



This term's House Plays was a fantastic evening full of oompa loompas, foxes, witches and magic! A sold-out hall of parents, teachers and students was treated to four weird and wonderful plays created by each of our school Houses. Students wrote and directed the performances themselves, creating their plays using Roald Dahl stories as their inspiration. Each play had a unique twist on the Roald Dahl classic and our judges had a very tough time choosing a winner. After much deliberation, the judges came back with their decisions, naming Halliwells as the

winner of House Plays 2017 with their play *The Witches*. Gibbs won the runner-up award with their play *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The following day, Year 5s from West Wimbledon Primary School visited us to watch these two House plays. "I thought both of the House Plays were brilliant and really funny. The twist at the end of *The Witches* was very clever and scary." A huge congratulations to everyone who took part in House Plays this year. Other awards from the evening can be found on page 3 and more photographs can be found on pages 4 and 5.

Headteacher's Review from
Mrs Heard on Page 2 and 3



AUTUMN TERM HEADTEACHER'S REVIEW

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Autumn/EoT edition of our newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading about the numerous activities and events that our students have participated in this term.

This year we introduced an Academic Target Setting Day which was held in September. It was a timely opportunity for the staff to meet with students and families to discuss previous successes and areas for development for this academic year. There will be another opportunity to review these targets and prepare for the year ahead in the summer term.

We also welcomed many of you to our Parent/Carer Information Evenings that were held for all year groups at the start of term. We hope you found these informative and useful in supporting your child's progress this year. We also held our first Year 7 Progress Evening to review the first term with Form Tutors and key staff, and we are very grateful for the positive feedback from families at each of these events.

Our students have been working very hard since September with Years 7 & 8 sitting Progress Exams and Year 11 and the Sixth Form sitting their Pre-Public Exams during the second half of this term. Students attended a special assembly to collect their results this week and they should be rightly proud of the excellent results they have achieved. We are delighted their efforts have been rewarded and it was wonderful to end the term with our Awards Afternoon earlier this week. Former student Chris Powell was able to join us to present the awards and you can read more about this event on page 10.

Visitors to the school this term have stated how impressed they have been with the behaviour and presentation of our students. For me this is key as whilst the academic drive towards examination results is undeniable, the ethos and attitude of our students continues to improve year on year. Even on the dark cold mornings in December, our students still exchange greetings with staff and one another, making for an excellent start to each day. I am also delighted to report that 438 students met the criteria for the KS3 and KS4 Rewards Afternoon; very well done for maintaining such high standards until the end of what has been a very long term.

Sport and Participation at RPHS

We have continued with our sporting successes and achievements this term. My thanks go to Mr Wilson-Boyle for supporting me in realising my vision for sport and participation at RPHS. Please read more about these at www.rphspe.com

Our recent collaboration with Fulham Football Club has already been very successful and our students involved in the education programme attending the Sixth Form have settled in well to RPHS. We have also welcomed students to lower year groups who are working hard at school and playing well for Fulham ([page 12](#), [13](#) and [42](#)).

Our partnership with BECSLink continues to grow. We got off to an exciting start with our workshops held with PiTop and Sublime Science in October, in association with the Tim Henman Foundation. Students from local primary schools, along with RPHS students enjoyed participating in these days and our Pi-Top Labs are used by our students every day. Courtesy of this developing partnership, some students were also fortunate to attend the ATP Tennis

Tournament at the O2 in November (*page 16*). It was a wonderful opportunity and continues to strengthen our relationship with local primary schools.

We look forward to keeping you updated ahead of our BECSLink launch in March.

Parental Involvement

My thanks go to staff, parents and governors for their on-going support in running the PTA. Our Christmas Fair was once again a successful event and got everyone into the festive spirit. We also welcome new Parent Governor Ms Brooks, and thank Ms Costain for her support of the school during her time on the Governing Body. Thank you again to those who attended the Parents' Forum in October; the next forum is on 24th January and details will be sent out in the New Year. I am also very grateful to those parents who have worked with us to ensure we improve communication. Following some initial issues, families should now all be receiving the weekly e-bulletin and we have also resolved a long-standing issue with some emails not being received by some families. This is a key area for me and I am very grateful for your updates and feedback.

Our Pastoral Team also launched the 'Put the Kettle On' Parent Support groups which have been well attended this term. These will continue in 2018 (*page 18*).

Thank you for your on-going support with our charity events this term. Your kind donations for Macmillan Coffee Morning, Jeans for Genes, Children in Need and Christmas Jumper Day have raised over £3,000 (*page 42*).

