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**RAYNES PARK
HIGH SCHOOL
WIN GOLD
AND BRONZE
AT TEENTECH
AWARDS**

FIND OUT MORE
ON PAGE 5
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Dear Families,

Welcome to the final edition of our newsletter for this academic year.

This is usually the time I would reflect on key events from the year and outline areas we will be turning our attention to but with the sudden closure of the school site, we began operation as a 'virtual school' for the majority of students with effect from Monday 23rd March 2020.

120,000 pieces of work set on Show My Homework

Over 200 induction packs produced for Year 6 families to collect

36 laptops distributed as part of the DfE offer to schools

Leavers Hoodies distributed to Year 11

Centre-Assessed Grades submitted for every student in Years 11 and 13

Over 1000 Community Boxes delivered to families since April

Over 1000 PPE visors produced

Shopping vouchers distributed to families of students eligible for free meals

Since then, our focus has been on sustaining the curriculum through home learning, whilst maintaining the well-being of our students, their families and the wider community, and we have attempted to put in place as many strategies to support our students as possible.

This year has been like no other so I thought I would share some of the things we have been doing since lockdown in March.

We have:

- Continued to provide care and supervision for children of key workers and some of our most vulnerable students, remaining open during the Easter break and May half-term
- Set 120,000 pieces of work on Show My Homework
- Planned and delivered lessons via Teams as part of our Remote Teaching Pilot
- Provided over 200 printed copies of the Show My Homework tasks
- Made regular phone calls home to our students to check on their well-being
- Distributed 36 laptops as part of the DfE offer to schools
- Produced 220 induction packs for Year 6 families to collect
- Distributed Leavers Hoodies to Year 11
- Held a remote transition event for our new Year 12 students
- Entered Centre-Assessed Grades for every student in Year 11 and Year 13
- Distributed more than 1000 Community Boxes to families since April

- Produced over 1000 PPE visors
- Distributed shopping vouchers to families of students who are on free school meals with additional vouchers distributed to cover the summer holiday period
- Responded to any contacts requiring support via help@raynespark.merton.sch.uk
- Co-ordinated the work of speech and language therapists, educational psychologists and social workers to deliver essential interventions
- Sent numerous surveys to staff and families to help us plan for the wider re-opening

To enable us to open more widely for students in Years 10 and 12 from 15th June, we have:

- Put in place a detailed Risk Assessment to mitigate possible risks to staff and students
- Transformed the school building, established minimalist classrooms and reviewed our provisions to ensure they met the arrangements as set out in our risk assessment;
- Welcomed over 100 students in Years 10 and 12 for face-to-face sessions with subject staff
- Welcomed an additional 150 students in Years 7, 8 and 9 for the opportunity to meet their Form Tutor
- Since lockdown, we have not had to send home a member of staff or student with COVID19-like symptoms

‘There are decades when nothing happens; and there are weeks when decades happen’

— Lenin —

At the end of this Summer Term it certainly does feel that over the last 17 weeks more than a decade of events has happened. None of us would have thought when we came back to school in January that the nation would be in lockdown, the school would be shut for the foreseeable future and that public examinations would be cancelled.

As the term progressed, it became increasingly clear that we would not be in a position to run events in the usual way and whilst we have been hugely disappointed to have had to cancel transition activities for Year 7 and Year 12, and not be able to see families at various events, we fully appreciate the very valid reasons for this. However, we have been able to make calls to all of the new Year 7s in addition to them receiving an induction pack, hold a remote induction day for Year 12 and we plan to hold a remote Information Evening for families in September.

The last few weeks has been a frenetic time, as we scrambled to respond to the latest developments, and endeavoured to keep staff, students and parents fully aware of both the national picture and the school's response. There have been over 130 announcements regarding education and we hope that we have kept everyone fully informed without overwhelming you. The government has announced funding for 'catch-up' and tuition, but again there is very little precise detail about this. Once this is known, we will of course inform you of our plans. The same goes for next summer's public examinations and

we are awaiting the outcome of the most recent consultation that closed this week.

The face-to-face support sessions for Year 10 and Year 12 have continued to take place and these have all been led by students' subject teachers, as we felt it was important to maintain the link between the teacher and student in order to build on the online programme and Teams pilot. Students commented on how they felt both challenged to re-engage with exam content and skills, and reassured by the measures taken by the school to ensure everyone's safety. We have also enjoyed welcoming students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to meet with their Form Tutor before the summer holidays. It has been an absolute pleasure to see some of our students in school again and the responses to the social distancing measures and amended behavioural expectations bodes well for September.

