



ALICE IN WONDERLAND

"If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense."

This term, our Sixth Formers worked alongside younger students to devise a dazzling production of 'Alice In Wonderland'. With only five weeks of rehearsals, the show was a real team effort and the audience was treated to fantastic performances from all students. We were thrilled to see the countless rehearsals and hard work pay off.

"Day dreaming can sometimes lead to the unexpected. We are taken into a magical world filled with talking caterpillars, grumpy flowers and evil queens. Will Alice ever find out why the White Rabbit is in such a hurry? Will the Cheshire Cat ever answer a question properly? Is there only so much tea the Mad Hatter can drink? And will Alice get home safely or will it be off with her head?"

We would like to say a big thank you to our audience and to parents for continually supporting their child and the Drama department here at RPHS.

Miss Holledge would like to thank all of the staff at Raynes Park High School whose hard work helped this performance come together, in particular to Mr Robinson and the DT department for their expertise with the set, and to the Art department for their help in creating the props and costume pieces. Miss Barnard and the COSST team designed the stunning posters, tickets, programme and organised the lighting, sound and staging. We'd also like to give a final thank you to Miss Hearn, Miss Ward, Mr Laidler, Mr Jones, Miss Murray and the Sixth Form students for helping the evening to run smoothly. Finally, and most importantly, we'd like to thank all of the students who have been involved in this year's Sixth Form production. It was fantastic working with such a creative, talented and committed cast and team.

More production photographs on page 2

Alice in Wonderland PRODUCTION PHOTOS





CHALLENGE WEEK

"A Better Version of You"

The final week of term saw students tackle another Challenge Week! There were quadruple Achievement Points up for grabs, and a record number were awarded. We were constantly impressed with the determination shown by students when faced with a challenge, and with the inventive, interactive lessons which teachers had devised. In one English lesson, the class were studying a complex poem about slavery. To help the class better understand the poem and the rhythm of the verses, Mr Liyanage briefly took his class out into the corridor and had them 'row', with another student dictating the pace. "It would have been awful because you had no choice, and you'd row for weeks and weeks." said one student "We did it in a warm, clean school, but it would have been terrible conditions." By interacting with the poem in this way, the students were able to build a much better understanding of the intricate poem.

In PE, Year 7 students had a 'lucky dip' of sports equipment and were then challenged to invent their own sport, including a comprehensive set of rules. Another PE class gradually built up their trampolining technique, with Ms Bartle demonstrating some advanced moves which many of the class were then able to emulate. In Catering, students made samosas from scratch, and in Art, were introduced to the work of Kandinsky and used his work as the inspiration for combining different mediums to create a shoe sculpture.

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.





What do you "Thunk"?



For Challenge Week, tutor groups completed 5-minute 'Thunks' every morning, such as "can you get lost if you don't know where you're going?" or "If I borrow a million pounds, am I millionaire?"

Here is Ms Henderson's form, 8NX, attempting to "turn a sound upside down!"





TeenTech at Emirates Stadium

We were invited to an event at The Emirates Stadium this term, along with 1000 students and over 400 volunteers from leading Science, Technology and Engineering companies. TeenTech City is now in its sixth year, growing from an event for 140 students which ran just before The Olympics in 2012 to one which is now ten times the size but still delivers sharply focussed sessions bringing the world of technology and those who work in it to life.

The event is designed to encourage children in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (Stem) subjects with interactive experiments and challenges. The day consisted of a five hour, hands-on time-tabled session, giving our students and their teachers the opportunity to try their hand at experiments, to handle leading edge technology and, most importantly to spend time with the Engineers, Technologists and Scientists influencing their 21st century lives. On the day, TeenTech measured the impact of these sessions through voting buttons.

The change in the way careers in these sectors are perceived, particularly by girls, was considerable.

