

THE SPUR



ISSUE 4

AUTUMN TERM 2024

 @officialRPHS



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Dear Families,

As we reach the end of another calendar year, we have success stories to share and good news items to celebrate in our end of term newsletter 'The Spur'. There have been many highlights and successes for which our Raynes Park High School community can be extremely proud. Having taken time to recover from an operation at the start of term, it has been wonderful to be back and it remains my privilege to walk through the school each day and see students smartly dressed in their uniform, engaged in their lessons and displaying such a positive attitude to learning.

This term, students have again been experiencing learning activities as part of the wider curriculum, both in school, as part of the King's Aspiration Programme and the various visits including field trips and performances at the theatre. Staff have also run a range of after school clubs in addition to the daily homework support that is available. Exciting sporting events have been in abundance this term and students have accessed a range of sports within their lessons and by attending extra-curricular clubs. We have had some impressive team wins and individual performances, and you can read more about our sporting achievements in this newsletter.

This term saw us celebrate Jeans for Genes Day, Macmillan Coffee Morning, National Anti-Bullying Week, World Diabetes Day and Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. We also celebrated Black History Month in October and Movember raised the profile of mental health throughout November. We held successful open events for the Sixth Form and entry into Year 7, along with Academic Target Setting Day, Progress Evening for Year 7, a Year 11 Revision session and the Winter Concert which highlighted the diversity, inclusiveness and talents of our wonderful student population. My thanks go to those staff and students who have made all of these events possible and to our families for supporting us with these.

The end of term is a good time to reflect on and celebrate our students' achievements and we were delighted to welcome so many families to the three Awards Evenings. Recognising effort and achievement in both subjects and sports was wonderful, as was our end of term assembly celebrating the successes of our four Houses

and individual students. It is a particular highlight for me to present Headteacher Awards to those individuals who go above and beyond. We are also looking forward to the Staff Panto and this term concludes with us saying thank you and farewell to Mr Ahmed, Ms Morgan, Ms Wotton and Ms Hughes; we wish them our very best. We also say goodbye to a long standing member of staff, Ms Finan, who retires after 26 years of service at RPHS. Ms Finan has held a number of posts at the school since starting here in 1999; she will be much missed and we wish her every happiness for her retirement.

We aim to provide the best possible educational experience for our students; all of our achievements this term are a credit to every member of our school community and we are looking forward to a well-earned break after a busy term that included our long awaited Ofsted inspection. We were really pleased to welcome the inspectors to our school for the first time since 2019 and very much look forward to sharing the report with families in January.

Thank you once again for your continued support of the school and on behalf of the staff and Governors, may I wish you and your families a safe and restful Christmas and I look forward to welcoming in the new term on Monday 6th January.

Miss KJ Taylor
Headteacher



The students created a wonderful leaving card for Ms Finan

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

The Governors would like to congratulate the whole school community on a successful Autumn term. We have visited the school on many occasions this term and can see that it is a warm and happy place. As well as the good quality teaching that goes on every day, there are excellent enrichment opportunities available to students, from a variety of after-school clubs to theatre trips and sporting fixtures. When we speak to students, they have so many positive things to say about being at RPHS.

The first half of term seems a long time ago. Back in September the Governors met to review the summer examination results and we were delighted to see such strong outcomes. We were also pleased to see that the Year 7 students and the newest members of the Sixth Form were settling in well.

The Governors recognise that the last few weeks have been exceptionally busy. Year 11 completed their first set of GCSE mock exams. The school held its annual Remembrance Assembly on 11th November, which was a reflective experience as always. The Performing Arts department has held auditions for this year's school production – well done to everyone who put themselves forward. The school celebrated the success of its students at several Awards Evenings – congratulations to all the prize-winners and the newly-formed choir and Vox group who performed at these events.

Staff, students and Governors were pleased to welcome Ofsted into the school in late November so they could see first-hand all the great work going on. And as I write this, there are end-of-term reward trips and a Performing Arts Winter Showcase still to come.

The Governors would like to thank all teachers and support staff for their hard work and commitment, not just in helping the students to learn every day but in their efforts to enhance the students' cultural capital and wellbeing. Finally, the Governors would like to thank Miss Taylor and her senior leadership team for their dedication and drive to provide the best possible learning experience for RPHS students. We look forward to supporting you in 2025.

We wish everyone an enjoyable and restorative Christmas break.



Hannah Capgras
Joint Chair of Governors

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

Help for Families from Merton

We know that the high cost of gas and electricity and ongoing Cost of Living pressures are particularly hard for families. We have been made aware that Merton Council have funded a service called Warm & Well in Merton, where the following is available:

- FREE £49 fuel voucher to help with energy costs for those with a prepay meter and following an assessment
- FREE LED lights x 4
- FREE radiator reflector panels
- FREE Carbon Monoxide detector (if required)

The service is run by the not-for-profit organisation Thinking Works who provide, alongside the items above, a free energy, finance and wellbeing assessment to make sure you are aware of ways to save energy and water and can access all the support available. The service is offered on a first-come-first served basis and is available by contacting Thinking Works on 0800 118 2327 or emailing enquiries@thinkingworks.co.uk and quoting "XXXXX School"

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST

RAYNES PARK NEWS AUTUMN TERM ROUND-UP

We are delighted to introduce our new Chair of the RPHS Charitable Trust, Margaret Tulloch, with her first newsletter

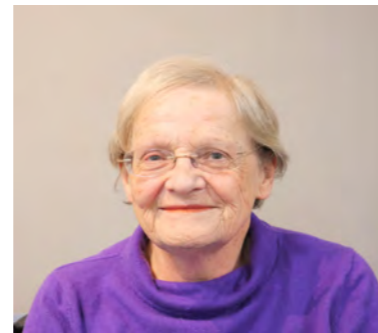
Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust funds projects and students with the aim of enhancing the experience of being a student at the school. For example we recently gave money to support students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Like so many other charities, we are totally dependent on donations. Andy Mohun Smith, one of our trustees who has raised money for the school, writes here about how he has done it through the Easyfundraising app.

