

TIM HENMAN VISITS RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL



READ ABOUT THE LAUNCH OF RPHS AS A TIM HENMAN FOUNDATION BECSLINK COMMUNITY ON PAGES 2 - 15



RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL BECOMES A TIM HENMAN FOUNDATION BECSLINK COMMUNITY

Tim Henman OBE, retired tennis champion, joined Raynes Park High School in south west London, as it became the first state school to be an accredited Tim Henman Foundation BECSLink Community on Friday 16th March. He was joined by Crista Cullen, MBE, Olympic gold medal field hockey player and the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Marsie Skeete.

As an accredited Tim Henman Foundation BECSLink Community, the school works alongside national and local businesses, education, charities and sports and arts organisations to provide resources and learning opportunities for young people. This offers students and teachers not only from the school, but also other local schools the opportunity to develop new skills.

On Friday 16th March, the school hosted 400 schoolchildren from other local schools who participated in a range of activities. These included music workshops with Tenors Unlimited, the international operatic trio, Pi-Top computer workshop and a catering challenge. Sporting activities were led by Wimbledon Hockey, Fulham Football and Performance Plus.

Mrs K Heard, Headteacher, said "We are proud to become the first state school accredited as a BECSLink community. This has all been made possible through the vision of BECSLink and the Tim Henman Foundation and dedicated staff at our school. BECSLink's role as the social mobility network, together with their partners from national and local businesses, education, charities and sports and arts organisations are



helping us supply outstanding resources and learning opportunities for students and teachers not only from our school, but also from other local schools.”

Tim Henman, OBE, retired tennis champion, said “This day was all about the children – it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm in such a range of activities. I like to think they can achieve great things in the future. It’s important for youngsters to seize every opportunity and I’m pleased through my Foundation to give back in such a wonderful way in association with not only the scholarships but also in supporting further enrichment programmes with Raynes Park High School in the areas of science, technology, engineering and Maths, computer coding, through sport and helping the growth of a community tennis programme.”



Crista Cullen, MBE, Olympic gold medal field hockey player said "It's great to see the children engaging in a realm of different things from singing to tennis. It's all part of creating well rounded individuals and giving opportunities to children who wouldn't otherwise have them."

BECSTLink encourages collaboration at a local and national level to create exciting learning opportunities for young people. Potential partners should get in touch with BECSTLink.

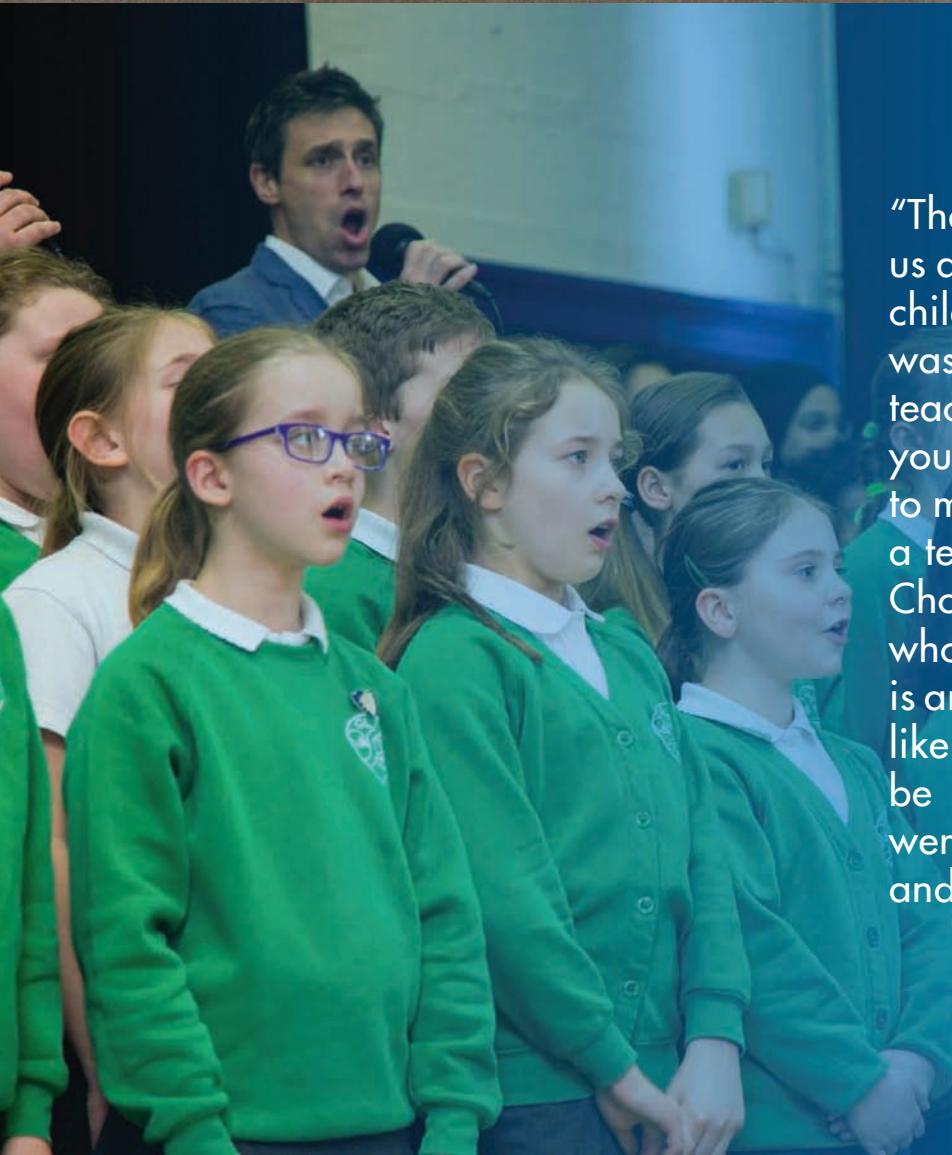
Richard Garrett, CEO of BECSTLink says: "Raynes Park High School will be the leading model for us in the state sector. Any other schools which want to become BECSTLink Community hosts should get in touch with us. There are compelling reasons to do so. Accredited BECSTLink Communities have improved reputation and school rolls and greater access to external funding. The model unlocks talent and fulfils the potential for all involved in the associated schools and most particularly for students who face adversity.

Accredited BECSTLink Communities become the heartbeat of an integrated community of business, education, charity and sports and arts organisations that want to address social mobility issues through creating opportunities for young people."

As part of this initiative, the school was given Tim Henman Scholarships, in association with the Tim Henman Foundation, for talented youngsters prevented from pursuing their talents due to a lack of financial means. Mr Henman presented these students with their scholarships on the same day. The school has been awarded a grant over three years by the Foundation to be awarded as scholarships to students (read about these scholarships on pages 8-11)



COMMUNITY LAUNCH DAY



"Thank you very much for having us at your event this afternoon. The children loved the whole thing. It was my proudest moment as a teacher watching them sing with you and, as the children shouted to me all the way home, I did have a tear in my eye. The Raynes Park Choir sounded excellent and the whole event was fantastic. If there is any chance of repeating an event like this again we would love to be invited back. Tenors Unlimited were fantastic both with the pupils and in their performance."

