

RHS Values Champions:

Top 5 Attendance:

- 11S - 99.67%
- C66 - 98.96%
- 7B - 98.62%
- 8F - 98.33%
- 11A - 98.13%

(attendance calculated until 09/12/2024)

HoY Shout Out:

Shout-out to **Venkatesh V**, Year 12, for making a great start to Sixth Form life. He is often found doing extra activities and learning around the subjects he is studying. Staff have commented on how well he uses the study room available to him. Well done Venkatesh!

Ms Vora - Head of Year 12

Subject Shout Out - Drama:

A huge thank you and well done to the **Cast and Crew of King Lear**. Your tenacity and commitment over the last term have been incredible - and you should be so proud of yourselves for the outstanding result of all your efforts. Well done.

Mr Randall - Curriculum Leader of Drama



A message from Mr Davies:

I write this update at the end of what has seemed a very long but successful term at the school. Our students continue to 'thrive' and that shines through in this last parent bulletin of this calendar year.

Over the past fortnight, I have had the pleasure of watching our winter concert and King Lear performance, which have both been a joy to be part of. I spoke at the conclusion of Wednesday evening's drama performance to say how exceptional it was to see a performance not only performed by students but also stage-managed, with all the sound and lighting also being student-led. It is testament to the ambition we have for our students and they were a genuine credit to our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the school community a restful festive period. I would also like to thank parents/guardians for your continued support and kindness, particularly with regard to our food bank appeal. Christmas is a time of year for celebration, but I believe it is also a time to show kindness and compassion while sparing a thought for others who are less fortunate in our community and in the wider world. I remain immensely proud to lead a school that is both in, and for, the community.

Year 8 Trip to Paris



On Thursday 5th December 2024, 145 Year 8 students and 15 members of Ruislip High staff headed off on an adventure to Paris. The group started their journey at 4:45am and, after a choppy ferry journey, they all arrived at their hotel at 6:30pm.

The next day, students had 12 hours at Disneyland Paris to explore both the Magic Kingdom and Walt Disney Studios. The experience was magical, with students seeing lots of their favourite Disney characters in parades, eating lots of Disney-themed snacks and enjoying all the rides the theme parks had to offer. Students had a lot of fun during the course of the day and came back with lots of Disney-themed merchandise!



On Saturday 7th December 2024, the group headed into central Paris, where they went on a Bateau Mouche (boat tour) along the river Seine. This gave everyone lots of time to capture photos of Paris's landmarks, such as the Eiffel Tower as well as Notre Dame cathedral, which was reopened to the public on the same day.

The students' behaviour was outstanding throughout the trip and everyone had a memorable time. Leo, Year 8, said: 'The teachers made the trip so fun, especially during our coach ride singing karaoke, #coach3forever!'

Meanwhile, Millie, Year 8, summed it up by saying: 'Paris was a magical experience that I will never forget!'

The trip was led by the Head of Year 8, Ms Farrell, who said: 'The three-day adventure to Paris was an unforgettable journey filled with laughter, thrills and treasured memories for both staff and students. Our students were a wonderful team together on the trip, creating bonds that will stay with them throughout their Ruislip High School journey. Paris truly was a trip of a lifetime.'

Thank you to all of the staff who helped to make the trip possible.



December Events at RHS

The next few pages are dedicated to the exciting events, which have taken place at RHS throughout December. It has been a packed calendar, with lots of opportunities for students to get involved in the wider community and that have celebrated the wonderful achievements of our students.

The Winter Concert

On Wednesday 11th December, 2024, members of the RHS community, including staff, students and parents, were treated to an evening of music at our annual Winter Concert.

Led by Ms Nastou, Curriculum Leader for Music, the Winter Concert featured a range of musical performances, spanning different genres. From piano solos, to our RHS Band performing some festive classics, it really was a true showcase of how hard our students have worked and what fantastic young musicians they have become. The evening was hosted by students James and Olivia, whose warm and confident presentation set the tone for a memorable evening.

The school choir performed several beautiful pieces, with a delightful surprise—Mr. Maud joined in for one song, 'Lean on Me'. The GCSE Advanced Choir then captivated the audience with a moving rendition of 'Viva La Vida' by Coldplay, highlighting their vocal skill.

The concert featured some incredible solo performances. Trissha, Year 12, wowed the crowd with a stirring piano rendition of a piece from Pirates of the Caribbean, while Edward and Rahul delivered an exquisite performance of Rachmaninoff's arrangement of Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty Waltz. Ray, a talented clarinetist, also performed a beautiful interpretation of Gymnopedie No. 1 by Erik Satie. Finally, Ziana and Eli, stunned with a fantastic duet of 'Final Duet', with Ziana playing the flute and Eli accompanying on piano.

