

ISSUE 2

SPRING TERM 2024

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THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL



DEAR FAMILIES

At the end of each term, it always give me great pleasure to share the incredible achievements of our students, both in and out of school, and I hope you enjoy reading about the many events the students have taken part in since January.

There is much to celebrate and I would like to thank the teaching staff, the support staff and the Governing Body for their hard work, on-going support and commitment to RPHS. I would also like to thank parents and carers for your support and feedback that is always welcome.

Balancing student well-being and individual needs against the high academic expectations that are placed upon students

continues to underpin my vision for the school and with that in mind, we have prioritised wellbeing for staff and students. The students all took part in the PASS Survey (Pupil Attitudes to School and Self) before Christmas and we have spent this term identifying and working with students who require additional support, whether that be due to anxiety, managing behaviour or barriers to learning. The staff wellbeing team have also ensured that there have been opportunities to support

colleagues at what is undoubtedly a difficult time in education; recruitment remains a challenge for all schools and my thanks go to the staff for their additional support.

Attendance has also remained a key focus, both at RPHS and on a national level, and I am delighted to report that our attendance has remained above national average throughout the term. In line with DfE guidance, we have met with a number of families to agree targets that will support improved attendance and we have also seen punctuality to school continue to improve despite the challenges posed by public transport and road works in the local area.

The Spring Term always sees the majority of our Parent/Carer Evenings in the calendar and these have remained online using SchoolCloud. Whilst I remain traditional and enjoy face to face events, our survey last year indicated that families preferred the flexibility of online meetings with subject staff and I am pleased to report that attendance at these events has remained high this year.

This term, the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Department have undertaken a comprehensive review of student books following curriculum reviews last term. We have been very impressed with the quality of work and feedback, and the excellent presentation seen in the vast majority of exercise books demonstrates the positive attitude to learning that students display.

1st March was National Offer Day when Year 6 families received information about school allocations for September 2024. We are delighted to see an increase in the number of applications

to RPHS and we will now look forward to hosting a range of induction events next term as we prepare to welcome our new cohort of students in September.

As usual, we will start the Summer Term preparing for the examination season and there is a comprehensive intervention programme running throughout the Easter holiday. I am so very grateful to staff for leading these sessions and I know the students will find these helpful. I would also like to wish Year 11 and 13 students the very best of luck as they prepare for their Public Examinations that start in May.

We finish the term with assemblies where we will be celebrating the achievements of year groups, Houses and individual students, and I am delighted that the Headteacher Awards this term have gone to Zoe in Year 11 and Temira in Year 9 for their outstanding contribution to the school and their achievements beyond the classroom. We will also be saying farewell to Ms Carr, Ms Howlett and Mr Hearne; they have all made a valuable contribution during their time at RPHS and we wish them all the best. I would also like to congratulate Mr Arnot on his successful appointment as Head of Year 9 and he will start in his new role next term.

With my very best wishes to you all for an enjoyable Easter holiday and we look forward to working with you again next term.

Miss KJ Taylor

Miss KJ Taylor
Headteacher

FOLLOW RPHS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

If you would like to hear about updates, see pictures and videos of special events and day to day life at Raynes Park High School, make sure you are following us on our social media platforms. Scan the QR codes below with your camera phone or find us at @officialrphs on Twitter and Instagram and Raynes Park High School and Sixth Form on Facebook!



RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST

Our aim – raising funds to support Raynes Park High School students!



supportive. There is a form in the staff handbook for your suggestions.

Finally, don't forget to use the Easyfundraising website when buying online. The school will benefit financially! Please sign up and nominate the Raynes Park High School Trust. Here is the link you need to participate:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs/?q=Raynes&cat=cause-auto-suggest>

Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust needs new volunteers to serve as Trustees.

The main commitment is to attend three evening meetings per year, usually around October, March and June. The Trust has made a major contribution to many school projects including the Memorial Sports Ground, the Drama Project and the Eco Garden area. Many charitable funds will only make donations through another charity, and the Trust, as a registered charity, enables this to happen. If you are interested, please e-mail for further information RPHSTrust@outlook.com.

School Teaching Staff are invited to suggest projects that may benefit from funds provided through the Trust, either from its reserves, or by identifying particular charities that may be



Neil Jordan
Chair, Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust



Drama

Over the last month, 26 Year 9 students have been rehearsing for their 'Curtain Raiser' performance at the Globe Theatre. We have had two theatre practitioners from the Globe Theatre come in to run rehearsal workshops to prepare for the opening night.

Students created a five-minute performance of the opening scene of Romeo and Juliet ready to open the show. Our students were one of 50 schools in London who auditioned for this opportunity. On the night of the performance there were over 200 audience members. Students have made both us

and themselves very proud, in representing Raynes Park High School at the Globe.

Since the start of the year, cast and crew members have been in rehearsals for Footloose twice a week after school, preparing for the performances in the summer term. This year there are over 150 students taking part as cast and crew.

The Shakespeare Schools Festival performance took place on Thursday 14th March. For the last few months, our selected group of Year 8 students have been rehearsing for their performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream at The Exchange Theatre in Twickenham. The night

of the performance saw 150 audience members, with students representing the school and the Drama department superbly.

For the King's College Community Choir Project, 23 students from KS3 have been rehearsing for their final performance at King's College, alongside many other schools in Merton. The students have been attending rehearsals at King's College and working extremely hard to sound perfect for the show. The performance took place on Tuesday 26th March at King's College and was a great success.

Ms E Pope
Head of Drama





Dance

As the Spring term draws to a close, I would like to share some successes of the Dance department this term at RPHS.

On Tuesday 19th March RPHS took part in the 'Merton Schools Dance Festival' at Perseid Upper School. This evening celebrated dance across Merton schools, whilst focusing on the talent and passion students have in this subject. The students at RPHS worked incredibly hard in putting this piece together and we enjoyed a successful evening of dance performances. The piece performed by RPHS is called 'Midnight to Sunrise' and explored the style of Jazz.

RPHS Dance Club is continuing to grow each term with a range of students showing a keen interest in the subject. A Year 8 student has successfully led on a Cheerleading sequence that Dance Club thoroughly enjoyed. This was a huge step for the student leading and she was incredibly proud of herself.

Finally, the Dance department are busy preparing the Year 11 students for their final practical performances in the subject. We had an external workshop take place on Friday 15th March, where students were studying and learning repertoire from a professional work called 'Revelations'.

The students went on to perform this to a live audience on Wednesday 27th March for their final component 2 assessment. We wish the students the best of luck.

Ms B Davis
Head of Performing Arts

Music

Exciting news! The RPHS Music department is proud to announce our participation in 'The School Song UK' competition. This is a fantastic opportunity for our talented choir to showcase their musical abilities and our amazing school song on a national platform.

We are hoping that our school song will make it to the final where students will then have the incredible thrill and experience of performing live in front of their friends, families, general public and a celebrity panel!

The RPHS school song has been a proud part of our history for decades and has been sung in both its old and new form since 1935. We have taken on the challenge of expanding the song from voice and piano to full orchestra and choir, recording it in our very own professional recording studio in the Music department. We hope that the end product will do justice to this honoured song.

If you would like to participate in the School Choir, rehearsals are held in the Music department after school on Wednesdays from 3:00pm-4:15pm. We hope to see you there and wish us luck with the competition!

Mr W Mohanaraj
Head of Music



'We enjoyed a successful evening of dance performances. The piece performed by RPHS is called 'Midnight to Sunrise' and explored the style of Jazz'



RPHS celebrates World Book Day

We always enjoy the opportunity to celebrate a love of reading at Raynes Park High School. Given that our staff are such keen readers, we used World Book Day this year to share their favourite books, presenting posters throughout the school with inspirational reads, which ranged from sporting biographies to contemporary thrillers. At break time in the library, our school librarians asked pupils to match their teacher to their chosen read and prepared a selection of other activities; these ranged from linking front covers to blurbs, completing creative writing inspired by first lines and illustrating well known characters. Book Club created a quiz for KS3 pupils to complete in their English lessons, which included guessing which teachers were hiding behind books, recognising books from their art work and guessing characters from their silhouettes.

To celebrate the work of Charles Dickens, the English department dressed as many of his well-loved characters, and we were delighted to give Year 7 the opportunity to wear outfits which represented their favourite reads. In their English lesson, they all completed a scavenger hunt for 30 characters who were hiding around the library and playground.