- Mr Smith,
Green Lane Choirmaster





TIM HENMAN AIMING TO IMPROVE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

BY REBECCA MORLEY, FOR SW LONDONER

Former British tennis star Tim Henman awarded the first of his foundation's scholarships to four Raynes Park High School pupils as part of its programme to improve the lives of young people.

Since relaunching in 2014, the Tim Henman Foundation has developed an outreach programme, a scholarships programme and a hospice programme. The programmes seek to encourage vulnerable young people to raise their aspirations and make a positive contribution to society.

The ex-world number four said: "I've had a foundation for the last 17 years, but in the last four years we've re-launched it, working

more specifically in education and health and disadvantaged young people.

I was part of the David Lloyd Academy. I look back and I think how lucky I was and so I definitely believe that giving young kids a chance is really important."

Henman spoke at Raynes Park High School, where he launched his foundation's partnership with the school by awarding the scholarships in conjunction with BECSLink. Speaking about his motivations to start the Tim Henman Foundation, the former British number one spoke of the legacy of his own former school.





He said: "Reeds School was set up as an orphanage 203 years ago. Andrew Reed was giving opportunity a long time ago, that was definitely a motivating factor."

"I got an opportunity because I was good at tennis, but you don't necessarily need to just be good at tennis to get an opportunity, you could be good at another skill in the arts, or in science or technology, or whatever it may be. Or you might not have that opportunity, so if we can create some of those and give scholarship awards then hopefully that's going to have an impact down the line."

The outreach programme focuses on music and the arts, science, technology, engineering and mathematics and sport.

While Henman admitted he wasn't very good at music and art himself, he said it's important for his foundation to have diversity.

"Tennis has always been a big part of my life. I'm involved in Wimbledon, I'm on the board there and involved in the event itself and it

comes around quickly. I think we all hope [the weather] warms up a bit."

The 'Make it Happen' hospice programme addresses a number of issues from further education to independent living or healthcare, to support young people who are life-limited, and life threatened.

In a speech at Raynes Park High School, Henman said: "If I could leave the pupils with one message today from my experiences, and that with working with my foundation, it's life's not a dress rehearsal.

We only get one chance to fulfil our potential, so hopefully if they get an opportunity, in whatever field or activity, grasp it with both hands. Seize the moment, and pursue your dreams, because you'll be amazed at what you can achieve, and how much fun you can have along that journey."

The Foundation will be providing scholarships for the next two years. If you are interested in applying for one of these grants, please speak to your form tutor.

COMMUNITY LAUNCH DAY



Summer is passionate about drama, saying that it has allowed her to grow in confidence. She aspires to go to drama academy after Sixth Form and believes that this scholarship will help her achieve this. The scholarship will go towards attending an extracurricular drama class.

Emmy has always wanted to attend horse riding lessons, and would like to become a vet when she's older. The scholarship has been used to purchase a series of twelve lessons for her at a stable that is close to where she lives.



Matthew was nominated by the Head of Computer Science as Matthew would like to become an engineer and is passionate about designing and building robots. This award will allow him to purchase the parts that he needs to build a robot from scratch and learn more about physical computing through a hands-on project.



Latrell is a talented basketball player who has been able to participate in basketball at school, however, he would like the opportunity to play with a local club. This award will pay for his club membership.



OLYMPIC HOCKEY GOLD MEDAL WINNER AIMING TO INSPIRE THROUGH QUICK START

BY REBECCA MORLEY, FOR SW LONDONER

Rio 2012 medallist Crista Cullen MBE is inspiring more children to get involved in hockey as part of the Quick Start programme.

She visited Raynes Park High School in Wimbledon to celebrate them becoming the first state school to be named an accredited Tim Henman Foundation and BECSLink Community. Cullen, 32, led a workshop and even got involved in a quick hockey rally with the former tennis player.

She said: "It's part of the Quick Start hockey programme with Wimbledon Hockey Club.

What we've done is we've partnered with ten state schools to give opportunities for after-school clubs, for kids to take part in sport, such as hockey, which

they wouldn't have been able to be involved in.

We provide coaches, facilities, and then we get the kids in, bring them hockey sticks, bring them equipment, and they get to run around and enjoy the sport that we've all been lucky enough to play for so many years."

The children play in a tournament, where they can be scouted and, if they show real promise, could move into the Wimbledon Junior Programme, which currently has 750 children participating.

Cullen said: "We're looking to sponsor those kids from those ten state schools and try to get them into our programmes to see if hockey can be their thing."

COMMUNITY LAUNCH DAY



She also believes this can be a great initiative to get young girls interested in sport. She said: "We had an 80% increase in participation in our sport of the back of our gold medal, in kids, and so it's important for us to nurture that, because we're not the only women's sport that's been doing well.

"There's the cricketeers, the footballers and the rugby players, so we've got to try to make sure that people play hockey for as long as we can possibly get them interacting with it. We're not

telling kids to not play other sports; go out and try everything!

If you want to try hockey, then give it a whirl, because that's the opportunity this programme creates. It's about everybody having this opportunity, and not just about people who can afford the facilities.

It's about the fact that we're missing a large percentage of people and that's what Quick Start hockey is all about."





#LADYWIMBLETON'S DAY AT RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL

ARTICLE FROM THE WIMBLEDON GUARDIAN

Let's start with Tim Henman. Meeting him was certainly a highlight of my week, but seeing the impact of the Tim Henman Foundation grant on Raynes Park High School was phenomenal. Applause from around the borough could be heard as Raynes Park High became the first state school in the country accredited as a Tim Henman Foundation/BECSLink Community.

Tim Henman OBE, retired tennis champion, seemed pleased to be on familiar territory. "It's great to be back in the region, as I went to school at Reeds and attended the David Lloyd Centre. This day is all about the children. I like to think they can achieve great things in the future."

Entering the school, it was apparent that I'd never appreciated the space and resources that Raynes Park High offer their students. However, a tour around the school with their incredibly dynamic and enthusiastic Headteacher; Mrs K Heard, made it crystal clear.

From enviable sports fields, mad science workshops and even opera by the Tenors Unlimited - it was an absolute treat of a day.



COMMUNITY LAUNCH DAY





JACK PETCHEY FINAL: “SPEAK OUT” CHALLENGE

Jack Petchey's “Speak Out” Challenge is a nationwide schools' event run by Speakers Trust and funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation. More than 435, Year 10 students in Merton's state secondary schools received a one-day public speaking and communications workshop.