Oscar, Year 10, who performed at the concert said: "I really enjoyed the chance to perform. Everyone worked so hard during rehearsals - it is so great to see it all come together!"

Ms Hill, Curriculum Leader of Art, Craft and Design, shared their review: "What a truly lovely evening! All of the students' performances were incredible - they should be so pleased with themselves. I could not pick out a highlight, because the whole concert was amazing from start to finish."

From the harmonious choir to the impressive solos, every performance was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students. Thank you to Ms Nastou - and all of the staff involved - for organising such a fantastic event.



Sixth Form Christmas Community Event



Wednesday 11th December, 2024, saw our Sixth Form host their annual Christmas Community Event and, as always, it was a huge success! Students from Year 12 and Year 13 helped to decorate our restaurant area and welcomed the local community for an evening of festive music, good company and delicious Christmas food. Students were able to swap stories with some of our more senior guests and the community spirit was wonderful to experience. Students later took the guests up to experience the wonderful Winter Concert, led by our Music Department.

Whilst our guests enjoyed the concert, the clean-up crew of students got to work tidying the canteen area, to ensure it was ready to be used as normal the next day.

The students' care and appreciation for the school was really evident and they showed real pride in presenting RHS to our wider community.

Mr Elsby, Head of Year 13, said: "One of the biggest pleasures of working in the Sixth Form is seeing how our students have matured into young adults, ready to venture into the wider world. Events such as this really demonstrate how ready they are to do this - I am so proud of all of them for taking part!"

Well done to the Sixth Form team for leading the event, and to all of the students who supported the event. We are already looking forward to next year's event.



Christmas Foodbank Appeal

This half term, our school community has come together to support those in need through our Foodbank Donation Appeal, led by the Friends of Ruislip High.

All tutor groups were invited to design and decorate festive-themed donation boxes, which were filled with essential food items for Hillingdon Foodbank. The initiative aimed to spread holiday cheer and ensure that local families in need had the support they required over the festive season.

The generosity of our students, their families and staff was truly heartwarming. From tins of soup to pasta, rice, and holiday treats, every item contributed made a difference.

On Thursday 19th December, 2024, the donations were collected by the Hillingdon Foodbank team, who expressed their deep gratitude for the school's efforts.

In addition to the sensational efforts of everyone donating food, our festive collection boxes, designed by each tutor group, were fantastic! There was an impressive display of designs from Rudolph to gingerbread house designs - many of the tutor groups had put lots of thought into their submissions. In the end, winners had to be chosen, with the following tutor groups reigning victorious: 7C, 8B, 9A, 10D, 11F and C66.

Mr Askin, Senior Assistant Headteacher, said: "For the last four weeks students and tutors have been putting together their festive food bank boxes. This time of year is very important for communities to come together and this annual event allows Ruislip High School to do just that. It allows students to work together in creating and decorating their box, however more importantly it allows the school community to help provide food and other various items for the wider Hillingdon community. We want to thank the students and their families for their conscious efforts in bringing so many items that will go a long way to supporting families over the festive period. We would also like to thank the Friends of Ruislip High School for arranging the pick up for the items from the school."

Thank you to everyone who participated in this important cause. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated.



The Winter Production: King Lear



On Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December, 2024, the RHS Drama Department once again delighted audiences with a phenomenal performance of Shakespeare's King Lear. Featuring students from Year 10-13, the Winter production was a stunning testament to our students' dedication and creative talent.

The entire cast were spectacular, with the students' love for performing shining through. In particular, James, Year 11, in the role of King Lear, delivered an emotionally charged portrayal that commanded the stage. In addition, Julian showed how hard work can pay off, through his thoughtful performance of Edgar. Other notable performers were Isabel, Year 11, who played Goneril; Jess, Year 11, in the role of Kent; and Max, Year 12, as one of the play's antagonists, Edmund. For all of these students - and many of the members of the cast - their performances were particularly impressive as they balanced a tough rehearsal schedule with preparing for their GCSEs and A Levels.

The backstage crew, led by Stage Manager, Ava-Pearl, Year 13, ensured the show ran smoothly, and the set, lighting, and sound — all designed by students — were truly impressive. The striking set and dynamic lighting perfectly complemented the drama unfolding onstage, enhancing the mood and atmosphere of this timeless tragedy.