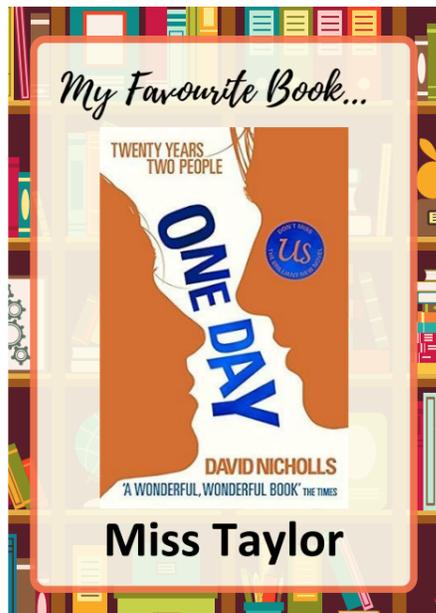
Thanks to everyone who made this such a fun day!

Mrs C Waterston
Head of Literacy and Librarian

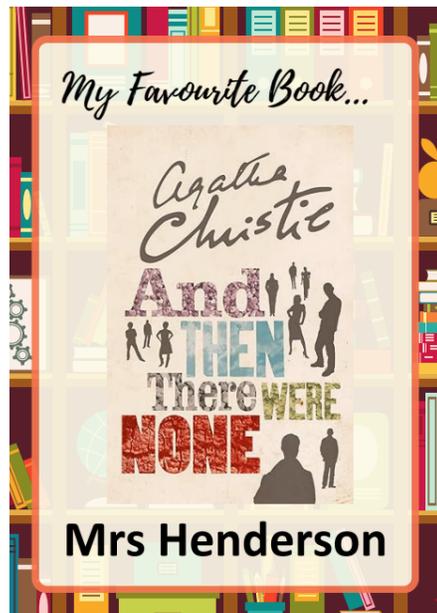


WORLD BOOK DAY

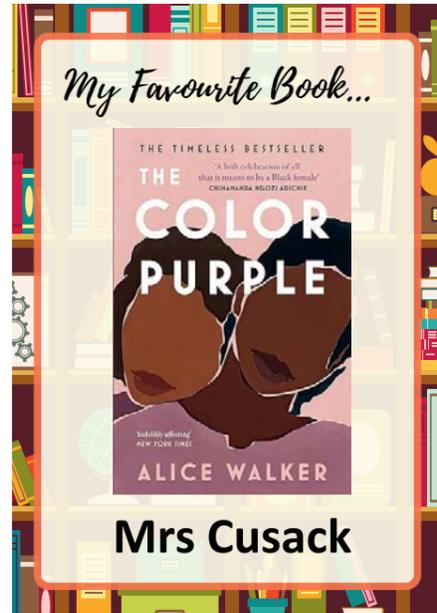
This year, staff chose their favourite books Here are some of their recommended reads



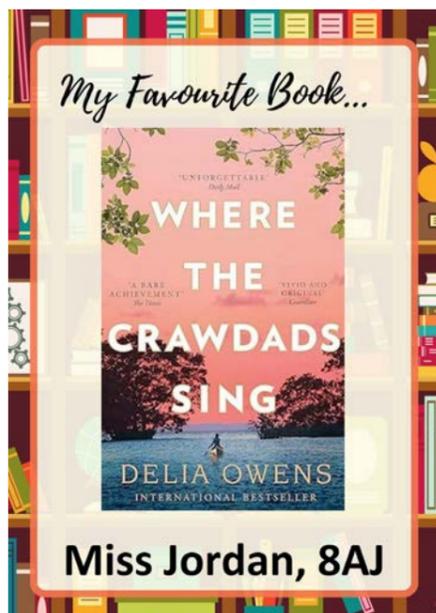
Miss Taylor



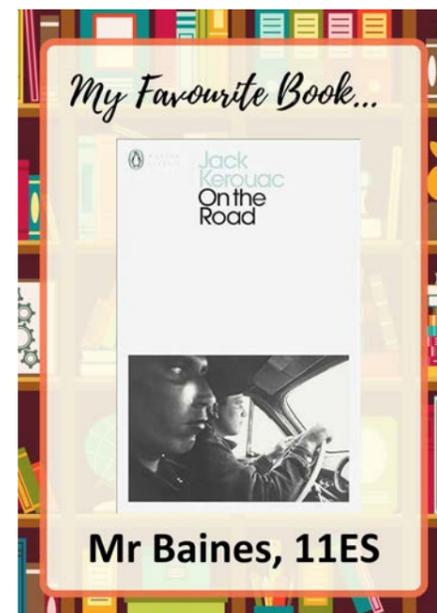
Mrs Henderson



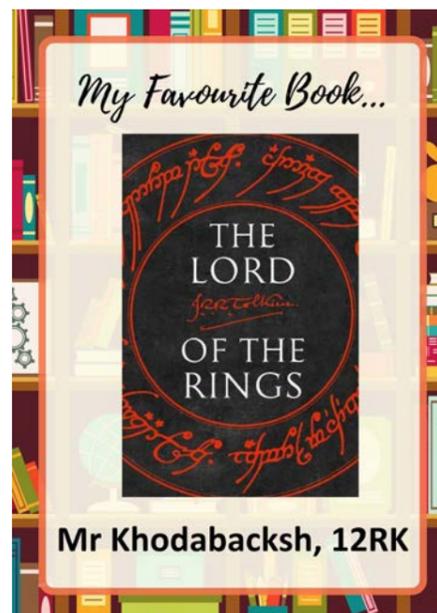
Mrs Cusack



Miss Jordan, 8AJ



Mr Baines, 11ES



Mr Khodabacksh, 12RK

POETRY PRIZE

Out of over 3,000 entries, we are incredibly proud that Year 11 student Zoe's poem was selected as one of the 17 finalists in the first Black History Month poetry competition. The theme of this competition was 'Saluting our sisters', focusing on the contributions and achievements of black women.

On 21st March, she was invited to an awards ceremony at the House of Commons, where she was able to explore the beautiful building as well as observing a debate taking place in the chamber. The event was hosted by Marsha Da Cordova, the MP for Battersea, who spoke of the importance of all voices being heard. The Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho was also in attendance, describing the impact that the poems had on him. Zoe received a plaque to celebrate her achievement and her poem will appear in an anthology later in the year. The event ended by looking forward to next year, when the theme of Black History Month will be 'reclaiming narratives'. We look forward to the opportunity to correct political inaccuracies and showcase the untold success stories and full complexity of Black heritage.

Mrs C Waterston, Head of Literacy and Librarian



I Salute

by Zoe

*I salute the silence
The absences and the shadows
The ripped out threads from history's tapestry
The hole in my heart that tells me something
Someone
Is missing*

*I salute
Those who fought before
Those who fight now
And those who will fight on
Unknown and unrecognised*

*I salute all
Who do not
Strive for a glorious chapter of history's pages
But simply do it
Because it is right*

*I salute the ghosts
Of women whose writing is lost
Of women who fought in long-forgotten battles
Of women who strode into now extinguished lights
Of women
Black women*

*I salute the everyday
The woman who cuts my hair
The woman who passes me in the street
The woman who serves me at the till
I see the secret stories, hidden in their eyes*

*No one will know them
But there is power in their anonymity*

*I salute all the
Artists, businesswomen, models, poets,
authors, politicians, activists
Lost in the gaps between the floorboards of history
Scrubbed out by the dictators of our past
Who found them
Too brave, too loud, too fierce, too bold*

*I salute my sisters
From every walk of life, from every country
Those who I know
And those who I will never meet*

*I salute with hope
That one day
The silence
Will end*

ASPIRATIONS & CAREERS FAIR



During the Spring Term, Mrs Liste and Mr McCurdy hosted the annual Raynes Park High School Aspirations & Careers Fair

Drawing on over 80 stalls from an array of career sectors, students from Years 9 to 13 were able to meet our partner employers to discuss what working life has in store for them after secondary education. The event continued with an after-school alumni gathering, enriching the students' insights into future career paths.