Wider Community

RPHS continues to be a pivotal part of the local community with students participating in various events throughout the Autumn Term. Many attended the Wimbledon BookFest trip and we held open studios at the school as part of the Merton Arts Festival. We were also delighted to be invited to perform at the Raynes Park Christmas Festival; my thanks go to Ms Holledge, Ms Ward and Mr Manyeh for supporting this event and preparing the students so well. The achievements of our students along with students from Secondary Schools across the borough were celebrated at the Merton Celebration of Success evening which we proudly hosted in collaboration with Merton (*page 26*).

At the time of writing this, I am looking forward to our whole school assembly on Friday. The assembly will see the students and staff celebrating this term's achievements together and congratulations to those students who have won awards this term. We will bid farewell to Dr Lynskey (Science), Ms Fonseca (Art) and Ms Morgans (Data Manager) and wish them every success in their new schools. We also wish Ms Sarpong all the best for her maternity leave. I am also pleased to welcome Mr King, who joins the Senior Leadership Team as Deputy Headteacher.

We have already achieved so much this term; it is now time for a well-deserved break for our families, staff and students. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to welcoming in the new term on Monday 8th January.

HOUSE PLAY RESULTS

Best Lead Actor
Jack Jenkins (Miltons)

Best Female Newcomer
Lola Ciano (Miltons)

Best Narrator
Eleigha Samuels (Gibbs)

Best Lead Actress
Ella Ritchie-Dickson (Halliwells)

Best Comedy Duo
Joe Kaoma & Blessing Hombessa
(Newsoms)

Best Production Team
Gibbs

Best Supporting Actor
Alex Wyllie (Gibbs)

Best Double Act
Celeste Goncalves & Olivia
Horsford (Halliwells)

Best Script
Halliwells

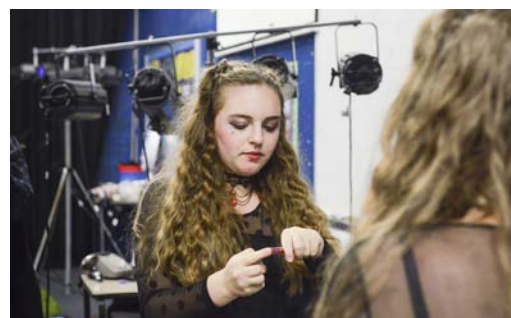
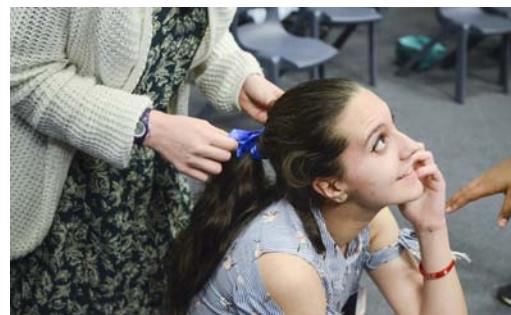
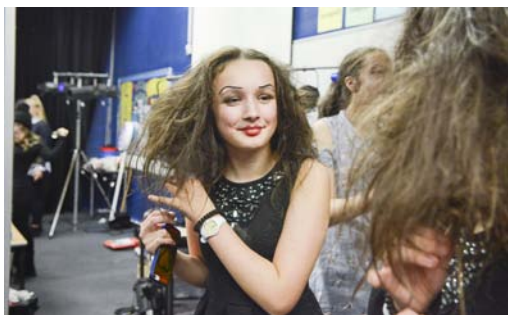
Best Supporting Actress
Helen Lawk (Newsoms)

Runner-Up House Play Award
Gibbs

Best Male Newcomer
Jack Brown (Miltons)

Best Villain
Summer Shott (Halliwells)

House Play Award 2017
Halliwells







REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY

"We will remember them."

Former pupils and Headteachers visited us this term for our Remembrance Assembly. Students and visitors entered the hall to the song *No Man's Land*, the Official Poppy Appeal Single for the Royal British Legion. Mr McDonagh, who led this year's assembly, then went on to discuss the lyrics to the song and the identity of the soldier in the lyrics, Willie McBride. He also told us about the *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* installation which was placed in the moat of the Tower of London in 2014, commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of World War I.

As you can see from the photograph above, Mr McDonagh also brought in a ceramic poppy from the installation, which would have been one of

the 888,246 poppies created - one poppy for each British and Colonial fatality during the war. This was an opportunity to remember not only those who lost their lives in WWI, but all those who have died in wars since. It was impossible not to be moved by the powerful assembly as we remembered Raynes Park High School students who lost their lives in World War II. The assembly closed with a two minute silence and our Head Girl reading the *Ode of Remembrance*:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*





SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING



The Sixth Form opened its doors to a huge number of prospective students this term for its annual Open Evening.