Our thoughts have now turned to finalising our plans for the exam results days in August. The Centre-Assessed Grades have been submitted to the exam boards and are subject to moderation and scrutiny by the boards and Ofqual. Students in Year 13 will receive results on 13th August and Year 11 on 20th August. We have reluctantly taken the decision to hold these remotely and these families will receive additional information about specific arrangements for these days.

At an unprecedented time like this, with still so much uncertainty, it is natural to be worried

HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Classrooms transformed and provisions reviewed to meet risk assessment guidelines

Over 100 students in Years 10 and 12 welcomed for face-to-face sessions with subject staff

150 additional students in Years 7, 8 and 9 given the opportunity to meet their Form Tutor

No member of staff or student sent home with COVID19-like symptoms since lockdown

about what's going to happen to us and our families but out of adversity hope arises – and the Raynes Park High School community has certainly shown that it is able to deal with challenges. I have been overwhelmed with how well we have adapted to our new way of working and the amazing engagement students have shown at this very challenging time. I am so proud of them all.

I would also like to congratulate all of the teachers and support staff – they have worked really hard to produce resources and also keep in touch with you. Our families have also been a great support too as we have had to make this transition to teaching and learning on-line so swiftly. Your support for the school has been very much appreciated.

We now move to the summer holiday, a rather different one as the country eases out of lockdown as some of the things we normally enjoy during a school holiday period may not be possible. However, this holiday gives us all a chance to rest, relax and reflect on the last few months and, more importantly I think, to start to plan for the future. This national crisis will end and when it does, we will all be able to get back to our normal routines. So, we need to take stock on what has been achieved in these last few months of being part of a virtual school and set ourselves goals for what we want our students to achieve when we are all back together as a school community in September.

On that note, we are saying farewell to five members of staff who are moving on to promoted posts or teaching opportunities elsewhere; our best wishes go to Mr Wilson-Boyle, Mr Fitcher, Ms Javed, Mr Langford and Ms Palmer. Our thanks go to these colleagues and we wish them well in their future roles. We are also waiting to hear the outcome of the National Teaching award that Mr Harris was nominated for and I'm delighted to inform you

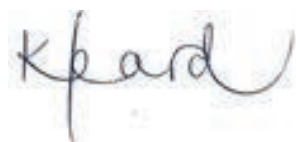
that we have been successful in achieving the Wellbeing Award accompanied by a fantastic report; details to follow.

These are unprecedented times and I would like to put on record my thanks to all members of the Raynes Park High School community for their support, resilience, hard work, generosity of spirit and kindness over these months. I would like to again pay tribute to the dedication of the teaching staff who have worked tirelessly right up until the end of term. I would also like to thank the support staff who have worked so hard with the day to day running of the school and the Governing Body for their involvement and support.

Even in these challenging times, we have remained optimistic and focused on achieving the very best for our students. I know families are worried about their children missing so much this year but I know we can work together to make up for lost time and since the start of lockdown, I have been more concerned with making sure students and their families were safe, well and adjusting to their new normal. We also wanted to be there for families who were dealing with loss and you have remained in our thoughts throughout.

On behalf of the staff I would like to send all of our families my very best wishes for a restful six weeks. We are really looking forward to welcoming all students back in September and we will update you on our plans in August.

Take care and stay safe,



Mrs K Heard
Headteacher

YEAR 9 LOCKDOWN ART



The Year 9 students were set the task of creating a piece of work in response to the street art that has been created during the pandemic. Students were given the option of producing a street art design that said 'thank you' to the NHS. The Art Department were thrilled when Amber produced this thought-provoking piece of art. She has created a very sensitive and powerful piece of work, a true tribute to the NHS.

Ms C Curtis
Head of Art and Photography

TEENTECH AWARDS

It is a double for D&T – Raynes Park High School Design & Technology Department Awarded Gold in the TeenTech Centre of Innovation Awards 2020 and Year 10 GCSE D&T students receive Bronze in the TeenTech Competition.