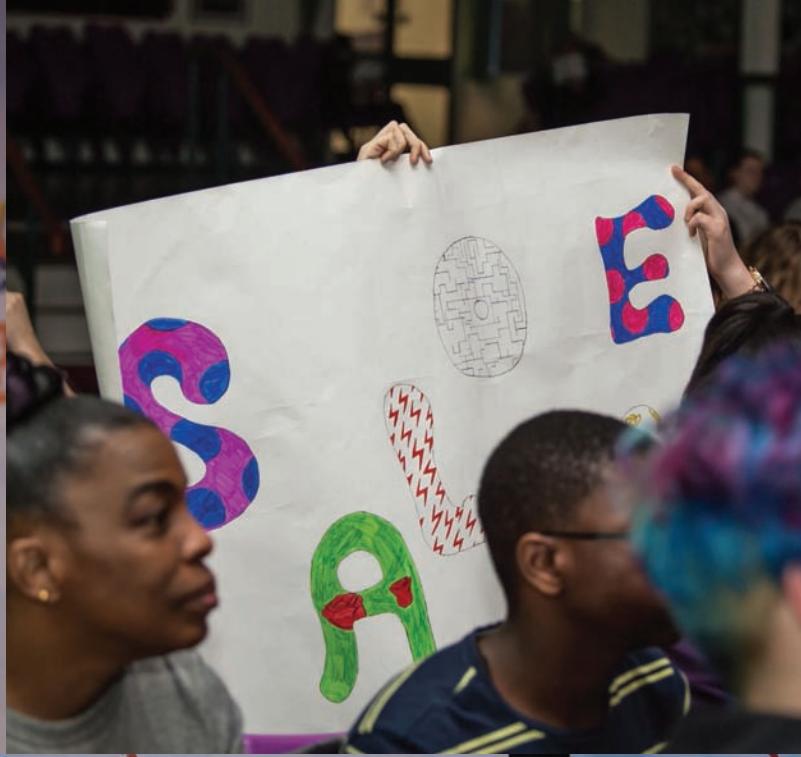
During the course, students were given the skills and the confidence to develop and deliver a competition speech on a topic important to them.

This term, we were so proud to see two engaging and very talented RPHS students represent our school at the Merton finals. Both Alex and Salome did us proud and demonstrated the skills which they had learned perfectly, with passionate, articulate presentations. The event was hosted by Ricards and showcased

a fantastic array of “Speak Out” students, and all the presenters did their respective schools proud. These students deserve to be congratulated and commended for their hard work and commitment in preparing for this event.

The winner was a boy from Rutlish who was excellent but Alex's talk on drugs and Salome's “Blood is not always thicker than water” speech were extremely well received. It was a lovely surprise to see Raynes Park student, Kat Cabral as one of the judges too!

The Mayor of Merton, Cllr Marsie Skeete who presented the awards said: “A lovely evening and very inspiring. The speeches were mind boggling as it gets you thinking. These young people are our future and we have to listen to them more.”





WORLD BOOK DAY

RPHS really went to town with World Book Day this year and last week saw Raynes Park High School's library packed with students dressed as literary characters to celebrate World Book Day.

Jim Carrington, a local author, visited us to celebrate the day. Jim worked with 3 groups of students throughout the day, and offered writing advice to students during break and lunchtime.

There were so many activities to get involved in, including a Quotes activity, and the particularly popular Book Swap where you could swap old stories for new adventures.

Our library has never looked more enticing and we made sure all our students had the chance to explore books and the pleasures of reading from all sorts of different perspectives. A fantastic day was had by all, and a big 'thank you' must go to the staff and students involved in making World Book Day a success. Ms Smith, our school librarian deserves special recognition for successfully organising such a memorable day.



WORLD BOOK DAY



#SHAREASTORY COMPETITION

In Celebration of World Book Day 2018, Book Clubs in Schools held an instagram competition on the theme of 'Share A Story'. We are delighted to announce that Najma was selected as the winner and received a prize! See all our entries here.



"The Hunger Games is my favourite book because I have grown to love all of the characters. Because it is a dystopian novel, it makes me really appreciate what I have, and also makes me glad that we don't have to compete in the Hunger Games every year!"

- Sydney

(Sydney came dressed as Katniss Everdeen for World Book Day!)



"I am a big fan of the whole Harry Potter series, but I love the fact that this book is a bit darker than the others. It shows Harry's emotions and some more about his sad life."

- Alex



"I chose Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows because it's the most suspenseful of the series. It answers all the questions which you have and also I like it because Hermione and Ginny are in it a lot. They are both very strong female characters!"

- Olivia



"Geek Girl is my favourite book because I love stories which are in the first person, especially ones which are written like a diary. I would recommend this book to other people because I found it very enjoyable to read, and it was funny in places."

- Natalia

- Najma

- Vaamini



"I chose Journey to the River Sea because it is an adventure story, which I find really interesting. It's a very exciting book and you can imagine what it must be like for the character and go on an adventure with them."

- Evie-Rose



"Geek Girl is my favourite book because I love stories which are in the first person, especially ones which are written like a diary. I would recommend this book to other people because I found it very enjoyable to read, and it was funny in places."

- Natalia

- Najma

- Vaamini

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

This has been a very busy term for the Careers Department with lots of opportunities for students to engage with the world of work.

Monday 26th February to Friday 2nd March was a big week for Year 10 which many students had been planning for since the end of Year 9. Students were working in a wide range of work places such as Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital, Crown Lane Studios, Lavender Hill Magistrates' Court, Wimbledon Village Stables, The Cabinet Office, PR companies, design agencies, the English National Opera and many more!

We want to send a big thank you to the employers who hosted our students and provided them with invaluable experience and of course a huge well done to the students who experienced first-hand one of the challenges of working life – travelling to work in the snow!

OUR SUCCESS STORIES:

"Work experience was an amazing experience. It was extremely beneficial; the company and role was exactly what I aspire to do as a career. I worked at 3mil in Wimbledon as a website designer/developer, I learned how to make Word Press websites from scratch and how to make them appealing for the user. I really enjoyed this experience and found it beneficial to what I want to do later in life." Sebastian, 10MZ

"Sebastian was a great person to have in the studio. He was polite, interested and asked questions. He worked consistently well on the project he was given and showed interest in other elements that were happening in the studio. It was a pleasure to have him here for work experience and we would be happy for him to return." Laura Galvin, Director at 3mil

"I worked at Streatham Youth and Community Trust Youth Club. I experienced all different kinds of roles, working with kids at the youth club and also at the homework club. I learned how to apply myself to a work situation and really enjoyed my placement. If I had a chance to do it again I would." Jaden, 10GZ

"Jaden's attitude has been fantastic; he has been punctual everyday, and willing to do whatever has been asked of him. He has much preferred working with the young people, getting involved in the sports and organising games etc. He also helped out on our homework club for young carers. We have been very pleased with Jaden's work ethic and he has got on well with all of our users as well as the rest of the staff team." Mark Wood, Principal Youth Worker at Streatham Youth and Community Trust

"I worked at Parkside Veterinary Centre in Carshalton. I learned how to prepare animals and the equipment for the operation. I really enjoyed the opportunity of attending the consultation programme where I was able to gain more knowledge about animals and new techniques of supporting them." Emi, 10AP

"Emi was polite, hard working and listened and remembered the information we told her. She will make a great veterinary surgeon if she continues to work hard." Grace Ralph, Student Veterinary Nurse at Parkside Veterinary Centre.

JOB CENTRE PLUS CV WORKSHOP

On their return from work experience, Year 10 students took part in a CV workshop where they learned about the purpose of a CV, how to make theirs stand out from the crowd and common mistakes to avoid. Thank you to the job-seeking experts from Job Centre Plus South London.