Students had the opportunity to talk with subject leaders and tour the state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre. The two presentations on the evening were well attended and the students presenting spoke extremely positively about their experience within the Sixth Form. One external student, who is part of the FFC Academy, spoke about how he is able to have the best of both worlds in regards to pursuing high-level football training alongside education at RPHS Sixth Form.

Parents and students who attended found the evening informative and were impressed with the provision and outcomes. There were also many familiar faces of parents, brothers and sisters who have already experienced Raynes Park Sixth Form and are planning to entrust the Sixth Form with their younger siblings.

The Sixth Form had an excellent return of application forms from the evening and are looking forward to interviewing those that have applied in the new year.

"We were thrilled to see so many current Raynes Park High School Year 11s, as well as external candidates in attendance." Said Ms Lawner, Head of Sixth Form. "The evening really showcased the broad range of Level 3 courses we offer and it was a great opportunity for prospective students to hear about the excellent results, extensive support and pastoral care we provide for our students."







AWARDS AFTERNOON



This term we received a visit from alumnus, football manager and former professional footballer Chris Powell, who joined us to celebrate a wealth of student achievements for our Awards Afternoon. It was a very inspiring afternoon, with Chris Powell delivering a touching speech about his time at Raynes Park High School and his journey to success since then.

“Why can’t it be you, standing here in twenty years time?” said Powell, to the students who accepted awards on the afternoon. “You shouldn’t think that it just happens to kids from other schools, it happens to students from Raynes Park High School. You’re given the foundations to succeed here, and I’m a testament to that. Why can’t it be you?”

Powell even brought in his old Halliwells tie, and was thrilled to hear that his old House was still achieving so well.

“As the end of term fast approaches, what a wonderful way to recognise students for their academic success, sporting achievements and outstanding progress” said Mrs Heard, Headteacher. “We were particularly delighted to have Chris Powell visit us to present these awards and share his memories and anecdotes of his time at Raynes Park High School. We were thrilled to welcome two previous RPHS Headteachers; thank you to Mr Giles and Mr Newman for their ongoing support.”





FULHAM FC TRIP



During the October half term break, five lucky Year 8s were invited to watch the Fulham first team squad train at Craven Cottage. The boys got to watch the players get put through their paces in a high quality coaching session and then got to meet the players afterwards for autographs. A fantastic morning was capped off with a visit to the home dugout and a introduction to the club mascot Billy the Badger. Thank you to our friends at Adidas for organising the tickets.





FULHAM FOOTBALL TRIALS

The Fulham Football Club Foundation is recruiting its next cohort of 16-19 Football & Education students. They are looking for students wishing to combine full time training with Sixth Form education, in partnership with Raynes Park Sixth Form.

To register for a trial, please contact Steve Jaye via e-mail at sjaye@fulhamfc.com

Trials are for students currently in Year 11. Successful students will have the opportunity to study BTEC or A Levels alongside daily training with professional coaches at Fulham's first team training ground. Students train full time and compete in the National U19 Youth Development League.

The trials will take place at Fulham FC Training Ground, Motspur Park, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6PT. The trials will be on **Friday 16th February**, **Friday 6th April** and **Friday 1st June 2018**.



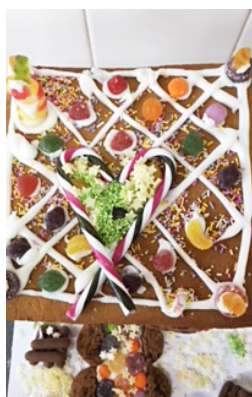


ANNUAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION



With Christmas quickly approaching, students had the chance to unleash their creativity in Catering classes at the end of this term with the annual Gingerbread House competition. Students designed, baked and decorated their own creations, and the judges had a tough time choosing a winner from the huge range of different structures which looked (almost) too good to eat. Unfortunately, as you can see from the photograph on the far, bottom right, by the time the judges arrived, there were one or two collapses! Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to Ms Murray and Ms Holman for organising this fantastic competition.







As part of Raynes Park High School's ongoing partnership with BECSlink, fifty students visited the O2 arena to watch the Nitto, ATP tennis finals last month. The group comprised of staff and students from Raynes Park High School and two primary schools in our local community, Hatfeild and Hillcross. They travelled up to London by coach and had the pleasure of watching the best doubles and singles players in the world.