By the end of the event, 82% of the students said they would be fairly or very interested in a technology career – more than the 71% at the beginning of the event. 100% of teachers across both days said they would 'definitely' bring students to another TeenTech event. Teachers said that they especially valued "the opportunity to interact with people from a variety of technical backgrounds which really got the pupils thinking about the endless possibilities associated with technology". Of course this is only the beginning and all the students now have the opportunity to develop projects for the TeenTech Awards with the support of the mentors they met at the event.

Having the opportunity to experience this fantastic day at the famous Emirates Stadium – Home to Arsenal FC, there is no doubt this was a memorable and inspiring day for the students.



TENNIS NEWS

Recently, our students have been lucky enough to have access to the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, and have received some high quality tennis coaching at the facility. As if that wasn't enough, on our second visit we were lucky enough to bump into a certain Wimbledon 2013/16 Champion...



BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES



We're very excited to announce that Raynes Park High School is the first state school to become a BECSLink Registered Centre. Becoming a registered centre means that we will be working alongside local businesses, charities, educational institutions and sporting organisations to provide events, resources and learning opportunities.

We were lucky enough to meet with a number of organisations who presented us with a wealth of ideas for initiatives for both students of Raynes Park High School and young people in our local community. In attendance was BECSLink, The Desmond Tutu Foundation, The Harlequins Foundation, LYST (London Youth Support Trust), Pi-Top and Suburban Hockey, as well as Keith Shipman, Educational Inclusion Manager

at Merton Council, and Michael Ross, our Chair of Governors. We are very excited to begin working alongside these organisations to deliver opportunities and support to young people in Merton, which they may not have otherwise had access to. There were many possible initiatives proposed by our visitors, ranging from engaging young people in computer coding and STEM through to hands-on workshops, to providing mental health education through the Harlequins mental resilience programme.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to these organisations and BECSLink for their time and expertise, and we very much look forward to working alongside you to create a brighter future for young people in Merton.

A photograph showing two male staff members, one in a striped shirt and one in a light blue shirt with a lanyard, looking down at a document on a table. The text 'MATHS FEAST 2017' is overlaid in large white letters.

MATHS FEAST 2017

On Tuesday 7th February Raynes Park High School hosted the FMSP Year 10 Maths Feast, and were joined by several London schools. Eight of our Year 10 students were chosen to take part in this National competition and were a credit to our school. The event combines mathematical, communication and teamwork skills and offers pupils another way to express and develop their enjoyment of Mathematics. The students worked well together, in teams of four, on some challenging Maths and can all be proud of their achievements and excellent teamwork.



