


THE SPUR



ISSUE 5 SPRING TERM 2025





 Raynes Park High School and Sixth Form

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Dear Families,

The end of term provides the perfect opportunity for us to celebrate the incredible achievements of all those at Raynes Park High School and it remains my privilege to share with you the variety of events our students have taken part in since January. Our aim is to provide the very best educational experience for all and the achievements this term are a credit to every member of our school community. There is much to celebrate and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teaching staff, the support staff and the Governing Body for their on-going support and commitment to RPHS.

Following our excellent Ofsted report that we shared with families at the start of this term, I would like to thank your wonderful children for making RPHS such a special community of learners. Balancing student well-being and individual needs against high aspirations and academic expectations has remained core to my values and vision for the school. It remains my absolute pleasure 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, the Senior Leadership Team carried out learning walks in each subject area, and we have been very pleased with the continued high standards of teaching and learning that are observed across the school.

The Spring Term always sees the majority of our Parent/Carer Evenings in the calendar and these have remained online using SchoolCloud. Whilst I have said before that I enjoy our face to face events, our survey last year indicated that families have continued to prefer the flexibility of online meetings with subject staff and I am pleased to report that attendance at these events has remained over 85% this year. We were, however, pleased to welcome Year 9 families to our Options Evening and we were delighted that the majority of families were able to join us.

1st March was National Offer Day when Year 6 families received information about which school their child will attend for September. We were delighted to offer 200 places for September

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 to RPHS.

The Summer Term will see students in Year 11 and Year 13 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 running 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 with their revision as they prepare for the Public Examinations that start in May.

We finish the term with our whole School Assembly where we will be celebrating the achievements of year groups, Houses and individual students. We are also looking forward to announcing the Jack Petchey winners and awarding Tim Henman Scholarships. As always, I will be delighted to announce the Headteacher Awards for outstanding contribution to the school this term and congratulations go to the following students:

Eva H: Year 7

Armaan S: Year 8

Madison S: Year 9

Kwayne T: Year 10

Clara C: Year 11

We will also take the opportunity to say farewell to Mr Sanderson, Ms Black and Mrs Francis; we are very grateful to them for their fantastic contribution to RPHS and wish them well in their future endeavours.

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

Headteacher

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

It's been another successful term for the school community. In January the governors were delighted to read the school's wonderful Ofsted report following the inspection last November. Ofsted described RPHS as 'a friendly and welcoming school where pupils are well supported'. This reflects what the governors see when we make our regular visits to school. This term we visited in February; we looked at the hard work the school is doing to support student attendance, we saw lessons being delivered by several of the school's newest teachers and we spoke to a group of students about their experiences of being at RPHS.

The governors know that this has been a busy term for teaching and learning. We are also pleased to see the continuing commitment to enrichment at school. This term many students have enjoyed theatre performances and drama workshops both in school and out. Sporting fixtures and events are a regular feature of the school calendar. When we speak to students they are always positive about the wide variety of extra-curricular clubs on offer – from creative writing to the newly formed debate club.

The governors would like to thank all school staff for their efforts in providing the students with a rich, well-rounded education at RPHS. We would like to thank Miss Taylor and her leadership

team for their commitment to continuing to improve standards, and we look forward to supporting them next term and beyond.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to promote the school's pre-loved uniform shop. Governors and staff have worked hard to get this service up and running for parents and carers. There are many good quality items at very low prices. I have bought items for all three of my children from the pre-loved shop and I have also donated clothes which they have outgrown – I encourage you to do the same! Details are in the uniform section of the school website, and in the information below.

The governors would like to wish everyone an enjoyable Easter break – I hope we all get a bit of sunshine.

Hannah Capgras
Joint Chair of Governors



PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

PRICES

TRIPLE PLEAT SKIRT £6

TROUSERS £3

SCHOOL BLAZER £6

JUMPER £4

PE TOP £3

TIE £3

UPCOMING SALES

WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL

MONDAY 14TH JULY

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

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR'S TALK

Margaret Tulloch, Chair of the RPHS Charitable Trust, gives her termly update on the valuable work of the Trust, with a reminder of how to donate through the use of online shopping

The Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust funds projects and students, with the aim of enhancing the experience of being a student at the school. We aim to provide support in many ways but of course, we depend on donations and bids to charitable foundations to have money to spend. There are long term plans to raise money for some big projects which you will hear more about soon.

But small scale projects are important too; recently the Trust funded a plastic greenhouse and compost for the Gardening Club and, as mentioned in the last newsletter, we supported students working towards their gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We are keen to do more to support the school and its students. You can help the Trust by making a donation through the school website using the Enthuse link on the following page: www.rphs.org.uk/page/?title=Charitable+Trust&pid=82

You can make a one-off donation by clicking the donation drop down link (of course monthly donations are also welcome!). Also, as mentioned in the last newsletter, if you shop online, using easy-fundraising is an excellent way of giving money at

no cost to yourself. Please see more about how to do this at the end of the newsletter, on page 36. Easyfundraising supporters are increasing, and we now have 81. The potential is huge of course.

As well as funds, we are also keen to recruit more trustees. Perhaps you helped your PTA at your last school? If so, you have valuable experience and we would certainly welcome you joining us. Our next Trust meeting will be in June. For more information about what being a Trustee entails, please contact me on RPHSTrust@outlook.com to find out more.



Margaret Tulloch
Chair, Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust



In a remarkable visit, Holocaust survivor Annick Lever joined us to talk to Year 9 about her experiences during World War II

Earlier this month, our Year 9 students, along with many members of staff, had the privilege of hearing from Annick Lever, a Holocaust survivor, who shared her extraordinary story of survival. Her visit was a truly moving experience, bringing history to life in a way that no textbook ever could.

Annick was just a baby when the Nazis invaded France during World War II. She and her family were arrested and imprisoned for being Jewish, but thanks to her father's bravery (he was Catholic and had joined the Resistance in France), she was smuggled out, wrapped in blankets, to safety. Sadly, her mother was not as fortunate, and was unable to escape. She was taken on a cattle-train with many other Jews to Auschwitz concentration camp, where she tragically died on the journey there. Annick's story is one of both unimaginable loss and incredible resilience, and hearing it firsthand was a privilege for everyone in the room.

During her testimony, Annick spoke with honesty and emotion, sharing her experiences and helping students understand the human impact of the Holocaust. After her talk, there was time for questions, and our students engaged thoughtfully, asking insightful questions that furthered their understanding

of this important period in history. It was clear that they had listened intently, and many of them reflected afterwards on how much they had learned—not just about the Holocaust itself, but about the strength and perseverance of those who survived.

The impact of Annick's visit was profound. Many students shared how deeply moved they were by her testimony, and how hearing a firsthand account made history feel more real and personal. It was a stark reminder that the events of the Holocaust are not just stories from the past but real experiences lived by real people. The staff members who attended were equally affected, with many expressing afterwards their gratitude for the opportunity to hear Annick's story. Her words left a lasting impression on all of us.

We were incredibly fortunate to have Annick Lever visit our school, and we are deeply grateful for her willingness to share such a personal and painful part of her life. Her visit was a powerful reminder of why we must never forget the past and why it is so important to stand up against hatred, intolerance, and injustice. The lessons she taught us will stay with us for years to come.

Miss Stewart, History Teacher

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 X and Instagram and Raynes Park High School and Sixth Form on Facebook!