There is a way you can support us without it costing you a penny. Importantly, it takes almost no effort to use. Through easyfundraising, thousands of organisations make donations based on a percentage of your spend with them to your nominated charity. Simply download the app on all devices you use to shop online, enter the details requested and name Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust as your cause. When you want to shop online, do so through the easyfundraising app. With some browsers such as Firefox, Chrome or Samsung Internet Browser it is even easier by downloading the donation reminder. With this facility, you don't even need to open the easyfundraiser app as a pop-up will appear when you visit the website of an organisation signed up to easyfundraising, asking if you want to get a donation. There are very many supermarkets and shops involved. Remember, it is the organisation you are buying

from and not you that makes the donation. It is as simple as that! Some charities have raised significant amounts of money through easyfundraising. We could be one of those with your support.'

If you would also like to support us by joining the committee we would be delighted to welcome you. Please email me at RPHSTrust@outlook.com to find out more.



Margaret Tulloch
Chair, Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust

We take a look back over the Autumn Term at some of the highlights from the news, events and achievements from RPHS

Award for Mr Harris

We are very proud to announce that Mr Harris, Head of Design, has been awarded an Achievement Medal in Education Technology from the prestigious Institution of Engineering and Technology. The IET commended Mr Harris for his outstanding contributions in education, his commitment to design and technology and his impact on young people. Many congratulations to Mr Harris!



The Globe Players Bring Theatre to RPHS

This term, the Globe Players brought their Introduction to Shakespeare to Key Stage 3 and their production of Jekyll & Hyde to Key Stage 4.



Competition Win for Year 9 Student

Huge congratulations to our Year 9 student Junhee, who, along with five other students from the local area, has won the Pearl Award in the Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Competition for their stunning artwork.

Competing against over 5,000 entries from around the world, this is a wonderful achievement for Junhee and her collaborators. Their beautiful artwork can be seen, right.

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!



THE PERFORMING ARTS WINTER SHOWCASE



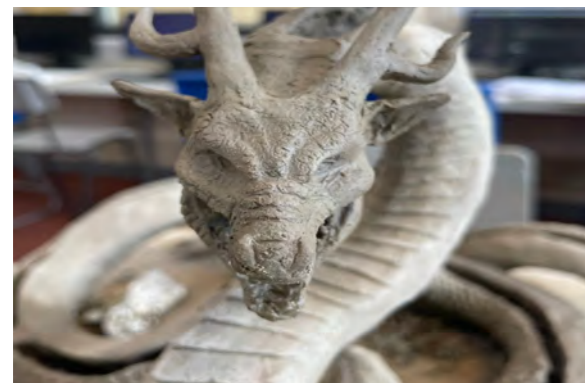
Student Leadership Team

We are very proud to introduce our Student Leadership Team. Back row from left: Kapilan, Mia, Hussein, Noel and Enea; front row: Gabia, Jem, Skye, Edison and Clara.

Year 13 Art Student's Sculpture

Saulo, in Year 13, is creating his project on the idea of 'Fantasy'. He is currently sculpting a dragon (below) that he is going to be writing a storyboard about and then creating his own fantasy comic.

Miss Horne, Head of Art



Students Experience Ultimate Tennis Showdown with Tim Henman Foundation

Thanks to a generous invitation from the Tim Henman Foundation, a group of enthusiastic young tennis fans (right), attended the Ultimate Tennis Showdown Finals, witnessing world-class

athletes compete in a thrilling display of skill, passion, and sportsmanship.

Adding to the excitement, our students had the unique opportunity to step on to the court themselves during a mid-game activity. This once-in-a-lifetime moment allowed them to soak up the atmosphere of a professional tennis environment and feel the thrill of being part of the action and being cheered on by 5,000 spectators.

The day was not only inspiring but also a fantastic chance for our students to see the rewards of dedication and hard work in sport. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Tim Henman Foundation for making this unforgettable experience possible.

Mr Oldridge, Director of Sport & Community Partnerships



On Tuesday 17th December 2024, we hosted our Performing Arts Winter Showcase. The evening was a culmination of 20 performances from the Dance, Drama and Music department.

as we did. A perfect way to end the term for the Performing Arts Department.

Miss Davis, Head of Performing Arts

The students involved ranged from Years 7 to Sixth Form, and showcased work from both the curriculum and enrichment clubs.

Among the acts, our Year 7 Drama Club performed extracts from 'Peter Pan'. The students have been working hard weekly since October to re-tell their version of the story.

Clara and Ryan in Year 11 and a group of Year 8 students performed scenes from Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet.

Alongside solo performances, Step into Dance and the Key Stage 4 Dance Company performed pieces that were choreographed by both teachers and students, and there were musical performances from Llana, Gabia, Roberta, Vox, Harmonies and Key Stage 5 students. We are incredibly proud of all the hard work from our students, and hope families and guests enjoyed the evening as much



Stay up-to-date with news on our website: www.rphs.org.uk

RPHS AWARDS SEASON



This term we held three Awards Evenings, celebrating Sport, Achievement and Attitude to Learning across the curriculum

A special congratulations goes to Kostiantyn (below), this year's recipient of the prestigious Corrine Hall Cup for Sports Person of the Year. Well done to all our winners for their hard work and commitment—a truly memorable evening for everyone involved!

Mr Oldridge, Head of Sport & Community Partnerships

Sports Awards

On 21st November, RPHS hosted its annual Sports Awards in the main hall, which was beautifully transformed for the occasion. The evening celebrated the incredible sporting achievements and dedication of over 65 students, each recognised for exemplifying our core sporting values of Pride, Participation, and Performance. It was a joy to share these moments with so many families, staff, and special guests in attendance.

Adding to the celebration, we were treated to stunning performances by three talented dancers from Years 9 and 11, showcasing the breadth of talent within our school community.



Key Stage 3 Awards

Wednesday 27th November saw students, parents, teachers and guests gather in our main hall to celebrate the achievements of our Key Stage 3 students. More than 80 students received awards for their Achievement and Attitude to Learning, alongside Head of Year Awards, the Headteacher's Award and the Milo Little Kindness Award.

We were also treated to stunning performances from the school choir – who led us all in a rousing rendition of the school song to close the evening – as well as opening music from Artur, a solo from Llana, and a performance from our Key Stage 4 vocal group, Vox.

Key Stage 4 & 5 Awards

The following week, on Wednesday 4th December, our Key Stage 4 and 5 students were joined by parents, teachers and guests for our final Awards Evening of term. Current and former students received awards for their Achievement and Attitude to Learning, alongside the Head of Year Awards, the Headteacher's Award, the Claude Rogers Art Award, the WH Auden Award for Poetry and the Paul Vaughen STEM Award.

Once more we enjoyed performances from the school choir, pianist Artur, soloist Llana, and our Key Stage 4 Vox group. We ended the evening in the traditional manner, with Mr Mohanaraj and the choir leading us in a performance of the school song.