MENTAL HEALTH TOOLKIT

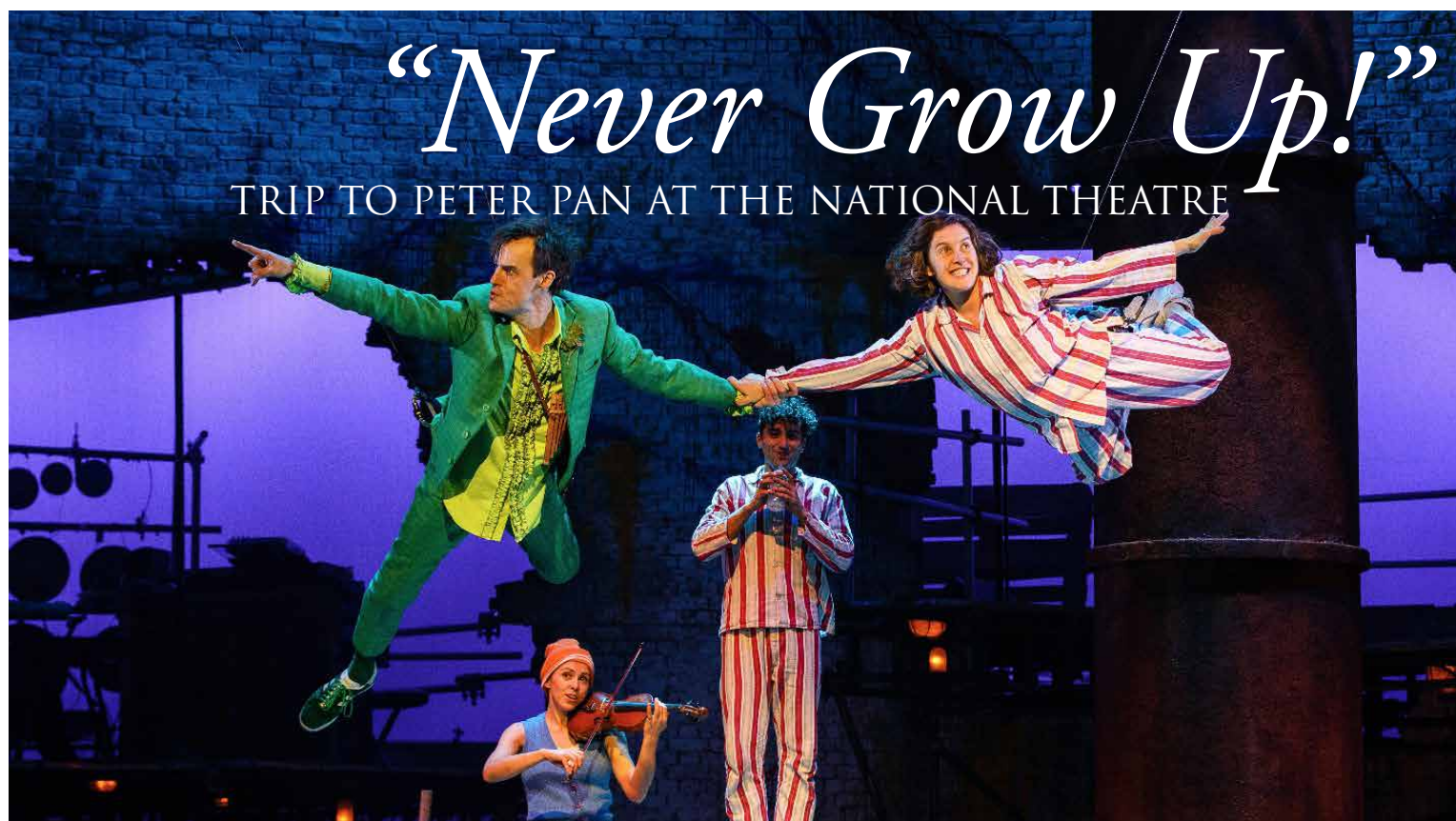
Students from Wimbledon High and Raynes Park High School joined together to create ideas for the stem4 Mental Health Toolkit. Groups discussed what they think an essential school 'mental health toolkit' might look like, and then a spokesperson gave feedback. These ideas will be incorporated into an app which stem4 will be developing this year.





“ELEMENTS OF LOVE” *Exhibition*

This term, the Menier Gallery near London Bridge welcomed twenty-four artists from SW London to exhibit their paintings, drawings, prints, textiles, glass, ceramics and mosaics. The event, titled ‘Elements of Love’ was organised by our very own Mr Nicolas, who (alongside working in our Art department) is also a ceramics sculptor and painter. His piece at the exhibition was admired by many of the visitors, with one stating “this is absolute poetry.” The exhibition was praised in reviews and was so well-received that it was extended by another week.



Raynes Park High School is lucky enough to benefit from the King’s College Aspirations Programme, which has provided us with a great deal of interesting and inspiring trips over the last few years. Recently, a group of students were lucky enough to visit the National Theatre for a backstage tour and to see their five-star production of *Peter Pan*, thanks to this partnership. We learnt a great deal about the variety of roles backstage and were able to see the sets, props and costumes currently under construction. After a quick trip back to Waterloo to grab dinner, we were then blown away by a stunning production of *Peter Pan*. Very many thanks to Mr Mba and King’s Partnership for organising such a fantastic trip.