Mr McCurdy, Deputy Headteacher

ASPIRATIONS & CAREERS FAIR



ASPIRATIONS & CAREERS FAIR

ASPIRATIONS & CAREERS FAIR



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SHOW

MATHS UPDATE

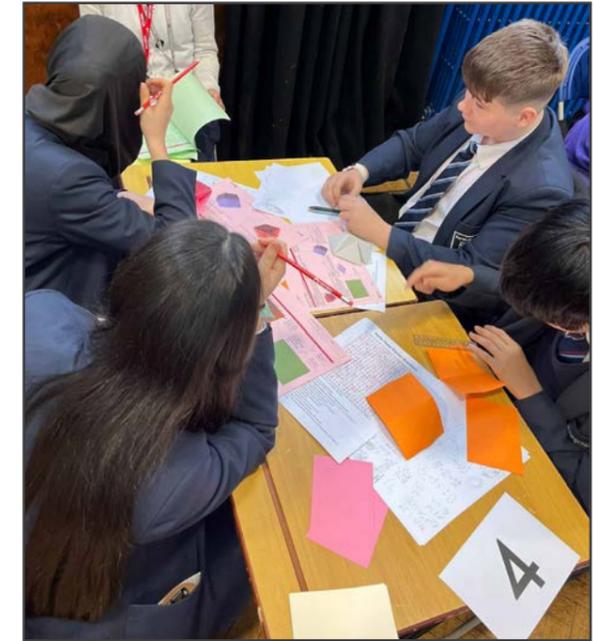
In a busy Spring Term for Maths, RPHS students put in impressive performances in two prestigious competitions

In February we hosted the regional finals of the Year 10 Maths Feast, a national team maths competition which tests problem-solving and teamwork skills. This was the biggest event yet, with 27 teams participating, three of which were from Raynes Park, and a large number of our 6th Form mathematicians supported the running of the day. All of our students worked brilliantly well together in their teams and should be proud of what they achieved. Well done to all who took part!

In January over 35 of our most able mathematicians from Years 10 and 11 (plus one of our Year 9s!) took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. This 60-minute challenge encourages reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

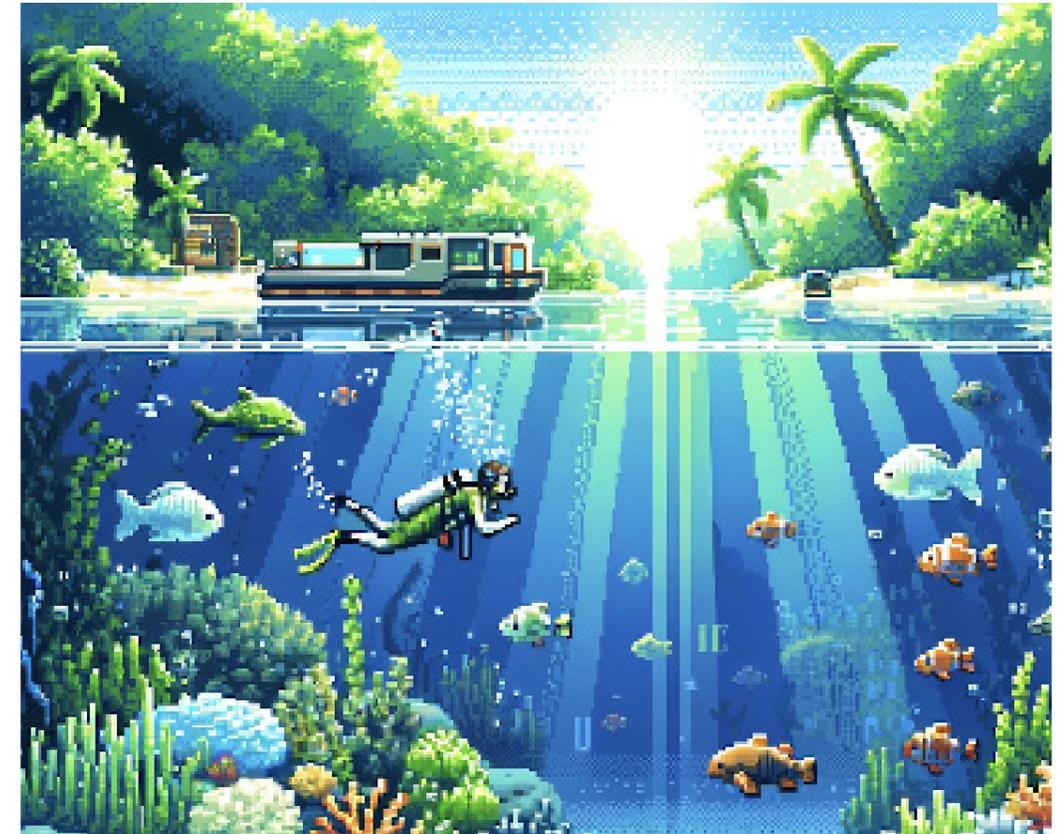
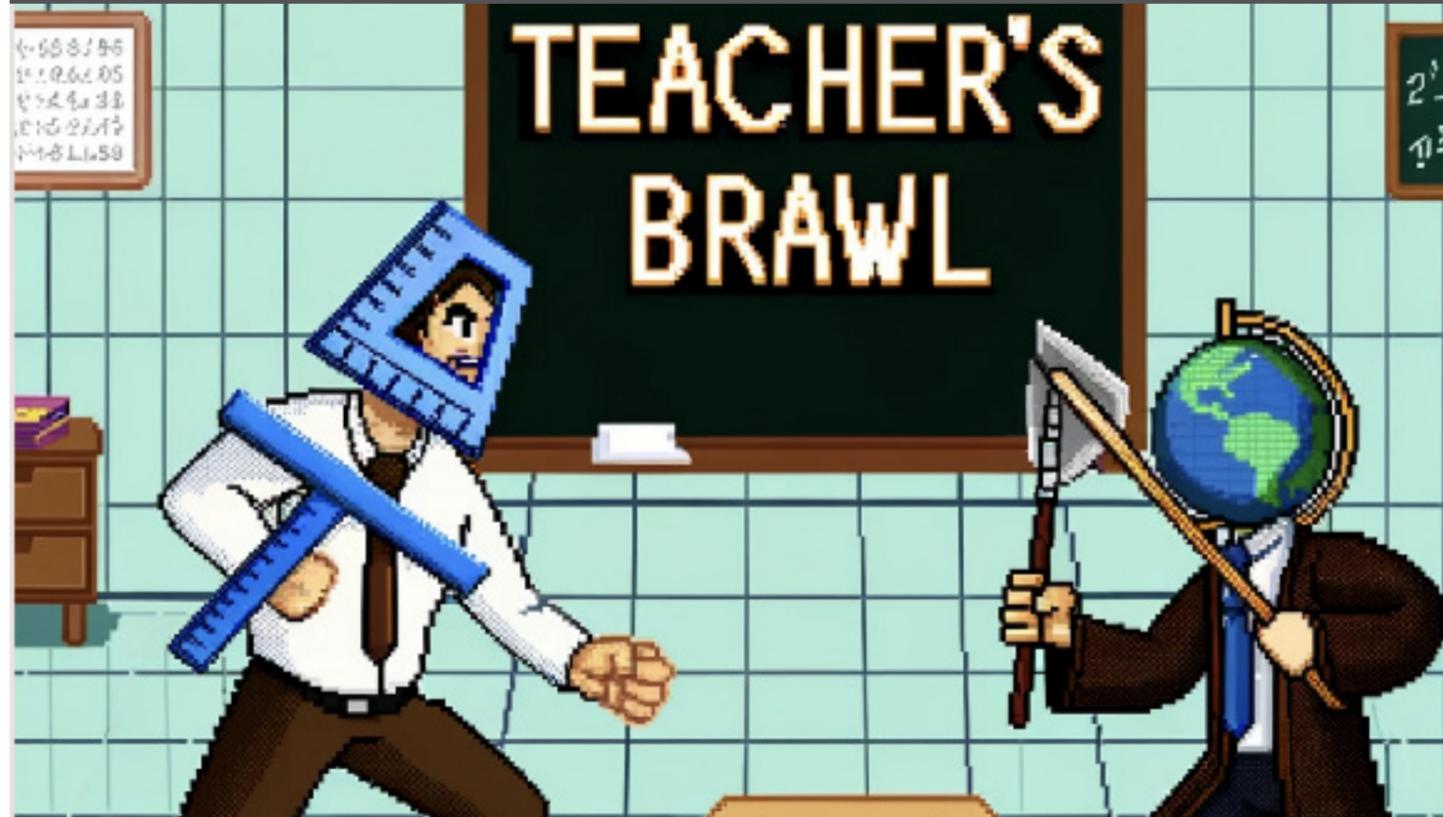
The students did extremely well and all can be proud of what they achieved. Seven students achieved a Gold Certificate and four of our Year 11s qualified for the Pink Kangaroo - the next round which took place on Thursday 21st March. Special congratulations go to Loic who has been invited to participate in the 2024 National Mathematics Summer School!

