

THE SPUR



ISSUE 3

SUMMER TERM 2024

X @officialRPHS



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Dear Families,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the latest edition of the RPHS Newsletter, The Spur. As always, the academic year has drawn to a close in a flurry of activity and I hope you enjoy reading about all that the students have been involved in this term. This past year has also seen RPHS excel in community projects and we are very proud of all that has been achieved.

I would like to start by paying tribute to our wonderful students who are such brilliant ambassadors for RPHS and the dedication of the incredible teachers and support staff who have worked tirelessly right up until the end of this particularly long summer term. I would also like to thank the Governing Body for their involvement and support of the school. I am so pleased that RPHS offers both stability and continuity, as without such a committed and enthusiastic team, RPHS would not continue to thrive as it does. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our families for your ongoing support as the school continues to improve in terms of our reputation and growing student numbers. In September, we will welcome 200+ Year 7 students from over 80 feeder schools and 100+ students will join Year 12.

The culture and atmosphere around the school remains overwhelmingly positive. We have continued to embed our values of respect and resilience at every opportunity and our students are learning the importance of these in their quest to secure the best results in all aspects of school life. Teaching high quality lessons every day is the most important aspect of our work and the quality of teaching has been carefully monitored throughout the year. We have welcomed colleagues from the Local Authority and we were delighted with the comments made by our School Improvement Partner in May where the following strengths were identified; 'pupils have positive attitudes to learning' 'there are clear, well-established routines in the overwhelming majority of lessons' and that in Year 11 lessons, there is clear focus by teachers on the importance of successful examination techniques'.

As you will read in this newsletter, wellbeing has remained a priority at the school for a number of years now. Our experienced Wellbeing Team provide the additional support some students

have benefited from this year and this will remain a focus for us, as will literacy. We have also enhanced our Literacy Team and invested in a range of programmes to improve not only reading ages but confidence with reading and the Tutor Time Reading Programme continues to be a wonderful start to each day with tutors and tutees reading together.

Following the end of the public examinations and our own internal end of year exams, we have been even busier than usual this half term with residential to Dunkirk and Kingswood, the DofE expedition, Enrichment Days, a reward trip to Chessington World of Adventures, Academic Review Day and Sports Days. We were also delighted that 150+ students took part in the school production of Footloose, with 16 students catching the eye of the talent scout that was in the audience on the opening night! Today, we have enjoyed our end of year assembly and congratulations go to Halliwells for winning the House Cup. I would also like to personally commend the students who were nominated for my Headteacher Award and I decided to award all 4 nominated students this term as it proved too hard to choose an outright winner!

As we say farewell to those staff who are relocating around the country or abroad, moving on to promoted posts and teaching opportunities elsewhere, my thanks go to these colleagues for all they have done for RPHS and we wish them well in their future roles. I would also like to welcome Mrs Mc Inerney back from maternity leave and wish Ms Butler our very best wishes for her maternity leave.

Thank you so much for your continued support this year and thank you to those families who completed the annual survey. We always appreciate your feedback on how we can improve further and we will continue to work hard on delivering the very best outcomes for your children.

I hope that you all have a restful and relaxing summer, and on behalf of all at RPHS, we look forward to seeing you next academic year.

Miss KJ Taylor

Headteacher

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

Headteacher

The Governors would like to congratulate both students and staff for another successful academic year.

The summer term has been another busy one. Raynes Park High School provides much more than an education within a classroom. For example, it was wonderful to see so many students develop and showcase their talents at the recent Footloose performances. Governors also thoroughly enjoyed Culture Day - a great way of celebrating the diverse community at the school. With the numerous enrichment trips that staff have planned and offered students, it has been truly wonderful how the school has enhanced the cultural capital of our students.

Congratulations to Year 11 and Year 13 students on completing your public examinations. We are sure that the support from your teachers and your own personal preparation will put you in good stead for when you collect your results in August. These results will provide the keys to your next steps, and we hope that they open many doors for you.

We would like to wish Year 11 students the best of luck at your new destinations as you embark on your next chapters and look forward to welcoming back those of you who are joining the sixth form in September. We extend these well wishes to the outgoing Year 13 cohort as you leave Raynes Park High School, and further education – a major milestone in your lives.

Thank you to all the teachers for your efforts this year. Your hard work makes a huge difference to the lives of every student at Raynes Park High School and we are very grateful for everything that you continue to do. Schools can't run on just teachers, so we would like to also say a big thank you to the support staff at the school; from HR to catering, admin to cleaning – to all of you, thank you for making Raynes Park a wonderful environment for our students and helping to provide atmospheres for excellent learning.

Governors would like to thank Ms Taylor and her senior leadership team for all their work, and we look forward to supporting you in the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all the staff, students and their families a wonderful summer holiday.

Best wishes,


Dean Murphy
Vice Chair




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

www.rphs.org.uk/31/governors

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

Please e-mail newsletter@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST

RAYNES PARK NEWS SUMMER TERM ROUND-UP

After working tirelessly to fundraise and support our students for an amazing 39 years, Neil Jordan, Chair of the RPHS Charitable Trust, is standing down, and signs off here with his final newsletter

This will be my last contribution to the end of term Newsletter as I shall be standing down as chair of the Charitable Trust this summer. My association with the school as a teacher, governor and trustee over the last 39 years pales into insignificance to the record of our new Chair, Margaret Tulloch. Margaret has worked tirelessly for more than 40 years to support the school as a parent, governor, trustee, activist and gardener! She will bring great experience and enthusiasm to the rôle.

As you read this section of the Newsletter you may have had a very enjoyable evening recently, seeing RPHS students in "Footloose". The Trust will have a major focus in supporting the next phase in the development of the school's drama facilities. It will help to channel funds from charitable bodies in this very worthwhile development and maintain the school's reputation as a great place to participate in the arts.

Sorry to bang on about this but the Trust is still looking for new volunteers to become trustees! Parents would be particularly welcome. The main commitment is to attend three meetings per year, usually around October, March and June. Our aim is to make the meetings brisk and business-like! If you are interested, please e-mail for further information: RPHSTrust@outlook.com.

Second bit of banging on - please use the Easyfundraising website to benefit the school financially! Please sign up and nominate the Raynes Park High School Trust and buy online! Here is the link you need to participate: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rayne-sparkhs/?q=Raynes&cat=cause-autosuggest>

I hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Neil Jordan

Retiring Chair, RPHS Charitable Trust

RPHSTrust@outlook.com



Neil Jordan
Chair, Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust

A look back over the Summer Term at some of the news and events from RPHS

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening

Year 11 students who completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award during Year 10 recently had the opportunity to attend the Borough Awards Evening at the Cherry Red Record Stadium in Wimbledon to celebrate their achievements. With a completion rate of 79% it was fantastic to see so many of the cohort in attendance to celebrate with their peers from across the Borough. Well done to all those who completed the Award, and a particular mention must go to Zoe and Rebecca, who presented on behalf of the school with such confidence to a packed conference hall.



Mr Sanderson, Head of PE



Art and Design Show

The Art Show exhibited the exceptional work of Art and Design students in Year 11 and Year 13. Art was exhibited from every student on the course and showcased the diversity and unique creativity of our students. We are very proud of what students produced, and hope they continue to develop their creative works indefinitely.