First on court were the doubles pairing of Lukasz Kubot and Marcelo Melo who beat USA's Bryan Brothers in a thrilling game that produced amazing volleys, thunderous serving and awesome teamwork. The second game of the afternoon was between two of the top 10, Grigor Dimitrov (world ranking 6) and David Goffin (world ranking 8). The game was dominated by Dimitrov's power and he saw off the Belgian easily in straight sets. This game was to be repeated as both players reached the finals of the World tour later that week on Sunday.

An incredible afternoon was had by all, and it was a fantastic opportunity to watch the best players in the world compete against each other in the second largest venue in the UK. The atmosphere in the O2 area was electric and students were amazed at the speed, power and quality of the tennis. Thank you to the Tim Henman Foundation for providing us with these tickets and for your ongoing support.





CERTIFICATES EVENING

Our annual Certificates Evening was held on Thursday 14th December at 4pm in the Sixth Form Centre. Students who had taken exams in Summer 2017 attended to collect their examination certificates. The event was well attended with many past students who are now at College or University present, and

they had the opportunity to catch up with a number of teaching staff who also attended the event. It was very rewarding to hear how our past students are now progressing with their studies and there were many positive comments about the school from our ex-students.



"PUT THE KETTLE ON"

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP

Thank you to all parents/carers who have attended our various 'Put The Kettle On' sessions this term. We have been delighted with the turn out and hope you have found these sessions useful.

The topic for next month will be 'Attendance and Achievement' hosted by staff from the pastoral team. The focus of this session will be on the importance of attendance, legal aspects around non-attendance and how persistent non-attendance has an impact on achievement. Both achievement and attendance can also be effected by social, emotional and mental health and we will address these issues in the session.

Our aim in running the parent support group is to increase your knowledge on attendance and achievement and to inform you of where you can seek advice and guidance if you are concerned about your child. We would also like to get feedback from parents/carers to ensure that you are supported within the school network.

The group will be held on 10th January 2018 at 9:30am - 10:30am and 6:00pm - 7:00pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided as well as a handout from the session.

This will be a great opportunity for you to meet and speak with with members of the pastoral team.

"Put the Kettle On..."

Parent Support Group

WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2018

Session 4:

Attendance and
Achievement

Session 1

9.30am - 10.30am

Session 2

6.00pm - 7.00pm





CHALLENGE WEEK

This term's Challenge Week was another huge success! Raynes Park High School holds a Challenge Week every term to give staff and students an opportunity for staff to experiment with innovative ideas that stretch students e.g. KS3 students tackling a KS4 lesson. It is also a chance to try something completely new and earn quadruple House Points.

Students faced every lesson with enthusiasm, resilience and patience, and learnt so many new skills. We must say a huge thank you to our staff for creating such a fantastic mix of hands-on and exciting lessons.

The photographs over the next three pages show what a great range of activities were planned for our students, all of which they tackled with aplomb!

We were blown away by students' motivation to succeed at these complex challenges, and can't wait to see what teachers have planned for Challenge Week next term.









News from the Governors

The main event for Governors has been our Awayday on Saturday 11th November, held jointly with the Senior Leadership Team. Not for us some 4-star hotel in a sylvan setting: it was Conference Room 1 at RPHS! This was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and thoughts on the many opportunities and challenges that RPHS faces, and to start mapping out how we are going to tackle them. The school's ethos and aspirations, and those of our students, marketing ourselves more intensely to the community, the Access Centre and SEN students all featured in our discussions. The results were further considered at our Governing Body meeting in December and will be reflected in the work of our committees and in the School Improvement Plan.

As well as our regular programme of meetings, we had a Strategic Visit to the school focussing on our Year 7s. We all remember what a big step it is from primary to secondary school and we looked closely at how well our Y7s' transition has gone. We had sessions with Ms Fowler and Mr Barnes, the Head of Year, and with all the Year Tutors – and of course with a group of students themselves. We were delighted to see how easily the Y7s had settled in and were progressing academically in their first term – a great tribute to them and their teachers.

We attended in the course of the term a number of school events – a Remembrance Assembly, the House Plays and the appearance of our students at the Raynes Park Christmas Festival outside the station. The centrepiece for me was the local authority's annual Celebrating Merton event, where many of the outstanding students in the borough are brought together to mark their achievements. RPHS was the host this year, and we really put our best foot forward. One of many highlights was the first public appearance of the school choir and their accompanists, who greatly impressed the audience with their performance.

Finally, we were pleased to welcome towards the end of term Mrs Olivia Brooks, our new Parent Governor. The fact that she joined us after an election shows that parental engagement in the school is doing well. Long may that last too.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Michael Ross'.