Mrs C Henderson, Senior Teacher



A group of Sixth Formers attended the National Apprenticeship Show at Sandown Park, and were able to speak to some of the region's top apprenticeship employers and providers. A great opportunity for our students considering their next step

Mr J Wheel, Head of Sixth Form



RPHS aims for gold in the 2024 BAFTA Young Game Designers Competition

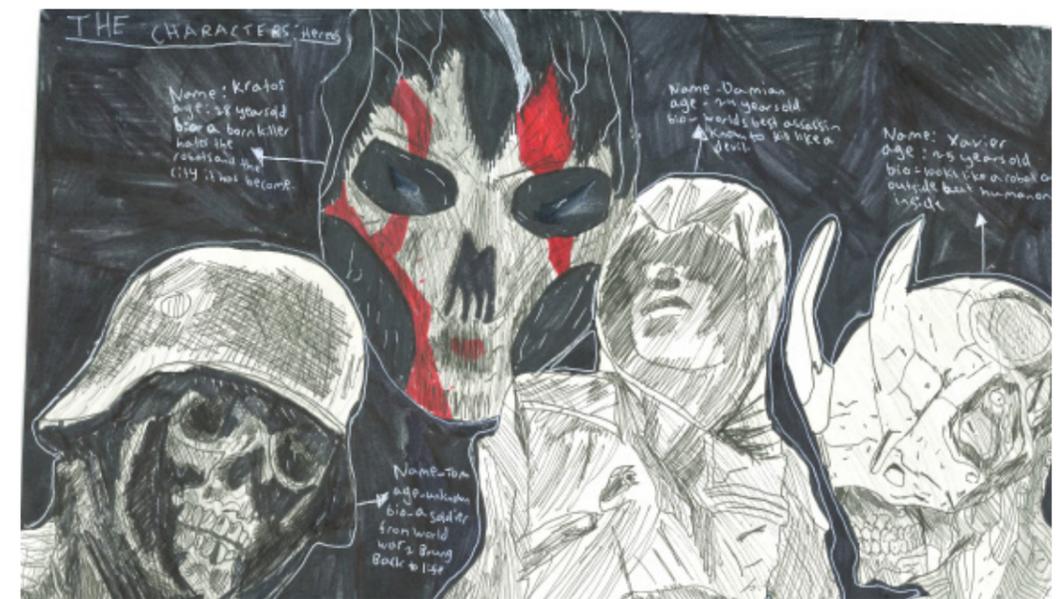
RPHS students have shown off their creative talents with some promising game concept design entries in the BAFTA Young Game Designer (YGD) Competition. The BAFTA YGD Competition aims to inspire the next generation of game designers by encouraging them to engage in either making a functional game or creating ideas for game concepts. BAFTA competition entrants across the UK compete to win the ultimate prize and be crowned a BAFTA winner. The winners are invited to a BAFTA award ceremony, which is presented by high profile celebrities. Winners are also invited to work alongside the leading game design companies to make their design a reality. This invaluable opportunity could be the start of a journey for many young games designers wanting to join the gaming industry.

The GCSE Design & Technology students were invited to submit ideas under the

design concept category. These ideas were accompanied by creative stories. The outcomes were very impressive and have been completed to an extremely high level of proficiency. They are without a doubt the best submissions so far. All RPHS students will be able to enjoy the best competition entries that are submitted this year in the end of year design exhibition.

Taliya has created New Bot City, where robots have taken over the world and humans battle for survival. In Isabella's City Swimmer, a diver challenges themselves to clean up the ocean. And in Libishan's, Teacher's Brawl, teachers take their learning to the next level and battle for the ultimate subject to teach. Crossed fingers for a winner!

Mr R Harris
Head of Art & Design Faculty



BOOKFEST EVENT

FIRST GIVE COMPETITION

In a closely fought contest, our First Give charity fundraising competition was won by a team from Year 8, who received a cheque for £1000 for the mental health charity, Jigsaw4U

The First Give programme is designed to ignite a spark of social conscience in young people by inspiring and equipping students to tackle social issues.

Groups of RPHS students have been working hard on the First Give programme throughout the term, and this week gave their final presentations to fellow students and representatives from First Give.

In a competitive field, the judges chose Ronnie, Isla and Grace from Year 8 as their overall winners. They had chosen the mental health charity Jigsaw4U and gave a confident and impressive presentation which earned them a cheque for £1000 for the charity.

Congratulations are also due to the team of Year 10 students - Honey, Christina, Jannat and Yusuf - who were all highly commended by the judging panel.



This week, our Year 7 students visited the New Wimbledon Theatre to listen to author Tola Okogwu talk about her new novel

On Tuesday 26th March, we had the pleasure of taking 100 Year 7 students to the beautiful New Wimbledon Theatre to see the author Tola Okogwu.

She spoke about what inspired her to write her novel 'Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun', asking the audience to consider what makes a real life hero. She additionally provided some excellent writing tips for our budding writers!

Our students were an asset to the school, asking a range of interesting questions, and some were even given the chance to join her on stage and channel their inner superheroes.

All students were given a free copy of the book to take home, which many enthusiastically started to read on the bus back!

Mrs C Waterston
Head of Literacy and Librarian

Miss O'Brien
Social Sciences Teacher





The Spring Term has seen more opportunities available for the Raynes Park High School community. This has allowed many of our students to have great experiences beyond their studies and have more opportunities to develop their own skills. We also welcomed many local primary students to have experiences beyond their classroom with external providers and our own RPHS staff



Year 12 Sport Leaders

The Year 12 Sports Leaders had a very special experience this half term, when they were invited to be a part of London Broncos' opening home game of the Super League season. The Broncos are the local professional rugby league team who have just recently been promoted to the top league in the UK and play at AFC Wimbledon's Plough Lane.

The students were chosen due to their continued efforts in supporting Merton School Sport Partnership. Chosen to be the flag bearers as part of the team walk out, it was shown live on

Sky Sports. This is the start of many opportunities with London Broncos and their community team.

Sublime Science

It was fantastic to welcome Sublime Science back to RPHS to deliver fun and interactive science workshops. We invited local schools Green Lanes, Joseph Hood and Hatfeild to participate in this unique and exciting opportunity alongside some of our own Year 7s.

Lots of whizz, whoosh, bang and fizz - along with scientific explanations! - kept the students thoroughly engaged and wanting





more. It was a great experience for all and showed science in a fun and creative way.

This was also coupled with a sports event organised and led by our Year 12 Sports students, who were completing this as part of their studies. This was a fun-filled event where participants competed in dodgeball and football. We look forward to welcoming Sublime Science back again later in 2024 and giving more local children the opportunity to see this exciting showcase.

Fulham Foundation Premier League Inspires

The Fulham Foundation Premier League Inspires programme students have been working at developing their social action project since January. Daisy D, Daisy F, Nancy and Rose were the group who had shown the best initiative of the RPHS cohort and were invited to present their idea to a select panel at Craven Cottage, where the winners would be given the money to run their project. They left no stone unturned in their preparations, even delivering their presentation to Mr Oldridge on the tube! They performed amazingly and were commended for their presentation skills. Unfortunately, they missed out on first place by

the smallest of margins but were still awarded the prize money to run their mental health project with local primary school students. A massive well done to the girls and I look forward to reporting on their project in the Summer term.

Boys' Football Festival

Our Fulham FC boys raised the bar when hosting the RPHS boys' football festival this Spring Term, passing on some excellent footballing expertise to the boys of Burlington, Green Lane, Joseph Hood and Sacred Heart. It was a wonderful afternoon led by the Football Education boys who ran a carousel of football related activities and then refereed the games as each school played each other in mini games.

It was great to see the primary students learning from their older counterparts, and who knows, they might follow in their footsteps. It was also another fantastic display from the sports leaders with another opportunity to develop their coaching and leadership skills.



Aragon Primary School STEM Week

It was a great pleasure to support one of our local primary schools during their theme week, which was focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Their Year 5 pupils had the opportunity to join our DT departments in a very special lesson. The brief was 'Structures' and the RPHS team delivered some amazing lessons during which the students built their own totem poles and battled against each other to see who had built the strongest structure. It was a fantastic opportunity, with high praise coming from the Aragon camp, who are already asking what we can do next! I cannot thank the DT department enough for their efforts.

International Women's Day

Fulham FC Foundation, with help from the RPHS Premier League Inspires and Football Education girls, spent the morning inspiring the next generation. A group of Year 7 girls were invited to take part in an inspirational workshop led by our PL Inspires girls where they took time

to reflect on their female models, and learned more about IWD and the barriers still in place. Finally they were joined by some familiar female role models who spoke about the challenges they faced in male dominated fields, how the gap can be closed and how women and girls need to be more confident in themselves and their abilities.

Lauren Binfield, the programme lead from Fulham, added "Since the start of the programme the girls have been working hard to improve on their leadership and confidence skills. This event was a great way for the girls to showcase this and to have their own responsibilities."

The theme this year was Inspires Inclusion. The girls did a great job to ensure all the Year 7 girls that attended felt included and had the opportunity to socialise and talk about the importance of females feeling equal and included both in school and throughout life. A wonderful morning that the girls involved walked away from feeling empowered.