Mr Mc Inerney, Deputy Headteacher



The RPHS Performing Arts Department has had a busy Autumn term, showcasing the impressive range of drama, music and dance talent across the school, alongside gearing up for next summer's production of High School Musical

Drama

This year, Raynes Park High School has been selected along with 30 other schools in London to take part in The Old Vic Theatre's 'School's Project'. Twenty five students across Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 have been selected to take part in termly workshops run by Old Vic practitioners focused on different disciplines within theatre. So far this year, students have taken part in 'Directing' and 'Costume Design' workshops, followed by attending the Old Vic Theatre to see a show. As part of the project the tickets provided by the Old Vic Theatre are free of charge.

In October the Drama Department took students to see 'The Real Thing' and in November to see 'A Christmas Carol'. At the end of the project Key Stage 4 and 5 students will be able to apply for work experience with the Old Vic Theatre.



Last year over 50 students took part in auditions to be part of The Globe Theatre's Youth Company, which takes place on Saturday mornings. Thirty students were successful in their auditions and as a result have been attending The Globe Theatre every Saturday since August for the Youth Theatre Company, with 28 of these

students being given a full bursary in order to attend. On Sunday 8th December all 30 Raynes Park students performed at The Globe Theatre as a part of their Youth Theatre Company Showcase.

In October, the Drama Department took the GCSE Drama Year 10 and 11 students to New Wimbledon Theatre to see 'Come From Away' for their Component 1, Live Theatre Review unit.

Thirty Year 8 students have been selected to take part in this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival. Students have been rehearsing RPHS's version of 'Romeo & Juliet' every Tuesday after school. The cast performed an extract at the Winter Showcase to prepare them for their performance at The Exchange Theatre in Twickenham next March.

Year 12 Drama students have been rehearsing and adapting the play 'Accidental Death of An Anarchist' to perform to a live audience at the end of this term for their Unit 34 assessment. In order to get inspiration for their piece, students visited the National Theatre in December to see a performance of 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. They will also visit the archive there to see costumes, original scripts and rehearsal documentation of plays previously performed at the National Theatre.

In September, sign-ups for this year's whole school production of 'High School Musical' began, with an amazing turn out of 300 students signing up for performance and backstage roles. The Performing Arts team carried out group auditions, with 200 students attending. Following this, six rounds of main role callback auditions took place in November. The final cast list will be published in the last week of term.

Miss Pope, Head of Drama

Music

The Music Department is buzzing with excitement and talent this term as our students continue to excel in various musical endeavours. Here are some highlights.

Our school choir, Harmonies, has been shining brightly this term, with a packed schedule of performances at Awards Evenings and the Winter Showcase. Their performances added a touch of elegance and emotion to the events as they performed a heartfelt rendition of *A Million Dreams* from 'The Greatest Showman'. The choir also performed Christmas carols at Link House Care & Nursing Home, leaving residents and staff in the festive spirit.

Our talented senior vocal group, Vox, continues to set high standards for vocal excellence. They are currently performing a moving version of *Stand Up* by Cynthia Erivo, a challenging piece that showcases their incredible vocal range and unity. Vox has also been spreading Christmas cheer with carol performances and a version of *All I want for Christmas* by Mariah Carey for Beaumont Care Home.



Our Sixth Form music students have been busy creating professional-quality music with their R&B Nights EP. This fantastic EP, produced by Stewart, Ricky, Llana, and Khyziah, features stunning covers such as *Saving All My Love*, *Empire State of Mind*, *Creep*, and *My Way*. All tracks are performed by Llana and showcase the students' expertise in arrangement, production, mixing, and mastering.

A group of Sixth Form students, led by Khyziah, is producing an original track featuring rap artists Damari, David, and Shafiq. We're eagerly anticipating the release of this song on streaming platforms soon!

We are immensely proud of our students for their hard work, creativity, and dedication to music. From polished performances to professional-level productions, they exemplify what it means to be passionate about their craft.

Stay tuned for more updates and performances as we continue to celebrate the talent and dedication of our young musicians. Here's to another harmonious term!

Mr Mohanaraj, Head of Music





Dance

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

Back in September we launched our 'Step into Dance' programme, led by a practitioner from the Royal Academy of Dance. Students were invited to take part in this and have shown great passion, commitment and dedication to this group. Eighteen students from Years 7, 8 and 9 have been working on a piece inspired by water. They performed this as part of the Performing Arts Winter Showcase.

In addition to this, Dance Club, which takes place on Tuesday PM break, has large numbers of students coming along to create movement and share the enjoyment of dance with their peers. The club is open to everyone, and we welcome new members every week. After the Christmas break we will be working on the creation of a piece for an upcoming performance afternoon as part of the Merton Schools Dance Festival.

The KS4 Dance Company is becoming a great representation of the talented dancers we have here at RPHS. The group is attended by 16 Year 10 & 11 students who often come back to school to attend the enrichment between 4-5pm. The group are being challenged with difficult material taught and led by Mr Forrester. The group is a

reminder of why we dance and again, is another great representation of the incredibly talented students we have at this school. Examples of their work could be seen in the Performing Arts Winter Showcase 2024.

On Thursday 21st November, RPHS hosted its Sports Awards evening. During the evening three students from years 9 and 11 performed to the parents, teachers, award winners and special guests in a range of different dance styles. Kaithlyn (Year 11) performed a contemporary dance piece, demonstrating her exemplary technical, physical and expressive skills in dance. Alice and Kaylee (Year 9) performed a piece to Ariana Grande's *Break Free*. The students spent time after school creating and rehearsing, culminating in a fantastic performance. I thank each of these students for their passion and dedication towards dance and congratulate them on another great performance.

Miss Davis, Head of Performing Arts



CARE HOME CAROLS



In the run-up to Christmas, Head of Music Mr Mohanaraj and the RPHS choir visited the Link House Care Home, and entertained the residents with a rousing selection of traditional and modern carols. *'Our residents thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and the festive spirit you brought into our home was truly warming. All who attended agreed that the performance was brilliant and brought smiles and cheer to everyone.'*

- Link House Wellbeing Manager



This October, Raynes Park High School came together to celebrate Black History Month with a series of vibrant events and meaningful activities that honoured the richness of Black culture while fostering important conversations about representation and equality. Mr McCurdy looks back at the month's events

Cultural Dress Day

One of the standout moments was Cultural Dress Day, where students and staff proudly donned attire reflecting their heritage. The day brought an explosion of colour and pride to the school, celebrating the diversity within our community.