Nicole, Year 10, who played Oswald, told us: "I have loved every minute of being involved in King Lear and getting to know lots of new faces. I do GCSE Drama and it has been wonderful spending so much time with like minded people, who love the technical elements of drama as much as I do. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to improve my own Drama skills in such a fun and rewarding way."

Meanwhile, Mr Randall, Curriculum Leader for Drama, said of the cast and crew: "I am proud of the bravery, dedication and professionalism of our students. It was like being back in the world of professional theatre and yet ten times more fun, because everyone was working as a team every day. We've been rehearsing for at least four hours a week since September, but that doesn't scratch the surface of the effort that the students have put into the play. They should be so proud of themselves."

Congratulations to all of the cast on a fantastic set of shows - we cannot wait to see what the next production has in store for us.

Cast: Harley B (Year 10), Katie B (Year 12), Julian C (Year 11), Max D (Year 12), Jamie E (Year 10), Max F (Year 10), Nicole (Year 10), Laylah (Year 11), Charlie (Year 10), Isabel I (Year 11), Christian J (Year 12), Giselle M (Year 13), Amy M (Year 11), James O (Year 11), Megan Q (Year 11), Sophia R (Year 10), Alexia (Year 13), Jess S (Year 11).

Backstage: Abigail C (Year 10), Ava-Pearl H (Year 13), Amber M (Year 12), Dorian Q (Year 11) Amelia S (Year 12), Aimee S (Year 13).



12 Days of Christmas Attendance Draw

From Thursday 7th December, 2024, we have been running an attendance initiative to promote strong attendance right up until the end of term. As students and parents/guardians will be aware, we continued with teaching and learning right until the end of the term, so it was vitally important that students attended school until the last day, to ensure they had every chance of attaining their full potential.

During the '12 Days of Christmas' attendance initiative, lots of students achieved 100% attendance, ensuring they were entered into our end-of-term raffle with the full 12 tickets entered into the draw. On the final day of term, Friday 20th December, the raffle took place, with one student from each year group winning a Christmas hamper for themselves and their family. The Christmas hampers were kindly made and funded by the Friends of Ruislip High School.

The winning students, who took home a hamper to enjoy with their family over Christmas were: Rylan (Year 7), Rihana (Year 8), Rae (Year 9), Nicolatae (Year 10), Trixie (Year 11), Max (Year 12) and Nisham (Year 13).



A Festive Message from The Friends of RHS:



The Friends of RHS team would like to thank you all for your support during the last term. Your generosity has helped us raise hundreds of pounds. These funds will be invested back into the school, to make a significant difference in providing our children with a more enriching educational experience. This term, the team has supported the school and our community in many ways, including the pre-loved uniform sales; the attendance award prizes; the foodbank collection; and the very successful bingo night and raffle. We have a number of events planned for next year - more details to come nearer the time.

Pre-loved Uniform: We are always looking out for uniform items to sell so if you have anything that is in good condition, which you think another student may be able to use, please hand it into the school office in January. Pre-loved uniform sales are not only a great way to make money for the school, but they are also a sustainable way of helping those who cannot afford to purchase brand new items.

Unwanted Christmas Presents: We are always looking for items that we can use for raffle prizes! If you receive anything, which you are not particularly thrilled with from Santa, please think about regifting it to us (we promise not to tell!). Items should be brand new, unopened and in the original packaging. Please can any donations be handed into the school office for the attention of the Friends team. Thank you.

Finally, we are a small, friendly group of parents, who work hard to try and raise funds for our students - and we are always looking for new members. You can commit to as much or as little time as you can. If you would like to join us, please email us directly at friendsofrhs@ruislihigh.org.uk and we will be in touch.

Here's wishing all of the staff, students and families in our school community have a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Very best wishes

The Friends of Ruislip High Team



Year 11 Trip to London

On Thursday 19th December, 2024, Year 11 rounded off a busy term with an exciting day trip to central London, with a visit to London's Southbank.

The day began with a trip to the London Eye, where the students got to enjoy a spectacular view of the London skyline. Reaching 400 feet at the top of the London Eye, the students were delighted with how far they could see (seeing as far as the Wembley Arch and Harrow on the Hill).

Following this, the students enjoyed an exciting boat tour on the River Thames. The journey took them from Westminster, all the way to Tower Bridge and the Tower of London. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience - although a few of them were surprised by how chilly it was on the water!

The students rounded up their day with plenty of free time at the Southbank Christmas Market; spending time with their friends and enjoying some festive food in the Winter sunshine.

Dorian, Year 11, said: "We had such a great time! I have never been on the London Eye before, so was amazed by how much you could see. I really enjoyed everything during the day - but especially the afternoon where I got to spend time with my friends."