YEAR 8 CAREERS WORKSHOP

As part of the BECSLink launch day, Engaging Education delivered a careers workshop to Year 8 students. They learned about the different career pathways available, how to write a basic CV and got to practice planning and budgeting for a party. Thanks to Ross and the team at Engaging Education for a truly enjoyable workshop.



RBS CAREERS INSIGHT TALK



Students from Years 12 and 13 took part in a career insight event delivered by RBS employees in conjunction with Leroy Kraku from the National Careers Service. Students got to hear from Alex, a 19 year old apprentice and from Ahmed, a recent graduate about the range of opportunities available and the prospects of joining an apprenticeship, internship or graduate scheme. The talk was very engaging and gave the students a lot to think about. Thank you to Leroy, Alex and Ahmed for visiting the Sixth Form.

JOHNSON CONTROLS INSIGHT TALK



Thank you to Graham and Alex from Johnson Controls who delivered a lunchtime talk to students interested in learning about engineering apprenticeships and the routes these can lead to within their company.

JOB CENTRE PLUS INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP & MOCK INTERVIEWS

Ian Birthwright and his team from Job Centre Plus delivered an engaging session to selected Year 13 students about how to prepare and perform effectively in a job interview. The students then had the chance to practice these skills in a mock interview conducted by Ian's team. We would like to say a big thank you to Ian and the time he has spent working with RPHS students this term. His input has been invaluable.



Raynes Park High School is proud to be working towards the Investors in Careers Quality in Careers Standard which is a national award to raise standards and recognise excellence in CEIAG provision. We will be assessed in the following areas:

- Commitment to Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) and the Investors in Careers award.
- Delivery of the CEIAG programme.
- Evaluation of the CEIAG programme.

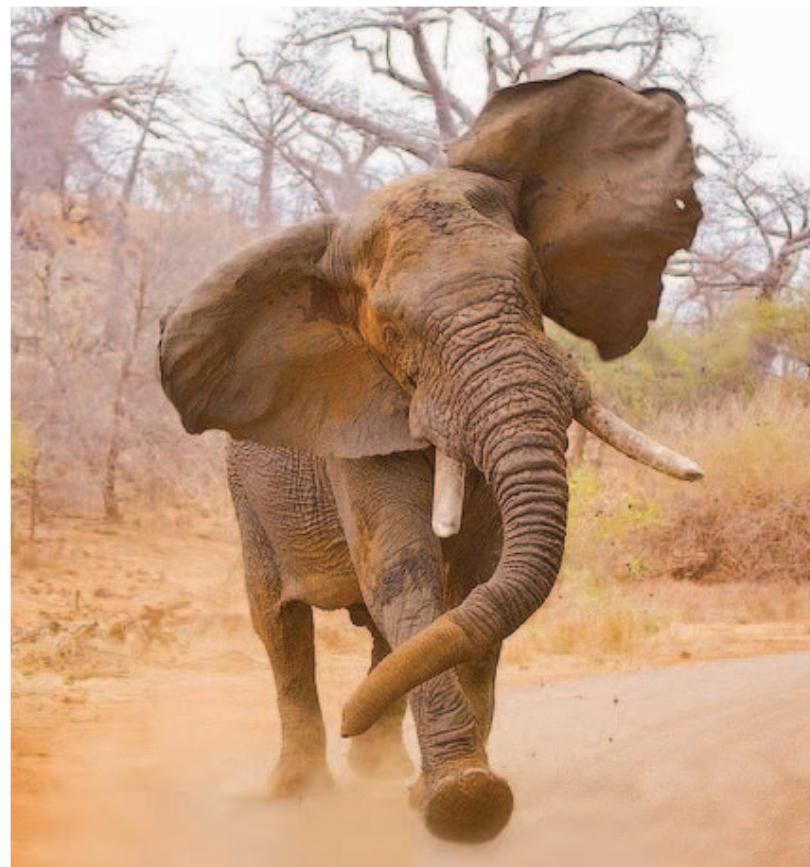
The process takes up to two years and reassessment takes place every three years. Thank you for your support as we develop this important aspect of your child's experience at RPHS.

GET INVOLVED:

If you would like to be involved in our Careers Insight activities or you know somebody who would, please get in touch with Ms Brake on bbrake@raynespark.merton.sch.uk



COULD YOU OUTRUN AN ELEPHANT? STEM WEEK 2018



STEM week took place between the 9th and 18th of March and students spent time in their maths lessons working out whether or not they could outrun an elephant. There was lots of excitement leading up to STEM week as posters started to appear in corridors asking students if they could outrun an elephant – many were sure they could.

During STEM week students were asked to write down how fast they thought they could run 50m. They then went outside and raced against each other but more importantly the clock to see how fast they could run 50m. Students then compared their times with a number of animals and were surprised at how fast some animals could run. This practical lesson secured all students' understanding of speed and was a lot of fun.





CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

BY LARONE DOWNS

At lunchtime on Thursday 15th March, some enthusiastic forensic scientists headed to a crime scene in the school! There was a 'Murder at Raynes Park Towers' for students to solve, complete with a body and all of the evidence. The students had to carry out practical tests to solve the case and work out who the murderer was. They used chromatography to test the 'lipstick' found at the crime scene and match it to the suspects. They did pH testing of the 'cocktail'

at the crime scene and also starch testing for the unknown 'white powder'. The students finally tried some flame tests to confirm the identity of the murderer. The students had a lot of fun and were able to find out more about forensic science and possible future STEM careers.

My favourite thing was the flame testing. I enjoyed finding out who the murderer was - it surprised me!



CATERING CHALLENGE

As part of STEM week, Catering held a 'food experiment' session after school which included the science of making honeycomb and testing osmosis using Haribo sweets. We're pleased to say that students conquered the challenge, learnt a lot, and took home some delicious honeycomb.



GORDON RAMSAY APPRENTICE TRAINING

Our Year 10s visited the University of West London this term for some hands-on catering experience. Thank you to the Gordon Ramsay apprentice chefs for hosting RPHS students for a taster day and teaching them some fantastic catering skills. We're so impressed with the amazing food they plated up.





CATERING STUDENT OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER AMBER GUVIER
OCTOBER TAYLOR LEE
NOVEMBER ELSIE PALMER
DECEMBER SHEMAIAH THARPE
JANUARY CHARLEY TEW
FEBRUARY YU OTSUKA
MARCH CHANELLE RUSSELL



D&T STUDENT OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER KOH OTSUKA
OCTOBER SEBASTIAN MIELINK
NOVEMBER AMELIE ST-CLAIR
DECEMBER WYNTER PAYNE-SPEEDE
JANUARY ARCHIE ROBINSON
FEBRUARY ZACK DOUGLAS
MARCH GRACE ROUTLEDGE

NEWS FROM THE Governors

The spring term this year has been very short, but it has been a busy one for the Governors.

Our main focus has been on planning for the future. We have been very heartened by the news that all the school's good work in improving standards and performance is now showing in the numbers of students applying to join us at Year 7 next September. We are facing increased demand, and not just from Merton – we have a growing amount of applications from families living in Kingston and Wandsworth too. RPHS is very much a school on the up.