Mr Oldridge

Director of Sport & Community Partnerships



WELLBEING IN SCHOOL



WELLBEING IN SCHOOL

How have we been promoting wellbeing in school?

Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing continues to be a large priority for us at RPHS and we continue to work closely alongside local external agencies to provide 1-to-1 and group support to students of all year groups.

In January we kicked off the term by welcoming in our Educational Wellbeing Practitioners (EWP's) to deliver bespoke Exam Stress Workshops to identified Year 11 and Sixth Form students.

These sessions allowed students to gain some psycho-education surrounding the stress they may face around coursework and exam time, whilst learning some practical skills to help them manage their wellbeing during this time.

If you missed these sessions and would like to access some support for worry, low-mood or exam stress then please do make contact with Ms Yusuf or feel free to complete the following link for EWP support: <https://forms.office.com/e/Ha1dWq3Q5C>

Ahead of Childrens Mental Health week from the 5th-11th February, we also welcomed in Cassim Kaweesa from Kooth. Cassim delivered assemblies to year groups regarding the signs of poor mental health, why it is important to take care of your own mental health and also strategies to manage stress and wellbeing.

In February, we once again celebrated LGBTQIA+ history month. At the end of January, in the lead up to the month, the SEND and Access departments received training regarding sexuality and gender, to provide them with the knowledge and skills to further diversify their support to students and ensure inclusive practice. A huge shout-out to Ms Sleet specifically from the Access Centre for all of her work with the school's LGBTQIA+ club. The LGBTQIA+ club takes place on Fridays during first break in the Library and operates an open door policy, welcome for all! Please do feel free to drop in or contact Ms Sleet or Ms Yusuf should you be interested in hearing more about this.

During the month of February for LGBTQIA+ History Month, and with the hard work of staff and students, RPHS managed to raise a whopping £292 for key LGBTQIA+ charities. Thank you so much to you all for getting involved during this month, especially to those who took part in the Student vs Staff football match!

In March we welcomed St Giles Trust who delivered after-school professional training to the Pastoral, Safeguarding and Social Sciences teams on the topics of gangs, county lines and serious youth violence. We continue to work closely with St Giles Trust in our drop down days and with our mentor Isha Rahman who visits once a week to ensure students receive the best support in ensuring their safety and wellbeing.

Student opportunity

The London Borough of Merton is providing students between the ages of 11-17 years with the opportunity to join the Under 18's Health and Wellbeing Network. The purpose of this network is to provide a voice for young people in the community, review health and wellbeing priorities and increase awareness. Meetings are online and in person and provide young people with the opportunity to meet other young people in Merton who are passionate about health and wellbeing.

Young people who form the network gain experience that can go on their CV or UCAS application, and have the opportunity to contribute to surveys and focus groups whilst also having access to resources for support. If you have interest in taking part and would like to hear more, please see the following webpage: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/healthy-living/publichealth/community-champions/under-18s-health-and-wellbeing-network>

Ms Selin Yusuf
Student Wellbeing Manager

Where to get support for you or a friend when you are not in school

For support with mental health & wellbeing

kooth
Free, safe, and anonymous counselling support for young people
www.kooth.com

www.kooth.com offers online confidential one-to-one support for young people, plus access to online self-help materials.

TALK TO US OFF THE RECORD

In non-covid times they offer face to face counselling in Merton, Croydon & Sutton. At the moment they offer a text-based counselling service or telephone/videocall counselling.
www.talkofftherecord.org

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

Childline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. So you can talk to us any time. When you call us on **0800 1111** you'll get through to a counsellor, they're there to listen and support you with anything you'd like to talk about. Or you can have a 1-2-1 counsellor chat online. They can provide help and support for people up to their 19th birthday.

For support in a crisis

NHS South West London CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Crisis Line 0203 228 5980
For young people or parents/carers worried about a young person's mental health.
Open: Monday to Friday 5pm – 11pm, Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holidays 9am – 11pm.

YOUNG MINDS Crisis Messenger
powered by shout 85258
Young People can use the Young Minds Crisis Messenger by texting 'YM' to 85258

SAMARITANS
Call us free 24/7 on **116 123**
samaritans.org
or contact Samaritans 24/7 on 116 123

For support in an emergency

In an immediate health or mental health emergency, contact **999** or attend **A&E**

CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH



LGBTQIA+ History Month ended with a fundraising Staff v Students football match

What a turn out! Despite the fixture being postponed a week due to inclement weather, the staff and students turned out in huge numbers to support their peers in a charity football match between the RPHS staff and students. In aid of LGBTQIA+ charities, the fixture was arranged to raise money and awareness among students as we drew LGBTQIA+ History Month to a close.

The match was competitive and played in good spirits, however, perhaps average age influenced the result with injuries and speed maybe determining the outcome. Well done to the Sixth Form students who ran out as eventual 4-1 winners! However, after Mr Jones had got the staff back into the game at 2-1, it could have been a very

different story had the staff converted a penalty that was saved by Sam in goal for the Sixth Form.

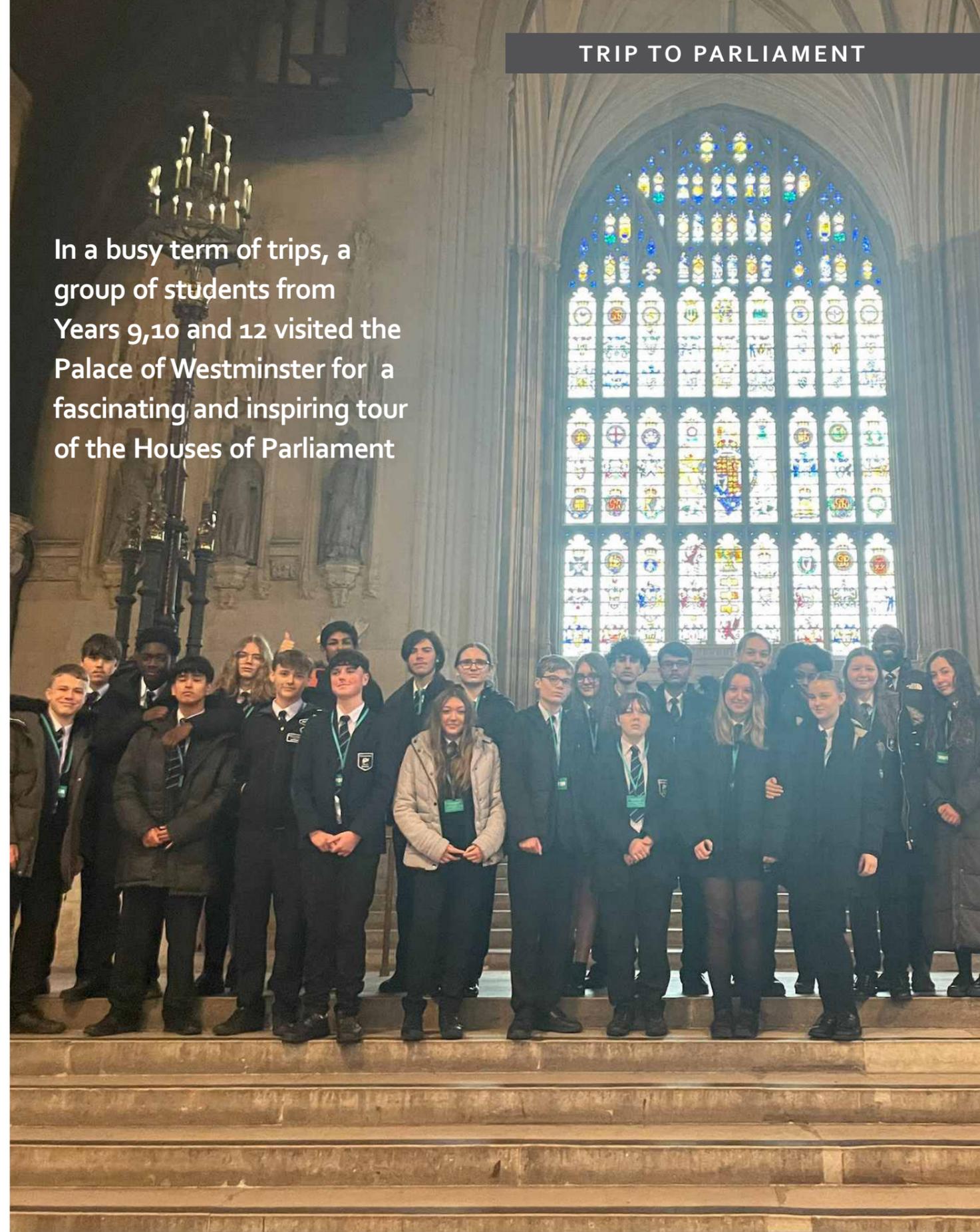
Sixth Form students were asked to donate to play against staff, while the rest of school were able to donate to get a seat in the stands for the match. In total, £292 was raised by all who supported the event! An amazing effort.