THE RPHS GALLERY

RAYNES PARK NEWS SPRING TERM ROUND-UP

Ms Horne, Head of Art, shares examples of some of our students' artwork, showcasing the range of techniques and projects they have been working on this term in the Art Department



Year 7

Students have been looking at their project 'Fantasy Landscapes', using pencil in the background, fineliner in the middleground and watercolour in the foreground. Year 7 have also applied their understanding of colour theory to the foreground and used complementary colours.



Year 8

Year 8 have been working on their current project called 'Objects and Viewpoints'. Working in pairs, students were given a word to represent, using coloured paper to create a sculpture. Words included 'peace', 'tension', 'panic' and 'balance'.

Year 9

Year 9 students have been looking at wallpaper designers, the Timorous Beasties. Students started by creating bug splats which they drew into, and then created experimental backgrounds using watercolour, ink and stencils.



Royal College of Art Young Artist Summer Show

Well done to all the students who have handed in their work for the Royal Academy of Art Young Artist Summer Show competition. We have a fantastic range of work in a selection of media. The Art department is looking forward to entering your work into the most prestigious art university in the world!

Ms Horne, Head of Art



We take a look back over the Spring Term at some of the highlights from the news, events and achievements of RPHS students throughout the school

Esports Success

Daniel in Year 11 has once again shown why he's the formidable captain of the Raynes Park High School esports team, London Loud. Competing in the prestigious British Esports Championship for Street Fighter 6, Daniel fought his way to the finals, earning widespread recognition as one of the top players in the league. Though Daniel's run ended in the Championship finals, his journey has inspired players and fans alike. Congratulations to Daniel for an incredible achievement.

Mr Harris, Head of Art and Design



Maths Feast

On Wednesday 12th March we hosted the regional finals of the Year 10 Maths Feast. A total of 26 teams took part this year, including two from Raynes Park, and a large number of our Sixth Form mathematicians supported the smooth running of the day. The competition tested problem-solving and teamwork skills. All of our students worked brilliantly in their teams and should be proud of what they achieved. Well done to all who took part!

Mrs Henderson, Senior Teacher



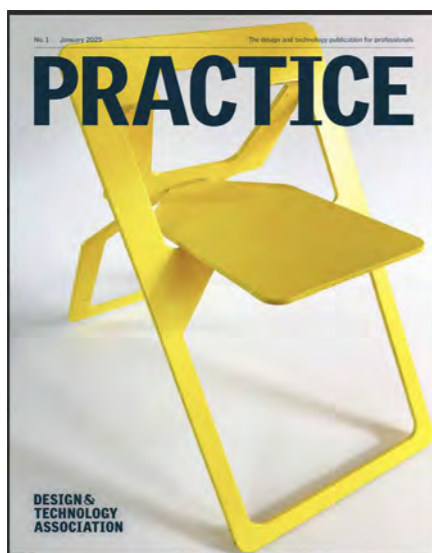
Sixth Form Criminology Day

In February, Year 12 and 13 Criminology students took part in a 'Crime Scene to Court Room' workshop, which was funded by the school and the Tim Henman Foundation. The day started with a 999 call directly from the scene of an alleged murder. Students were then fed information, evidence, intelligence and forensic science results.

They worked in groups dissecting this information and evidence and proceeded to create a profile of suspects, which they then presented in a mock courtroom set-up. Each student took on a role in the courtroom including defence barristers, prosecution barristers, judges, witnesses and members of the jury. All students had responsibilities within their role, and they confidently delivered their testimony before the jury decided if the suspect was innocent or guilty.

This was an amazing opportunity for students to put theory into practice and to find out more about potential careers within the police, forensic science, law and the wider criminal justice system. Students left the day enthusiastically discussing what they had learnt and in the words of one student, 'Can we do that again!'

Ms Pugh, Head of Social Science



Students Feature in 'Practice' Magazine

Well done to our Sixth Form 3D Design BTEC students and GCSE D&T students who were featured in the Design & Technology Association's 'Practice' magazine as great examples of work. Congratulations for this recognition.

Mr Harris, Head of Art and Design



Ursuline High School Conference

On 15th January, seven of our Year 12 Sixth Form students attended an exciting conference at the Ursuline High School titled: 'Democracy and Truth in a world of AI and Social media' with attendees having the opportunity to listen to speakers from Parliament and the digital media industry before debating the topic. Over 200 students attended and there was a powerful line-up of speakers with links to the London Borough of Merton, including Siobhain McDonagh and Paul Kohler, the local MPs for Mitcham & Morden and Wimbledon respectively.

Raynes Park students actively participated and some took the opportunity to network with both the politicians and CEOs - including

exploring potential work placements! All the students who attended had the chance to vote on whether AI has added value to democracy and the result was a clear decision in favour of AI not being a force for good in politics. Overall, the conference was a great opportunity to gain an insight into the workings of democracy and understand how it is changing under the influence of technology. We are keen to take more students next year across Years 12 and 13.

Mr Saitch, History Teacher

Witness for the Prosecution Workshop

This term, a group of Year 10 students took part in an engaging workshop at King's College School, in order to prepare them for their visit to the *Witness for the Prosecution* theatre production. They explored drama activities, discussed key theatrical strategies, and learned about courtroom procedures and dynamics. This was an incredible opportunity to bring the performance to life!

Ms Leon, English Teacher



LITERACY UPDATE



On Thursday 6th March, our school came together to celebrate World Book Day with a range of exciting activities that highlighted the joy of reading and storytelling.

As well as many members of staff, our Year 7 students embraced the spirit of the day by dressing up as their favourite characters,

filling the school with a fantastic array of creative costumes.

As part of the celebrations, Year 7 also took on the challenge of decorating their tutor room doors, drawing inspiration from their tutor time reading books. Each door was transformed into a vibrant and imaginative display, showcasing the themes, characters and messages from their chosen stories. It was wonderful to see the effort and enthusiasm students put into bringing their books to life.



Across the school, students were encouraged to find out their teacher's favourite books, and a scavenger hunt took place in the library and playground where 30 famous characters were hiding. The student librarians and members of Book Club created a quiz for students to complete in English lessons, which involved guessing which teachers were hiding behind books as well as identifying famous covers.

Ms Waterston, Head of Literacy & Librarian

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



Adding to the excitement, we welcomed the Polka Theatre, who treated us to a unique rap-inspired performance of *Romeo and Juliet*. Their modern twist on Shakespeare's classic tragedy captivated the audience, proving that great stories can be told in many different ways. After the performance, the actors ran workshops where students were able to learn about their skills and experiences as performers. Students then took part in a range of games and exercises, the most popular being learning to beat box.

We were also honoured to host author Tola Okogwu, who spoke about her journey to becoming a writer. She shared her experiences and advice with students, encouraging them to embrace their creativity and follow their passions.

Ms Waterston, Head of Literacy & Librarian

World Book Day in Art

Students across all year groups were given pages from old books which they transformed into unique and intriguing book art. This was then displayed in the library and the art department.

Ms Horne, Head of Art



Creative Writing Success

As a reward for coming in the top 100 for the Foyle Young Poet of the Year competition for two consecutive years, Juliet in Year 9 was invited to a creative writing retreat in Shropshire for February half term. In this unique experience, she attended writing workshops and one to one feedback sessions with the poets Vanessa Kisule and James Patterson. Juliet has shared this expertise with our school's creative writing club, leading a range of writing exercises that she practised on the retreat and giving her own coaching to our aspiring poets. Her poem can be seen, below.