Another focus for the future is our financial planning. The money the Government gives us remains tight, particularly as the funds they will give us for our increasing student numbers are paid in arrears. Our Business Committee always plans our finances three years ahead, and they have been busy crunching the numbers this term. As always we will seek to get the best deal possible so that our students are never short-changed.

We have had our usual cycle of meetings during the term and have also had two successful Strategic Visits to see the school in action – one dealing with the Sixth Form and

one with our Year 9s. We were delighted to meet staff and students in these year groups and to ask them about their experience and progress and how we can further build on this.

On other fronts, we met with representatives from TfL and Merton Council to discuss replacing and if possible re-siting the eastbound 152 bus stop in Bushey Road. We urged on them too the need for safety improvements and new perimeter fencing on the other side of the road. We were also pleased to attend the launch of the school's BECSLink, which we hope will increase opportunities for our students and introduce growing numbers of primary school pupils to RPHS. This is a vibrant and growing school – and we want to maintain the impetus, for the sake of all our students.

Yours faithfully,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Ross".

Michael Ross
Chair of
Governors

Find out more about the work of our School Governors here:
www.rphs.org.uk/31/governors



YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

Year 9 Options Evening was very well attended this term; thank you to families that were able to join us for this event. Following feedback from previous years, we wanted to hold a separate evening in addition to the Parent/Carer Evening so that students and families could see a range of staff and find out more about each subject. We were delighted with the positive feedback and hope that this was a useful evening.



YEAR 8 BEHAVIOUR CONFERENCE

This term we held a Year 8 behaviour conference. "This provided a great opportunity for students to share their feelings about their experiences at school, and to suggest ways we can move forward as a year group" said Ms Karadal, Head of Year 8. "So much positivity has come from this event and it was lovely as their Head of Year to see so many of you engaged in the tasks and working together so well. It was also especially pleasing to see how well the group representatives spoke in front of the whole year group."



DRUGS AWARENESS VERBATIM PLAY

Students experienced a verbatim play this term to inform them of the risks of drugs. The play aims to leave no student in doubt that they have a choice about the decisions they make and that the risks associated with illegal substance misuse are incredibly high. They learned facts that will help them make informed decisions and some tools to put their decisions into practice in a pressured situation.



COMMUNITY PLAY WITH KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Over 150 pupils from 8 schools performed in the fourth partnership production at King's College School this term. The culmination of two terms' work, 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' explored themes of honesty, love and acceptance. It was a wonderful evening of teamwork. Mrs K Heard, Headteacher, said "This is the first time that we have been involved in the community play and it was wonderful to watch so many of our students taking part in the performance; I was very proud of them all."



RPHS STUDENTS WIN £1000 FOR CENTREPOINT CHARITY WITH FIRST GIVE

Students took part in the First Give Final Project this term where finalists from each tutor group competed to win £1000 for their chosen local charities.

Year 9 students worked exceptionally hard this term to research and present about charities with First Give. The students competed in tutor groups to win their chosen charity a sizable donation.

We're thrilled to say that after weeks of work, RPHS students won funds for CentrePoint UK.

Mrs K Heard, who was one of the judges on the event said "Congratulations to the winning team, to all of the Year 9 students who took part and thank you to families who were able to come and support this event."





CRACKING EASTER BAKE-OFF

Sodexo 'Social Kitchen' held an Easter Bake off at the end of this term, and we were very impressed with the entries. Well done to the winners, Katie and Amy, we hope you enjoy your vouchers!





Thomas Cook



YEAR 10 BTEC TRIP: TRAVEL & TOURISM

On 14th March our Year 10 BTEC Travel and Tourism students visited Thomas Cook in Wimbledon to find out more about the role of the travel agent. Our students spent a very informative morning discovering exactly what a travel agent does, what training and qualifications are required and learning how to plan a holiday. For some of our students this visit has made them more certain that working in the travel industry is the career path that they would like to follow.



WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK CAKE SALE

The students from the Access Centre raised over £60 from making and selling cakes for the National Autistic Society. The students were led by William McMullen, who organised the making of cakes, the prices and the setting up of the cake sale. A group of students from different year groups were fully involved, designing fantastic cakes. Michael Bertagna-Agozzino was amazing and a real salesperson, also Monique Martin's enthusiasm and positive attitude were a real joy to see.

Well done to the students for their commitment and dedication to raising money for a worthy charity which provides information, support and services to parents, children and adults.



Five of my favourite facts about autism

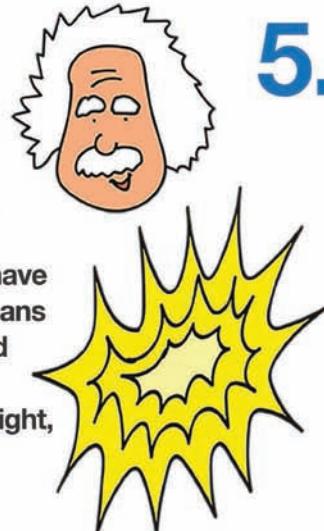
Chris Packham, fact fan, autistic man and ambassador for The National Autistic Society



- Satoshi Tajiri, the inventor of Pokémon, is autistic.



- Mozart, Einstein and Sir Isaac Newton had autistic characteristics and would probably be diagnosed with autism if they were alive today.



- 90% of autistic people have sensory issues. This means we experience the world really intensely but we sometimes find it too bright, loud and confusing.

- There are more autistic people in the UK than words in the first four Harry Potter books.



- World Autism Awareness Week is from 26 March to 2 April. Ask your teacher what your school is doing to celebrate it.



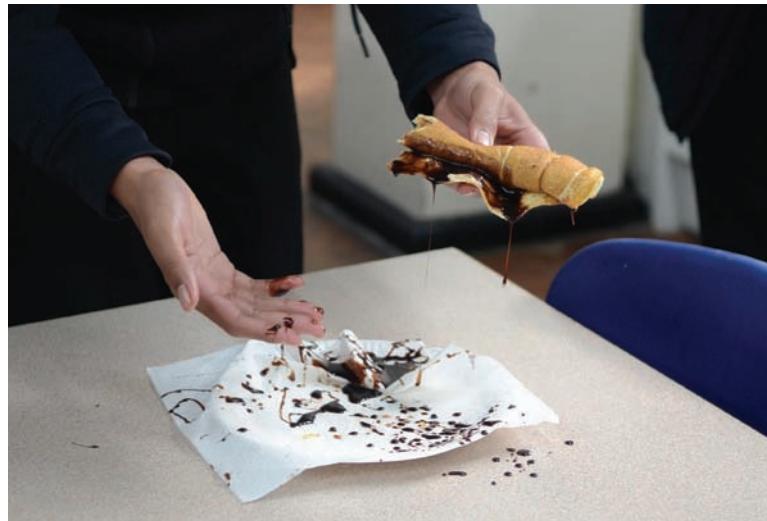


PANCAKE PARTY IN AID OF CARDIOMYOPATHY

"Congratulations to Miss Murray and the pupils of Raynes Park High School and Sixth Form who hosted a fantastically successful pancake party in our honour yesterday! Loving the Nutella and ice cream pancakes on offer – very decadent! Thank you all so much for your hard work for us - every penny raised makes a difference. Roll on next year. Go #TeamCardio."

