



Rutlish House Newsletter

Spring 2024



The House system at Rutlish was first introduced in 1922 to inspire competition between the students. The Houses were originally named after ancient civilizations or groups of people with a reputation for robustness and conquest. After a brief hiatus around the turn of the century the House system was reinstated in 2010. On its return there were changes to the House names and emblems, so the names we currently use are:

- Argonauts
- Carthaginians
- Kelts
- Parthians
- Romans
- Spartans
- Trojans
- Vikings

JANUARY:

We started this term with a Tutor Group quiz completed to check how well students know their House history. Who led the Argonauts and where were they going? Where was Parthia? Who did the Carthaginians worship? In a bid to get to know the civilizations and groups of people our Houses were named after, this quiz was an opportunity to delve into the history and culture of each one. There were also some red herrings in the quiz to really test student knowledge. A special congratulations has to go to 10R and 11R for scoring full marks – clearly there was a reason the Roman Empire dominated so much of the ancient world! Commendations also go to 7A, 10V and 11P for only dropping one or two points in their scores.



190 DAYS 100%	183 DAYS 96%	179 DAYS 94%	175 DAYS 92%
Very best chance of success	Off to a flying start	Less chance of success	Harder to make progress

Hot on the heels of the House History quiz came Attendance Week. This was another opportunity for every member of the Tutor Group to contribute to earning House points because it truly was a whole team effort. The goal was to get every student attending school for every day in the week. The link between poor school attendance and lower learning outcomes is well established so this competition was a chance for the whole school community to push towards higher attainment through improved attendance. Congratulations to 10C for managing an incredible 99.3% attendance!

As we reached the end of January it was time for table tennis. Mr Brogan ran lunchtime tournaments across the week, giving one representative from each tutor group the opportunity to demonstrate their ping pong prowess. There was also a staff tournament which resulted in Mr Brogan and Mr Neesham battling it out for the top spot – congratulations to Mr Brogan for emerging victorious.



FEBRUARY:

February was an extremely busy month in the House calendar with lots of important world events and their associated competitions falling into the shortest month, as well as the half-term break - we really needed the extra day the leap year gave us to help fit everything in! The first competition of this jam-packed month was indoor rowing, very kindly run by the PE department. Years 7-10 tutor groups all sent teams of five to compete in rows and relays of varying lengths, while year 11 had to concentrate on mock exam preparation.

The results of the rowing competitions were:

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
1 st	T	S	R	T
2 nd	C	P	C	R
3 rd	R	T	K	C
4 th	S	K	P	S
5 th	P	A	S	V
6 th	V	V	V	A
7 th	K	R	T	K
8 th	A	C	A	P



This competition was also a chance for our students to really show off what they could do and be selected to represent the school at the National Indoor Rowing Championships held at the end of the month.

In the run up to half-term we marked the approaching Lunar New Year which is widely celebrated across East Asia. Due to the fact that it is often Chinese communities living within other East Asian countries who celebrate this festival, many people refer to it as Chinese New Year rather than Lunar New Year, but this

Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is an important annual holiday celebrated in several countries, predominantly in East Asia.

In most Western countries we use the Gregorian calendar which is made up of 12 months and lasts for 365 days (except in leap years like this one when it's 366!) but there are lots of other calendars used in different parts of the world. A Lunar year is a slightly different length to a Gregorian year so the date of the Lunar New Year does not fall on the same day in the Gregorian calendar every year.

The holiday is marked on the second New Moon following the Winter Solstice (21st December – the day with the shortest daylight hours in the year). This means it is usually some time between 21st January and 20th February.



This year it falls on Saturday 10th February.

Spring festival is known by different names in different countries. For example, it is called Tết in Vietnam, Seollal in South Korea, and Imlek in Indonesia. To give us all the opportunity to explore some of these cultures a little bit more there were three competitions running:

- **Tag Hunt:** Students know how this competitions works; to find the teachers wearing the tags and fill in their names on the answer sheets. This time a traditional New Year greeting was written on each tag in the language of one of the countries

where Lunar New Year is celebrated, so part of the challenge was to work out which script each tag was written in. As Mr Evans commented on the day, it was really nice to see some of our quieter and less forthcoming students become the centre of attention as they were able to share their expertise about their own cultures.