Alumni News



CORRINE HALL *Gold Medalist*

After winning Gold at the Paralympics last year, 2017 has already been an incredible year for Former Pupil Corrine Hall. As well as being awarded an MBE, Corrine Hall took home two Gold and one Silver medal at the British Cycling National Championships and will be competing later this year as part of the Great Britain Cycling team at the UCI Paracycling Track World Championships in Los Angeles, piloting Sophie Thornhill. (Photo credit @CorrineHall)

CHARLES HIGHAM *Archaeologist*

Former Raynes Park Grammar School Pupil, Professor Charles Higham was honoured as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to archaeology in the New Years Honors List. Higham is regarded as one of the world's leading archaeologists and has directed archaeological research in Southeast Asia, particularly in Thailand and Cambodia, since 1969 and is regarded as the leading authority on the region's prehistory.

Do you have alumni news which you think we should know about? Please e-mail
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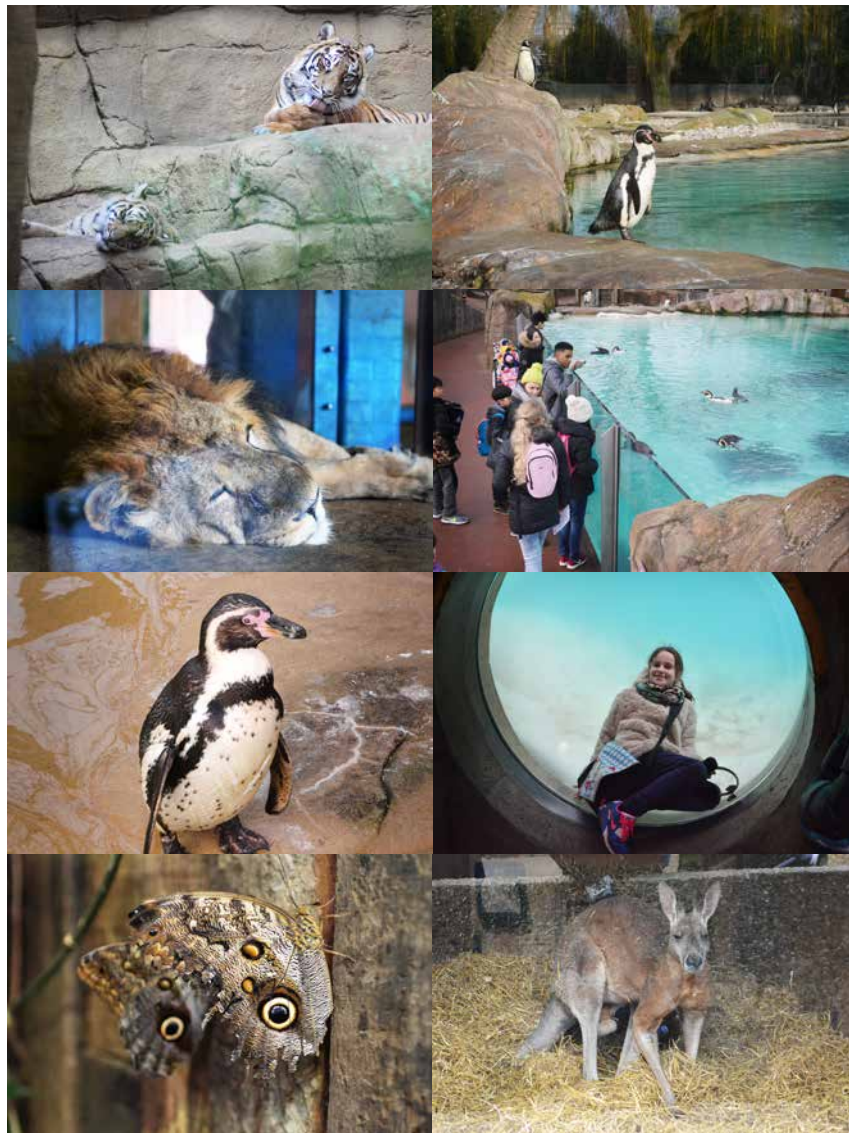


LONDON ZOO

Our EAL class had a well-earned trip to London Zoo this term in order to practice the vocabulary which they have recently been learning. The tube journey gave several of our students the opportunity to impress commuters by speedily completing Rubiks Cubes! After navigating the tube we had a twenty minute walk through Regent's Park, and were given activity packs on our arrival.