Miss Smith, Head of Art and Photography

Brilliant Club visit Southampton University

In May, the Year 9 Brilliant Club visited the University of Southampton to collaborate on their final project. Under the guidance of Mr Conor Bollins from Queen Mary University of London, our students explored "The Foundations of Political Thought," delving into the impact of various political ideologies. Following their successful endeavour, the students participated in a Graduation Ceremony where they received certificates recognising their outstanding efforts.

Mr Bishop, PE 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 Twitter and Instagram and Raynes Park High School and Sixth Form on Facebook!



RPHS TENNIS COURTS OFFICIALLY OPENED



Houses of Parliament visit

A group of Year 10 students were lucky enough to visit the Houses of Parliament. They were initially greeted by the stunning Westminster Hall and were then taken on a tour through Parliament. Due to MPs being busy with the general election there were no debates so the students were able to experience the rare opportunity of standing in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Although we weren't allowed to sit on the benches in each room, we did get a lovely final photo of everyone sitting on a replica. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to learn about how politics works in Britain. And who knows, perhaps one day we may have ourselves a Raynes Park Prime Minister!

Miss Stewart, History Teacher

Young Enterprise Award

Our Young Enterprise Student company 'Big Friendly Gift' have had a hugely successful few months. Students have been designing, creating and selling their personalised gifts online, in person and even at a stall in the famous Spitalfields Market, where the students' sales and marketing skills dominated. So much so that they completely sold out on the day!

The Big Friendly Gift team have also been making headlines in the competition stakes. Going from strength to strength, the students were shortlisted and invited to attend the Merton and Sutton Showcase, where students were required to pitch to a panel of judges, which included

the Mayor of Merton, industry professionals and representatives from Young Enterprise. Competing against four other schools from the borough, the students held their own and went on to win 'Best Presentation' on the night. Thoroughly deserved!

Miss Jordan, Business Teacher



To keep up-to-date with all our news, please keep an eye on our website:
www.rphs.org.uk



Raynes Park High School welcomed Tim Henman OBE to our community event to officially launch our refurbished tennis courts

On the 23rd May we welcomed Tim Henman OBE, Stephen Hammond (Wimbledon MP) and Ross Garrod (Leader of Merton Council) to RPHS to officially open our brand new tennis courts. This exciting afternoon marked a pivotal point in the development of the courts and the support of the Tim Henman Foundation.

The event also welcomed 500 of our local primary school students who took part in the numerous outreach programmes we offer here at RPHS. We are very fortunate that our teachers and partner organisations are committed to making RPHS a standout school for its provision.

We offered a range of activities including tennis with Limitless Tennis, Kicks and Premier League Inspires with Fulham FC Foundation, The Lion King with Ben Warwick and the Drama Dept, and Sublime Science and RPHS Science Chromatography. There were also workshops in

Dance, African drumming, Design & Technology, French and Spanish.

Miss Tapp from Green Lane Primary commented "it was such a wonderful experience and the pupils (and especially me) really appreciated the time Tim took to speak to the GL pupils."

One Burlington student said "I've had so much fun, the African Drumming was great and we got to create our own solo section."

It gives us great pleasure to offer such wonderful experiences, that give primary school students a glimpse into secondary school life and prepares them for the transition from primary school.

Mr Oldridge,
Director of Sport and Community Partnerships

'My Foundation is delighted to have worked with Raynes Park High School over the course of the last six years. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of my Foundation's supporters we have been able to enrich the curriculum offer at the School.'

'Today is very special as we are opening the new courts funded jointly by The Tim Henman Foundation and the School. Our focus will now be on supporting curriculum enrichment through a funded tennis programme.'

'It is great to see the growth in the partnerships and programmes linked with the school that all embrace my Foundation's philosophy of "one life, many opportunities".'

Tim Henman OBE

During the event we were also fortunate for Tim Henman to present the Tim Henman Foundation Opportunity Awards to our Summer Term recipients. These awards are given to students who are awarded up to £500 in order to support them in various projects and programmes. This year's recipients were Bianka (Year 10) who will enrol in a creative writing workshop to support her ambitions in both English and DT; Mable (Year 9) who has started her own bracelet making business with some of

the proceeds going to local charities. Bisan (Year 12) will receive additional tuition for her Science studies to help her go to university to study to be a nurse. Albert (Year 12) will receive tuition in Further Maths. He has already been studying this himself outside of school and this will support his university options and career path.

Mr Oldridge, Director of Sport and Community Partnerships

TENNIS RACKETS FOR EACH YEAR 7

The Tim Henman Foundation has also committed to supporting more students accessing tennis by increasing the tennis programme delivery to over 200 students a week and supplying each Year 7 student with a brand new tennis racket.

Mr Oldridge, Director of Sport and Community Partnerships



WIMBLEDON BALL BOYS



As we draw the summer term to a close, we look back on another successful year of training at school and with the Wimbledon Ball Boy and Girls department, who led some of our students to being successful in reaching the Wimbledon 2024 Championships. Over the two weeks of Wimbledon, Quency, Isaac and Kostiantyn impressively demonstrated the skills they built up through the programme in front of millions of people, at the event and those who watched from worldwide.

Each time they stepped onto court, they had to demonstrate faultless understanding of the game of tennis and meet the extremely high expectations set by the Championships, which include supporting the world's best players at every point breakdown. Those selected to take part in the Championships are the best of the best from hundreds of other students who apply to join the Ball Boys and Girls programme in and around the borough of Merton, which has made their achievement all the more special.

I would like to mention all of our students that have taken part at any stage of the programme, for their commitment and motivation. Way back in September we had numerous students fighting for the 10 trial spots for the school, attending training religiously and pestering family and friends to help them practice as the weeks progressed. It is such a difficult

decision to decide on a final few to be judged by the BBG department in the January trials and if it were up to me, I would have inducted you all into the programme.

Next year's spots already look as though they will be highly sought after. Following a few weeks of taster training in the summer term, we have already had over 30 Year 8 students show their interest for next year's programme. They have grabbed the opportunity to get ahead of the curve with some early practice and will come back determined to be at the 2025 championships – and we can't wait to see them there!

I want to congratulate all our Ball Boys and Girls, from training to the Championships. They each did an outstanding job at representing Raynes Park High School, and we couldn't be more proud! It was great for several members of teaching staff to get down to watch some tennis over the 2 weeks and catch them in action, truly looking the part. In addition we have had glowing reports back from the Ball Boy and Girls department on how well they did throughout the two weeks. We hope the students enjoyed themselves and got to meet some of their tennis heroes. Again, well done for representing Raynes Park in such a positive light.

Mr Wheel, Head of Sixth Form

FOOTLOOSE: THE MUSICAL

This term saw RPHS Performing Arts stage only the third musical in the history of the school: Footloose, The Musical, with over 150 students taking part



On Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th July the students of the cast and crew of 'Footloose' stunned their audiences with their performance. Audience members were immersed into the world of 'The Town of Bomont' from the reception area being adorned in decorations, to being served diner food during the interval.

Audition sign-ups for Footloose took place during October 2023 last year, with an amazing turn out, with just over 300 students signing up to audition. Both staff and students worked incredibly hard to produce the show.

Students have been rehearsing for the show every week on Mondays and Tuesdays after school since January and their hard work certainly paid off. Students from all different year groups were able to work together to create a show that certainly won't be forgotten any time soon!