Congratulations also go to Eva, Milly and Max who will have their creative writing published by the Young Writer's Competition! Students were challenged to write around the theme 'Poetry Escape'. Their work will be printed in an anthology which will arrive in the school library next term. Their poems can be read on the following page.

messy by Juliet

*i pull apart the folds in my skin,
 reveal a crudely sewn
 not so invisible zip
 open it you say
 no i will fall out i say
 it's okay you say
 the cleaners will come tomorrow
 morning and no one will notice
 but it's messy i say
 and i should be getting home.
 my veins and arteries and capillaries
 are fragile
 and i will not risk everything and nothing and
 everything
 for you
 and i push back the folds in my skin
 and you forget.*



Manufactured Heaven by Milly

*Who am I?
 Am I my name, long forgotten
 Restricted to the yellow wedding certificate
 Am I my age, old as time itself
 A heavy drum counting down the days
 Am I the pair of calloused hands
 Scrubbing floorboards, cooking dinners
 I am nothing now
 Because the rush of my youth has gone
 Only restless chaos roaming my cobwebbed mind
 I am doomed to recreate my mother's fate
 A husband in the mould of my father
 Raising army fit children
 No compassion needed
 The only fertile machine
 Sunday morning vacuuming
 On sickly beige carpet
 Dreary day time tv looping in the background
 But I am searching for utopia
 Dreaming of sunshine in my bleak mind
 Then the rain falls on rooftops
 And I am left to endure
 This manufactured heaven
 Wrapped in penny cheap plastic
 Batteries not included*

Escape by Eva

*Escape the chains of society,
 Set boundaries for yourself
 And maybe break them
 Or take a different path*

*Escape the chains of friends or family,
 Take this your own way,
 Be responsible for your own action*

*Escape the chains of technology,
 Go outside and breath the fresh air
 Instead of staying inside*

*Escape the chains of school,
 Acquire the knowledge to learn things by yourself*

*And take roads in which you don't
 know where you're going*

*Escape the chains of social media,
 Learn to control your emotions
 before showing others online*

*Escape the chains of expectation
 Go further than you have to
 Run away on an alternate route*

*Escape the chains of anxiety,
 Be brave and face your fears*

*Escape the chains of comparison
 You are different, no one can change that,
 But you are amazing, so keep that in mind*

*Escape the chains of routine
 Don't follow the same steps,
 Be imaginative, be wild*

*And finally, escape the chains of life,
 Don't entangle yourself in danger
 Or worry,
 Be free and live your life
 How you want it.*

Scared by Max

*I am scared of the dark,
 A black void that takes residence in the cracks
 and corners of reality,
 I am scared of oblivion,
 An unimaginable period in which the unknown
 takes over,
 I am scared of monsters,
 Creatures of fear and misery that conceal
 themselves under my bed,
 I am scared of heights,
 Drops that go down further then the eye can see,
 But I am not scared of the future,
 The future is scared of me.*

Ms Waterston, Head of Literacy & Librarian

SYNAGOGUE VISIT

PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE



The RPHS Performing Arts Department has had a busy Spring term, with trips, events and projects taking place throughout the school, alongside regular rehearsals for next term's highly anticipated production of *High School Musical*

Dance

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

Since September we have been delivering our 'Step into Dance' programme, led by professional dancer Neha Das. On Wednesday 19th March we visited Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance for the programme's 'Day of Dance 2025'. Students were able to watch professional performance classes, and take part in contemporary dance workshops and Q&A sessions with students studying at the university. They also had the opportunity to share the work they have been creating with Neha at RPHS. On Monday 28th April students will be presenting their work at the Royal Academy of Dance in a 'Step into Dance' performance evening. Parents will be able to come and watch their children perform in a professional dance setting in what promises to be a great evening.

Our Key Stage 4 students have been enjoying the best of the dance world by visiting key institutions such as Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, as well as having the opportunity to be part of the UK's biggest dance convention, 'Move It'.

Both the Year 10 & 11 students studying on the BTEC Dance course were invited to take part in a workshop day at Laban where they experienced a tour of the incredible studios and theatres at the university and also took part in a workshop led by Laban practitioners.

This experience has hopefully inspired the students to want to take dance further as a career and also gain an understanding of choreography

that can be used in their future assessments and performances.

On Friday 7th March our Year 10 students visited the UK's biggest dance convention, 'Move It' at the Excel Centre, London. The day consisted of performances from universities, colleges and dance companies including Wilkes Academy, Shockout, Addict Dance Academy, Diversity and Chichester University. They were able to listen to talks taking place throughout the day, visit dancewear stalls and talk to professionals about courses that were offered at each college and university. A great day was had by all.



This term, Year 8 students embarked on an enriching trip to the West London Synagogue, an experience that deepened their understanding of Jewish culture and religious practices.

The day began with a scenic coach ride to Marble Arch, where the students were greeted by warm hosts at the synagogue. They started with an insightful session on the rich history of the synagogue, learning about its origins, role in the local community, and its significance as one of the oldest Reform synagogues in London.

The highlight of the visit was the question-and-answer session led by Rabbi Matt. Students had the opportunity to ask thoughtful questions and gain a deeper understanding of

Jewish traditions, customs, and the role that Rabbi Matt has in the community.

The students also had the unique chance to read from the Torah scrolls, an experience that allowed them to connect more closely with the religious practices they had been studying. This hands-on experience was an unforgettable part of the trip.

The visit to the West London Synagogue was a fantastic way for the students to engage with the subject matter in a real-world setting, and it will surely be a memorable part of their studies. We thank the synagogue for their hospitality and Rabbi Matt for making the visit both educational and inspiring.

Mr McCurdy, Assistant Headteacher



Finally, the rehearsals for *High School Musical* are well underway and the main dancers have been working hard every Monday and Friday to learn and create pieces such as 'We're All In This Together' and 'Stick To The Status Quo'. Tickets will go on sale soon, so make sure you get yours!

Miss Davis, Head of Performing Arts

Drama

On Tuesday 4th March, 45 students from Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama attended a trip to the New Wimbledon Theatre for a performance of the play *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell. This show is studied by our Key Stage 4 students at GCSE as their set play text for their final written exam. Having the opportunity to see the show gave students a great insight into how the show goes from page to stage, as well as being able to see how the set and lighting are used in the show.

On Monday 10th March, following their trip to see the show, the Year 10 GCSE Drama class took part in an all-day *Blood Brothers* workshop, run by the theatre and education company Stage-Ed. Stage-Ed is run by two facilitators who starred as the leads in *Blood Brothers* in the West End show almost 20 years ago. Students were able to learn from their experience in theatre and with the show, and had the chance to work with experienced performers in the industry.

Thirty Year 8 students were selected to take part in this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival project. Students rehearsed RPHS's version of *Romeo & Juliet* every Tuesday after school. On Thursday 13th March, students travelled to The Exchange Theatre Twickenham for their

performance in front of a sold-out audience of 200 people. The cast were fantastic and showcased how well they all worked together as a team.

Thanks to our new Rose Education Connections partnership with the Rose Theatre Kingston, on Wednesday 19th March, Raynes Park High School GCSE Drama and Btec Acting students were invited to the Rose to see Headlong Theatre and Frantic Assembly's new play *House Party*. This was followed by a Q&A with the actors after the show. Students had a fantastic time and asked some very insightful questions to help develop their craft and knowledge of theatre.



This year, RPHS 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. This term students took part in a workshop that focused on the role of a stage manager in theatre, followed by a trip to the Old Vic Theatre on Wednesday 26th March to see a performance of *Oedipus*.