Thank you to Mr Sills, Head of Year 11, for organising the trip and to all of the staff who accompanied him and the students to London for the day.



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PE News:

RHS Superstars: Year 9 Go Karting Championship

We are delighted to share that one of our Year 9 students, Ellis, has enjoyed some fantastic sporting success. Ellis recently took part in the Global Karting League Junior Lightweight National Championship. Ellis competed in nine rounds at circuits across the country, finishing an impressive second place overall.

In addition to this, Ellis triumphed in the Golden Ticket Shootout, earning the highest points across the final four rounds of the season. As a result, he has won a free entry for the 2025 season - a fantastic achievement in his first year of national competitions!

Congratulations to Ellis - you should be very proud of this excellent achievement.



A Level Media Studies Trip

On Friday 13th December, 2024, the Year 12 and Year 13 A Level Media Studies students headed out to London to attend a study at the BFI Southbank.

The day focused on the topic of representation theory - one of the key areas students are assessed on during their A Level examinations. Using a combination of clips and student activities, the morning's lecture was very engaging and all of our students gained something from the expertise of the speaker leading the talks.

In the afternoon, students then got to watch a short film 'Margin', directed by BAFTA award-winning filmmaker, Daniel Rands. The film focused on the story of a student, Ria, and her struggle as a young black student to overcome expectations of ethnicity within the British education system. This was followed up with a Q&A with Rands, who discussed the thought that went into constructing representation issues in the film.

Our students got involved in the day, providing some thoughtful analysis of some of the unseen texts shared. Overall, it was another useful education event, led by the BFI Southbank.

Cameron, Year 12, said: "It was great to go into London and have the chance to discuss media texts in detail. Representation is a really interesting topic in media; it was interesting to hear what students from across the country thought about a wide range of music videos, adverts and film clips."

Thank you to the RHS Media Studies Department for running the trip.



Year 12 Speakers' Programme

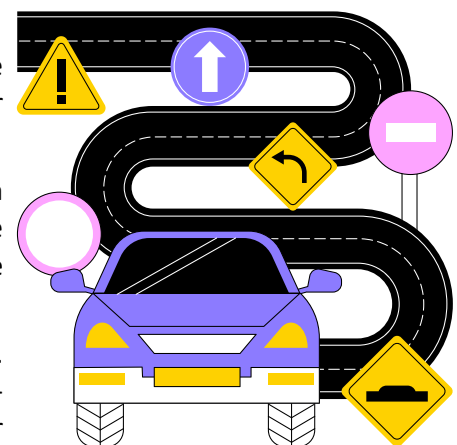
This term, our Sixth Form was fortunate to host a series of inspiring guest speakers. These industry experts and thought leaders shared their invaluable insights, motivating our students and broadening their horizons.

We welcomed Wale Yusuf, a Road Safety Officer at SAME Safe Drive, who delivered a powerful presentation on road safety. Wale's firsthand experiences and knowledge highlighted the dangers of distracted driving, speeding, and drink-driving. His message resonated with students, emphasising the importance of responsible behavior on the roads.

We also had the opportunity to hear from David Dein, the founder of the Premier League. He shared his journey to success, emphasising the importance of perseverance and self-discipline. His talk on business development inspired many students to pursue their passions and overcome challenges.

Lauren, Year 12, said: 'I think the speakers we have listened to so far have been really interesting - and all really different. I know this is an opportunity other schools don't offer their students, so I'm grateful to hear from such a range of people.'

We are grateful to all our guest speakers for their time and dedication. Their contributions have enriched our Sixth Form community and will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on our students. We look forward to continuing our guest speaker program next term, with more exciting speakers and topics to come.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, travelling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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Notices:

Key Dates:

Tuesday 7th January 2025
First day of the Spring Term

Tuesday 7th January 2025
4:30pm-11:45pm

Sixth Form Theatre Trip

W/B Monday 13th January 2025

Year 13 PPE Week

Wednesday 15th January 2025

Year 9 Theatre Trip (9A, 9B, 9C)

Letters Home
Update to Parents -
13/12/24

[Click here](#)

Year 9 Theatre Trip
Information letter -
[Click here](#)

Year 11 Parents' Evening
Letter
[Click here](#)

Year 11 Prom Invite Letter
[Click here](#)

VLT Support Over the
Holidays Site
[Click here](#)

Other Opportunities
(not linked to the
school)

Kooth Mental Health
Services Timetable
[Click here](#)

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

To all of our students and their families: We hope you have a well-earned rest over the holidays and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 7th January, 2025.