- **Pin (draw) the tail on the Dragon:** The Chinese Zodiac is a traditional classification system based on the Lunar Calendar which assigns an animal to each year. The zodiac is made up of twelve animals which repeat in a fixed cycle. The animal ascribed to the year in which you are born is thought to influence your personality traits and the way you are perceived by others. We have just come to the end of a Year of the Rabbit and have entered into a Year of the Dragon. To acknowledge this, the task for this competition was for each student to draw a tail on the outline of a dragon while blindfolded, with the most accurate tail position winning. A special mention to Caden (8A) for becoming an excellent assistant on the spot by explaining the task to other competitors as they arrived to help keep the whole operation running smoothly. Shout outs to Deniz (10S) and Chris (9K) for the incredible accuracy they achieved with their tail positions!





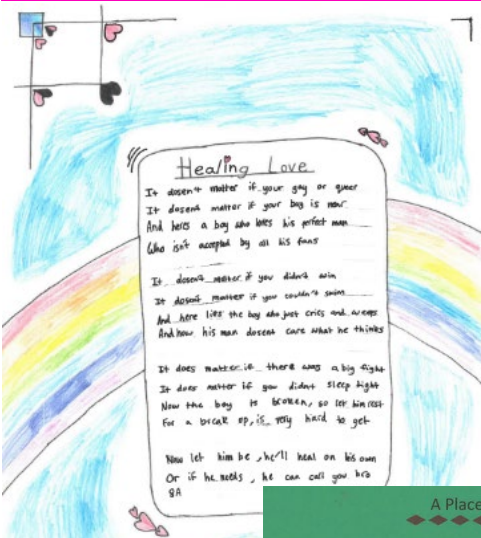
• **Origami Challenge:** The final event of the week was to master the traditional Japanese art of paper folding. The task was to follow a set of instructions to produce a paper swan, fastest folder wins. This competition had an incredible turn out so a huge thank you has to go to Mr Bashir for being the bouncer and getting the queue of waiting competitors organized in the corridor while they waited for their turn to fold. Big thanks also has to go to our sixth-form helpers who kept everyone supplied with paper and recorded all the results amongst the chaos. Special mentions to Matthew (10S) and Joshua (8V) for being the fastest folders in the whole school!



To celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, and the arrival of Valentine's Day during this month, the final competition of this half-term was sonnet writing.

Shakespeare wrote many sonnets on the theme of love so what could be more appropriate in a month where we celebrate everybody's right to love whoever they want to love than writing our own sonnets?

This competition ran over the half-term break and was an opportunity for students to flex their creative muscles with both content and presentation being considered in the scoring.



For everyone there is a caring hand
 To make them rise
 To hold them tight and make them stand
 The biggest prize

A loving heart
 Searching for it's other half
 Sweet as an apple tart
 To share all the love

Another day is born
 Another chance to prove
 To fill the lonely dawn
 Love to you they want to prove

No secrets should be told
 It will keep the love cold

Mine
 It was a moment when I was crying
 You sat in my arms and I felt like
 I fell in love with a person
 You were the only one who
 I love you like to stay
 We get making together
 When I come back in the
 Love is still a thought about
 In you remember all the things
 You saw me smile to be
 I was a part of a moment
 You are the best thing
 You're always going to be
 We're going to be friends

Love is not an object or things,
 It's a person or a place or a name.
 It's a game you can win or lose
 With loss; impossibly hard to tame.

It's the force which brings two people together,
 A powerful giver of life,
 From beginning to end, still be here forever,
 The genesis, cover of utopia.

And how it overcomes the strongest of walls,
 Like a forbidden love within a family feud,
 And in every inch and crevice it expands,
 Inventions or suggestions creator of mood.