Since January the cast and crew of *High School Musical* have been rehearsing regularly. Musical numbers and lots of brilliant scenes are coming together ready for the show in the summer term.

The Year 12 BTEC Performance acting class have been preparing performances for three different texts since the start of January. Recently they performed an immersive and site specific performance of *Romeo & Juliet* to an audience of Year 10 GCSE Drama students, which saw them performing in five different locations throughout the school.

Miss Pope, Head of Drama

Music

We are delighted to announce that the music department has received a beautiful piano donation from Valerie Monnier, in memory of her father. This

generous gift will be treasured and well cared for at our school. We extend our deepest thanks to Valerie and her family for their kindness and support of our music programme.

A group of our talented Year 7 students have been working hard to record a song for the 2025 school competition, themed 'Show Racism the Red Card'. This is an important message, and we are incredibly proud of their dedication and creativity. Fingers crossed for a winning entry!

This term, fifteen of our Year 7 students have been rehearsing alongside King's College Wimbledon for a special community production of *Beowulf*. This incredible performance took place on March 28, 2025, and we were so proud to see all their hard work come to life on stage. A big well done to all our students for their enthusiasm and efforts this term. We look forward to more exciting opportunities in the months ahead.

Mr Mohanaraj, Head of Music



RPHS Student Shines in the Rotary Young Chef Competition

Year 9 student Luc has once again impressed on his culinary journey, making it all the way to the semi-finals of the prestigious Rotary Young Chef competition. Luc secured his place in the semi-finals after an outstanding performance at the District Young Chef competition, where his signature dish of sushi followed by a mini apple pie earned him praise from the judges - and an impressive rose bowl.

At the Young Chef semi-final, Luc put in a fine performance, showcasing his skills and creativity under pressure. While he didn't make the top three, he walked away with a well-deserved certificate—a testament to his talent and hard work. We hope that Luc has found the whole experience rewarding, and we wish him all the best in his future culinary endeavours. There's no doubt—he has real talent!

The Rotary Young Chef competition, sponsored by Filippo Berio, is a fantastic opportunity for aspiring young cooks to develop their culinary skills and be judged by



leading industry professionals. Entrants, aged 11–17, must plan and cook a two-course meal (main course and dessert), perfect their food presentation, and handle the pressure of a professional kitchen environment.

For those with ambitions of a culinary career—or even just a passion for cooking—this competition is an incredible platform to learn, grow, and shine. The overall winner of the National Final will be rewarded with an exciting two-day trip to Tuscany, where they will take part in Italian cookery classes to master the secrets of regional cuisine. Luc has done incredibly well to reach this stage, and we're sure this is just the beginning of his culinary journey!

Mr Harris, Head of Art & Design

CATERING & DT STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Many congratulations to our Catering and DT Students of the Month for this term: Theo-James, Carmen, Leo and Camelia.

Mr Robinson, DT Teacher



This term, a group of students from Year 8 has been taking part in regular weekly workshops at King's College, London, looking at activities based around chemistry and physics, and investigating sound and colour

Over the first couple of months of 2025, myself and 12 Year 8 students have been attending King's College London every Friday afternoon to participate in STEM based activities. The pupils alternated between physics and chemistry each week to practice and apply a range of skills to design and solve issues based through trial and improvement.

In the first week students learnt how specific tests can be carried out to identify particular substances and how this can be used in real-life examples, such as identifying athletes who are taking banned substances, discovering if water is polluted, providing evidence to support a criminal case and looking at how different substances produce specific wavelengths or colours. Students were guided but remained largely independent in order to gain their results and explore their learning. There were also larger displays performed by the hosts who burnt balloons full of different gases to produce vibrant colours, as well as luminol which produced a 'lightning blue' streak which was reminiscent of something out of Harry Potter!

In another week students explored sound, by going around an activity circus to see



how sound can be heard and seen through immersive activities. The focus was on how sound travels through vibrations and how we can visualise the sound. One experiment showed how to see if an object is vibrating at a specific frequency by touching the surface of water and seeing how patterns are formed.

Another station showed the movement of sand particles when a vibration is passed through a plate, which caused other patterns which corresponded to the pitch of the sound being produced. The students ended that week by creating their own speaker through the use of a coiled wire, a plastic bowl and a small magnet, before testing their speakers - with their own taste in music!

It was a pleasure to take the students on this weekly trip as they all engaged with the activities and showed respect to all members of the community. Remember, there is STEM club at school, where you can apply more of your science knowledge to a range of scenarios that need a solution.

Mr Williams, Science Teacher

Science Museum Trip

A visit to the Science Museum this term gave Year 9 students the opportunity to find out more about the range of careers and apprenticeships that are available. Students took part in a range of different workshops, which involved crime scene investigations such as testing blood splatter, detecting food items & many more.

Ms Thumwood, Deputy Head of Year 9

CAREERS & ASPIRATIONS FAIR

This term we held our annual Careers & Aspirations Fair, where students were given the opportunity to learn more about future pathways in industry, education and apprenticeships, followed by an alumni networking event



student life, courses, and the application process—giving students a clearer picture of what lies ahead.

The interactive nature of the fair made the experience especially engaging, with many exhibitors offering hands-on activities and demonstrations to showcase their fields. This not only sparked students' interest but also raised aspirations, helping them to visualise where their studies could take them in the future.

The event concluded with an alumni networking event, where former RPHS students returned to share their journeys and offer advice. It was a valuable and inspiring session that demonstrated the power of community and the lasting impact of RPHS.



A huge thank you to Mrs Liste and Ms Collins for organising another successful and inspiring Careers & Aspirations Fair.

Mr McCurdy, *Assistant Headteacher*



The annual RPHS Careers & Aspirations Fair once again proved to be a highlight of the school calendar, offering a fantastic opportunity for students in Years 10 to 13 to explore their future pathways.

With 99 exhibitors from a wide range of industries, universities, training providers, and apprenticeship schemes, the event gave students the chance to engage directly with professionals and gain valuable insights into both academic and vocational routes.

Throughout the day, students asked thoughtful questions about apprenticeships, entry requirements, and career prospects. University representatives were also on hand to talk about



CAREERS EVENTS & UNIVERSITY INSIGHTS DAY

This term, our Sixth Form students visited City St George's Careers Fair and Warwick University, and also took part in an oracy workshop, while Year 9 students learnt about career opportunities within the railway industry and transport and logistics sectors

To mark National Careers Week, a group of our aspiring Health/Science Year 12 students were invited to City St George's to hear more about the different undergraduate courses available there, with a focus on future career prospects. Following a carousel rotation with a variety of subjects, students attended course talks, meeting both academics and current university students. It was a really informative event and our students were able to ask questions to help them frame their future career paths.

We also held an assembly for Year 9 about careers in the railway infrastructure industry. We invited Southern Renewals Enterprise, our new employer partner, to present the assembly and students heard about careers in railways, engineering, construction and more. We are planning for this to be the start of a close working relationship with SRE to support our students with decisions and opportunities to inform their career choices.

Ms Collins, Careers Lead

Fifteen Year 12 students recently visited Warwick University for a University Insights Day, offering them a glimpse into university life and the range of opportunities available. The day began with an informative talk about the benefits of studying at a Russell Group university, giving the students valuable insight into the academic excellence and resources these universities provide.