This year, the Year 10 D&T students took on the TeenTech Awards. Working in teams of up to three, they completed projects that consider areas of contemporary life, looking for better ways of doing things. Raynes Park High School students focused on the future of transportation category. This category challenged students to think about: What will the future of transport look like? How could journeys by road, rail, sea or air be made better, simpler, safer or more enjoyable for both passengers and staff?

This is the first year the students have entered this design competition and impressively all students that entered were lucky enough to receive bronze certificates. The submissions attracted the following impressive comments from the judges:

'I like your idea of creating a car that will not run on fossil fuels like petrol or diesel and your drawing skills are very impressive!'

'A really fantastic challenge to tackle. Petrol and diesel pollution is one of the biggest contributors to the global CO2 emissions.'

'A good sound idea that utilises a lot of existing infrastructure like petrol stations.'

As well as this great achievement, the D&T department received a gold award. The TeenTech Centre of Innovation – Gold Award was given in recognition of the D&T departments development in excellent programmes and initiatives within their own school, supporting students with project based, extra-curricular opportunities which develop core skills of creativity, communication, teamwork, collaboration and tenacity.

Mr R Harris
Head of Design and Technology

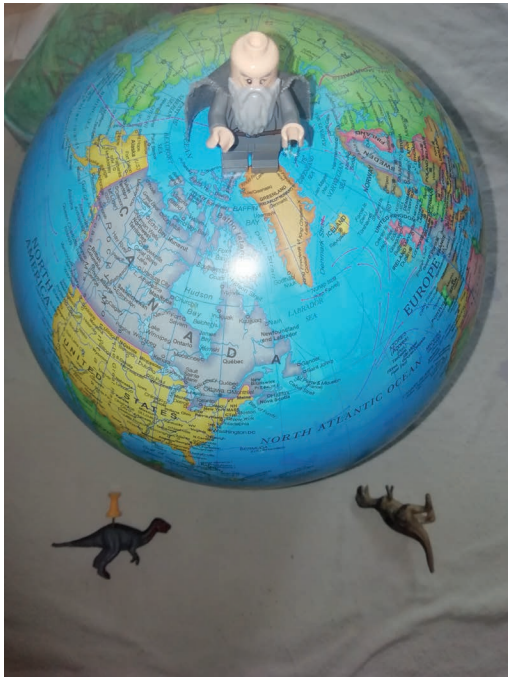


YEAR 7 LOCKDOWN ART



Year 7 were set the task of producing their own photographs in the style of the contemporary street artist Slinkachu. Students were asked to create a narrative within their artwork using found objects. The Art Department were thrilled with the results, they have been an absolute pleasure to look at and have certainly brought a smile to our faces. I hope you enjoy looking at them.

Ms C Curtis
Head of Art and Photography





‘As a group we have raised over £300 for Alzheimer’s UK and supported those in need in society at a time when they need it more than ever.’

Another year done. This year has flown by and has been rudely interrupted by the unwanted pandemic which has meant, since March, we have been unable to attend school as we know it. Hopefully, you and your families are keeping safe and well while enjoying this extended time that you may be having together as a family or with friends.

I’m sure all of you, as I am, are missing school at its busiest. When lessons are going ahead as normal in classrooms and House competitions are running giving us a chance to regain the House Cup. Despite the changes we have had to adapt to, the majority of students are still contributing to Gibbs. Whether it be by completing excellent online work set through Show My Homework, or participating and fully engaging in the online Microsoft Teams lessons, students in our House are still contributing to our House Point total and making academic progress from home.

Once again, I would like to reiterate how proud of Gibbs House I have been this year; with events we have run throughout the year and our Charity Week which we managed to squeeze in prior to the lockdown. As a group we have raised over £300 for Alzheimer’s UK and supported those in need in society at a time when they need it more than ever.

My end of year student nomination for Gibbs House is Pavel in 7JL. Pavel has had a great start to his time at Raynes Park High School always looking smart around school and ready to learn, having 100% attendance, 0 BMs and setting an excellent example for his peers and the rest of Gibbs House. Pavel has an amazing 226 House points and, as many teachers will know, is a pleasure to teach with his positive Attitude to Learn.

Please ensure that you continue to stay as safe and vigilant as possible in looking after yourselves and your families over the summer break. As a result, we can all return in September fighting fit and ready to hit the ground running with our learning and development.

Happy Summer!