Michael Ross
Chair of
Governors

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



ACCESS & SEND BASE

TRIP TO NEW WIMBLEDON PANTO

Access Centre and SEND Base students visited New Wimbledon Theatre this term to see Jack and the Beanstalk, starring Al Murray. We asked the students what they thought of the trip, and it sounds like they had a fantastic time!

"The whole day was really good and the pantomime was funny, I really liked the 3D effect." - *Tommy*

"I really liked the pantomime, my favourite part about it was the musical scenes." - *Billy*

"It was a great trip and it was fun. Thank you!" - *Jimmy-John*

"The trip was really good, the best part about it was all the 3D parts, it was so believable!" - *Billy*

"It was amazing!" - *Mitchell*





CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN MERTON EVENING

Schools across the borough came together to celebrate the success of Merton's young people on 30th November this term. Merton Council's annual event was hosted at Raynes Park High School and over sixty students from around the borough attended to collect their awards. Deputy Mayor of Merton, Councillor Judy Saunders, presented the students with their certificates and prizes. Assistant Director for Education Jane McSherry, closed the evening, praising the students on their outstanding work.

Headteachers and students from each of the Merton secondary schools attended, including Perseid School, Cricket Green School, Ricards Lodge High School, Rutlish School, St Mark's Church of England Academy, Harris Academy Merton, Harris Academy Morden, Ursuline High School and Wimbledon College.

Deputy Mayor of Merton Councillor Judy Saunders said: "Congratulations to all our young people who have received awards at this wonderful event. It is testament to their hard work and to the huge amount of support from the teaching staff and families which is

key to opening up opportunities to our next generation."

Merton Council cabinet member for education Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah said: "This is a fantastic event and I am very proud of our young people and what they have achieved. They are an inspiration to all, of how challenges can be overcome with hard work and dedication. Our excellent schools in Merton continue to provide the support our young people need to help them achieve their goals."







TIM HENMAN FOUNDATION



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN: TIM HENMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 TIPS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN MATHS

by Ms Henderson

As a parent or carer, you can make a huge difference to how your child's numeracy confidence and ability can develop. This is true even if you don't feel confident with Maths yourself. Children who develop numeracy skills and are confident with their Maths are more likely to stay in education longer, be in constant employment as adults and earn more throughout their lives.

We often hear at Parents Evening that parents and carers don't know how to best support their child with their Maths work. This is often because they are unsure about the methods we teach today or because they themselves are not confident in their own mathematical ability. Here are some ideas about how you can help to support your child in Mathematics!

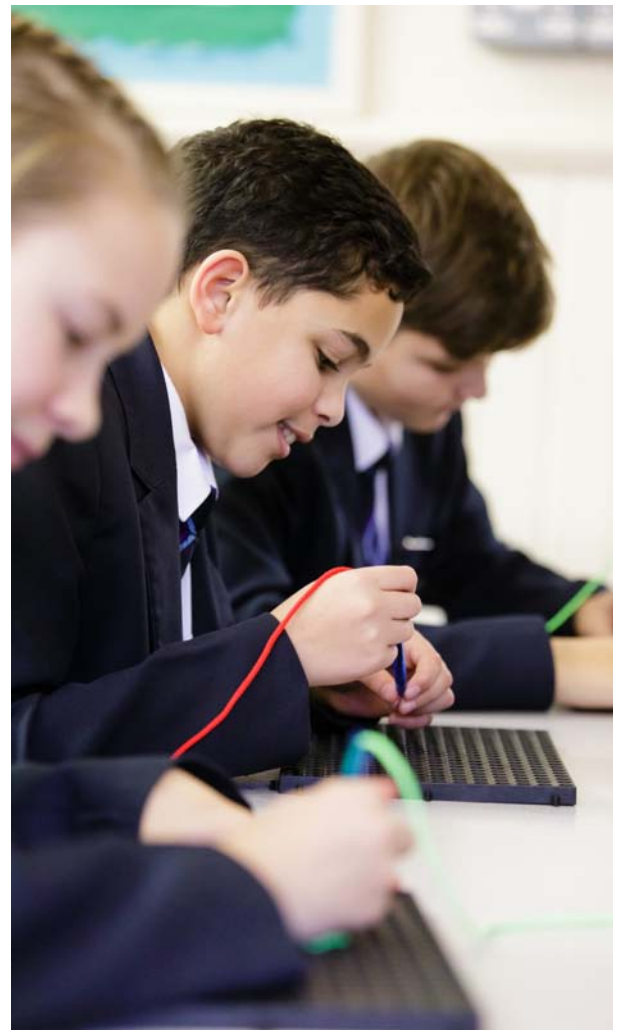
1. Most importantly, **be positive about Maths**. Don't say things like "I can't do Maths" or "I didn't like Maths at school"; your child may start to think like that themselves.