Love transcends all,
 It's the feeling of being 100% tall
 Falling in love is a Galilean egg
 It can cross even the largest rift

Together

We link our arms to ward of all hatred
 The sound of marching hanging in the air
 Together we unfold six colours painted
 To try and make life better for our heir
 Together we stand joined, close and afraid
 The flag waving in existence of our day
 Together we can have our voice displayed
 Together we can let our feelings stay
 In every word of LGBTQ
 Shows a person who said to love and pure
 We love diversity in all we do
 To love and be loved is what we are sure
 So let us raise our voices high
 In pride and joy love will never die.



A Place

A singular frame in a memory,
 Never forgetting the capture, a click
 Better screen than a documentary,
 A singular pixel a building block,
 Of the passion I have for thy mountains,
 The stream pouring from the source of my love,
 I have it all somewhere almost a fountain,
 To gush out to soar through air a grey dove,
 Never matured to sprout in later life,
 To visit again once in a blue moon,
 Help, Help me out of the never-ending strife,
 I can never find the place of your lagoon,
 I go back to staring at you again,
 Trying to recall but always in vain.

The meaning of love:

Love is for everyone,
 Love is forever,
 Love is for anyone,
 Love brings us together.

Love is for the strong,
 Love is for the weak,
 Love is a song,
 Love speaks.

Love is for the poor/happy good
 Love is for the rich sad
 Love is for the understood
 Love is for the bad

Love is for everyone
 Love is for the one

Love
 Love is a heartwarming thing
 It's like a warm blanket for babies
 Love is a endless ocean
 Which is full of love which makes you feel really
 When I see you you might say
 I'm like a girl in a red dress in a hat
 Some kind of you or so else
 But you feel so beautiful
 On your body for person you love most

Love is a delicious feeling
 Which makes you feel
 Love is a beautiful thing
 Which makes you feel great

Love is love

As you can see we had some beautifully presented entries, and some that caused their authors some difficulty finding the right words, but the results were definitely worth the creative turmoil they induced. This competition was judged by a panel of sixth-formers and a special mention has to go to

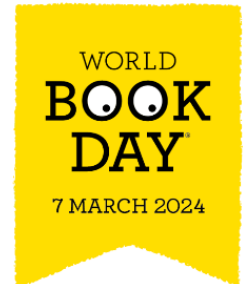
PRIDE!

Alex (7A) for writing their favourite entry. We also have to acknowledge the cheekiness of the year 9 student who wrote out and submitted the lyrics of a Taylor Swift song; the judges did notice this! A big thank you to all students who participated.

February's final event was a quiz on LGBTQ+ history, issues and prominent figures. Hopefully this sparked some discussion in tutor groups and brought some new perspective to anyone who wasn't aware of the issues many members of the LGBTQ+ community have faced and continue to face. Congratulations to 7P for achieving the top score in the school, and to 10S and 11P for coming a close second.

MARCH:

March was another busy month with lots of important national and international events taking place. There simply was not time in such a short term to fit in celebrations of all of them so we had to pick just a few. Next year we will look to mix things up by celebrating some of the other events that we did not have time to do justice to this year. We started things off with World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. This is a charity event originally organised by UNESCO to promote reading. It is widely celebrated across the rest of the globe in April, but due to clashes with school holidays and St George's Day, in the UK it is celebrated on the first Thursday in March each year. Every child in full-time education in the UK is provided with a £1 book voucher which can be redeemed as part of the payment for any book or used to purchase one of the special £1 books that are published every year as part of this event.



As well as distributing book vouchers we marked the day with a tutor time challenge. The goal was to identify the names of some classic novels from anagrams and rebus puzzles (also known as 'dingbats' and 'say what you see' puzzles). Congratulations to 7C, 8R, 10R and 10S - clearly there are some avid readers and lateral thinkers among you because these tutor groups all managed to achieve a clean sweep! The title that caused the most difficulty across the school was represented by this puzzle – can you work it out now? If you can't decipher it, please visit the House page on Rutlish 365 to find the post with all the answers. Maybe you might even decide to have a go at reading this epic novel – given the length of it though it may take a while...!