- Cardiomyopathy UK Rep





WE BUILT THIS CITY

URBAN PLANNING WORKSHOP

BY SALOME KHURTISLAVA

On 9th March, I, along with the rest of my peers from the geography classes in Year 10, was given the opportunity to take part in the ULI UrbanPlan workshop. Before completing the drop-down day, I always considered city planning as a 'boring profession', as did many others. However, I soon discovered that this was a fabricated myth as the depths of Urban Planning were revealed throughout the day.

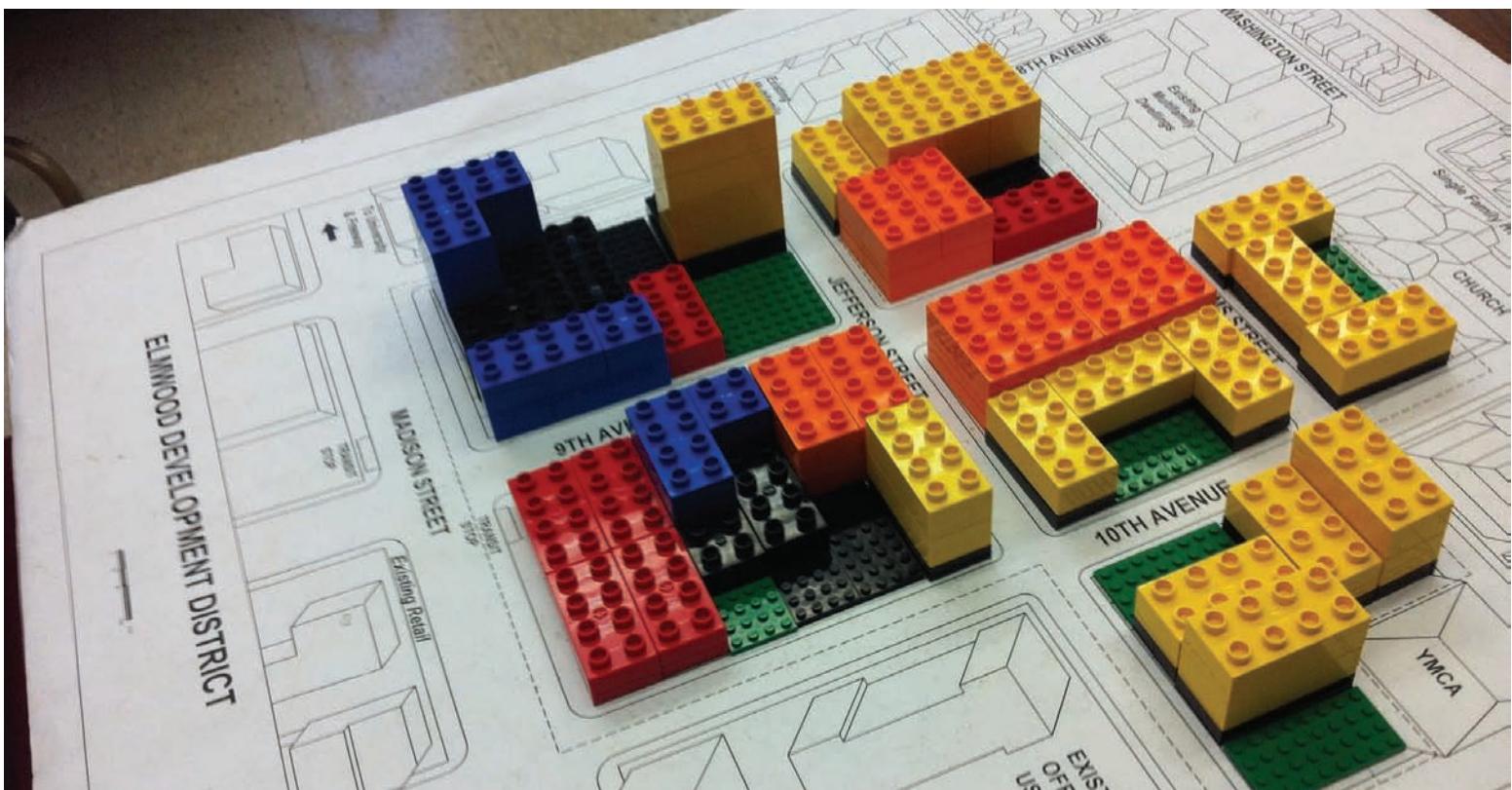
We sat down at tables in the main hall in groups, not knowing what to expect, and we were promptly introduced to the leaders of the programme. Throughout the day, they helped us understand the different requirements needed whilst planning a city, making us discover that area planning is not an easy feat. Within period one and two, we created a company identity for

the pitch we were later to complete, for this was not only a workshop, but a competition where the winning Urban Design Team would be taken for lunch at City Hall.

The game was on.

Usually redesigning a new city would take companies billions of dollars and up to a decade to complete, however, we needed to finish a scale-model of our planned city, a financial plan and a planned and rehearsed pitch in just period three and four, 22,812.5% less time than necessary. By resolving our disagreements and finding the correct solutions to problems in the community of the town, we immensely improved and developed our teamwork, communication and critical thinking skills, which are not only needed in the property





industries, but in every field of work. Also, we were given a taste of the various roles in the property industry, since every member of each team was assigned a team role. Some oversaw finances, whilst others ensured that the majority of the community was content with our plans (by reading the requests for proposals).

After lunch, our company names were randomly drawn to decide the order of the presentations. Each team presented to a panel of four industry experts, who worked with us and gave us insider advice on planning the best city possible throughout the day. The scale-plan, along with the financial plan was given to the judges whilst we presented, explaining our reasoning for each choice of building and our vision for the city.

Once every team had performed, the scores were counted, and the winners were Phoenix, who stunned the judges with their bright vision for 'Elton', the planned city.

The valuable employability skills we developed mixed with the good time we spent working with our peers made the day extremely enjoyable, and afterwards I heard many students say that they were now considering Urban Planning as a career choice, despite the belief at the start of the day that it was a 'boring profession'.



BRIGHT PINK HAIR FOR BREAST CANCER CARE

Well done to Mr Arnot for agreeing to have his hair dyed pink in aid of Breast Cancer Care. After a huge fundraising push and posing for selfies throughout the day he raised nearly £300. Suits you sir! Let's hope it washes out before the start of next term...

www.breastcancercare.org.uk



UKMT TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE MATHS ON TOUR

Following their qualification through both the county and regional heats, on Tuesday 6th March, four Raynes Park High School students – Nathan, Mia, Yu and Kiera – travelled with Ms Holland to the Team Maths Challenge Regional Final at City of London School. They competed in four challenging rounds: the group round, crossnumber, shuttle and relay. The students really enjoyed themselves and spent most of the day doing maths, even doing some on the tube. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to flex their brain muscles against lots of other students from across London.



CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

To mark the end of Spring Term, we brought every member of the school community together for the whole school assembly. It is always a wonderful assembly celebrating the achievements of so many students and rewarding those that have good attendance, excellent behaviour and have gone above and beyond. It is lovely to celebrate these achievements as a whole school and today we were treated to three performances by our school choir. Thank you to everyone that participated and well done to the very many students who were recognised for their achievements.





MILTONS HOUSE UPDATE

What a busy term we've had. I always tell Milton students how I am without doubt the proudest Head of House and that was no different this term. Milton were crowned House Cup winners for the second consecutive term at the end of last term - we also shared joint first place with Gibbs for the attendance cup.

This was exactly the start I was hoping for from Milton students. It was great to see so many students take part in the Dance Show and I look forward to seeing them compete in the House Dance competition on the 6th June.

Milton students were excellent ambassadors for our school on our BECSLink Launch Day. Students took part in a range of activities across the day and also lead guided tours for the many visitors we had. The school choir performed beautifully with Tenors Unlimited.

Last week was another exciting week with House assemblies taking place all week and a whole school focus on Sport Relief. On Friday students took part in one of four sporting activities and it was great to see so many students taking part and being active. As a school we managed to raise close to £1000 in a day. Well done to all those students who took part.

I would like to wish all the Year 11s the best of luck in their GCSEs and future plans. Congratulations to Newsoms and Ms Totty on winning the House Cup and well done to Milton for winning the Academic Achievement Cup. We will do our best to reclaim the House Cup again next term. Have a great Easter break everyone and I will see you all bright and early on 16th April for another exciting term.

- Ms Holland



GIBBS HOUSE UPDATE



'This term has flown by! Nevertheless, I am so proud of what we have achieved as a house in such a short space of time. Since the end of last term we have made caught up significantly, with the other houses, on many aspects of day-to-day school life. Perhaps one of my most favourite stats from this term is that we have over-taken other houses in the hunt for the house point cup and are currently sitting 2nd with a term to go.

However, in addition to this I am most proud of how we came together as a House and supported our chosen charity for this year - The Teenage Cancer Trust. Throughout our charity week so many of you helped at every opportunity; baking cakes, running events, cycling the 158 miles we managed together in the school day. It was truly breath-taking how successful we can be when we work together to achieve a common goal. As a result, we smashed our £500 target and are currently sitting on over £1000 with donations still coming in.

You should all be proud of yourselves and enjoy your well deserved break knowing you have helped support those who need it!

Be safe and have a fun 2 weeks! Go Gibbs!'

- Mr Wheel





LONDON YOUTH GAMES

RPHS Dance students from KS3 had an exciting experience travelling to the Copperbox Arena at the Olympic Park on Tuesday 13th March to represent the London Borough of Merton in the London Youth Games. Our dance squad was competing against twenty-five schools in the KS3 category hoping to win over the crowd as well as the judging panel. The students performed a dance piece inspired by The Jungle Book, with each dancer taking on a character with a different dance style ranging from Contemporary to Afrobeats.

Raynes Park graced the stage in the middle of the programme bringing an energetic and powerful performance which got the crowd on their feet and definitely lifted the atmosphere in the stands. Following an agonising deliberation, the results were announced and although we may not have won, the most humbling part of the day was when it was announced that Raynes Park had won the 'Respect the Games' award. Every school was asked to vote for which performance they felt deserved to win the title and we are very pleased to say that they voted for us! Some of the positive feedback we received from our competitors included 'They danced in unison with

lots of different dance styles. They were extremely energetic and showed a variety of skills and different cultures.'

Both the students and the teachers that were involved with this trip had an amazing day and the performers made our school very proud. It was the best they had ever performed the routine with outstanding focus and confidence which is extremely impressive when most of the students have never competed in a dance competition before.

Big congratulations to all the dancers; Naseema, Shemaiah, Blessing, Justin, Kadeem, Abby, Heejin, Morgan, Mia, Najma, JJ, Renee and Kenzie.





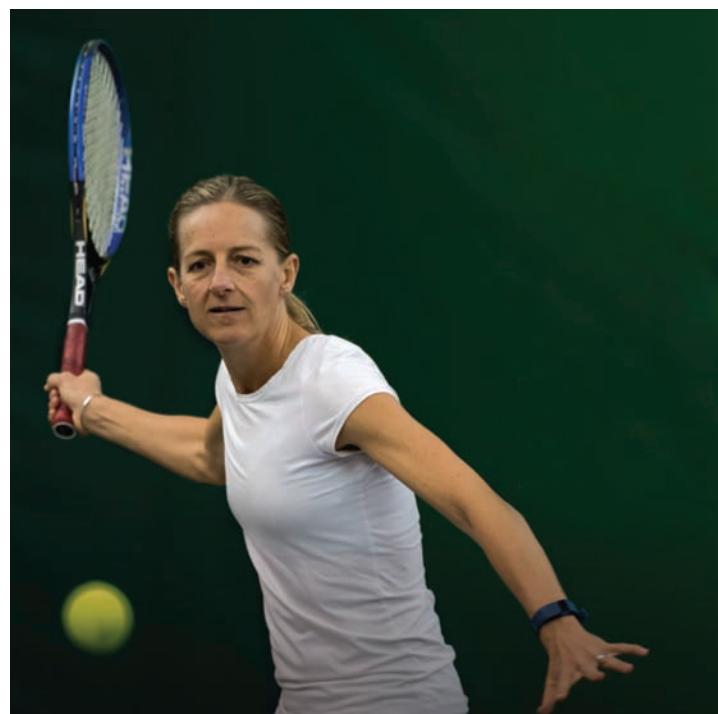
ALL ENGLAND LAWN TENNIS CLUB COMMUNITY SPORTS GROUND

The All England Lawn Tennis Club have been pleased to welcome pupils from Raynes Park High to play at the AELTC Community Sports Ground in the last 12 months. As you may already know, the Community Sports Ground is now a Pay & Play Tennis Centre which is open to the public for casual play, individual and group coaching.

In December 2017 they launched a dedicated website www.communitytennis.aeltc.com where players can register to join the centre, book courts,

and sign up for term-time coaching courses, drills and pay & play sessions and holiday camps. The Community Sports Ground is open to the public and both adult and junior programmes are run.

Please be aware that if students are unable to attend due to financial hardship, we would encourage them to apply for the Raynes Park High School Tim Henman Scholarship by speaking with their form tutor.





FULHAM MASCOTS

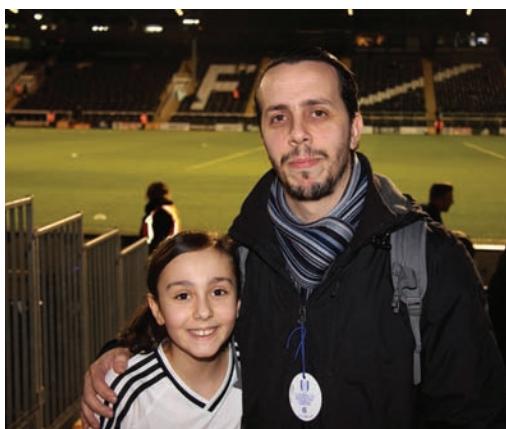


Following a unique and very exciting collaboration between Adidas, Fulham Football Club and Raynes Park, three students were given the privilege to be Fulham Mascots for their recent EFL Championship game against Sheffield United.