Mr J Wheel

Head of Gibbs

As we begin to make preparations to draw this academic year to an end, it is time to not only reflect on the successes of this past year but also look forward to the opportunities that will no doubt present themselves as we move into the next chapter of our lives at Raynes Park High School. As members of Newsoms House, we know that a huge part of our ethos is to ‘push through challenges and be the best versions of ourselves possible’ and I am proud of all of you for adapting to the current way of life that we now find ourselves in.

I would like to thank Abby (11CL) for embracing the role of House Captain this year and providing guidance, inspiration and leadership to the rest of the student leadership team. I would also like to thank the Deputy House Captain Vaamini (10JE) for your support in being a role model in demonstrating Raynes Park and Newsoms House values to the rest of your peers. In addition, I would like to commend you on your work around transition for the Year 7s who we will be welcoming from September.

Our House Leaders, Miela (7JL), Raya (8SE) and Jasmin (9SC) – I am dumbfounded at the efforts that you have made this year to promote involvement in activities that have taken place. Your organisation and response during student voice week were absolutely fantastic; your rallying of volunteers to take part in our House events were second to none and your plans to promote awareness of anti-bullying and equality were mature, considered and very thoughtfully planned. I do hope that these plans will come to fruition next year as we all are aware that conversations around these areas need to be open, now more than ever.

I do hope that you have all managed to see the Equality and Diversity video that was created by the school on Show My Homework and the challenge that has been set to create a speech to inspire and create equality for all. We are very lucky to be in a school that values us all and I know that you will agree that we need to be responsible for ensuring that we are always promoting the Newsoms values of ‘family and belonging’ where each student feels comfortable and confident enough to push themselves to achieve their potential’. I encourage you to embrace the challenge set by Mrs Scott and I look forward to reading your entries – I will keep my fingers crossed for a Newsoms winner!

Speaking of winners, there can be only one for Newsoms for my end of year student nomination. As you are aware, one student per House is recognised every year for their commitment to Raynes Park High School values and this year I would like to nominate Ella (9SC). You have demonstrated throughout this year that you know how to get things done, you are respectful to others and you have engaged extremely well with the work set on Show My Homework during the lockdown. Many congratulations!

I would like to wish you all a very safe and happy summer and I cannot wait to see you all again in September.

Take care.

Mr M Malanaphy

Head of Newsoms



MILTONS HOUSE UPDATE

Mighty Miltons – let's make next year one to remember!!!

As this academic year comes to an end, I'd like to thank and congratulate the members of our wonderful Miltons community. Throughout the year, your positive contributions, both academically and socially, have made me proud to be Head of Miltons House. Your work ethic and never-ending commitment ensure my job is a little easier every day! Despite the fact that we did not experience a full year of face to face education, I'm sure you are continuing with your educational lessons and challenging yourselves daily, whether that be through schoolwork or assisting your parents/carers at home. I'd like us all to look back on this time and remember that we tried our best and continued to be the best versions of ourselves.

To begin with, I would like to extend a very warm and sincere thank you to our House Leaders and Captains. Our House Captain: Balazs (11PF), your organisation skills and commitment to making Raynes Park High School a better place was second to none. Tiah (10JE), our Deputy House Captain, thank you for all your work and assistance regarding the assembly and House Charity Week that we, unfortunately, never experienced. Our House Leaders, Daniel (9CM), Harriet (8RC) and Jack (7RH), I cannot thank you enough for all your hard work in House Meetings and your preparations for our Charity House Week as well as helping with the organisation of Sporting House Events. Your attitudes and motivation were simply amazing throughout the year.

Looking back at the year, it has certainly been a busy one with a hive of activities occurring across the House system. At the start of the year, the Enterprise Day involving Year 9s was extremely productive as the Milton students competed to develop clothing for their House. The winning Milton team included: Emma, Lola, Talitha, Muskan and Archie. Congratulations to all involved; the judging on the day was particularly difficult as standards were so high! Nearing the end of Term 1, the annual charity Netball competition took place where Miltons (teamed with Halliwells) were beaten by the narrowest of margins (10-11). This sporting prowess was eagerly supported by students from all Houses.