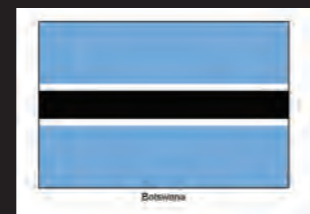
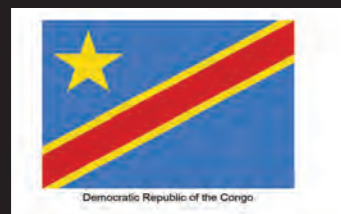
Our Black History Month Assembly offered a thought-provoking focus on positive Black representation, addressing how societal discrimination affects ethnic minorities. It also challenged us all to take active steps toward inclusivity and understanding.

changeovers, creating an energetic and celebratory environment.

To complement these discussions, the school canteen served up delicious cultural dishes, allowing students to explore the flavours of various Black cuisines. Adding to the atmosphere, the hallways and classrooms resonated with music from iconic Black artists during lesson

These events showcased Raynes Park High School's commitment to celebrating diversity and fostering a community built on respect, understanding, and unity. Black History Month 2024 was truly a memorable and inspiring time for everyone involved.

Mr M McCurdy
Assistant Headteacher



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY NEWS

London Loud: the RPHS team pioneering excellence in Esports



The London Loud Esports team, representing Raynes Park High School, has established itself as a force to be reckoned with in the burgeoning world of competitive gaming. The team competes at an elite level in the British Esports Championships across Street Fighter 6, Overwatch 2, and Apex Legends. With a blend of strategic insight, teamwork, and individual brilliance, the squad is not only climbing the leaderboards but also gaining valuable insights into careers and education within Esports.

The team has recently made waves in the Street Fighter 6 Cup, where they secured the top spot on the leaderboard. This accomplishment reflects not only their raw skill but also their meticulous preparation. Daniel, one of the standout performers in the team, has been pivotal in their success. Daniel's lightning-fast reflexes and strategic understanding of the game have given London Loud a decisive edge over their rivals.

The team's success is a result of their rigorous practice schedule and the analytical sessions, where matches are dissected and strategies refined. 'It's not just about playing the game; it's about understanding it,' he notes, emphasising the importance of preparation in their triumphs.

The excitement surrounding London Loud does not end with Street Fighter 6. The team is eagerly awaiting the outcome of the Overwatch National Open and the Apex Legends Cup. Both tournaments are fiercely contested, with top-tier teams vying for supremacy, but London Loud remains confident in their ability to perform.

In Overwatch 2, Karol has emerged as a critical player. Known for his adaptability and

game sense, Karol excels in high-pressure situations, turning the tide of matches with clutch plays. His ability to coordinate with teammates while maintaining sharp individual performances makes him a lynchpin for the team.

Meanwhile, in Apex Legends, Yusuf has been shining brightly. His sharp aim, strategic positioning, and cool-headed decision-making in Battle Royale scenarios have brought the team several critical victories. Yusuf's knack for reading the game and anticipating opponents' moves has made him a formidable competitor.

Beyond Competition: Esports Education and Career Opportunities

While London Loud thrives on competition, the team's journey goes beyond gaming. Players are exploring the broader ecosystem of Esports, including career pathways and opportunities in further education. This dual focus on performance and personal development ensures that students gain a well-rounded experience that prepares them for the future.

The team will attend workshops and seminars about the Esports industry, covering topics such as event management, content creation, marketing, and game design. These sessions provide insights into the diverse career options available within the sector, from professional gaming to roles in production, coaching, and analytics.

Karol, for example, has expressed interest in pursuing a career in game design, inspired by his experiences with competitive gaming. Amber has started exploring potential opportunities in event coordination, while Yusuf is intrigued by the business and sponsorship side of Esports. The program's holistic approach not only enhances their gaming skills but also helps them build a foundation for long-term success.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Gamers

London Loud's achievements have also sparked interest among students at Raynes Park High School, inspiring a new wave of gamers to pursue Esports. The team's success has demonstrated that gaming is not merely a pastime but a legitimate avenue for personal and professional growth.

As Esports continues to grow in popularity and recognition, London Loud's journey serves as a testament to the transformative potential

of gaming. The team's dedication has turned them into trailblazers, not only in competition but also in education and career development.

Looking Ahead

With the results of the Overwatch National Open and Apex Legends Cup on the horizon, London Loud's future looks bright. The team's focus on excellence, combined with their commitment to learning and growth, ensures they remain a powerhouse in the British Esports Championships.

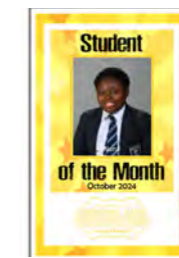
For Daniel, Amber, Karol, Yusuf, and their teammates, the journey has just begun. Whether they are securing victories in tournaments or exploring new career opportunities, London Loud is redefining what it means to be a student-athlete in the digital age. Their story is not just one of competition but of innovation, ambition, and the boundless possibilities of Esports.

Mr Harris, Head of Art & Design

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Many congratulations to our Catering and DT Students of the Month for this term: Harley, Mark, Martin, Nana, Oscar and Rylie.

Mr Robinson, DT Teacher



SCIENCE UPDATE

Every week during the Autumn Term, a group of Year 8 students has been taking part in a series of aspirational science workshops, hosted by King's College School in Wimbledon

Every Friday afternoon throughout this term, the students have travelled to King's College School. The format of the sessions always started off with understanding the science, before being presented with a scenario in which students designed a solution or item that was best suited for the particular purpose.

The first week was discovering how forces can be manipulated so that a greater force can be reduced by design. The objective was to prevent an egg from cracking after being dropped from the second floor of a building. The students all had the same materials but their designs were very different. Whilst some used a conventional parachute, other designs looked more like some sort of futuristic flying car. Their designs were named with high aspirations, however I think 'Humpty Kite' had his destiny already foretold. Crack, thump and crash... There were some eggs that didn't get to see Saturday morning!

In the following weeks students explored what sound is and how it affects particles, exploring colour through colorimetry and working with acids. In another exciting week, they were set the challenge of launching rockets the greatest distance. Through a cycle of designing and testing, the students were able to increase the thrust of their rockets whilst also reducing the forces that opposed the forward motion. Naming the rockets was critical and I am sure that Elon Musk will be taking some inspiration for his future endeavours. From 'Vanilla Ice Cream With a Hat' to 'Intergalactic Explorer' the rockets were always going to be a huge success!