We tried our best to see every animal in the zoo, but were particularly keen on seeing the penguins. After visiting Penguin Beach, we went onto Gorilla Kingdom, Tiger Territory, Land of the Lions and much more. Many photos were taken, especially of a lion that had fallen asleep whilst right up against the glass! The Reptile House was great fun as many of the animals were camouflaged and we needed to search to find them. The Aquarium and Butterfly Paradise were amazing, and later on in the day we were lucky enough to see the giraffes, otters and snakes being fed.

After a brief stop at the Zoo gift shop, we headed home, exhausted but having had an incredible day. We must say a big thank you to the students who behaved impeccably and were a real credit to their school.



PPE EXAM RESULTS

Last term students sat their Pre Public GCSE Exam results, and this term students gathered nervously in the Main Hall to collect their results. Mr Myton held his annual assembly, and many staff were in attendance to offer their congratulations as well as advice and support. These exams are invaluable for preparing for their GCSE exams, and for many students these results were a confirmation of the time and effort they have dedicated to their studies. Our PPE results showed that more of our pupils are achieving grade 5s in English and Maths, however we continue to work hard to ensure that all pupils make the progress expected. Our Year 11s face the new challenge of harder and longer examinations in English and Maths, with the new government focus on eight good GCSEs. Our next PPE will be after the Easter break and we hope more pupils have made the progress expected as we countdown to the summer examination series that is now less than nine weeks away.



PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY

The Kings Partnership Programme held a fantastic session for Year 11 students on preparing for University. They describe their mission as being “to inspire young people to achieve their full potential and become leaders in their lives and within society.”



YEAR 11 TEAMBUILDING WORKSHOP

NCS The Challenge encourages 15-17 year olds to take on and master new skills. Evelyn, Chloe and Annabel from NCS visited our Year 11s this term to hold a fantastic team building workshop. The workshop focused on teamwork, communication and problem-solving, and there were prizes up for grabs. Needless to say, it got very competitive! You can find out more about The National Citizen Service Programme at www.NCSTheChallenge.org



House Dodgeball

For the final week of term, students represented their houses in House Dodgeball. We were so pleased with the turnout, and it was a close competition! Follow @RPHSPE and @officialRPHS on Twitter to find out the winner of the week's competition!