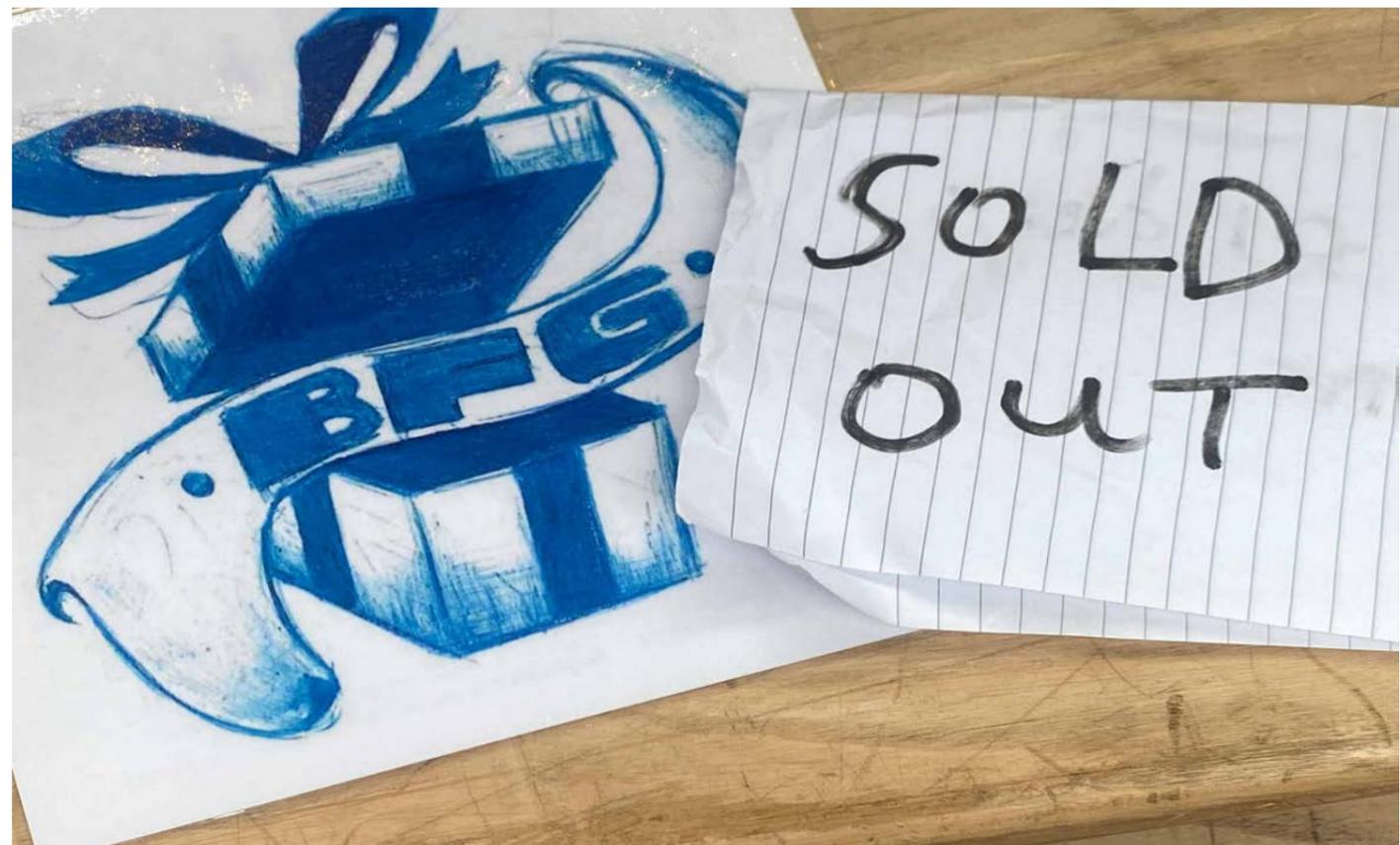
One final thank you to all staff who gave up their time to support the event, without whom it wouldn't have gone ahead.

Mr Wheel
Head of Sixth Form

TRIP TO PARLIAMENT

In a busy term of trips, a group of students from Years 9,10 and 12 visited the Palace of Westminster for a fascinating and inspiring tour of the Houses of Parliament

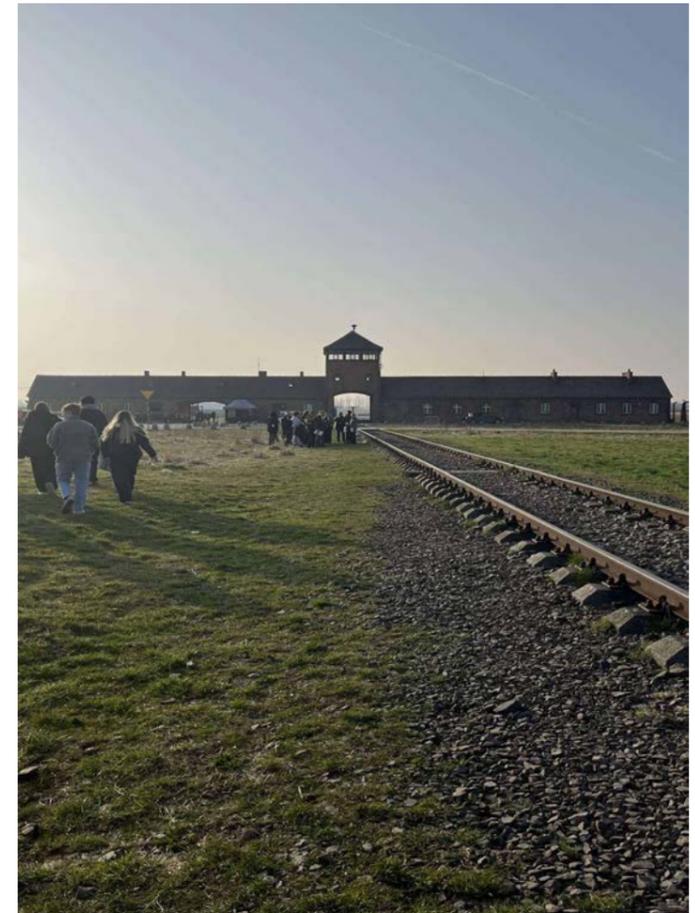
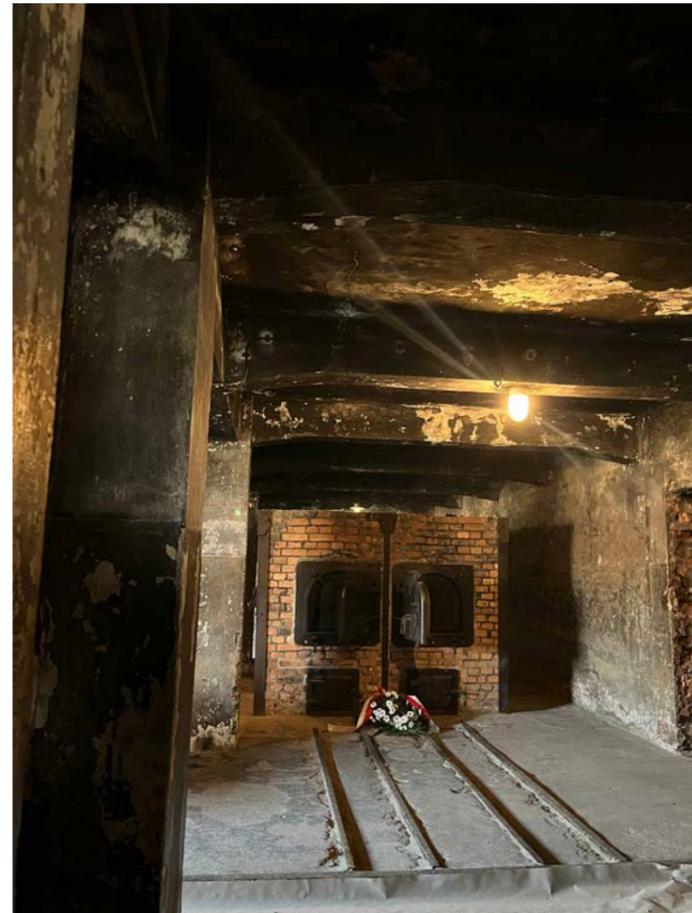
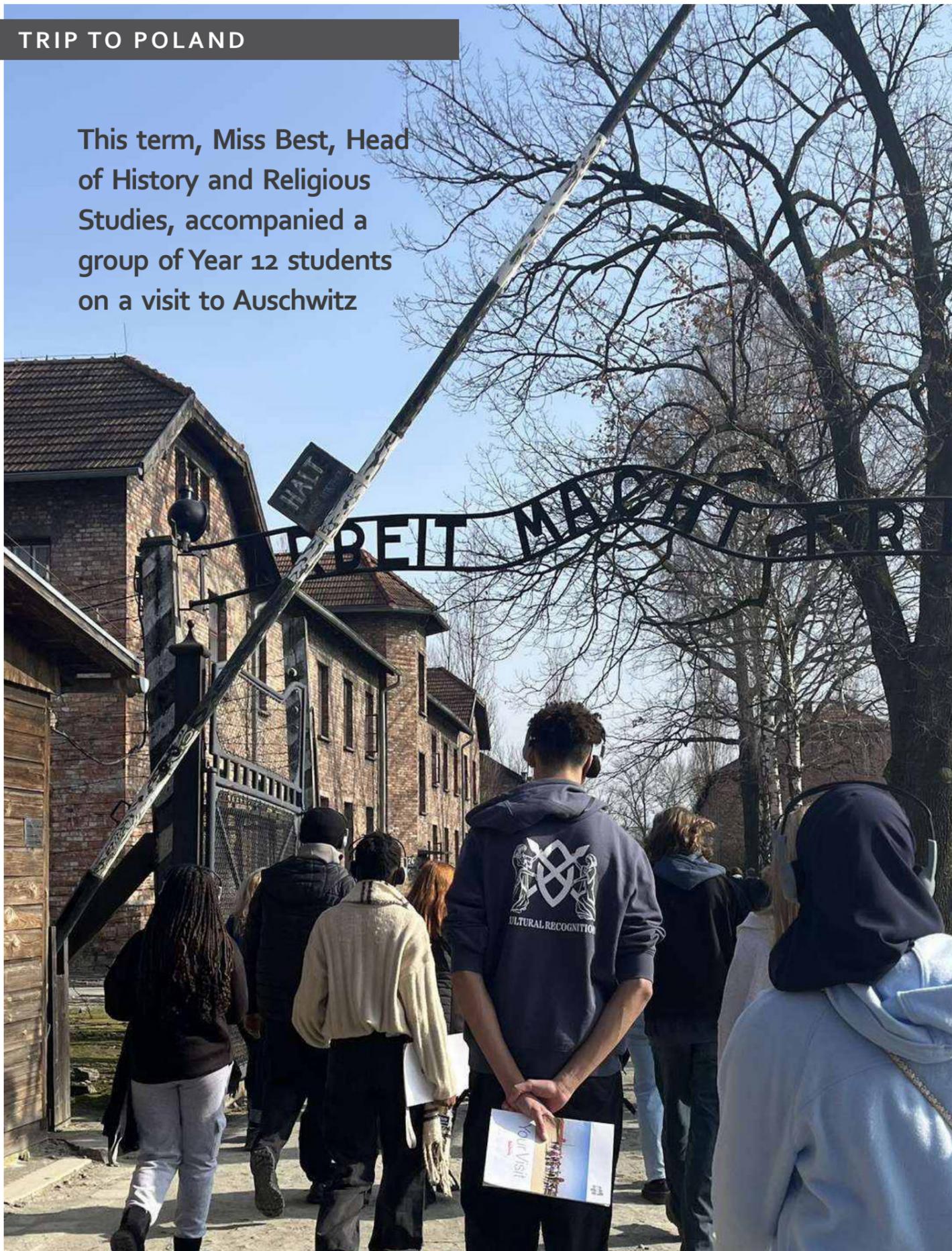