In Term 2, we moved into a new House sport – Dodgeball. We ensured a roaring success through all categories in KS3 with significant praise being given to our Year 7 team. Despite being low in numbers, the quality was still evident in our performances. We dominated our matches and were worthy winners in the end. During this term, our Year 9 students participated in The Robot Challenge, created by Northrop Grumman. Miltons House, represented by our Year 9 House Leader, Daniel, were awarded a certificate of completion. This challenge involved the construction of a robot which had to walk 20 cm after construction. Daniel and all participants of Miltons House represented us with great success.

As you may be aware, we were forced to cancel our House Charity Week this year, however, when we return, we will be better, stronger and more dominant than ever before. I look forward to the next academic year where we can welcome a new batch of Year 7 students who will be welcomed into the dynamic and trusting community that is Miltons House.

At the end of the year, we always recognise a student who has worked well throughout the year and made an enormous effort in school. This year, Miltons would like to recognise a Year 8 student, Maryam (8MM). Even though Maryam is quiet in lessons, she is extremely motivated to progress and develop in all areas of the curriculum. Her work ethic and enthusiasm for all subjects is evident to all teachers and it is a pleasure to have Maryam as a member of Miltons House.

As Head of Miltons House, I would advise the Miltons community to continue with your online learning and check Show My Homework for tasks that may be set during the holiday period. As a teacher, I miss the hustle and bustle of the school environment, but hopefully, we can get back to some sense of normality in the future. My message to you throughout the holiday period is – be kind.

Take care.

Ms A Taylor

Head of Miltons

‘There have also been some fantastic examples of work that students have been able to complete whilst at home from projects to essays to quizzes. I have been really impressed.’

Whilst nobody could have predicted this is how we would be completing the final term of this year of school; I am sure that our Halliwells students have showed the resilience to adapt to the new normal. With this time, most students have been spending a lot more time at home, helping their families and neighbours, with lots of students having learned new life skills along the way. There have also been some fantastic examples of work that students have been able to complete whilst at home from projects to essays to quizzes. I have been really impressed.

Each term, we nominate a new student that has gone above and beyond our high expectations at Raynes Park High School. It was an incredibly difficult decision to make. For this term, I have chosen to nominate Jamie (9MA) for his excellent engagement in online learning and his amazing ability to adapt to returning to school. His positivity and enthusiasm for learning and getting involved in all aspects of school life for the whole school year is infectious and it has been a pleasure to have Jamie represent our House.

Ms M Bowes

Head of Halliwells

HALLIWELLS HOUSE UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE Governors

By any standards, this has been an extraordinary term. Like everyone connected with Raynes Park High School, Governors have had to adapt our expectations and ways of working to the new environment. It has been heart-warming and encouraging to see the leadership given by Mrs Heard, by her senior team and by so many teachers. They have shown ingenuity, flexibility and dedication in continuing to deliver education to as many of our students as possible. They have demonstrated the caring commitment which is a central feature of our school.

The Governing Body has joined the Zoom generation and we have held two full Governors' meetings and two committee meetings in this way. Our job has, as ever, been to offer support and challenge to our staff. We were pleased to see the arrangements in place for accommodating our vulnerable and keyworker students. We have been very keen that in parallel, online education opportunities should be developed, and it has been good to see this achieved through Show My Homework and latterly via Microsoft Teams. There is still a problem in securing laptops and IT access for some of our families and we have continued to work on this with the school.

In the run-up to the partial return on 15th June, we studied and approved the Headteacher's plans and the risk assessment enabling groups of our Year 10s and 12s to come to classes. We have also been keen to encourage continued contact with our students in Years 7, 8 and 9 and with those coming to Raynes Park High School

for the first time in September. The work our Year Tutors have done on this – especially with our vulnerable students, has been outstanding.

On the membership front, Governors have been pleased to welcome Hannah Davidson as a new Co-opted Governor. Hannah is herself a teacher in central London but lives locally and she has already been demonstrating great enthusiasm and commitment in her new role. On a sadder note, we will be saying goodbye at the end of term to Marina Szanto, an ex-Headteacher, who has been an outstanding Chair of our Standards & Quality Committee.

This has been an exceptional period. But I am grateful to my colleagues for the help and support they have given, whether in finding a way through the mass of guidance issued by the Department for Education on a daily, sometimes twice daily, basis, or in contributing generously, as a number have done, to the school's community box scheme for our families. It has been a testing time. But Raynes Park High School has withstood the storm, tackled the issues and is emerging the stronger from our experiences.




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

Michael Ross
Acting Chair of Governors

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

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?

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