Dance Update

RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY

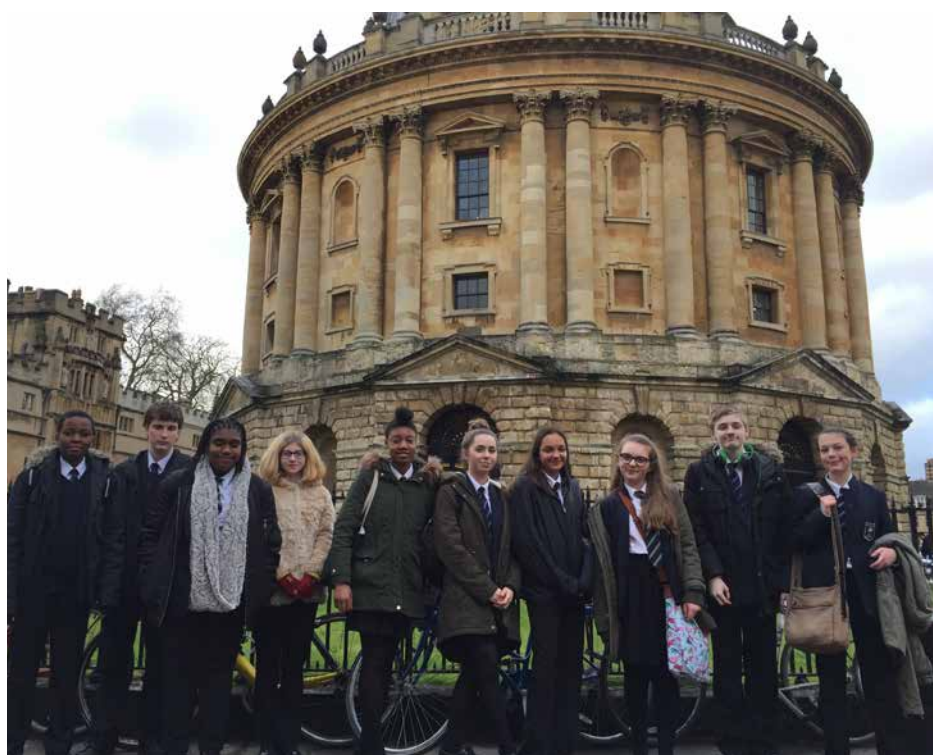


Recently, our Year 10 GCSE class have been participating in a very exciting project. They have been collaborating with the prestigious dance company Rambert in creating a dance performance based on one of their set works for GCSE (A Linha Curva). This dance will be performed at the Clore Ballroom on March 6th along with other schools from across the borough. The students

have been put through their paces, learning a new style of dance that involves samba, capoeira and contemporary. They have been doing an excellent job and have created some imaginative choreography. The class will also get the chance to watch a performance by Rambert and go to their studios in Waterloo to experience what a real life dance company looks like and how it runs.

OXFORD TRIP

A group of Year 9s took a tour of Oxford University this term, and we received very positive feedback on the trip. Our post-attendance questionnaire found that 100% of students knew more or much more about higher education after their visit, with 46% of students saying that they were now more/much more likely to apply to Oxford University. "Many thanks for visiting Merton and to your colleagues for attending and providing superb support," said Hazel at Merton College, Oxford. "The group was a pleasure to host, they behaved impeccably and engaged very positively with the all the activities and with our student ambassadors."





Dance Update

DANCE ACADEMY SUCCESS

'Make It Rayne' is Raynes Park's original dance team and has relished every opportunity at performing and competing over the last three years. Make It Rayne are already two-time National School Champions and last year continued that success. They made it through to the finals of the UK Street Dance Championship within the adults category and impressively placed 4th. The dance troupe were also successful in their bid to qualify for the UDO World Street Dance Championships for a 2nd year. Make It Rayne competed in Worlds and were announced as one of the finalists in the Over 18 Novice category. They then went on to perform to the best of their ability and finally made it onto the podium with the reward of 6th place in the world! An excellent achievement!

Additionally, both 'Make it Rayne' and 'RPCD' (our Contemporary dance team) travelled to Hayes this term to compete in a dance competition. The Great Big Dance Off is a national competition which selects the best three companies within each region. Make it Rayne was successful and have made it through to the final of this competition, which will take place in June. This means that they are one of the best dance crews within the London area and will now compete against the rest of the country!

The photographs on this page are from the Dance Show 2017 which performed to a sold-out audience. Congratulations to all involved for a fantastic show.





CHINESE STUDENTS VISIT RPHS

This term, Raynes Park High School welcomed a group of students from China for the week. They toured the school and spent a week in lessons to experience what the school day is like in England. We are so proud of the hospitality shown by the RPHS buddies, who were each paired up with an individual student.

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the buddies and visitors. "My experience with the exchange students is one I'll treasure forever," said RPHS student, Mia. "By following me around to my lessons, my buddy learnt about the UK education system and we bonded very well. It was hard saying goodbye. This was a fantastic opportunity and I hope that I am able to participate in future events." Harry, in Year 7 said "I am very happy that I had this opportunity for this ambassador job. I hope to do this again soon!"

By the end of the week, it was clear that many of the pairs would remain friends and everyone was sad to say goodbye! On the final day, the Chinese students put on a performance of dances, singing and speeches. "We have really enjoyed our time in your school," said a visiting student in their final speech. "We have all been welcomed and you have very warm hearts."

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