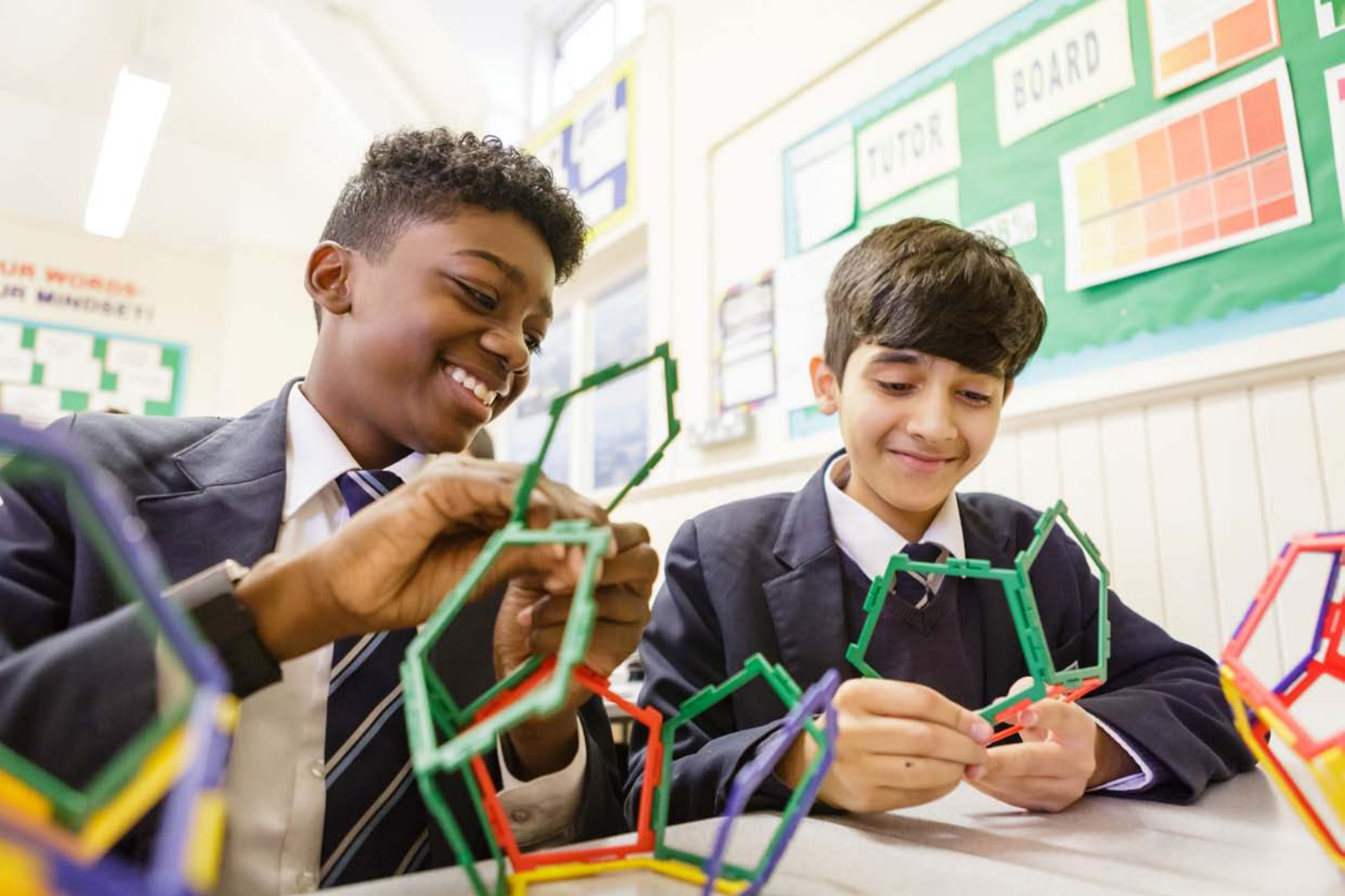
2. Involve your child in **activities that use everyday Maths** such as working out how much food is needed for the family and following recipes, or working out which are the best buys in the supermarket, checking change or working out the sale price of an item.

3. Work together on **daily routines which involve Maths**, like getting to work or school on time, estimating how long a journey will take.

4. Discuss Maths in relation to **hobbies and interests**, such as working out the statistics for sporting events or keeping score in games.

5. Ask your child to help plan **DIY projects** over the holidays. DIY jobs such as painting and decorating require Maths skills – working out how much paint or how many wall tiles are needed to cover an area. This could also involve managing a budget.