Throughout the weeks the students always upheld great values of respect, contribution and encouragement to each other and they should be proud of how they conducted themselves. Keep exploring!

Mr Williams, Head of KS3 Science



LITERACY UPDATE

This term has brought creative writing success, and new books for our Year 7 students and also, thanks to the Scholastic Book Fair, for the RPHS library

A Book for all Year 7 Students

We have once again been able to gift all of our Year 7 students a book to read over Christmas! Our student librarians have carefully matched these to the reading level and interests of this year group to find something that they will enjoy, gift wrapping these to be delivered in their last English lesson of the term. To add to their enjoyment of this new book, our student librarians will then be finding a Year 7 buddy so that they are able to share this new book together, reading aloud. A huge thanks to the generous donations of staff and school contacts who have made this possible once again!

Creative Writing Success

Creative Writing Club are always looking into opportunities to enter our writing into national competitions, so we are delighted to announce that Honey in Year 11 will have a poem published by 'Young Writers'.

The competition was entitled 'The Beautiful Truth' and the judges were looking for creative expression. Honey's poem was a detailed personal reflection on a relationship with powerful visual imagery. Well done Honey!



We are also delighted to report that RPHS had two winners and a runner-up at this year's Wimbledon BookFest creative writing competition. Huge congratulations to Juliet, who won the KS3 poetry prize, Honey, who won the KS4 poetry prize, and Maryam, who was the runner-up in the KS4 short story competition. The winners attended a prizegiving event at Wimbledon Theatre during BookFest.



Scholastic Book Fair

This term we were delighted to once again host the Scholastic Book Fair. The money spent generated some wonderful new books for our students.



Mrs Waterston, Head of Literacy and Librarian

HUMANITIES WEEK

This Autumn term, the Humanities Department hosted its annual Humanities Week. Mr Cahill offers a look back at this exciting event that featured a quiz, an Eco House design challenge, and a variety of activities across the school - including a visit from Zoo Lab

Events for this year's Humanities Week, which ran from 7-11 October, included a "Name the Country" quiz, a "Design Your Best Eco House" challenge, the Raynes Park Sustainability Drive, and a visit from Zoo Lab - always a popular date in the RPHS calendar!

The Zoo Lab presenter provided students with the unique opportunity to interact with real-life rainforest animals, such as a giant African snail, Madagascar hissing cockroaches, tarantula, and a grass snake, while at the same time students learnt more about these unique creatures and their habitats and lifestyles.

Additionally, the Geography Department led five successful Year 11 field trips to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford, East London. During these trips, students worked diligently to investigate whether the regeneration of this area of the capital has had a positive impact on the local community and environment.

Mr Cahill, Head of Geography



SIXTH FORM TRIP TO POLAND

In October, two Year 12 history students, Craig and Sydney, made an unforgettable journey to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Below, they give their impressions of this moving experience



The trip to Auschwitz was a harrowing experience, that's the only real way I can describe it to people when they ask, "What was it like?"

Both camps that we went to on the day, Auschwitz 1 and Birkenau, had a sombre tone, with not much talking by anyone. At Auschwitz 1 we were taken around by a Polish guide, who showed us all of the personal belongings left by the victims of the camp in the later months of the war. The sheer quantity of all the different things, be these pairs of glasses or suitcases, left me and most people there, lost for words. It didn't just show the massive number of people who had lost their lives but, for want of better words, these belongings humanised the victims.

When studying the Holocaust it is easy to be overwhelmed by the unfathomable number of the six million victims, and it's easy to forget that they weren't just a statistic but they were people like us who had lives before the war. I personally don't believe in spirits and ghosts, but both camps had an indescribable feeling about them, that paired with the oddly beautiful sunset we saw when

visiting the second camp. This trip is one that I will always remember as I think it changed me in a way. If you ever get the opportunity to go, take it, because this is a part of history that I believe should never be forgotten. - **Craig, Year 12**

The day was very busy, but very well organised. Getting up early in the morning to get to the airport and returning in the evening was a challenge, but we found no issues, due to the smooth workings of everyone involved. During the day we visited many thought-provoking and devastating places, including Auschwitz and Birkenau. This was incredibly emotionally challenging, but taught me so much.

One thing I can definitely say is that it was incredibly emotional to see and stand in the place where such horribly devastating things had happened. This was a moment I will never forget, and as much as it was a difficult day, it was an absolutely incredible learning experience, that makes what happened in the Holocaust feel so real. I am very grateful that I was able to go on this eye-opening journey. - **Sydney, Year 12**

YEAR 7 TEAMBUILDING DAY

Back in September, at the start of the Autumn term - and despite the rain - our new cohort of Year 7 students embarked on an exciting teambuilding day, aimed at embracing new beginnings

This special event was designed to mark the conclusion of Year 7's transition period and help them to feel more connected to their new school community.

Divided into their assigned houses, the students participated in a variety of engaging activities that allowed them to express their creativity and strengthen their collaboration skills. They began the day with art sessions, where they had the opportunity to work together on creative projects, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie right from the onset.

The fun continued with a series of team games led by our PE staff. These activities were not only enjoyable but also provided a valuable platform for the students to develop essential teamwork skills and build lasting friendships.

To conclude this memorable day, a special assembly took place, celebrating the

achievements of all the students. Medals were awarded to the winning teams, recognising their hard work and team spirit throughout the day.

Mr Burnett, Head of Year 7



AUTUMN TERM SPORTS UPDATE

The Autumn term has been packed full of sporting fixtures. The creation of the new Cross-Borough Football and Netball leagues by our PE team has seen a big increase in the opportunities that we are able to offer our students to participate in competitive sporting fixtures across Key Stage 3 & 4. Attendance to training sessions and after-school clubs continues to be strong and as a result we are seeing some real positive steps in terms of results.

Well done to all of the students who have modelled the school values of respect, resilience and results so fantastically through their sporting endeavours this term, and thank you to the PE team for all their hard work in facilitating these opportunities.