Miss Pope,
Head of Drama



LITERACY UPDATE



We are very proud to have three winners from the Bookfest and South West Writes creative writing competitions

As a department, we place a huge importance on giving students opportunities with their own writing and look forward to the chance to enter Wimbledon BookFest every year. The theme of this year's competition was 'The Game' which students were invited to interpret in any way they wished. Congratulations to Juliet, who was the winner of the KS3 poetry prize, Honey, who won the KS4 poetry prize and Maryam, who was the runner up for the KS4 short story prize. These three students will be invited to a prize giving ceremony in the new academic year.

The Games I Play by Juliet

*I've been playing the game for as long as I remember
See, you've got to be careful
Too careful.*

*I know how it goes now, I'd like to think I've gotten pretty good,
But still not good enough.*

*Think before you speak, but I still never do
Regret is a feeling I'm familiar with.
Cold in your stomach, burrowing deep like a beetle.*

*So I drum rhythms and melodies onto school desks, tapping my foot on every other beat.
Again.
And again.
You make a mistake, start again.
I seem to be the only one playing the game,
They're all miles and miles ahead, leaving me in the dust.
A friend told me I hum subconsciously,
so that's something else to add to the constant noise in the back of my head
I'm still waiting for my prize, surely,
I've been doing so well.*

*This game is wearing me thin at the edges,
When will I get to stop playing?
But you never get to stop playing.*

*I drown out my thoughts and the noise in my head with words
That
Mean
Nothing.*

*But no matter how far I throw myself over the finish line,
It throws itself ever further.
This game will never end, I'm sure of it now*

*Society will make sure of that,
With its always changing rules
I can't seem to write them down fast enough.*

*I've been playing the game for as long as I remember
And I can't see a way out of it.
No 'exit' button in the corner of the computer.
No final boss.
No high score to beat.*

*But no matter how you look at it,
The clocks will tick faster,
And the blackbirds will still sing on electrical cables
The game that is social acceptance will
Never
Ever
Stop.*

An Everlasting Ordain by Honey

*I am told that it takes a leap of faith to transcend a disbelief
So, with flaky limbs
I scuttle forward.
Aby, I scrape through the grit
Fingernails gunky, I embrace the filth
I believe it's easier to reside in its sludge than to abort
such a drop of life from an aching soul*

*So, willingly, I inhale its mud.
To think that I sheltered a heart mellow with prospect,
so charming and certain
A cologne so sweet I dared to taste
That popped and crackled like popping candy on my tongue*

*Down below, as night reigns above
I settle.
Alongside the sludge, I stare into her lustful eyes,
I cherish her dearly.
Here I can accept that I was stripped of the legs needed to pace,
The breath so fair their rationale would falter,
Estranged, because though I make the rules here, the stars seem to wink at those I gape at with a strained, misty, sight*

LITERACY UPDATE

My Next Move by Maryam

At gripping moments like this, I hear my Nanni Ma's hoarse voice turning over in my mind, engrained with the sound of her rocking wicker chair creaking after every swing:

'Go on. It's your turn.'

And before me - more often than not - would be a small board with 64 black and white squares and another set of 16 black and white pieces at either end

'But I've already lost; is there really a need?'

At my protest, her eyes would narrow into black slits, and she would stare at me, like I had just ridiculed her. So, I would move my pieces in a useless effort to prevent my inevitable defeat. In her response, she would merely press her lips into a thin straight line, her frustration palpable in the way she would furrow her brow.

'Be bold. Never accept defeat.'

With that, she would once again refurbish the board, and every piece would be back in its designated place, and we would start another game, which would always end with my defeat.

My Nanni Ma was usually communicative in a reserved way, and her advice, which I wouldn't have known at the time, would mean a great deal to me.

In the short six years we had spent together in the same old room playing the same game every afternoon, she had taught me the intricacies of playing chess and the invisible art of victory regardless of situations; though I had never been able to defeat her, not once before the day she was blanketed in a white cloth and placed in her khat.

And so it came about in my early 20s when I saw my life branching into a barren, fruitless tree, its branches twisted and empty, mirroring my own bleak future, wordless and unknown. It stood like a naked pawn, always on the board, always present and thought of, yet lacking and limited in movement and power. I had found no reason to love that sight, yet amidst the desolation, there was a beauty of growth. As my Nanni Ma had snobbishly suggested, and I had snobbishly repeated, the tree will continue to flower when the time is right, and the smallest pawn can become a queen with time.

And with that, I let myself wander with the warm wind through the carefree clouds, until before me was a chess board and opposite me a skeletal tree. Silently, I worked out my next move.

South West Writes Competition

We also were given the opportunity for our Year 10 students to enter the creative writing competition South West Writes. This was created by Kingston College in coordination with the literary agency David Higham Associates and Wimbledon Books. Richard Fisher, who visited our school to launch the competition with a select group of creative writers, said that it has been a joy to deliver the competition and witness the enthusiasm, honesty and bravery demonstrated by all the writers who entered. Clara's entry 'Heart' was selected as the overall runner up, with the literary agent Maddalena Cavacuti stating:

'This submission was an absolute joy to read. There is so much heart and overwhelming emotion expressed in the extract - I really admired the way the writer captured the feelings of first love and self-discovery by slipping so seamlessly into metaphors and hyperbole in their storytelling. The final moment, where the love so stunningly described throughout the piece is lost to the writer was incredibly poignant. It's a remarkable skill to have a reader feel so much in so few words, and this extract managed it beautifully.'

It was the summer I realised I'd rather fall in love with a girl than fall in love with my shame.

Every Tuesday you would wait for me outside the school gates and we would kiss right there in the open, mouths touching and all, and then we would race home and I would make a small incision in your skin and pull out your heart. Table manners were never my strong suit so I'd eat it with my hands, teeth piercing the pomegranate-seed flesh, and then you'd pull out my heart and eat it too. It was the way we loved, you and me. In a world where anything was possible, where the pigs flew and people didn't need feet to walk, you and I used the magic God had put in the streams running through the village to turn each other inside out and feast on the places that love had visited. And then we would fall asleep tracing the grooves on each other's backs, listening to the midnight birdsong.

With you I was whole.

You were every poem I had ever loved, every song I had ever danced to, every glimmer of hope that I had ever felt watching two women kiss on the street. You were the moment I looked the word 'lesbian' up in the dictionary and realised that there was a place for all my desires, all my forgotten fantasies that I never really forgot at all. Secrets whispered under bedsheets became kissing you outside the school gates, became eating your heart and writing you stories and telling you that actually, I prefer the orange clementines because they're the only ones that haven't been tainted by magic. You smiled the first time I told you that, asked me what was so bad about magic. Nothing, I had responded. I didn't feel like telling you that I was scared that one day He would take it away, that one day we wouldn't be able to eat each other's hearts anymore.

If we were feeling ambitious we'd drink the stars. My favourite evenings were the ones I spent with you in the kitchen, moonlight spilling out onto the countertop like a confirmation that we were still alive and we were still breathing and even if nothing else was true we still loved each other. We still loved each other and you were there in the corner blending up the stars into a milkshake that reminded me what it was to live in a world built upon foundations of magic. Drunk on ideas of immortality and invincibility we'd kiss on the rooftop until sunrise, then go to school the next day. I'd help you get ready, lace up your corset. Slip a love sonnet into the pocket of your school bag. You'd laugh, ridicule my shaky iambic pentameter. I wouldn't tell you how your words made me melt.

God, I miss your words.

I hate how mine are the only ones left.