The students were given the opportunity to take a pre-match stadium tour along with an official photographer, participate in the tunnel line up and pitch walk, and have a pre-match photo in the centre with the Fulham Captain before returning to their seats to watch the match.

Congratulations to Zeph, Mia and Madison who represented the school superbly and watched Fulham win 3-0 on an exceptional night for all involved.







RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY

We have had a busy term in the dance department. This week we had Rambert Dance Company come in and work with students from Years 7-9. Rambert Dance Company is a leading British dance company. Formed at the start of the 20th century as a classical ballet company, it exerted a great deal of influence on the development of dance in the United Kingdom, and today, as a contemporary dance company, continues to be one of the world's most renowned dance companies. During the workshop with the

company, the students all worked extremely hard and produced a 4 and half minute dance that looked at the work A Linha Curva by Rambert for inspiration. This work will be performed at the Clore Ballroom in the Southbank Centre on Tuesday 17th April. A massive well done to all the girls involved and thanks again to Rambert. It is great to have Raynes Park Dance students working with one of the best and most recognised dance companies in the UK.



MERTON CHAMPIONS

Our U13s are officially Merton Borough Champions!

More information on their journey to success will be on the RPHS sports minisite. Visit www.rphspe.com to stay up-to-date with our latest sport news.

THE RAYNES PARK WALL

Raynes Park U15s faced a potential threat to their unbeaten record on Thursday 8th March in the form of last year's borough champions St Marks. Looking to avenge a 2-1 defeat last year and in front of a partisan crowd, the boys were put under immediate pressure from the hosts.

The boys struggled to put together any continuity and had to battle to stay in the game against a determined opposition. A forced tactical switch pushed Captain Cass in to midfield and paid instant dividends with a spectacular goal from the halfway line. A quick fire second from Blessing



after a smart through ball from Maureese ensured a smash and grab 2-0 win for the boys.

Atypical Italian style defensive display ensured no goals conceded with outstanding performances by David and Cass.

The team have found a way of winning and are determined to maintain their 100% win record.

Man of the Match: Cassidy T.

U13S SOAR INTO THE SEMI FINALS

After the 'Beast from the East' had already once postponed this Surrey Cup quarter final tie, it was a pleasant surprise to see the sunshine beaming down on the astro prior to kick off.

Raynes Park, the home team, had a shaky start to proceedings not being able to string as many passes together as they would have liked. However, the visitors, Beacon School, could not capitalise on their early possession. The home side seeing through a bitty first half which could have ended with goals for either team, but instead drew to a close at 0-0.

After a quick turn-around and a few words amongst players and staff at half time, a different Raynes Park came flying out the blocks. With no more than 3 minutes on the clock in the second half, a wellworked attack full of crisp one-two passes lead to an opportunity for Tyelan to sweep

the ball in from close range. With visitors' heads immediately dropping the home team went on to take full advantage over the proceeding 10 minutes. A delightfully placed solo goal from Jayden, whipping the ball into the far top corner gave the home side breathing space at 2-0. This followed by a counter from the home team, after soaking up some Beacon resistance, which ended again with Tyelan bundling the ball into the visitor's net to put RPHS up 3-0.

With only 5 minutes to play the home team clearly thought they were home and dry. Some sloppy passes in midfield and out from defence led to Beacon replying with 2 goals in 2 minutes, making the score 3-2. Luckily, the Raynes Park side once again lifted their game to see the final minutes out and see their names etched on the sheet of the semi-finals.

Man of the Match: Jayden B

U12S REPRESENT MERTON IN LONDON YOUTH GAMES

Following their success at the Merton Indoor Athletics Championship, the Year 7 boys represented Merton at the qualifying rounds of the London Youth Games.

Over 250 athletes from across South West London and 8 different boroughs competed at the Westcroft Leisure Centre in a series of indoor athletic events in the hope of representing the region at the finals of the London Youth Games. Amere, Ashton, Jack, Ogi, Reece, Zeph and



Waysyan put together a series of strong performances to see them finish 7th overall in the competition.

Highlights came from Amere who came 2nd and 3rd in the 2 lap, 4 lap and shot put and Ashton who won the 6 lap race and came 2nd in the vertical jump.

All involved should be congratulated on their maturity, commitment and athleticism.

SEMI FINAL HEARTBREAK FOR THE U15S

An undefeated record stood to be lost at the end of this term as Raynes Park's U15s took on the hot favourites and current competition holders Carshalton Boys.

Carshalton have blown all opposition away this season by an average of 5 goals plus, including a run to the National Schools Final, leaving RPHS with the unenviable task of thwarting their prolific attack.

RPHS dominated possession in the first half with our outstanding defence keeping the opposition attack at bay whilst fashioning good chances at the other end. Our dominance was rewarded right at the end of the half when Maureese picked up the ball 30 yards out and slammed an unstoppable screamer in to the top left upright.

A sluggish start to the second half and early intent from the opposition put us under pressure but the boys grew in confidence and started to dictate play again.



With 15 minutes to go, RPHS were showing visible signs of fatigue and momentum was swinging towards Carshalton. An outstanding save at full stretch by Elliot kept the lead in tact but the resulting corner led to a simple tap in for Carshalton.

Another corner and some disappointing defending led to another tap in and limited time to respond. The final whistle blew - much to the dismay of our boys. Each player left nothing behind on the field and should feel proud of their accomplishments.

"The better side lost" were the comments by the opposition coach and respect for RPHS cemented by a team from an all boys school who have blown all other opponents away.

"Clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose".



PERFORMANCE PLUS TENNIS PROGRAMME

Raynes Park High School are launching a new tennis programme, delivered by Performance Plus Sport, in association with BECSLink and The Tim Henman Foundation.

The programme will start the first week of the summer term, and is delivered by coach Josh Miller. Josh is a level 4 LTA licensed coach. He coaches full time, and has experience coaching all ages and abilities, as well as delivering some of the Surrey County training sessions.

The goal of the programme is to 'create a culture of passion and enthusiasm for tennis'. There will be sessions in the curriculum, and there will be after-school extra-curricular sessions on:

- Monday from 15:15-16:45 for Year 7s and 8s.
- Thursday from 15:15-16:45 for Year 9s and 10s.

Josh also will be offering individual and group coaching for parents and external customers.

For further information contact

james@performanceplussport.co.uk





£1000 RAISED FOR SPORT RELIEF

This term we held a number of activities for students to get involved in Sport Relief, raising money for another worthwhile cause. Students were able to choose to participate in Skip-a-Disco, Zumba Challenge, Goals or the Sport Relief Mile. "My thanks go to Ms Audley and the Heads of House for organising these events which I know the students have really enjoyed," said Mrs K Heard. "I'm delighted that we raised almost £1000. Thank you all for your support and generosity."



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Do you have a story you'd like to share in our next newsletter?
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