Mr Sanderson, Head of PE

Football

Year 7 Boys

The Year 7 team got off to a strong start this season coming from behind to secure a 3-3 draw against local rivals Southborough in the dying seconds of the game, thanks to a fantastic hat trick from Malik. Their second outing was against tougher opposition as they drew an away fixture at Reigate in the first round of the Surrey Cup. Unfortunately they ended up on the wrong end of a one-sided score line, losing 7-0. There were positives to take from the game however, and with attendance continuing to be incredibly high at after-school training sessions it provided plenty of areas to work on.

The next fixture saw some squad rotation with several students making their debut in a second league fixture, with a home fixture against Hollyfield. Unfortunately the result did not go our way but there were some excellent performances from the debutants, including a series of fantastic saves from Carter in goal to keep the tie competitive.

Unfortunately the weather has prevented any further Year 7 fixtures in the past few weeks with two fixtures having to be postponed. But it has been fantastic to see the effort and enthusiasm from the boys during term 1, and also great to see several students stepping up to represent the Year 8 team!

Mr Sanderson, Head of PE



Year 8 Boys

Year 8 football this year has consisted of ups and downs. The boys have struggled with results in the past and are now on the way up. With a strong sense of consistency, the team are starting to rack up goals as they hunt for their first win.

Our most recent game was an unfortunate 7-4 loss to Rutlish School, but the boys represented the school's ethos excellently and they used this to build their resilience. Their communication on and off the pitch improves every day as they turn up to Squad Training on Tuesdays and Social Football on Mondays. As the boys know, hard work equals positive results. They use this motivation to strive forwards into the second half of the season.

Mr Forrester, Dance and PE Teacher

Year 9 Boys

The season has been a successful showcase of our commitment to inclusive football and competitive squad performance. Our inclusive sessions have seen a fantastic turnout, providing an opportunity for players of all abilities to engage in skill-building drills and gameplay improvement.

On the competitive front, our Year 9 team has been exceptional, remaining unbeaten in both the league and the Surrey Cup. Their outstanding performance, including a remarkable away victory against Lingfield College, highlights their skill, determination, and teamwork.

Mr Bishop, PE Teacher

Year 10 Boys

The Year 10 team experienced a slower start to their season but demonstrated resilience and progress. They secured their first win in a thrilling match against local rivals Rutlish, showcasing their potential and the promise of even greater success.

Mr Bishop, PE Teacher

Year 11 Boys

The Year 11 boys football team kicked off the league with a convincing 7-2 victory over local rivals Southborough, the highlight being an expertly placed free kick from David. Fulham U16 player and school captain Bashil ran the show, however the most impressive performance came from Ahmed, who earned himself the 'Man of the Match' award. The Year 11s are excited for their next league fixture and are also eagerly awaiting to learn who they will face in the cup having earned a 'by' in the first round.

Mr Bartlett, Head of Year 11

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form boys played their first round cup game away to St Marks. A dramatic late equaliser for the away side saw a 4-4 full time score and RPHS went on to win on penalties and progress to the next round of the cup. Special mention to those who kept incredibly cool heads under pressure to take the penalties and save them!

Mr Wheel, Head of Sixth Form

Girls Football

Girls football continues to go from strength to strength. This year, we are involved in football leagues (set up by RPHS) against local schools from Merton and Kingston. We have three squads this year and we are also entered into the Surrey County Cup competition with ties to be played towards the end of term and in the New Year. So far, the girls have played Kingston Academy and Chessington School and unfortunately suffered narrow losses in each tie but there are plenty of positives to take from these games. In the cup, our U13 Girls Team head to George Abbot School in Guildford in the opening round whilst our U16 Girls (previous Quarter Finalists in the competition) are at home to local rivals Ursuline in the second round.

Mr Prichard, PE Teacher

Key Stage 3 Rugby

Our Year 7 rugby teams are off to an impressive start, showcasing tremendous potential in their first-ever touch rugby tournament, invited by our new rugby partners, Harlequins. Both the boys and girls demonstrated great enthusiasm and quickly picked up the skills of the game, delivering outstanding performances. The boys' team was unstoppable, going unbeaten and winning every match. In a thrilling opener, they narrowly defeated their opponents 2 tries to 1, only to face them again later in the day and secure a dominant 5-0 victory. The girls' team also excelled, showing incredible teamwork and determination. They would have been unbeaten if not for an exciting clash against our own boys' team! I'm incredibly proud of their effort, sportsmanship, and rapid development, and I can't wait to see how these teams progress in the future. Well done to all involved!

The Year 8 rugby team continues to show great commitment and determination as they work hard to refine their skills and build on their teamwork. Their dedication during training sessions has been impressive, and the progress they've made is a testament to their effort. With a game already lined up for the new year, the team is excited to put their hard work into action and showcase their improvement on the field. Thank you to Old Emanuels RFC who continue to support the school in our rugby ambitions.

Mr Oldridge, Head of Sport & Community Partnerships

Girls Basketball

Well done to the Girls Basketball teams who have made a very strong start to the year. The highlights so far are the Year 7 team who managed to follow in the footsteps of last year's team and beat Ursuline to win the Borough cup, and also the Year 10 team who recorded a dominant win over Harris Wimbledon.

Mr Arnot, Head of Year 10



Netball

The Autumn term for netball has been a fantastic success, highlighted by a strong turnout at Netball Club each Wednesday. Our Year 7, 8 and 9 teams are now part of a netball league that has allowed them to compete against schools outside of Merton, including Hollyfield and Chessington. This has allowed them to play more regular fixtures, alongside the bigger Merton Borough tournaments. On a sadder note, our Year 11 girls played in their final Borough tournament this term, with many of the girls representing Raynes Park in Netball since Year 7. They will be extremely missed!

Notable achievements this term have been the Year 7 team's impressive 12-1 victory over Chessington, and the Year 8 team's dominant 11-3 win against Hollyfield. These victories showcase the players' hard work, skill development, and growing confidence on the court. Overall, the term has been full of progress, with the league matches providing valuable experience and laying the groundwork for continued success in future competitions.

A huge thank you also to Anna in Year 10 and Skye in Year 13, who continue to take on huge leadership roles in netball club and are both wonderful role models for the younger students. Thank you so much for your continued help, support and the enthusiasm you bring to Netball Club each week.

Ms McCourt, PE Teacher

Badminton

The newly formed Key Stage 3 boys squad took part in the Borough competition held at Rutlish school. Rutlish finished with a 6-0 win over RPHS in a tough outing for the squad in their first event. However, it is great to see the boys participating in a sport that is new to them and showing the resilience to push themselves out of their comfort zone. No doubt they will learn from the experience and return stronger.