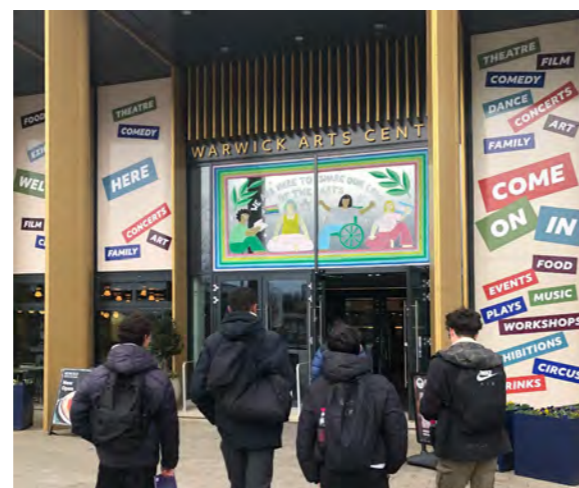
Following the talk, the students were taken on a guided campus tour, where they explored the impressive facilities and were shown a variety of on-campus accommodation options. This gave them a real sense of what it's like to live and study at university.

A key highlight of the trip was an interactive lecture, led by the university's Neuroscience and Sociology departments. The students were engaged by the dynamic and interactive sessions, which sparked deeper interest in their own academic pursuits.

One of the most memorable aspects of the visit was the newly developed sports centre, which left a lasting impression on the students. They were inspired by the wide range of facilities and the possibilities available to them as future university students.

The day was not only informative but also motivating, as it allowed the students to experience first-hand the vibrant and diverse opportunities that Warwick University offers. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to get a real sense of what life at university might be like and has inspired many to further explore their higher education options.

Mr McCurdy, Assistant Headteacher



Year 9 Students Explore Career Opportunities in Transport and Logistics

This term, 50 of our Year 9 students participated in an engaging careers workshop, organised in partnership with Southern Renewals Enterprise (SRE). Over 20 employees from the SRE partnership, including representatives from leading companies such as VolkerFitzpatrick, Octavius, Network Rail, AtkinsRealis, and VolkerRail, set up informative stalls to provide valuable insights into the diverse range of roles and educational opportunities within the transport and logistics industry.

Students had the chance to interact with professionals from these prominent companies, learning about the skills and qualifications needed to pursue careers in this vital sector. The event gave our students a fantastic opportunity to explore potential career paths and gain a deeper understanding of the exciting possibilities available to them in the future. We are very grateful to Southern Renewals Enterprise and its partners for their support in helping our students to make informed decisions about their career journeys.

Mr McCurdy, Assistant Headteacher

Sixth Form Oracy Workshop

A group of Sixth Formers recently took part in a 'Talk About the Future' workshop, supported by the Jack Petchey Foundation, where they were encouraged to identify their skills, practised storytelling presentations and took part in mock interviews.

This oracy workshop, run by the Talk The Talk organisation, will help students with their next career steps by preparing them for job and academic interviews.

Ms Collins, Careers Leader



SPRING TERM SPORTS UPDATE

The PE department looks back over a busy Spring term, with training sessions, fixtures and tournaments taking place for all our teams and players throughout the school



Year 7 Football

The Year 7 boys' football team has continued to build on the positive start that they made to the season. Weekly training sessions have been well attended every Friday, and we have also had many students benefit from the squad training sessions held every Tuesday. Players have been working hard throughout the term to develop their skills, and we have also been able to begin to refine some strategic plays which has been great to see in action.

It has been fantastic to see many new students being selected for fixtures and representing the school for the first time. Many who have done so have performed to an excellent level and have gone on to cement their place within the team. The highlight of the term came in the shape of a 5-1 home win over local rivals St Mark's Academy.

Mr Sanderson, Head of PE

Year 8 Football

The Year 8 boys have had a very slow start to the season, but that hasn't affected their resilience at all. Their most recent game to Harris Wimbledon ended as a 5-1 loss, but they are keen to get back out on the field to put this losing streak to an end. The boys continue to attend training on a Tuesday and casual football on a Monday to improve their ability and knowledge around football.

We are excited to see what the remainder of the season has in store for us as we hunt for that big win of 2025.

Mr Forrester, PE & Dance Teacher

Year 9 Football

The Year 9 boys' football team has been outstanding this season, showing skill, teamwork, and determination in every match. With only two losses all season, the team has proven to be a formidable force on the pitch. There have been some incredible highlights along the way, including a fantastic away win against Lingfield College in the Surrey Cup; a dominant 6-2 victory over Southborough, and a hard-fought 5-3 win against Hollyfield. These results showcase the team's talent and fighting spirit.

As we approach the final games, our goal is clear – to finish the season unbeaten and win the league! Every player has contributed to our success, and this is truly a team effort. A huge shout-out to the entire squad for their brilliance, commitment, and determination.

Mr Bishop, PE Teacher

Year 10 Football

After a slow start to the season, the Year 10 boys' football team has found their rhythm with impressive back-to-back wins against Rutlish and Harris Wimbledon.

The team has shown great resilience and determination, and we hope to keep this winning streak going to finish the season on a high. A special mention goes to Quency, Walid and Chayce, who have been standout performers throughout the campaign. Their consistency and hard work have been instrumental in the team's recent success.

Mr Bishop, PE Teacher

Rugby

This term saw another monumental step for rugby at RPHS, with four boys playing their first game. More importantly, it was the first time the Year 8 team had experienced a full pitch 15-a-side game. They took it all in their stride and learnt along the way in a highly competitive afternoon against The Hall School. The A team narrowly lost 7-8 and the B Team won 7-6 in the 30 minute 7-a-side games. However, it was The Hall who took the overall win on this occasion, sneaking the victory with 2 tries to 1 in the full-sided game.

With another game under their belts, the Year 8s are showing progress with every extra minute played. A special shout-out must go to Felix who had not played any contact rugby until coming to practice the day before the game. He was in the thick of it throughout, making huge tackles and running through players in attack. The rematch has already been arranged, with Felix summing it up nicely, "We're going to win and going to smash them."



On a wet and wild Thursday in January as Storm Éowyn rolled in, it was the Year 10 RPHS team who surged through The Hall School. In less-than-ideal conditions, the team were full of energy and excitement for their first ever game as a team. Years of anticipation (and begging from Jack A) were worth it after just one minute, with RPHS kicking off. A huge chase followed with a couple of big tackles and some excellent rucking to turn the ball over.

With only 10 minutes to go there was no stopping the team. From that point on RPHS continued to dominate in both attack and defence. The conditions made it difficult but there was no stopping the boys. With a comprehensive win with 8 tries to 2, it was great to see such camaraderie and determination from every one of them. They are definitely ready for more games, and who knows where the ceiling is for this team.

Mr Oldridge, Director of Sport & Community Partnerships





Girls' Football

Once again, it has been a busy 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. This year, we have entered into the newly set up Girls' Football League, which includes schools from across Merton and Kingston and has created wider opportunities for our girls.

We opened the season with matches against Chessington School. Despite there being very little to choose between the two sides, Chessington ended up victorious with a slender 1-0 win against our Year 7/8 team and then followed up with a closely fought 2-0 win against our Year 8/9 girls.

In round 2, Kingston Academy were the visitors to Raynes Park. Our Year 7/8 girls rallied really well in the second half despite being 3-0 down at the break to eventually lose 5-2 in the end. There was no shortage of effort, hard work and determination from our team. The same can be said for our Year 8/9 girls' team who, once again, played with spirit and hard work but we just could not find the back of the net, eventually losing 3-0.