It was the summer the earth turned strawberry-blue and even though I remember none of it every single moment is tattooed in the back of my mind. Your lips, your hips, the hair that we cut together. You wanted a wolf cut but I didn't know how to do that so instead I just trimmed the ends and raked stardust through your strands so that they glimmered in the light. I refused to cut my curls so you braided them instead, stopping every now and again to trace my lips with your fingertips and then, when that wasn't enough, your own lips. We were addicted to one another, you and me.

You wore moonlight like lingerie and were the sacred space I had been craving for so long. And now that you're gone I no longer know which god to pray to.

It was the summer I realised that eternity was a hoax made up by fools who never had anybody worthwhile to love. Because the glorious intimacy you and me shared was more fleeting than you and I could've ever imagined. And it was impossible to imagine that God would let anything that good go on forever.

It was the summer I realised I'd rather fall in love with a girl than fall in love with my shame.

And now that the winter has come around, my love is wasted on pointless things like teacups and fathers and there is no girl made of birdsong to take me dancing.

Clara



No Pen Day

To celebrate the oracy focus of the year, we ended the year by creating a 'no pen day' for all KS3 students. Lessons focused on discussion, problem solving and creativity, with activities ranging from creating newspaper boats in science to clay maps of the UK in geography. A big thank you to all of the staff who created such a diversity of activities to challenge our students' verbal skills.

Scholastic Book Fair

Hosting the Scholastic Book Fair was a wonderful way to bring the latest fiction to our students. We were delighted to be given five £5 tokens to award to students whose efforts had been commended in their English lessons, which could be put towards a novel of their choice. The money spent generated £191.90 of new books for the school and we look forward to hosting again in the Autumn term.

Former Student's Book Donation

Former student Nigel Abbot has been supporting library lessons this year. With a background in broadcasting, he is particularly interested in spoken language and has provided a range of strategies to support students with their independent reading. Of the classes he has worked with, Miss Pocentek's Year 9 English class made most reading progress across the year, improving by an average of 1 year and 3 months since September. To reward them for their success, he gifted a new book to every student to read over the summer.



Amazon wishlist

A continued thank you to those parents who have bought books from our Amazon wish list to donate to the school library. Here is a reminder of the link if you would like to support us to continue to offer our most popular reads in September: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2GAA3ZSDHoNgC/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

Mrs Waterston,
Head of Literacy and Librarian

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY NEWS

The Design and Technology department has celebrated incredible success this year, including national competition wins and prestigious design award nominations

London Leaders

On July 9th, the results of the London Leaders Engineer competition were exhibited at Kingston University, and two students from Raynes Park High School had their work featured at this exhibition.

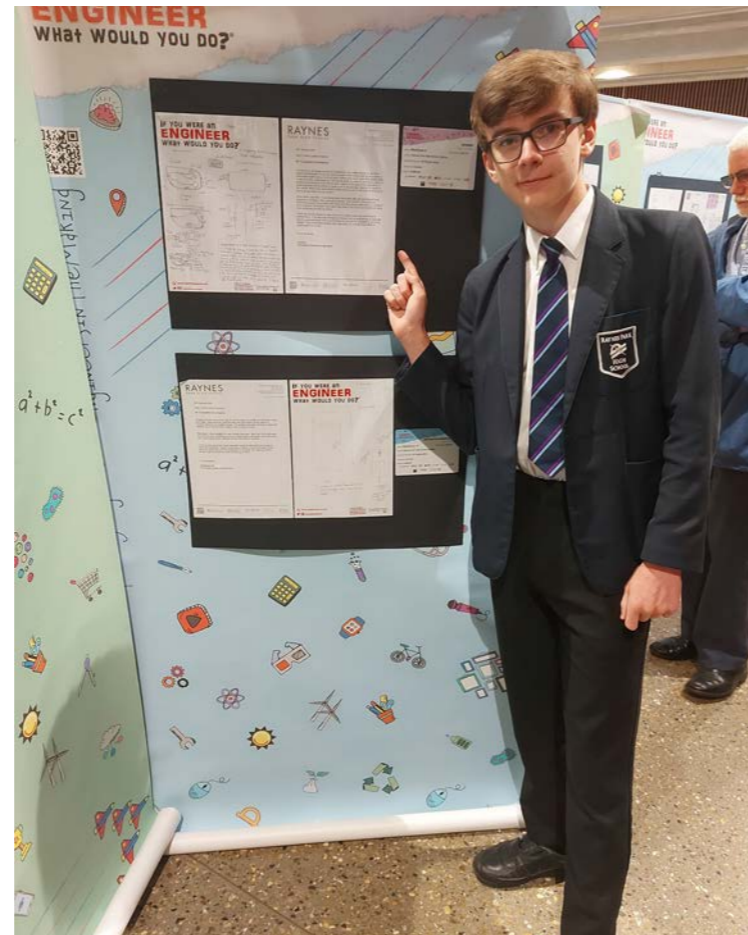
Kostiantyn was awarded a distinction for his submission and was shortlisted for the finals. His unique design idea will be presented at the exhibition.

Matthew also received a distinction and was shortlisted for the award. Matthew's design, a safety lock that releases when a car is involved in an accident, was particularly impressive. This lock is designed to function in both regular collisions and accidents involving water, ensuring that drivers can still open the door and get to safety. Matthew's innovative design won the competition.

Design & Technology Association Nominations

Two exceptionally talented D&T students have been nominated for the Design and Technology Association Awards.

Jack in Year 11 has enjoyed numerous D&T accomplishments, including winning the Wizards of the Coast Card Competition, the 2022 Tim Henman D&T Award, the 2024 Tim Henman ICT Award, and multiple Student of the Month D&T awards. His enthusiasm for design



led him to create a games table to meet the GCSE contextual challenge of playing games.

Jasmin in Year 13 studies Art & Design BTEC. She has won the Tim Henman Media Award, multiple Student of the Month D&T awards, the 2023 D&T Student of the Year award, and the 2021 Media Student of the Year award. She has also assisted at various design exhibitions. Jasmin's latest project involves creating an infinity mirror using reflected lights.

Both Jack and Jasmin have a good chance of winning their respective awards, and we eagerly await the results.

Congratulations to all our students for their hard work and outstanding achievements in Design and Technology.

RPHS to take part in the British Esports Student Championship

We are thrilled to announce that the D&T department is launching a new Esports extra-curricular club. This exciting opportunity has attracted sponsorship from prestigious gaming companies, including Lenovo and 8Bitdo, who have generously offered to assist with equipment. This support ensures that our students are equipped with the latest technology to compete in the British Esports Student Championship.

The Student Championship is a dynamic catalyst and springboard for aspiring Esports talent in the UK, serving as a launch pad for the development of amateur Esports athletes and propelling players towards national representation on the global stage. It not only helps shape the current generation of amateur Esports talent throughout the country but also contributes to the rise of a new generation of esports stars, poised to reach the pinnacle of national representation in the global Esports arena. Additionally, it helps build a digitally savvy, future-skilled workforce.

To be part of the team, students were required to complete applications, stating why they should be selected and demonstrating their expertise and skills to be part of a competitive Esports team. Places were limited to only 9 students, consisting of teams of three.



We are proud to announce that the following students will represent Raynes Park High School in the 2024-25 British National Championship: Daniel, Isaac, Kapilan, Quency, Euan, Han, Nikoloz, Andrew and Matvii.

Congratulations to our new Esports team members! We look forward to an exciting and successful season ahead.