6. Ask your child questions when **reading data presented in a variety of forms**, such as graphs and tables, scales on a thermometer or weighing scales, or try interpreting statistics in the news.

7. If you would like to **assess your own numeracy skills** you can register with the National Numeracy Challenge (www.nnchallenge.org.uk). Here you can take an initial check-up to find out what overall numeracy level you're working at, as well as your strengths and weaknesses. If you score over 80 you've already got the Essentials of Numeracy and can print a certificate or claim a digital badge. If you score 79 or less then you'll get a target to work towards and the website will direct you to the right learning resources where you can learn everyday Maths online at your own pace.

8. If you would like **your own login to Hegarty Maths** to work through on your own or to watch the videos and see what methods will be taught to your child, then please email me at chenderson@raynespark.merton.sch.uk. You might also find this useful to further support you with the National Numeracy Challenge mentioned above.

9. Finally, if you would be interested in **attending a session** on how to best support you child with their Maths/learn how to get the best from Hegarty Maths, or if there is anything else you think would be helpful, then please don't hesitate to contact Ms Henderson.



STAFF NETBALL MATCH

Our Sports Hall was bursting with House Pride on November 24th at the staff Netball Match. It was fantastic to see so many students come along after school to cheer on their teachers. Staff gave their all and represented their Houses in a game which pitted Newsoms and Gibbs against Halliwells and Miltons. After some tactical subbing and questionable tackles, Halliwells and Miltons were declared champions. Thank you so much to the staff who organised the event.







CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Main Hall was filled with Festive cheer this term with our Annual Christmas Fair. There was a huge variety of stalls, including mulled wine, a raffle, prizes, beauty treatments, crafts and caricatures.

"It was so lovely to see our school community come together for this annual event" said Mrs Heard, Headteacher.

"Thank you to everybody who donated prizes so generously to the raffle, and to the students, parents, carers and teachers for giving their time to put this event together."

A special thank you goes to the PTA, Ms Hearn and Ms Peliza (our Christmas Elves) for organising this wonderful event.







MILTONS HOUSE UPDATE & CHARITY ACTION WEEK

As the first academic term of this year comes to a close I would like to thank all the staff and students at Raynes Park High School who took part in House activities. It has been an extremely exciting term. I really enjoyed Miltons version of *Fantastic Mrs Fox*, it was great to see students from all years working together to represent their house. After the fun of the staff netball match it was great to see so many students participate in House Netball. Well done to all who took part, Miltons were second overall. TT Rockstars was extremely competitive again this year; students answered more than 610,000 questions correctly. Miltons were very unlucky to be beaten by Newsoms just moments before the competition ended but managed to maintain a comfortable second place. Our Charity Action Week was the second to last week of term and it was great to see that the spirit of giving was alive and well in Raynes Park. Well done to Daniel Green who won the jar of sweets with his very close guess of 230, there were 236 sweets in the jar. A big shout-out to Tajhaye and Autumn who

managed a sponsored silence for the whole day on Tuesday. We also sold over 200 doughnuts during the week. Miltons students managed to raise just over £300 for our House charity – Jigsaw4u, what a fantastic effort. Jigsaw4u is a charity that provides a wide variety of services across five London Boroughs, “helping young people to put the pieces back together.” Visit their website to see the range of services they provide (www.jigsaw4u.org.uk)

Lastly I would like to wish all students and staff a restful holiday and a very Happy Christmas.

- Ms Holland





GIBBS END OF TERM REVIEW



What a term! With Christmas right around the corner, it is time to reflect on what has been a very successful first term for Gibbs. I'd like to start by saying a big THANK YOU! to every pupil who has taken part in house events so far this year, ranging from those who have suggested ideas for our charity week to the Year 11s who wrote and directed the fantastic house plays.

So far this term we have had; TT Rockstars, House plays, catering gingerbread challenge, the Christmas Fair, House dodgeball and netball, inter-lesson house dance battles and a bunch of cake sales. Each and every member of Gibbs who attended these events put in 100% effort for the House, which has led to us coming away with good results from all events. This has meant that as we draw the term to a close, Gibbs is right up there in the running to win the House cup. We couldn't have competed with our event results alone. It is also down to each of you who day-in-day-out come to school with a positive attitude and demonstrate; respect, resilience and are able to attain the results they

should. It is the contribution of their House points and consistently high attendance that has helped us challenge for top spot of the House leader board.

I'd like to wish all Gibbs pupils a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Get some well-earned rest and be ready to come back in January ready to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust and to solidify our position as the number one House in the school.

Enjoy!