RPHS sixth formers joined over thirty groups of secondary school students taking part in the Young Enterprise Trade Fair at Spitalfields Old Market. Their selection of hand painted mugs filled with biscuits, tea and coffee proved to be a popular choice with customers!

Ms Jordan, *Business Teacher*

This term, Miss Best, Head of History and Religious Studies, accompanied a group of Year 12 students on a visit to Auschwitz





Sports Leaders

It has been another busy term for our fantastic group of Sports Leaders. The Year 12 and 13 boys did an excellent job of helping to organise and run the primary sports event held at RPHS; the Year 12 Fulham Girls gave up their time to officiate a Year 5 & 6 Football competition at Tooting and Mitcham Football Club; and a select group of Year 8, 9 and 10 students helped to officiate the Year 7 Borough Netball competition at Ricards Lodge, which was won by RPHS! The Year 12 and 13 boys also gave up their time to officiate the Girls Borough Basketball competition held at RPHS.

On top of all of this, a group of 15 Sixth Form students were given the opportunity to represent the school as part of the opening ceremony for the London Broncos Rugby League team. The students conducted themselves in a thoroughly

professional manner and represented the school excellently as always.

Across the range of events that our sports leaders have helped with, the positive feedback continues to flood in, with so many staff from other schools and also parents contacting Miss Taylor to sing their praises and offer thanks. It has been amazing to see this group of students continue to flourish in these roles, and as always, we would like to extend our gratitude for their efforts! Thank you also to Miss McCourt for her hard work in organising and leading this cohort.

Mr Sanderson
Head of PE

Wimbledon Ball Boy and Girl Update

Following January's trials, four of our trainee Ball Boys have made it into the 2024 Championship programme. Well done to all that attended and we welcome back all Year 9s who returned to training in September to give it another shot!

Those who were successful have now joined up with other students from around the borough in training with the Ball Boy/Girl department at the All England Lawn Tennis Club. Training continues in school too as we support our students who have previously represented the school at the Wimbledon Championships in sharpening their core skills before their recall trials later this term. Good luck to all recalls.

Mr Wheel
Head of Sixth Form

Sports Hall Athletics (Year 8)

Another fantastic achievement for the Raynes Park Athletics teams. It was an intense battle at Ursuline High School as the boys came a brilliant second place beating local all-boys schools Wimbledon College and Rutlish in the process. The girls also made us proud with a third place finish just behind Harris Merton but edging out local rivals Ricards Lodge.

Everyone played their part brilliantly, but special mentions have to go to Daisy B for her two second place finishes, Logan for digging deep and stepping up to run the last leg and win the relay for the boys, and Vanya's fast feet: 84 jumps in 30 seconds on the speed bounce. A great start leading into the summer athletics season.

Mr J Oldridge
Director of Sport & Community Partnerships

Year 7 Boys' Rugby

It was a proud day for Mr Oldridge and the RPHS community, when, after many, many years, we finally had our first competitive rugby match.

Fifteen extremely excited and eager Years 7s made the call up to represent RPHS, which was for all of them, their first time playing contact rugby competitively. They were brave, bold and grew with confidence with every minute played. We didn't get the result we wanted but it was very competitive. It was a great experience and they have learned a lot from it. They are already looking forward to training and the next game to build on this.

Mr J Oldridge
Director of Sport & Community Partnerships

Girls' Football

It has been a busy half term for our girls' football squad. With regular training continuing every Monday after school, in all weather conditions, our girls have remained committed and determined throughout. We opened the term with a Year 7 home fixture v Hollyfield School. It was a fantastic match and Raynes Park were 1-0 up at half time. We then dominated after the break and raced into a 3-0 lead with a brilliant strike from Olivia into the top corner! Hollyfield regrouped and applied pressure to our defence, collecting two consolation goals in the remaining five minutes but we held out until the final whistle and were triumphant, winning 3-2! A great first game for our Year 7 girls. Well done everyone!



Our second match against Chessington School, at home, was again, a great spectacle. This was a keenly contested match between two very even sides. It was 0-0 at half time and remained so until the last six minutes. The first goal was always going to be a game changer and it was Chessington who broke the stalemate with a scrappy goal after a deflected free kick. They then pushed onwards and scored two further goals on the break, as Raynes Park were trying to force an equaliser. The match ended 0-3 to Chessington but, in truth, it really could have gone either way. A solid performance from our Year 7/8 combined squad. Great efforts all round!

At the Girls' Year 7 and 8 Borough Football Tournament at Harris Wimbledon, our girls' team, predominantly made up of our Year 7 girls' squad, performed well in their group stage matches against several other schools across Merton. One of our sides progressed through to the quarter finals where they narrowly lost out to Harris Wimbledon. Particular note must go to Zoe and Isla who both scored in a 3-0 victory over The Hall School. All of the girls deserve credit for their positive attitudes, sportsmanship and hard work as always!