Teacher in Residence Placement

We are delighted to share that Mr. Harris, the Head of the Art & Design Faculty, has been selected for the Teachers in Residence (TiR) programme, with a placement at Bulletproof, the global design agency. This rare opportunity promises to bring numerous learning benefits to the design students at Raynes Park High School.

Through his participation in the TiR programme, Mr. Harris will be immersed in the daily operations of Bulletproof, gaining first-hand experience of what it is like to work within a design agency. This experience will allow Mr. Harris to gain a deeper understanding of modern industry practices and the technical skills and attributes required by employees. He will bring this valuable knowledge back to his classroom, highlighting clear career pathways for his students.

Moreover, this placement will establish connections with the design agency, creating opportunities for Raynes Park High School students to undertake work experience placements and training, especially for those in Key Stages 4 and 5. Mr. Harris believes that linking student work experience to the curriculum will broaden their awareness of various jobs in the design industry, many of which they may not have previously known existed. This newfound awareness will help students set aspirational targets for their futures and enhance their engagement in learning.

We look forward to the positive impact this opportunity will have on our school community and the exciting prospects it will open up for our students.

Mr Harris, Head of Art & Design

SCIENCE UPDATE

This term has been a busy one for the Science Department, with clubs and competitions providing opportunities for success for students beyond the classroom

Biology Olympiad

The Biology Olympiad competition consisted of two, 25-minute multiple choice papers which were taken online, under staff supervised exam conditions. Questions were set on the school curriculum, but the competition also rewarded those students whose knowledge of the subject had been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes, taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest, and who were generally aware of our natural flora and fauna.

Out of 25 participants at Raynes Park, there were the following awards: five Commended, seven Highly Commended, 1 Bronze (Matthew), two Silver (Christina and Maryam) and two Gold (Muhammad and Bowie). Achieving a Gold award puts students in the top 5% of all participants in the world, which is a huge achievement considering 45,400 students took part. A huge well done to everyone.

Miss Bowes, Head of Science



Brian Cox Summer School Event

Our Year 12 Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Applied Science students attended the Science Summer School event alongside our Year 10 Triple Science students. The students heard from different guest speakers including Brian Cox. The students heard about the detailed images that are now taken from the International Space Station, and the possibility of inhabiting exoplanets. The students have come away with lots of big questions to think about and discuss in their lessons with the most popular being: can we live on Mars?

"It has fuelled my ambition to pursue things I never thought I could achieve. By this I mean for the first time I can see myself having and succeeding in a career in Physics." – Honey

Miss Bowes, Head of Science

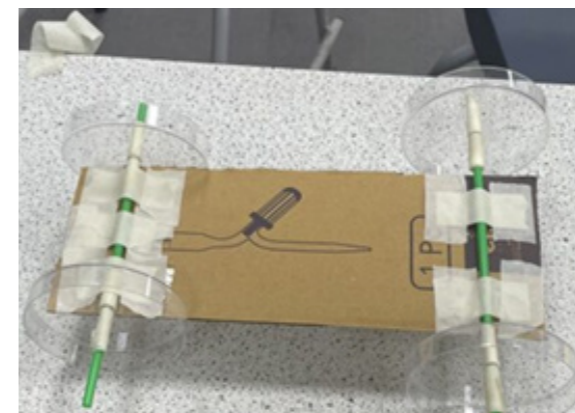


STEM Club

STEM Club runs once a week in a science laboratory where students from year 7 to year 12 gather to complete a new practical each week. The practical investigations the students have taken part in have been varied and tailored to their individual interests; they have included hover boards, egg parachutes, and carts to name just a few. Below are some of the comments from our members:

"STEM club is excellent for creative people, stretching their minds to new discoveries in Maths and Science. The best investigation was making choice chambers and insects." - Saptak

"I think STEM club is important because it teaches critical thinking and helps children come up with their own solutions in a fun way." – Messiah



Gardening Club

Each week, in rain or shine, the RPHS Gardeners tend to the garden. They have transformed the area from being a completely unused area to a thriving allotment. The students have really gained a wealth of experience and have really enjoyed being able to take home some of the produce to have for dinner. There is also an eco-garden that is currently an ongoing project, including the installation of a pond, that we are trying to secure additional funding for.

"I like gardening club because it has a lot of vegetables. My favourite is radish." - Rahmat

"Gardening is a very calming thing to do. It's also a way to stay fit and seeing your plants grow feels great." - Alex

"I love to do gardening club because it relieves my stress and I get food." - Jim

Miss Bowes, Head of Science

CULTURE DAY

Culture Day gave us the opportunity to celebrate the diverse range of cultures within RPHS. The day ended with students, parents and guests joining us for an evening of entertainment with music, dance, poetry, fashion and a selection of delicious food



ALUMNI NEWS

We are very pleased to share news from two former students

Creative Writing Success

Cerys Skinner left RPHS in 2023 and is now studying English Literature at Surrey University. We are so proud that she has had one of her poems published in a respected literary journal. Cerys got in touch with her former English teacher, Miss Scott, to let her know, and to thank her for inspiring her love of poetry. Her poem can be seen below:

The froth of the ocean is warmer to the touch than the still water

It crackles against my palm and leaves behind its residue when receding back in on itself.

A timid beast, afraid I'll hold it too gently so it seeps

through the gaps between my fingers—

but warm to the touch, inviting me to its savagery.

Each rock I chuck seems to anger it.

Using its eroded weaponry against its turmoil,

I can't seem to capture the stillness beyond what fizzles

in front of me.

I wish I could swim.

The ocean doesn't want to be forgiving, but I bless its sins.

It laps at my ankles and wets my shoes.

Yet I keep dipping in my toes.

Blueish black fading into docile greys, lighter than the

night sky but jealous of the stars within it:

only being able to replicate each star as a blurry faded

smudge against its face.

I love each mark.

It speaks to the winds, punching my face, spitting salt

into my eyes.

Even grabbing at my shirt and shoving it back against

my freezing skin,

trying to pin me against the backdrop of lights, futile

attempts to push me further away from it—yet it seems

stagnant to my endurance.

I don't want to leave.

It's warm to the touch. Inviting me into its savagery.

Cerys Skinner

Honour for Former Student

Congratulations to former student and ex-England footballer Chris Powell, who was awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours list. Chris attended RPHS from 1983-1986 and pursued a successful career in football.

YEAR 10 FRENCH TRIP

A two-day visit to Dunkirk gave our Year 10 students a chance to practice their language skills and explore the local area



On Monday 24th June, 13 Year 10 students gathered outside school at 5am to set off on their first trip abroad with the MFL department, this time heading to Dunkirk in northern France. Accompanied by Ms Pigott, Ms Burkin and Mr Oldridge, and travelling in the school minibus, we went down to Folkestone to take the shuttle across the Channel, and after a short drive at the other end in France, we reached our destination before midday.

We started off by exploring the beautiful sculpture park right next to our hostel, where we were using the French signs to work out what the art represented.

Then we headed to the beach for a walk along the promenade in the sunshine. Students found the perfect reason to practice their French here: purchasing ice cream. Meanwhile they were also completing a photo scavenger hunt, and keeping a look out for categories such as a French football shirt, most intriguing ice cream flavour, and a photo of a teacher buying cheese.

Later that afternoon we paid a visit to the Operation Dynamo museum, which commemorates the events that took place during the Second World War in Dunkirk.