- Mr Wheel





BOXING CHAMP VISITS HIS TEACHERS



We had a pleasant surprise when newly-crowned European Middleweight Champion visited RPHS the day after his victory. Lerrone Richards brought along his belt and had a picture taken with his favourite teacher Ms Finan! "Officially ranked No.15 by the World Boxing Organisation. Been training with Frank Warren for 1 year after my 2 1/2 year lay off. Had 6 fights and picked up my first professional title. I'm happy. Shows what can be accomplished with the right team. Can't wait for 2018." Lerrone was in Gibbs House at Raynes Park High School and was surprised at how much of the school has changed in the nine years since he left. We are incredibly proud to have one of our own students succeed on the international stage and we hope we can watch his career grow beyond the European to world titles in the future. Well done Lerrone!

Keep up-to-date with Lerrone's success by following him on Twitter: @SniperTheBoss



BASKETBALL UPDATE

The U14's and U16's Raiders are representing the school in National Competitions this year. They have and will be playing some of the best teams in London with a hope of qualifying from their group to contest on a regional level. The U16's kickstarted their campaign with a win over Harris St John's Wood and then went on to be crowned borough champions in the same week. Two key injuries meant we took a depleted side to face Dulwich School and were unfortunately defeated. The U14's had a tough outing for their competition losing to last years national champions Christs School. They have a busy schedule in January.





PARTNERSHIP WITH WIMBLEDON HOCKEY CLUB

Our exciting partnership with Wimbledon Hockey Club has seen the start of a community project offering free coaching to local primary schools on the RPHS astro facility. Thus far, Sacred Heart have been benefiting from both the facilities and coaching every Tuesday afternoon with internationals and Olympic medalists visiting to run sessions for the lucky students. We are hoping for this to expand to other schools in the new year.

We are so grateful to be working with Wimbledon Hockey Club, one of the oldest hockey clubs in the world. To read about their Junior Camps, try-outs and training visit www.thewimbledonclub/hockey



NETBALL SUCCESS

RPHS's Year 9 Netball team participated in the Merton Schools netball tournament on Tuesday 3rd October. This was a fixture they were particularly excited about especially after coming from a convincing victory against Hollyfield the previous week. The tournament was well attended with teams from Ursuline, Ricards, Harris Merton and Hall School present.

Raynes Park got off to a fantastic start beating Ricards 6-2 and finally broke their record of losing the first game of every tournament since Year 7! A very strong Ursuline team were their second game which was very close resulting in a 2-1 loss.

Raynes Park then played Ursuline's B team which again was evenly matched but the girls stayed focused which paid off with an important 2-2 draw keeping them in the race for a tournament medal.

Raynes Park had two games left in which they had to win against Harris Merton and Hall School. With excellent shooting from Georgia Holman-Hall and an outstanding work ethic and defending skills from Luisa Franco, RPHS won their last 2 games convincingly securing the silver medal.

Our woman of the match went to Georgia Holman-Hall who displayed brilliant leadership qualities as well as good tactical awareness and shooting skills and our most improved player went to Luisa Franco for her determination and drive to succeed throughout the tournament.

Other notable netball successes include a third place finish for the Year 8s in their borough tournament and third place finish for the Year 7s. Netball is in a strong position at RPHS with Super coach Ms Bartle leading the way!



£3000 TOTAL RAISED FOR CHARITY THIS TERM

The Christmas Jumper Day for Save The Children marked our last charity event for this term, which raised an amazing £814.

Thank you so much to all parents, carers, teachers and students who have donated their time and money so generously to various causes this term, including Save The Children, Jeans for Genes, Children In Need, Jigsaw4u and Macmillan Cancer. There have been Mufti Days, a Christmas Jumper Day, Cake Sales and competitions, all bringing the amount raised for different charities this term to £3,000!



FULHAM ACADEMY

The introduction of our Fulham Academy players in Years 8, 9 and 10 has made a real impact on football at Raynes Park. Both U13's and U15's squads have yet to taste defeat and have moved in to the third round of their respective Surrey Cup competitions. Notable performances from U15's captain Cassidy Thomas with five goals in four games this season have seen the U15's convincingly defeat all opponents so far.



DANCE ACADEMY

On Friday 1st December, two of our Year 9 dance students, Heejin Lee and Abby Krelle performed a contemporary dance outside Waitrose for the annual Raynes Park Christmas Festival. The dance was a lyrical dance and they both performed very well. A big thanks to both of those students. Follow @RPHSDance for updates on the competitions in the new year.





IN PICTURES STAFF PANTOMIME

Keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter for more photos from the hilarious end-of-term staff pantomime!



CONTACT US:

☎ 020 8946 4112

🐦 @officialRPHS

@ school@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

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