Round 3 saw Hollyfield School as our opponents. We played a slightly different format for this round with four matches in the one day. Raynes Park were dominant throughout and made sure that for all of their effort and hard work, we were ruthless in front of goal. We won all four of our matches without conceding a goal. The results were 4-0, 1-0, 3-0 and 5-0 (an aggregate victory of 13-0!). We are very proud of all of you in Year 7/8 who played in this fixture. A special mention to Ruby in Year 7 who scored a fantastic hat trick in the final match.

Away from the league, we have also played matches in the Surrey County Cup. Our Year 7/8 girls were drawn away to George Abbot School, Guildford and performed really well, creating plenty of chances on a very wet, boggy pitch. We lost the game to our Surrey rivals 3-0 but can hold our heads high. The scoreline is not a true reflection of the match and the effort that our girls displayed that day.

Our Year 10/11 girls were in action in round 2 and were drawn against the Ursuline School. With the scoreline finely poised at 2-1 to the Ursuline at half time, the game really was a tight affair and could have gone either way. We

were unfortunate to have a couple of injuries to key players in the second half which made it difficult to maintain our momentum and we eventually lost 5-2. Again, not an accurate reflection of the game but there were notable efforts from all of our girls.

Our upcoming league fixtures include Harris Wimbledon, Ricards Lodge and the Ursuline School.

Onwards and upwards for the rest of the season and thank you all for your hard work, efforts and enthusiasm. Keep it going!

Mr Prichard, PE Teacher

Netball

Netball continues to grow at Raynes Park with new recruits joining the netball club each week. Whether you are experienced or completely new to netball, it is great to see these numbers growing for Raynes Park netball. We have a team in each year group from years 7 to 9, and our year 12/13 students have a combined netball team with matches lined up for the future.

Unfortunately, due to the weather, we have been unable to play as many fixtures as we had hoped. We were however, able to compete against Ricards Lodge and Kingston Academy. A big shout-out and thank you to Skye in Year 13, Daniella in Year 12 and Anna in Year 10, who have given up many hours of their own time to help with coaching, training and umpiring – thank you for your time and effort!

We are all impressed with the Year 7 netball team for dealing with their first fixture of the year so well, bouncing back from their slim loss against Ricards Lodge. Since then, they have shown up with enthusiasm every

week to netball club, working hard to improve their netball skills.



A special shout-out to Evie for her excellent communication and team leadership skills, as well as Lily-Jane for her tenacity on the court. The team are excited to dominate the court in more fixtures soon, to showcase their hard work!

The Year 8 netball team played against Ricards Lodge. Unfortunately, they were unable to secure the win, but the team showed great potential. With many new faces making their debut to netball, the team fought hard until the end.

The girls continue to regularly come to training and are looking forward to more matches in the future. This team has some great netball players so with their continued hard work and dedication they are looking forward to securing their first win!

The Year 9 team competed against Kingston Academy and showed great resilience and effort. Unfortunately, we were unable to get the win, however a lot of the team were new to netball and continued to work exceptionally hard during the match.

A big shout out to Ava, who is in Year 8 and played in the Year 9 fixture, and who was on fire with her shooting! With more fixtures organised for the future, the Year 9 girls will continue to train hard and prepare for the season ahead.

Ms Beverley & Miss Collins, PE Teachers

Gymnastics Club

Gymnastics Club started in January on a Tuesday after school and we have had 18 students attend most weeks which reflects the students' willingness to develop their gymnastics skills. We hope to get the gymnasts competing this year both internally and externally with local schools and look forward to witnessing their confidence develop in the sport as a result.

Year 11 mock exams in the Sports Hall meant Gymnastics Club was out of action for a fortnight, but fear not! It is back up and running now and we have started working on a 'Pirates of the Caribbean' themed routine which the girls are very excited to continue working on. We have had six weeks to develop fundamental gymnastics skills such as balance and core strength, as well as working on skills such as forward rolls, cartwheels and handstands.

Most of the girls have achieved at least one of these for the first time ever which has

been very rewarding to witness. We are now incorporating these skills into the developing routine which will allow us time to refine details as we lead up to any competitions and showcases.

It is very nice to see so many students push themselves out of their comfort zone by taking up a new sport - I am very proud of you!

Miss Collins, PE Teacher



NFL Flag Football

January marked the launch of our Flag Football after school club. With Flag Football being accepted into the 2028 Olympics in LA, we are hoping we can develop some future Team GB stars through this extra-curricular activity.

Following initial interest in the club, we have entered into local competitions to try and get as far as possible and hopefully compete at a national level. Last year's schools champions were taken to the US with all costs covered to play against some other national winners!

We are now well on our way to achieving this dream having been put forward to represent Merton against other local boroughs, for both Year 7/8 mixed and Year 10 girls' teams.

With some friendlies on the horizon after Easter, we have our fingers crossed that these will fully prepare the sides to compete in the London finals and reach the regional games.

Mr Wheel, Head of Sixth Form

Wimbledon Ball Boys and Girls

All of the students who join the Wimbledon Ball Boy and Girl programme aim to end up as part of the official training squad for the All England Lawn Tennis Club Championships 2025.

This last term we have finished initial training and new students to the programme have attended an intense day of trials and selection. Students who have previously been Ball Boys and Girls at a previous Championship are preparing to brave the gruelling re-selection process as they attempt to become a BBG for the second, or even third time.

We are incredibly proud of all students who put themselves forward for the initial process and are delighted that we have students who succeeded at the trials and will be at this year's Championships in the Summer term. We will all continue to work hard in training sessions to ensure some of our Year 10-12 students join them and are successful at reselection.

Well done BBGs! Keep up the great work!

Mr Wheel, Head of Sixth Form



Year 9 Boys' Basketball

The Year 9 boys' basketball team had their first fixture at the end of January, playing away to Rutlish, who just about managed to sneak the win in the dying embers of the game. Despite the loss, the team remains highly motivated and eager for future fixtures. Due to various school events and the Year 11 mock exams, the boys have not been able to practice as much as they would have liked in recent weeks, however, they have the opportunity for redemption very soon in an upcoming Merton 3v3 NBA Basketball Tournament! The boys are also looking forward to an eagerly anticipated rematch with Rutlish, on home soil, in the Summer term!

Mr Bartlett, PE Teacher

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This term has seen RPHS deliver sport, art and science workshops for local primary schools, alongside events for our Sports Leaders and students from the Premier League Inspires programme

WonderDome Planetarium

This term we welcomed the WonderDome Planetarium to deliver an out-of-this-world experience to Year 5 students from both Joseph Hood and Hatfield Primary Schools, and also to our very own Year 7s. The immersive workshops transported students on a journey through space, exploring the wonders of our solar system and beyond.

Inside the inflatable dome, students were captivated by interactive sessions that brought the night sky to life, sparking curiosity and deepening their understanding of planets, stars, and galaxies. The workshops not only supported science learning but also encouraged students to think about the wider universe and the possibilities of future space exploration.

It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm and engagement from all students, with many asking insightful questions and leaving inspired by the experience. The WonderDome experience not only complemented their science curriculum



but also inspired future scientists, engineers, and space explorers. It was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm and fascination from our Year 7 students as they embarked on their cosmic adventure.

A huge thank you to WonderDome for delivering such an engaging and educational experience. We can't wait to welcome them back in the future for more out-of-this-world learning!