After another beach visit and dinner at the hostel, we took an after-dinner walk out to see one of Dunkirk's lighthouses and came back for a well-earned night's sleep after the 5am start.

Day two started with breakfast at our hostel, and we headed straight to Marché Malo-les-Bains,

one of the open-air markets in the area, situated in a picturesque square with a bandstand in the middle. Students finally had the chance to tick off 'teacher buying cheese' from their photo scavenger hunt, and we all spent an hour perusing the stalls full of clothing, bags, watches, bracelets, fresh fruit and veg, saucisson and more. The year 10s were bravely using their French, even negotiating exchanges for items or asking to try things. Before heading to the beach for a final picnic we couldn't help but pay a visit to a patisserie to pick up some beautiful sweet treats. One student described using her French as scary, but then she felt so proud of herself afterwards.

Back at the hostel we collected the picnic they prepared for us and went back to Malo-les-Bains beach one more time. After a small confrontation with some seagulls and one last moment in the sunshine it was time to start the journey back to Raynes Park High School. The journey home went along with no hitches and we got back to school at 6:05pm.

The Year 10s were a credit to the school and behaviour was exceptional, they bravely embraced the chance to use their French and for teachers and students alike it was a really enjoyable two days. Dunkirk has much to offer, so watch this space for future trips!

Thank you to Mr Oldridge for his driving on the way there and back, and Ms Burkin and Ms Alviz for their support in organising.

Ms Pigott, Head of MFL

YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL

A group of our Year 7 students had an absolutely brilliant three-night stay at Kingwoods Residential. We had a completely packed itinerary, where students were able to learn new skills, develop their teamwork and challenge their fears

One of their favourite activities was tackling 'Jacobs's Ladder' where our students showed such resilience and bravery climbing to great heights, working in pairs to reach the top. Students all learnt a new skill when they were taught the key rules to creating and lighting a campfire, and were able to put their new skills into practice. Students were given the opportunity to try the 3G swing, orienteering and even Quidditch. Making the most of the full day we also had lots of evening activities including watching the exciting Euros football game and a competitive 'Mini Olympics'. On our final night, Kingswood hosted a disco where students showed up in their best outfits and showed us all their best dance moves!

I am so proud of all the students as they all got involved and behaved so well, they were excellent ambassadors of RPHS and I'm sure this will be a trip that we remember for a long time!

Ms Crossfield, Head of Year 7



ENRICHMENT WEEK

Our summer term Enrichment Week saw students taking part in a range of activities including visits to London Zoo, Channel 4, St Paul's Cathedral and Box Hill, alongside Industry Insight days and school events such as China Day and India Day



Enrichment Week activities commenced on the week beginning 15th July for students in Years 7 to 10. This week gives students unique opportunities to explore beyond the confines of their regular academic curriculum and engage in a diverse range of activities.

Year 7 students travelled to London Zoo and immersed themselves in wildlife and conservation education. They also participated in a series of India-themed activities, where they discovered and appreciated the rich cultural heritage of this vibrant nation.

Year 8 students had the opportunity to explore the breathtaking beauty of Box Hill, a local National Trust site. Within school, China Day exposed them to the wonders of Chinese culture; with China-themed activities such as Chinese lantern making, Chinese cookery and writing skills.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students embarked on an inspiring visit to St. Paul's Cathedral, an iconic symbol of British heritage and architectural grandeur. Alongside this, they took part in alternative sporting activities within the school, fostering teamwork, resilience, and a passion for physical well-being.



ENRICHMENT WEEK

Year 10 students enjoyed a diverse range of experiences during Enrichment Week. They took part in either a Sixth Form taster day or visited Merton College for college taster sessions and a tour. These sessions have equipped students with essential skills and knowledge for their future careers' aspirations. Moreover, Year 10 went on various curriculum-related trips, further expanding their horizons and deepening their understanding of the subjects they study. This year Year 10 also took part in an Industry Insights day where they travelled to different places of work to explore different career sectors. Students visited the Channel 4 studio, Jeremiah Carlton Hotel in Knightsbridge, YMU talent management agency and Central Saint Martins, to name a few.

Enrichment Week serves as a testament to the school's commitment to providing a holistic education, nurturing not only academic excellence but also the development of well-rounded individuals and promoting cultural capital. Through these varied experiences, students are encouraged get out of their comfort zones and explore our vibrant city. This allows students to develop new interests, and cultivate a sense of curiosity and gives relevance to our broad curriculum.

Mr McCurdy, Assistant Headteacher



ENRICHMENT WEEK



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Summer Term was one of celebration and new opportunities, with a whole range of events and activities taking place. It was a great pleasure to officially open our tennis courts, welcome 500 local primary schools to experience our outreach programmes, use our new Tennis Leaders in delivering an event and support local primary schools in delivering their sports days

Burlington Junior School Fitness Week

During the week of the 3rd June we offered our support to the Burlington Fitness week. During this week Burlington Junior School students were involved in all things related to sport, health and fitness, such as quizzes and inter-house competitions and culminating in sports day. After a very successful sports day in 2023, Burlington asked if we could support them with more this year.

Our Year 12 tennis leaders have been working hard over the past term along with Grant at Limitless Tennis in developing their Tennis Leader Skills, with weekly sessions and homework to

get them up to speed. We planned for them to use those skills in delivering an event to 240 primary children over two days. The students were brilliant with Burlington staff members commenting on the professionalism and creativity of the Leaders. The pupils also had a great time, with 100% of the students saying they had fun and would want to do this again.

We also enlisted our Year 9 and 10 Sports Leaders to support Burlington's Sports Day. Raynes Park students were great leaders, motivators and role models to the younger students. The Burlington staff were delighted with how supportive the RPHS students were and really made all the pupils feel special.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Primary School Sports Days

Our Sports Leaders have had a very busy Summer Term supporting various local schools for their Sports Day. As already mentioned the Year 9 and 10s supported Burlington Junior School on the 7th June. The Year 9s made their way to Green Lane Primary School on the 20th June and the Year 9/10 combination were back at Aragon Primary School on the 4th July.

Green Lane Primary offered our Year 9s the opportunity to lead a whole range of

activities from the egg and spoon race to the tug of war and the Year 9's favourite - the fancy dress 3-legged-race.

Mrs Tapp at Green Lane had this to say about our Sports Leaders, "They were so kind and helpful and such great characters. Our children really enjoyed having young people there to help and encourage them."

Aragon Primary run a more traditional athletics-based Sports Day with relays, long jump and shot putt. This allowed our Sports Leaders to share their knowledge which they had developed in PE lessons over the Summer Term. The Aragon staff were very complimentary of the students, with Miss Ballantine, who is PE lead saying "she could not have run the day without them!" One student on the day was even offered a work experience placement (and future job) from the Headteacher based on their work.

A huge well done to all of our Sports Leaders who have supported the many different activities we have hosted or supported over this academic year.

Mr Oldridge, Director of Sport and Community Partnerships



Fulham FC Premier League Inspires

As the programme comes to a close, the staff at Fulham have been extremely complimentary of the 2023-24 cohort, Lauren at FFC saying that, "they have loved working with the group, and feels like they have gained the most out of any group to do the programme in recent years".

We had a great opportunity to support some local providers in promoting the Summer Activities available to our students. The morning offered Year 7 the opportunity to meet and talk to organisations about the opportunities. It was a wonderful morning supported by the Premier League Inspires cohort who engaged with the different providers and the Year 7 students.