Mr Bishop, PE Teacher



Wimbledon Ball Boys and Girls Programme

First and foremost, I would like to thank every student who has taken an interest in completing the Wimbledon Ball Boy/Girl programme in Year 9 and Year 10. For most the process started at the end of the last academic year when taster training ran through the Summer term. Since then, students have worked tirelessly on improving their skills and knowledge in our weekly training sessions, and have pushed one another to better themselves ahead of the final selection date.

Well done to all of those who completed the online training and continued with the physical element of the programme after the October half term break. It is just as important to understand the theoretical situations each BBG may find themselves in as it is to have good practical skills in those moments. As a group, they have continued to develop their stamina, speed and the necessary skills required to make it to the Championships.

I have been so impressed with the commitment of all of those who have lived and breathed the skills of rolling, feeding and receiving. It has made the decision of which nine students to take to January's trial all the more difficult to make. Again, a huge thank you to everyone who has been a part of it so far this year. Well done to those who are progressing to the trials and good luck - I am sure you will represent yourselves and the school in a positive light.

Mr Wheel, Head of Sixth Form

Cross Country

RPHS students from Years 7 to 11 competed in the Borough Cross Country event at Abbey Recreation Ground. Well done to all of our students who showed excellent resilience and determination. A particular mention to Theo in Year 8, who collected the bronze medal, and to Ebenezer in Year 11 who won silver. Both of these students will now have the opportunity to represent Merton in the upcoming Surrey competition.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Autumn Term saw a whole range of events and activities taking place with our community partners, allowing our students to develop their leadership skills, alongside offering several local primary students the chance to experience the wonderful facilities here at RPHS

Aragon Humanities Week

We welcomed Aragon Primary back to RPHS for their Humanities Week in October. This year, the Geography department were leading the workshop with the focus on sustainability.

The session was jam packed with activities from 'True or False' questions to developing subject specific vocabulary.

The excitement was at its peak as teams competed against each other to develop their own Eco house, with great teamwork on show as they had to plan, budget and build their own developments.

Mr Oldridge, Head of Sport & Community Partnerships



Green Lane Forces Workshop

Green Lane Primary Year 5s have recently been studying forces and mechanisms as part of their science curriculum. We were delighted to invite them to our science labs to engage in a workshop with Mr Willams (Head of Key Stage 3 Science). They were quizzed on their prior knowledge and stretched their understanding. They finally put those theories to the test with a creative task looking at forces and buoyancy. We also received some wonderful feedback from Green Lanes, from their teacher who said, "The children were very engaged with the lesson and found it really fun. They were able to consolidate their learning and also learn some new language."

She also said that on the way back to school, a number of pupils were saying "that was the best morning ever!" We look forward to the second Year 5 class joining us to take part in the workshop.

Mr Oldridge, Director of Sport and Community Partnerships



Merton Primary Inclusive Dodgeball Festival

This was the first of our events supporting the Merton School Sport Partnership for the 2024-25 academic year.

The partnership between RPHS and MSSP has been growing over the last few years and they have requested our Sports Leaders support more and more as the years go on. This time out was the Dodgeball Festival where 14 Merton Primary Schools competed in a round robin format. The Sports Leaders were fantastic with Nick from MSSP commenting 'they have been brilliant today, they are so engaging and supportive of the younger pupils.'

Special mention must go to Favor, who was excellent throughout and built up a fantastic supportive relationship with the younger students.

Merton Primary Boys Football Championship

The MSSP Boys Football Championship brought 300 local students to Tooting and Mitcham FC to compete to be crowned Borough champions. Our Sports Leaders were requested by MSSP to support this event, with our Level 3 Sports Leaders and Fulham Football and Education students being excellent role models. The leaders were tasked with refereeing the 7-a-side games, with several of the boys stepping in to help coach some teams.

Fraser from MSSP stated that 'the group performed extremely well, particularly in challenging situations.' Harry was a standout performer. Having recently completed his Level 2 referee qualification, he was requested to take charge of the finals, due to his excellent decision making and calmness in all situations. Well done, Harry! I think we might have the makings of an international referee on our hands!

Mr Oldridge, Director of Sport and Community Partnerships



Merton Primary SEND Pantathlon Festival

Panathlon is a national charity which, every year, gives young people with disabilities and special educational needs the opportunity to take part in competitive sport. In partnership with MSSP we supported the event with our fantastic Sports Leaders at the AELTC Community Tennis Centre in Raynes Park.

This event was an excellent opportunity for our leaders to develop their skills and consider how activities would need to be adapted for those with additional needs. David from Panathlon commented, 'The leaders were great today; they were incredibly supportive of all the pupils who attended and made the event run so smoothly.' A special well done has to go out to Arbon, who was extremely engaging in his activity, making the activity fun and accessible for all who took part.

Merton Primary Girls Football Festival and Championship

The MSSP Girls Football Festival and Championship, held across two Fridays in November at Tooting and Mitcham FC, was a fantastic celebration of sport, bringing together 300 local students. The event provided a valuable opportunity for more girls to engage in sporting activities, culminating in the crowning of the Borough Champions during the second festival.

Our RPHS sports leaders, including Fulham Football and Education students, were once again invited by MSSP to support the event, serving as outstanding role models for the young participants. They skillfully refereed the 7-a-side games and, in some cases, stepped up

to coach teams, demonstrating leadership and adaptability. Fraser from MSSP praised the group, saying, "The group were excellent referees on both occasions, showing great confidence and communication." A huge well done to everyone involved for making the festival a memorable experience for all!

Merton Primary Sports Hall Athletics Championships

The Sports Hall Athletics event was an incredible showcase of energy and enthusiasm, with over 400 students from local schools coming together to compete in a range of exciting indoor athletic challenges. Our RPHS Sports Leaders played an essential role in the smooth running of the event, taking on officiating responsibilities with professionalism and dedication.

From timing sprints to measuring long jumps, every student stepped up to ensure the event ran seamlessly, creating a positive and supportive environment for all participants. Their efforts were highly praised by staff and attendees alike, highlighting the vital role they played in the event's success. Nick from MSSP commented 'Another brilliant display from the RPHS Sports Leaders, they were very professional and efficient in their role helping the day run exactly to plan.' Congratulations to all involved for making this fantastic day of sport a triumph for our community!

Mr Oldridge, Director of Sport and Community Partnerships

WELLBEING IN SCHOOL

This term throughout the school we have celebrated World Mental Health Day, and continued to support all our students, both within school and with the co-operation of local external agencies, such as the NHS Merton Education Wellbeing Service

How have we been promoting wellbeing?