Next term we have the Year 7 Football 5-a-side Borough competition.



I would like to say a big thank you to Miss O'Brien and the Fulham FC Foundation for their coaching support and helping me with running the girls' football this year. Also, a big thank you to all of the parents/carers that have been able to follow and support the girls at our fixtures this year as well. Your support is really appreciated.

The future is certainly looking bright for the team. Onwards and upwards to the next season.

Mr L Prichard
PE Teacher

Year 7 Girls' Basketball

The girls Borough Basketball competition was also hosted here at Raynes Park this year. Unfortunately, two schools having to pull out on the day of the tournament meant that the trophy would be decided by a one game final between us and Ursuline school.

The girls started quickly and built a convincing lead by the end of the second quarter. Ursuline however, started to chip away at the deficit throughout the 3rd and 4th quarters, which set up for a thrilling finale.

With less than two minutes remaining in the game Ursuline led by one point. A time out was called by Raynes Park, where coach Damari instructed the girls on a play. Fortunately this paid off as straight after the re-start Raynes Park scored to lead by one, a lead which they then managed to hold on to until

the final buzzer sounded. A fantastic effort from the Year 7 girls to be crowned as Borough champions!

Thanks go to Mr Arnot for his work in leading the team, and also to Damari in Year 12 for coaching, and also to Tyrell in Year 13 for giving up his time to referee the fixture.

Mr J Sanderson
Head of PE

Year 7 Boys' Basketball

The boys' Borough Basketball tournament was hosted here at Raynes Park this year and Harris Merton and Rutlish school both made the journey down to take part.

Our Year 7 boys' team won the first game of the competition against Harris Merton which was also their first competitive basketball fixture for the school, with a convincing scoreline of 21-6. Rutlish also went on to beat Harris Merton which set up a final between the two teams.

Raynes Park stayed with Rutlish for the first two quarters where the score was 12-6, but unfortunately a lack of experience and some tired legs cost us, with Rutlish going on to take the win and lift the trophy. A commendable effort from the Year 7 boys in their first Basketball outing.

Mr J Sanderson
Head of PE

Year 7 Boys' Football

One further fixture this term so far for the Year 7 boys' football team which was played away to Southborough school. Some further squad rotation took place in order to provide game time to some of those who have not yet played in a fixture. Unfortunately this did not see a change in fortune for the boys who carried on a poor run of form and walked away with the loss. Lessons learned, and some areas that are being actioned in training with the support of some of the Y12 sports leaders/ Fulham foundation students.

Special mentions have to go to James H in goal who made some fantastic saves on debut, and Josh S who continues to apply himself 100% in every game and is proving to be a real leader within the squad.

Mr J Sanderson
Head of PE



Year 10 Boys' Football

The Year 10 boys were back at the home of football (RPHS sports ground) for a fiercely contested game against Kingston rivals, Chessington High School.

It was a close and competitive game, where each team created many chances, going behind in the first half after a defensive error. However, in the end the final result (2-2) felt like a loss with a dominant display in the second half with goals from Kyrese and Bashil. RPHS continued to pile on the pressure, however, a mistake close to the end lead to a through ball which Chessington pounced on, meaning that the spoils were shared.

Mr J Oldridge
Director of Sport & Community Partnerships



Year 7 & 8 Boys' Hockey

Another iconic landmark was reached in the RPHS sporting landscape, as the Year 7 and 8 boys made yet more history in playing a competitive hockey match for the first time in many years.

Not only did they play, but they played with unbelievable energy and excitement. To add to the eagerness, we were playing against local rivals Harris Wimbledon who are also early in their hockey journey, with one more game's experience. However, it was to be a very successful evening with RPHS remaining unbeaten in their games, with 3 wins (3-1, 3-0 & 8-0!) and one draw (3-3). Mr Oldridge has already arranged another match with Harris Wimbledon as we continue to progress and build towards playing full sided games.

Mr J Oldridge

Director of Sport & Community Partnerships

Netball

We have had another successful term with netball at RPHS, with a great turn out even on the coldest and most miserable days! Our most recent tournament resulted in a win over Ricards Lodge for the Year 7 A team, and a respectable third place for the B team. Everyone played fantastically well but notable mention to Sophia G for her incredible defending and Josie and Ava, the dynamic duo, for their incredible shooting!

Wednesday training has also allowed for the development of the Year 9 and 10 students in their leadership and umpiring

skills, with a dedicated group attending each week to take a lead on the session and umpire the games. They had the opportunity to showcase their skills at the recent Year 7 tournament, where they took charge in umpiring the games and coaching teams that were not playing.

We are also really looking forward to the re-scheduled Year 8 Borough tournament and wish the team well in their matches.

Ms C McCourt
PE Teacher



House Week saw students take part in a series of quizzes and competitions, ranging from chess to art, basketball to spelling bees, in order to win points for their respective houses



NEWSOMS

MILTONS

GIBBS

HALLIWELLS

HOUSE UPDATES

As we wrap up an exhilarating Spring Term, our students have truly embraced the spirit of competition and sportsmanship within the framework of our House system

As we conclude another eventful term at Raynes Park, it's a pleasure to share with you some highlights from our house system. This Spring, our students have once again showcased their teamwork, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship through various competitions and activities.

In Spring Term 1, students took part in a House Football Competition, where our students displayed exceptional skill and determination on the field. After some close matches, I'm proud to reveal that Newsoms House emerged victorious, claiming the top spot. Following closely behind, Halliwells House secured second place, with Miltons House in third, and Gibbs House in fourth. Congratulations to all the participants for their commitment and dedication!

In Spring Term 2, students took part in House Week. This week-long event is an exciting

opportunity for our students to engage in a diverse range of activities across different subjects. From academic challenges to creative workshops and sporting events, there was something for everyone to enjoy. This was a fantastic chance for our students to showcase their talents, and contribute to their respective houses.

All students were encouraged to actively participate and make the most of this enriching experience.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and well done to all the students for performing so well during House Week!

Heads of Houses

Do you shop online?

The school can get a donation when you do, for free!

Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust raises funds to support our students. The Trust has funded several projects including funding equipment for the Duke of Edinburgh Award as well as small grants to individual students. The trustees are keen to do more and need funds to do so.

One way you can donate to the Trust without it costing you anything is to shop online via 'easyfundraising' which turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for the school. There are over 3600 retailers including many big names such as Amazon, M&S, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Tesco, John Lewis, Ebay and Argos and many specialist retailers.

So next time you want to do some online shopping please go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs and click 'support this cause' then register for easyfundraising and find the retailer you want. Once you have chosen your retailer you will go to their website as normal to make your purchase. The retailers then make a small donation to the Trust. The size of the donation varies with the retailer – but every little helps!

It will cost you nothing but will help the school. You will get reminders once registered with easyfundraising.

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Retailers will make a small donation to the Trust at no extra cost to you



NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL

The Governors would like to congratulate both students and staff for a successful second term.

There have been lots of achievements this academic year already. When governors visit the school, we continue to see excellent learning in lessons, which is enabled through excellent learning atmospheres.

Governors were delighted to attend the school on Tuesday 6th February for the latest strategic visit. Governors visited lessons, spoke to staff and students. We were pleased to hear from Mr Burnett about the management of Year 7 and the programme of transition in place that has helped our newest students settle into the school. We were also pleased to speak with Ms Pigott about plans to promote Modern Foreign Languages with students at the school. As ever we are very grateful for the preparation and contributions from staff and students for strategic visits.

Governors were very pleased to see the dedication of Year 11 students attending revision sessions in the February half term and the upcoming holiday. We would like to congratulate Year 11 students for their hard work and resilience, and of course the members of staff who go above and beyond to support students during the holiday.

There is much to look forward to in the Summer Term. Intertwining the hard work expected of all students, especially those

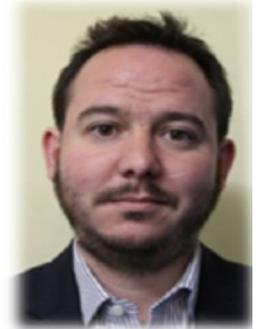
preparing for their public examinations, governors look forward to welcoming special guest and former British Tennis number one Tim Henman to Raynes Park High School to formally open our brand-new tennis courts.

Governors would like to thank Miss Taylor and her Senior Leadership Team for all their hard work and we look forward to continuing to support you throughout the Summer Term.

We wish all the staff, students and their families a wonderful Easter break. And for our Muslim students, families and staff members, Ramadan Mubarak.

Best wishes,

Dean Murphy
Vice Chair



Find out more about the work of our School Governors here:

www.rphs.org.uk/31/governors

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

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