The girls group who successfully pitched their social action project to a leading panel were able to put it to action. The project was centred on young people's mental health and the actions that can be taken to support them. They had planned a Mini Olympic activity carousel for Burlington Junior School Year 5 pupils, with Nancy delivering a Mental Health workshop as one of the activities. The girls were fortunate enough to deliver their project at Motspur Park in the Fulham Training Dome. They led their individual activities brilliantly, with Richmond from FFC commenting, "They were so professional and so engaging with the younger children". Mr Blow Deputy Head of Burlington echoed the statement and that "it was great for the Burlington pupils to see the opportunities available at secondary school."

As the programme was coming to a close the students were given several celebration events, the first being a trip to Chessington World of Adventures. This was a unique reward which FFC offered only to RPHS and no other school on the programme. This was offered to reflect the engagement and hard work that the students had shown during the year.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Finally they had their Programme Rewards. All the students on the programme will leave with a qualification, the girls will receive their Changemakers Qualification from the Premier League, aimed at celebrating women in sport and encouraging change. The boys will receive their Princes Trust Qualification focused on building confidence and work based skills. The cohort was presented with awards based on their engagement and progress in the programme over the course of the year. Nancy, who was awarded the Most Engaged, received a Fulham shirt as part of the prizegiving and said, "This year with Fulham has been amazing, I've had so many great opportunities which I wouldn't normally have had. It's really helped me with my future choices and wanting to be a teacher." Alfie (or Alfaldiniho as Fulham have nicknamed him) who won a number of awards for his involvement in the programme, has seen a real change from taking part, saying, "I've loved every minute" and "I do feel much more confident now".

A really huge well done to the 2023-2024 Premier League Inspires cohort who have fully embraced the programme, gaining valuable experience and developing important skills that will help them going into Year 10, being successful in their GCSEs and in their future careers.

Merton School Sport Partnership

Our Sports Leaders have been super busy throughout the year supporting events for the Merton School Sport partnership. They are a real asset to the school and have done themselves proud in what they have accomplished in this academic year. I know Miss McCourt and I are so grateful for all the time and commitment they have shown.

During the summer term we had some amazing events to support. The first was with the Year 9 leaders who supported the Merton Primary Tennis competition under the dome at the new

AELTC Community Tennis Centre. Our leaders did a fantastic job in organising the games, scoring and umpiring.

Our Year 12 leaders supported an inclusive multi-sport event again hosted at the state of the art tennis centre. The students led individual activities throughout the day giving supportive coaching and motivation to the primary school children.

Finally our Year 10 rounders team were called upon to be sport leaders at the Merton Primary Schools Rounders Finals. The girls were fantastic role models in supporting participants, umpiring and scoring the games.

We have received wonderful feedback from school and teachers throughout the year for our Sports Leaders. Nicola of MSSP said, "Thank you so much to all of your sports leaders this year, they have been amazing! They have continued to get better each year we have worked with them. I already know to count on them for MSSP events next year."

Mr Oldridge, Director of Sport and Community Partnerships



RPHS CLASS OF 2024

Our Year 11 and 13 students celebrated the end of their exams in style, with leaving assemblies, shirt signings, and prom nights

Year 11 students celebrated the end of their GCSEs with our annual prom aboard a pleasure boat on the Thames. We embarked from Kingston pier and journeyed along the River Thames towards Hampton Court and back towards Teddington. Students wasted no time in kicking the party off and danced well into the night to a wide array of music, barely stopping to eat the food provided by our longstanding partners.

Some highlights of the night included many amazing ensembles, with students really making the effort to look fantastic for a night of celebration. However, the stand-out moment must be Mr Bolili's dancing which set the tone for the entire event! We hope students enjoyed themselves and wish them all an amazing summer. We look forward to seeing them on results day to celebrate their achievements.

Mr Jones, Head of Year 11



Our Year 13 students celebrated the end of their time at Sixth Form and finishing their A-level courses with an incredible prom night at Surbiton Town Sports Club. The student leadership team had done an incredible job of fundraising to make it a special night for all in attendance and for the lowest prom ticket price in Sixth Form history!

Students looked amazing - dressed to impress and ready to dance the night away, it was actually a struggle to pull them away from it at the end of the night. Another night that will live long in the memories of staff who attended to wish the Year 13 students well one last time on their next adventure, we just hope it was as memorable for all our students and they come back to see us in the new academic year to share stories of what they are up to after life at Raynes Park.

Mr Wheel, Head of Sixth Form



WELLBEING IN SCHOOL

This term throughout the school we have celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week and Pride Month, while continuing to support all our students, whether this be within school or with the co-operation of local external agencies

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 local external agencies to provide 1-to-1 and group support to students of all year groups.

In May we celebrated mental health awareness week at RPHS. During the week, we had Educational Wellbeing Practitioners (EWPs) in to deliver assemblies to students in each year group surrounding mental health awareness and how students can access support if needed. Off the back of this assembly, many students came forward to say they would like to access some wellbeing support from the EWP team, which is brilliant!

In June, we celebrated Pride month. Our school social worker Issy Hill delivered assemblies to students in each year group surrounding the importance and history of the month and also ways students can get involved to increase education, remove stigma and celebrate. Throughout the school we

demonstrated our allyship through the use of educational banners and music by key LGBTQIA+ identifying artists. Ms Sleet also continued to run our school's LGBTQIA+ club (this club is ongoing all year round and all are welcome, it runs on a Friday during first break in the Library so please do pop in if you are interested!)

At the end of June we also welcomed in a new partnership, the Tender project. Tender came in to complete work with selected Year 9 students surrounding the theme of 'Healthy relationships'. Students were encouraged to explore key elements of healthy and unhealthy behaviours in relationships, recognise early warning signs, and develop awareness of where to seek support. We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part in the workshops and who then presented their findings to the year group in assembly. Tender have had some amazing feedback to the sessions so we really look forward to hopefully getting them back in next year!



Student opportunity

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

Participants gain experience that can go on their CV or UCAS application, can contribute to surveys and focus groups whilst also having access to resources for support. If you are interested and would like to hear more, please see the following Webpage: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/healthy-living/publichealth/community-champions/under-18s-health-and-wellbeing-network> Sign up link: <https://forms.office.com/e/yfCzUpaNXr>

Support 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 our website and right, for a list of helplines and websites to visit for support over the summer break.

Ms Selin Yusuf
Student Wellbeing Manager

WELLBEING IN SCHOOL



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.



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**

'A better understanding of unhealthy relationships'

'Abuse is serious'

'Early warning signs of an unhealthy relationship'

'How to help others and seek help if needed'

Students' comments on what they learned from the Tender project

SPORTS DAYS

This year saw a new format to Sports Days. These were held over two days and saw Year 9 and 10 students competing on the Monday, and Year 7 and 8 competing together the following day. This new format was a huge success and really added to the atmosphere and competition over the two days. It was fantastic to see all of the students from across the year groups cheering on their houses and supporting their peers, and, as we are so used to seeing within their sporting pursuits, demonstrating our school values to the highest degree

The weather was certainly not in our favour for the first of the two sports days, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the students, who worked hard throughout the day, braved the elements, and put in some strong individual performances throughout the day.

By the end of the afternoon, within the Year 9 competition, Miltons had opened up a healthy lead which would not be caught by the other houses (a sign of things to come!) Gibbs meanwhile battled hard within the Year 10 competition and pipped Miltons to take the win for this year group.