Sublime Science

RPHS recently hosted an exciting Sublime Science workshop, welcoming students from Burlington Junior School, Links Primary, and Green Lane Primary. The event was a fantastic opportunity for young learners to explore the wonders of science through interactive and hands-on experiments. From fizzing potions to mini explosions, the workshop was packed with exciting demonstrations that brought science to life in a fun and engaging way. Students showed great enthusiasm, eagerly participating in each activity, asking insightful questions, and embracing the joy of discovery.

It was fantastic to see their curiosity and excitement as they experimented with different materials, learning about the science behind reactions, forces, and energy. The event not only strengthened their understanding of scientific concepts but also inspired them to think like young scientists.

A huge thank you to Sublime Science for delivering such a dynamic and engaging workshop, and to the staff and students from Burlington Junior, Links Primary, and Green Lane Primary for their enthusiasm and participation.

We look forward to hosting more STEM experiences at RPHS in the future!

Augmented Reality Wellbeing App Trial

Raynes Park High School was privileged to welcome ASP Belong, the developers behind Project Lina, an innovative augmented reality app designed to support student wellbeing and relationships. As the only school selected to trial the app, we were thrilled to play a key role in its development.

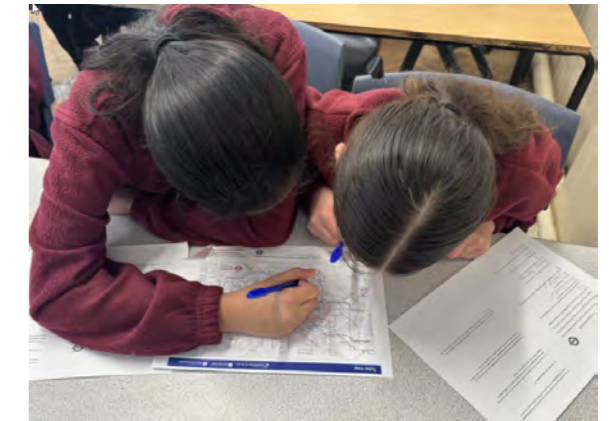
Our Year 8 students from 8JC and 8KP engaged brilliantly with the ASP team, testing out the app and providing valuable feedback to help refine its features. Their thoughtful insights and constructive suggestions will contribute to shaping the app into a powerful tool for student support.

We are incredibly excited to continue our partnership with ASP Belong and look forward to welcoming them back in the Summer term, when our students will take part in the full pilot programme. This collaboration places RPHS at the forefront of innovative approaches to student wellbeing, and we can't wait to see how Project Lina evolves!

A huge well done to 8JC and 8KP for their enthusiasm, engagement, and excellent contributions!

DT Workshops for STEM Week

Raynes Park High School was delighted to welcome back Year 5 students from Aragon Primary as part of their STEM Week celebrations. This time, the focus was on structures, with students visiting our Design & Technology



department to put their engineering skills to the test.

Working in teams, the students designed and built their own totem poles, applying principles of stability, balance, and strength. Their creativity and problem-solving skills were put to the ultimate test in the 'Battle of the Build' competition, where structures were challenged to withstand weight and pressure to determine the strongest build.

It was fantastic to see the teamwork, enthusiasm, and innovation on display, with students embracing the challenge and showcasing impressive engineering skills. The event not only strengthened their understanding of STEM concepts but also encouraged collaboration and resilience.

A huge well done to all the students for their fantastic efforts, and a big thank you to Aragon Primary for joining us once again - we look forward to hosting you again in the future.

RPHS Maths Challenge

As part of our International Women's Day celebrations, Raynes Park High School was delighted to welcome Year 5 and 6 girls from Hillcross Primary School for a special Maths Confidence workshop.

The session aimed to empower young girls through problem-solving, teamwork, and creativity, helping them to see Maths as something to be enjoyed and embraced. The girls were enthusiastic and engaged throughout, working together to tackle challenges and build their confidence in a supportive and fun environment.



To further enhance the experience, the workshop was paired with a fantastic session led by our Fulham FC Football & Education girls, who delivered an energetic and inspiring activity focused on confidence building through sport.

The day was a brilliant celebration of female empowerment, highlighting the importance of building confidence in all areas of life—from the classroom to the pitch. A huge well done to all the Hillcross students for their positivity and participation, and to our F&E girls for being such inspiring role models!

RPHS Art Workshops

Raynes Park High School was thrilled to welcome students from Links Primary and Green Lane Primary for an engaging and hands-on art workshop.

During the session, students explored the world of ceramics, learning how to create their very own pinch pots. Guided by our talented Art Department, the students were taught traditional hand-building techniques, shaping and moulding clay into beautiful, individual creations.

It was fantastic to see their creativity and focus as they worked with care and precision, many trying this form of art for the very first time. The workshop not only developed their practical skills but also encouraged self-expression and experimentation in a calm, supportive environment.

A huge well done to all the students for their brilliant efforts—we loved seeing your artistic talents shine! We look forward to welcoming you back for more creative experiences at RPHS soon

Inclusive Leadership

On Wednesday 26th February, a group of five enthusiastic students attended the Inclusive Youth Leadership Event at Battersea Sports Centre. Organised by London Inclusion Lead Schools, the Youth Sport Trust, and London Youth Games, the event brought together young leaders from across South London who have the potential to make a positive impact in inclusive sports leadership.

Throughout the day, our students took part in a series of engaging and interactive workshops, designed to develop their leadership skills, confidence, and understanding of inclusive sport.

A key highlight of the day was the opportunity to work with GB athlete Lesley Owusu and GB gymnast Steve Frew, who shared their experiences of resilience, leadership, and inclusion in sport. Their powerful messages encouraged all the students to embrace challenges and make a positive impact in their own communities.

Our RPHS students were highly engaged throughout the event, demonstrating great enthusiasm, teamwork, and a commitment to making sport accessible for all. As they return to school, they will now take on the role of Inclusive Sports Leaders, working to create more opportunities for SEND and mainstream students to participate in school sports activities.

A huge thank you to London Inclusion Lead Schools, the Youth Sport Trust, and London Youth Games for organising such an inspiring and impactful event. We are incredibly proud of our students and excited to see the positive changes they will bring to our school community!

'RPHS students were highly engaged, demonstrating a commitment to making sport accessible for all. As they return to school, they will now take on the role of Inclusive Sports Leaders, working to create more opportunities for SEND and mainstream students to participate in school sports activities.'

Sports Leaders - Year 10

Some of our Year 10 BTEC Sport students recently took on their first external leadership opportunity. Stepping outside the classroom, they put their skills to the test by leading a Merton School Sports Partnership Football event for local primary school students.

This experience allowed them to apply their learning in a real-world setting, developing key skills such as communication, organisation, and teamwork. Under the guidance of Mr Oldridge and the MSSP team, students confidently delivered a range of engaging and inclusive activities, ensuring all participants felt encouraged and supported.

For many, this was their first time leading a group of younger students, and they embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and professionalism. Their ability to motivate, instruct, and adapt activities to different abilities was fantastic to see.

This opportunity not only enhanced their leadership and coaching skills but also provided valuable experience as they progress through their BTEC Sport qualification. A huge well done to all involved – we look forward to seeing you continue to develop as future sports leaders!

Sports Leaders - Year 12

Our Year 12 Level 3 Sports Leaders continue to make fantastic progress in their qualification, demonstrating their growing confidence and leadership skills. Recently, they were invited by Merton School Sport Partnership to take a leading role in delivering an Inclusive Football Event for Year 3 and 4 students.