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

This term we have continued to work closely with the NHS Merton Education Wellbeing Service to expand the capacity of therapeutic intervention our Education Wellbeing Practitioners have been able to offer. We are now proud to say we have four practitioners in each week, working at full capacity, who are able to offer support to students with low mood, anxiety, exam stress and self-esteem. If you would be interested in accessing this intervention, please use the following link to self-refer: <https://forms.office.com/e/Ha1dWq3Q5C>

Our EWP team will be in to deliver exam stress workshops to Year 11 and Sixth Formers in the Spring term. If you would like to take part in these workshops, please drop Ms Yusuf an email to express your interest. Sign-ups and further information will also be provided via assemblies and tutor time slides early next year so do keep your eyes peeled for this!

This term we have successfully hosted a number of drop-down events, in alignment with our RSHE+C curriculum.

In October, we partnered with Voicebox to deliver workshops on Healthy Masculinity to our Year 10 students. We also celebrated World Mental Health Day in October with tutor times providing key information and education on the day and

its importance, with the aim to continue to fight the stigma surrounding mental health.

In December we hosted a whole school drop-down morning. The Year 7s and Year 11s worked with the charity LMK to cover topics surrounding healthy relationships; Year 8 had workshops on marriage, gender and sexuality; Year 9 attended assemblies and workshops with Social Workers and the Metropolitan Police to learn about consent, county lines and the law, whilst Year 10 worked with Catch 22 to learn about substance misuse and risky behaviours.

We have received some amazing feedback from the agencies we worked with on this day and are so extremely proud of our students for their care and conversations surrounding some of the sensitive themes covered during their workshops.

LMK have expressed how impressed they were with Year 7 and 11, stating that their maturity, emotional intelligence, and willingness to engage in vital conversations about relationships are a true credit to



the school, the community, and the nurturing environment they've grown up in.

I want to express a massive well done and thank you to all who took part in these events and we look forward to hosting more agencies and workshops next term!

Ms Yusuf,
Student Wellbeing Manager

Support over the holidays

While the holidays are an exciting time for many young people, for some, they can be stressful and difficult. We want you to know that you do not have to suffer in silence and that support is readily available should you be interested. Please see our website and the table, below, for a list of helplines and websites offering support.

Ms 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



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





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/video call counselling.
www.talkofftherecord.org





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



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.



Call us free 24/7 on **116 123**
samaritans.org



Young People can use the Young Minds Crisis Messenger by texting 'YM' to 85258

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**



PREMIER LEAGUE INSPIRES PROGRAMME

At the end of term, students who are taking part in the Premier League Inspires Programme were treated to a special trip to Fulham FC's Craven Cottage to celebrate their success and dedication. Mr Oldridge looks back at the day

Students participating in the Premier League Inspires Programme were recently treated to an unforgettable visit to Fulham FC's iconic Craven Cottage stadium. The trip marked the end of their first term, celebrating their hard work, dedication, and personal growth.

The day was packed with inspiring activities designed to reward the students for their efforts and encourage them to continue striving for success. The group began their visit with a warm welcome from Fulham FC Foundation staff, followed by an exclusive behind-the-scenes stadium tour. Students explored iconic areas, including the players' tunnel, changing rooms, and pitchside views, gaining an insider's perspective on the life of a professional footballer.

A highlight of the day was an interactive workshop where students reflected on their achievements, shared stories of personal growth, and set goals for the future. The workshop provided an opportunity for students

to celebrate their progress while building skills such as teamwork and self-confidence. The day concluded with a celebratory presentation, where students received awards of achievement and were commended for their hard work and dedication.

This inspiring trip was a powerful reminder of the impact of the Premier League Inspires Programme in helping young people develop essential life skills. One student summed up the experience perfectly: "It was amazing to see behind the scenes of a Premier League club and celebrate what we've achieved. It's made me excited for what's next!"

A huge thank you to Fulham FC Foundation for hosting such an incredible day and for their ongoing support of the Premier League Inspires initiative. We can't wait to see what these students accomplish next!

Mr Oldridge, Director of Sport and Community Partnerships



NEWSOMS

MILTONS

GIBBS

HALLIWELLS

HOUSE UPDATE

The House system continues to be an integral part of life at our school. Throughout the Autumn term, all students have had lots of opportunities to showcase their talents, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

The much-anticipated Cross Country event took place earlier this term, and it was fantastic to see so many students displaying the school values. Newsoms secured a well-deserved 1st place. Not far behind, Halliwells claimed 2nd place, followed by Gibbs in 3rd place, with Miltons rounding off the results in 4th place. Congratulations to everyone who participated and made this event such a success!

Our recent Benchball Tournament saw a fantastic display of teamwork. Gibbs emerged as the champions, showcasing incredible skill and determination throughout the competition. Miltons came in a close 2nd place, followed by Newsoms in 3rd place, and Halliwells in 4th place. Well done to all teams for their effort and enthusiasm!

The House system extends far beyond sports, with wider opportunities for students to shine in various areas. This term, students have had opportunities to participate in events such as the MFL Spelling Bee, where students put their linguistic skills to the test, and Performing Arts competitions, which highlighted the amazing creative talents in our school. These events, alongside many others, have truly showcased the diverse abilities of our students, and there is so much more to look forward to in the Spring term!

The Autumn term was also marked by a range of successful charity events. A huge thank you to everyone who participated in and supported these worthwhile causes:

- Macmillan Coffee Morning, where we hosted a bake sale.
- Jeans for Genes Day: students wore denim to support genetic disorder charities.
- Children in Need: which included the ever-popular penalty shootouts and the hilarious Sponge a Teacher event.
- Christmas Jumper Day: students and staff wore festive jumpers to raise money for Save the Children.

Thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm, we have made a significant impact for these charities. None of these events would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our fantastic House Captains from Year 10. Their leadership, organisation, and enthusiasm have been instrumental in making every event run smoothly. A huge thank you to each and every one of them for their efforts this term!

As we look ahead to the Spring term, we can promise even more events, competitions, and opportunities for all houses to shine. Let's keep up the energy and team spirit as we continue to work, compete, and have fun together!

Mr Sanderson, Head of PE

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.

Please give it a try!



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www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs

Support this cause

1

Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs click 'support this cause' and register

2

Choose your retailer and shop as normal

3

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