Tuesday 16th July saw the Year 7 and 8 students gather at the sports ground for their Sports Day events

Despite the torrential rain late on Monday evening, myself and the PE team arrived at the sports ground on Tuesday morning greeted by bright blue skies! Following the unfortunate trend of the summer weather thus far, the skies soon clouded over. However, the rain that was originally forecast did hold off.

The Year 7 students arrived with bags of enthusiasm for their first ever Raynes Park High School sports day. Likewise, the Year 8 students arrived with their competitive sides well and truly on display and got straight to work stacking up points for their houses.

The competition was incredibly close throughout the day within both year groups, and all was up for grabs heading into the final relay events.

For the Year 7s, a strong finish from Halliwells saw them pip Miltons to the win, whilst in the Year 8 competition Miltons held off a late points surge from Gibbs to take the title.

The total points tally from across the year groups is show below.

Mr Sanderson, Head of PE



HOUSE POSITIONS

1st	Miltons	196
2nd	Gibbs	181
3rd	Haliwells	172
4th	Newsoms	161

SUMMER TERM SPORTS UPDATE

It has been another busy term for RPHS PE, with students of all years representing the school in a variety of different sporting events across the borough. Below are some of the highlights and their achievements

Rounders

The Year 10 girls rounders team had a great afternoon competing in the Borough competition hosted by Ricards Lodge High School who won the tournament. Our students finished in an impressive second place and took home the silver medals, after some impressive performances against other local schools, including a win over a strong Ursuline team. Well done to all involved.



Athletics

The summer term saw students from Years 7-10 represent the school at the Borough Athletics competition held at Wimbledon Park. Over the course of the day, 14 RPHS students picked up medals, with several qualifying to represent Merton at the following Surrey Athletics competition. But that really only tells part of the story... The manner in which many of these medals were won typified the fantastic attitude that our students consistently demonstrate at such events, with students rising to the occasion to record personal best scores, demonstrating amazing resilience to come from behind in some of the track events, and conducting themselves throughout the day in such a way that myself and the other PE staff could not be more proud of! Well done to all that competed.



Cricket

The calendar has been busy with cricket fixtures this half term. The Year 9 and 10 girls' team kicked off proceedings at the start of June when they travelled to Ursuline High School for the Borough Cricket event. Out of the three schools that entered, RPHS managed to get second place! The girls performed well, showing great resilience and were very supportive to one another throughout the event.

The final week of June saw four different boys' teams from Year 7 to 10 travel to Southborough School to participate in their annual Cricket Competition. Across the separate competitions that week, our teams picked up some impressive wins, alongside some near misses in some hard fought and close matches against some stiff opposition. The highlights of the week were the Year 10 team, who picked up an impressive 3rd place finish, and a special shout out has to go to Year 9 student Harvey for his impressive display with both bat and ball.



Year 7 Girls' Borough Cricket tournament

Ricards Lodge was the host for the fixture with our Year 7 Girls Cricket Team on Thursday 13th June. Raynes Park, Ricards and The Hall School battled it out for the Borough honours. After winning the toss and bowling first against the hosts, we restricted Ricards to 223-1 with some fine bowling late on in the innings. Our reply was steady early on but a flurry of wickets mid innings meant we were chasing the match in the final two overs. We did, however, recover well and scored heavily off the final few balls but we came up short in our chase, ending with a score of 214-6.

Our next game was versus The Hall School and once again, we won the toss and elected to field first. We bowled with discipline and guile and took four wickets to reduce The Hall to 203-4. Our reply was positive and we were on the front foot from the start. We lost one wicket late on but the damage had been done already and we completed the match with a comfortable and well earned victory scoring 236-1 off our allocated overs.

Well done to all of our girls for their efforts and sportsmanship throughout and notable mentions to our captain Josie and her team of bowlers Olivia, Abi, Florence and Natalie for their performances in the field. Well done also to our batters Ava, Ocean, Mollie, Daisy and Carmen. Onwards to our next game girls and a potential rematch with Ricards at home!

Year 7 Boys' Cricket

The Year 7s competed in the annual cricket festival hosted by Southborough School. The boys showed good resilience and dedication, but unfortunately came up short against a strong field, playing 2 and losing 2.

Mr Prichard, PE Teacher



Football

On Monday 10th June, Raynes Park attended the Fulham FC 'Inspire,' Girls Football Tournament at the Fulham FC Training Ground, Motspur Park. It was played indoors in the Dome Training Facility. This was an amazing opportunity for our girls to experience playing under the lights at the Ground. This was attended by lots of schools from Wandsworth, Kingston and Merton.

The format of the competition ensured that the girls played many games. We entered two teams combined of Year 7 and Year 9 girls and they all performed really well achieving some

good results along the way. Fulham FC were impressed with the team spirit, determination and sportsmanship shown by our girls and we are invited back next year to compete again. Well played everyone!

Special mentions to Rose who played superbly as Goalkeeper, making a string of fine blocks and saves across the games, and also to Daisy in Year 7 who scored 8 goals in total! Onwards to next season and thank you to our Partners at Fulham Football Club for their support!

Mr Sanderson, Head of PE



MEDIA STUDIES STUDIO TRIP

A recent trip to Slipway Studios in Hampton proved inspirational for our A Level Media Studies students



'We spent the day recording songs and capturing footage while experiencing the fascinating production process. The studio was equipped with the latest technology, which allowed us to experiment with various sound effects and recording techniques whilst singing and playing instruments. Seeing our ideas come true in such a professional setting was thrilling. The whole class had a fantastic and unforgettable time, and we could not have done it without the school's support! We are so grateful for the opportunity to explore our creative talents and bring our projects to the next level.' - Dilara, Year 12



NEWSOMS

MILTONS

GIBBS

HALLIWELLS

HOUSE UPDATES

We have had yet another fantastic year in terms of house events and competitions, with the introduction of 'House Captains', a 'House Week' and the continuation of house sporting events.

Summer house rounders competition

The most recent house competition was 'house rounders'. The event showcased incredible teamwork and sportsmanship from all houses and was a lovely opportunity for the boys and girls to work together and compete for their house. Congratulations to all participants.

Sports day: A record breaking event with a fantastic atmosphere

Our annual sports days were nothing short of spectacular! Despite major concerns about the weather, the rain stayed away (for the most part) to allow for an uninterrupted two days of athletic excellence. This year, for the first time, we combined year groups, which created a fantastic atmosphere and a stronger sense of community amongst students. We extend a special mention to the art department for devoting lesson time for the students to create amazing house banners, which added colour and school spirit to the event.

Several stand out performances made this year's sports days memorable: Daisy (Year 8) who

showcased incredible speed by winning the 100m, 200m and relay for Miltons house; Kwayne (Year 9) who also won the treble; 100m, 200m and won the relay for Newsoms house which also broke the previous school record! Other record breakers include Quency (Year 9) for long jump, Lily (Year 10) for 800m, and Rio (Year 10) for shot put and the Year 9 Newsoms boys' relay team.

We are so proud of all our students who contributed to making the two days really special. The PE department would also like to thank all the additional staff for helping on the day.

House week launch

This year saw the launch of 'House Week.' This was a huge success with a variety of competitions. The students engaged fantastically in the activities, and we look forward to the second House Week next academic year, which will be packed with even more activities!

New House captains

The newly appointed house captains for next academic year were announced in the end of year assembly today – thank you so much to all the Year 9 students who applied.

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!

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