The event provided a fantastic platform for our students to showcase their creativity, organisation, and ability to engage young learners. They led a series of skill-based activities, focusing on fundamental football techniques such as dribbling, passing, and teamwork. The day concluded with an exciting football tournament, where our Sports Leaders officiated and encouraged all participants, ensuring a fun and inclusive experience for everyone.

Their enthusiasm, professionalism, and ability to adapt to different abilities was recognised by event organisers, who praised their ability to create a welcoming and supportive environment for all young players.

This experience not only contributed to their Level 3 Sports Leadership qualification but also reinforced their ability to inspire and motivate younger students through sport. A huge well done to our Year 12 Sports Leaders – we are incredibly proud of the impact you are making in the community!





International Women’s Day

To celebrate International Women’s Day, Fulham FC’s Football & Education programme and the Premier League Inspires Girls came together to deliver an inspiring football and leadership workshop for our Year 8 girls.

The event kicked off with engaging football activities led by practitioners from the F&E and PLI Girls programmes, giving our students the chance to develop their skills, build confidence, and experience the power of sport in bringing people together.

Following the practical session, we were privileged to welcome guest speakers from Fulham FC, who shared their experiences as women in sport. Their stories of resilience, ambition, and breaking barriers provided invaluable inspiration, and encouraged our students to chase their dreams both on and off the pitch.

The workshop was a fantastic opportunity for our students to celebrate the achievements of women in football, learn from role models in the industry, and experience the positive impact of sport on personal growth. A huge thank you to Fulham FC’s Football & Education, and the Premier League Inspires Girls for their support in making this event such a success!

Premier League Changemakers

On Friday 21st March, Daisy and Taylor (who are part of the Fulham Premier League Inspires Programme) travelled to Wolverhampton Training Ground to take part in the Changemakers National Event, held in celebration of International Women’s Day.

Centred around this year’s theme, ‘Accelerate Action’, the event empowered young people to take meaningful steps towards gender equality, with a strong focus on leadership, resilience, and creating lasting change in sport.

Throughout the day, our students took part in a series of engaging and thought-provoking workshops, including: ‘Being a Referee & Resilience – Exploring the importance of confidence, decision-making, and staying strong in the face of challenges’ and ‘Youth Voice for Equality in Sport – Encouraging students to speak up, influence change, and advocate for inclusive opportunities in sports’. A session on ‘Careers in Sport’ was led by Sky Sports presenter Amber Sandhu, who shared her own inspiring journey in sports broadcasting and offered valuable advice for young people interested in sports careers. And finally, ‘Building a Legacy for Females in Sport’ was a powerful session on how young people can leave a lasting impact and open doors for future generations of women in sport.

Both students were engaged, inspired, and full of ideas following the event, and we are so proud of the way they represented RPHS. Daisy, who was interviewed by the Premier League, said ‘I am excited by this experience and enthusiastic to drive positive change and inclusive opportunities within sport and our school community’.

A huge thank you to the Premier League Charitable Fund for delivering such an empowering and unforgettable day.

Mr Oldridge, *Director of Sport & Community Partnerships*

NEWSOMS

MILTONS

GIBBS

HALLIWELLS

HOUSE UPDATE

Throughout the Spring term there has been a big push from the House Team to create wider opportunities for students to participate in house competitions and events. Students have had the opportunity to participate in a range of events throughout the term including; the Maths challenge at KS3, English spelling bee, DT games design competition and Performing Arts competition alongside House Football and Basketball competitions with PE. A selection of results are as follows:

Maths Challenge

- Year 7 Winners: GIBBS
- Year 8 Winners: HALLIWELLS
- Year 9 Winners: HALLIWELLS
- Year 10 Winners: MILTONS

English Spelling Bee

- 1st place: MILTONS
- 2nd place: GIBBS
- 3rd place: HALLIWELLS
- 4th: NEWSOMS

House Football

- Joint 1st place: HALLIWELLS and MILTONS
- 3rd: GIBBS
- 4th: NEWSOMS

House Basketball

Ongoing, results to be published next term

The House Team have also promoted and run various charity events throughout the term. The students have participated in House competitions linked to ‘Show Racism the Red Card’ where they have had the opportunity to create artwork and musical pieces linked to promoting equality and celebrating diversity. We have also raised money for Comic Relief through a mufti day, and for Red Nose Day, with students taking part in a ‘Guess the Teacher’ competition in tutor time, where they had to identify staff members based on baby pictures and guess their first job. Moving forward into the Summer term there will be lots more House events across the curriculum for students to take part in, including the annual sports days! Well done to all who have flown the flag for their House by demonstrating our school values and engaging in the many opportunities on offer.

Heads of Houses

WELLBEING IN SCHOOL

This term, alongside Children's Mental Health Week and LGBTQIA+ History Month, we have been promoting wellbeing throughout the school with a range of activities, workshops and performances

We have been very busy at Raynes Park High School this term. We kicked off the fun in February with assemblies delivered to all year groups for Children's Mental Health Week. Mental health continues to be a priority for us and following these assemblies we were able to have important discussions with students and provide some interventions and signposting to support them with their mental health.

In February we also celebrated LGBTQIA+ History Month with assemblies, music during lesson changeovers, themed lessons, banners and lots of exciting activities in our LGBTQIA+ Club. This year we also hosted another Student vs Staff football match to raise money for local LGBTQIA+ charity Spectra and our Sixth Form prom. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed, it was a well-deserved win for the staff (this time).

In March we once again welcomed the Daniel Spargo Foundation (right) to deliver a performance to the Year 10s regarding substance misuse and risky behaviours. We are really grateful for the partnership we have formed with the Foundation and are looking forward to getting them back in next term to work with our Year 7 students.

We also welcomed the Unalone project again to work with our Year 8s on a trial project for their new mental health mobile app. We had such great feedback from our Year 8s from this and it was brilliant seeing how well they worked together as a team.

On the 19th and 26th March, alongside CAMHS clinical psychologist Joshua Eldridge, we delivered training to selected Year 10 and Year 12 students in readiness for the relaunch

of the Peer Mentoring programme starting in the Summer term. Many students have expressed a keenness to take part in this but unfortunately were not able to join this round of training. If you are one of these students please do keep your eyes peeled for more training and leadership opportunities, coming soon!

Joshua Eldridge, alongside some of our other educational wellbeing practitioners, also kindly supported us in delivering exam stress workshops to some of our Year 11 students throughout March, to support them in their readiness for their GCSEs.

Finally on the 26th and 27th March, we also welcomed Metro in for the first time to deliver assemblies to our Year 12 and 13 students, on the topic of sexual health and healthy relationships. We hope this will be the beginning of a long partnership with them.



There are lots more exciting partner events taking place in the Summer term, with Kooth, the Tender project, and many more. We look forward to sharing more information when we can.

Support Available Over the Holidays

Understandably the holidays are an exciting time for many young people, however for some this period of time can be stressful and

difficult to get through. We want you to know that you do not have to suffer in silence and that there is support readily available should you be interested. Please see below for a list of helplines and websites to visit for some support over the Easter break. Please also see the mental health page on our school website for further support, for resources and signposting for both yourself and your parents/carers.

Ms Yusuf, Mental Health & Personal Development Lead

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
volunteering 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/video call 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 111** 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

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

powered by
shout
85258

powered by
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**



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!



Join



Shop



Raise



easyfundraising feel good shopping

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

