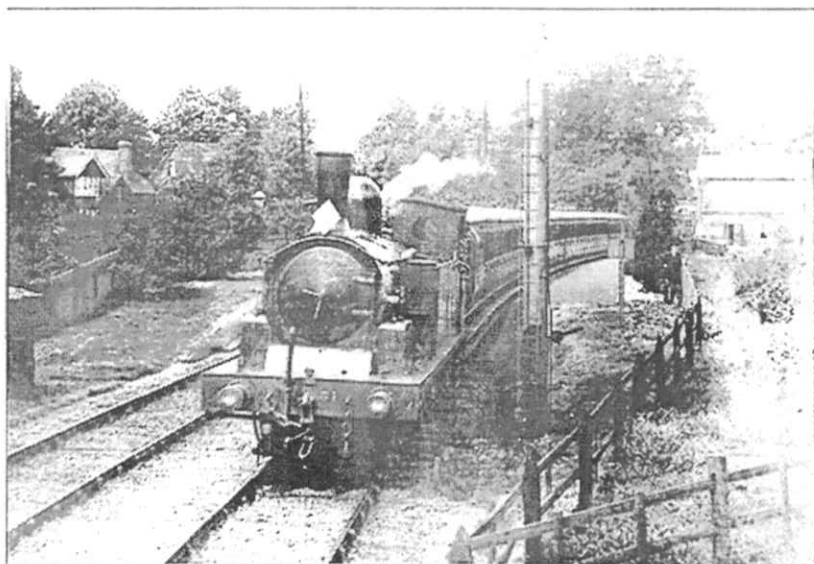
Footnote

Mr. Hoban and I have organised and led many ski trips in the past. This trip was without doubt the best in many ways, everything went according to plan, and there was good snow and some sunshine and a fine hotel with excellent facilities and food. The teachers had a fantastic time and were very proud of all the pupils who took part. They were good fun to be with and their behaviour was first-rate

It is with great regret that both Mr. Hoban and myself have decided that we will not be organising or participating in any future ski trips. We certainly went out on a high and hope that the younger and more energetic members of staff will be able to continue the great tradition of Raynes Park High School Ski Trips!

J. Kedge

Nearly a century apart



The last steam train left many years ago. This one is heading out of Merton Park station on its way to Croydon in 1906



One of the new trams passing through Merton Park on its way to Wimbledon

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 object 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.