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The very next day was International Women's Day, celebrated on Friday 8th March. The PowerPoint presentation is on the House page if students want to learn more about the history and significance of this event. The associated competition went ahead:

International Women's Day

Originally inspired by the women's suffrage movements in Europe and North America towards the end of the nineteenth century, International Women's Day was first marked as 'Women's Day' on February 28th 1909 by the Socialist Party of America in New York City. Annual celebrations on varying dates then began to spread across Europe and North America, until women gained the vote in Russia in 1917 and March 8th became the fixed date for further celebrations.

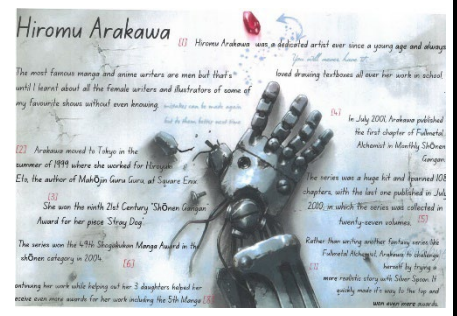
The purpose of the day is to highlight the achievements of women and bring greater awareness to the ongoing fight for gender equality on many issues around the globe. With this in mind, just like for International Men's Day, we asked to hear about female role models you look up to.

Your task was to nominate a female role model who you admire and explain what it is about them that inspires you. You could have chosen a public figure such as an actor, an athlete, an author, or politician, or you could choose somebody in your own life such as a relative, a mentor, a teacher, or a friend.



As a community comprised largely of young men it might seem a bit strange to be celebrating an event that focuses on women, but we felt it was important to mark International Women's Day and take a moment to reflect on the way we view and treat the women in our lives. It was also a great opportunity for you to get

creative again with the presentation of your entries for this competition. Year 8 really stole the show with their entries, Caden (8A) and Toni (8S) both produced beautiful posters, but special commendations also need to go to Zain (10R), Jonah (10R) and Samuel (10S) for the thought they put into their choices. There were also quite a few mothers who got a mention in this competition – so even though they may not always show it at home, it seems a lot of our students really do value what their mothers do for them. Thank you to all the students who participated.



As the month went on, Mr Neesham ran an Articulate competition for all year groups in which pairs of students from each tutor group battled it out playing the classic board game. The goal was to describe as many of the people, places and things listed on the cards as you could for your partner to guess within a minute. The quality of the describing and guessing varied, but Cem and Sam from 8C discovered that



describing the opposite of what was written on the cards was a very successful strategy leading them to victory and a joint high score of nine with Sammy and Olly from 9S. There was also a touching bit of teamwork from Levon (11A) and Nathan (11S) when they joined forces because their planned teammates could not attend the competition. This was quickly turned on its head though when all four Y11 teams achieved the same score and decided they would prefer to have a play-off than all be awarded the full 200 points as joint winners – clearly the competitive spirit is still strong in Y11! This was also

a competition in which there was a teacher event – congratulations to Ms Mates and Mr Neesham who both managed to match the top score set by 8C and 9S and clock up maximum points for Kelts and Spartans. In mid-March we stepped into British Science Week. This year's theme was "Time" so all year 7-10 tutor groups had the opportunity to participate in a quiz organised by Mrs Nash while Y11 got stuck into their next round of mock exams. With some very tricky questions it was hugely impressive that 7C managed to score full marks – perhaps there are some future Nobel Prize winners in your midst! Congratulations to 8A, 9K, 10R and 10S who also did really well, only dropping a couple of points each in their answers.

As we reached the end of term, Years 10 and 11 have had to focus on their



mock exams but there was time to fit in a bit more fundraising. Comic Relief took place on Friday 15th March. Thank you to Mr Lema, Mr Age and Mr Fagan for running a cross-bar challenge at lunch to raise money for this and to all the students who participated. Staff and students also participated in a non-uniform day on Tuesday 26th March in support of Ms Mates and Mr Sweeten who are both running the London Marathon this year to raise money for Princess Alice Hospice and the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity. Just over £900 was raised. Thank you to all the families who contributed, and a special mention to Bill from year 12 who really got into the positive spirit and spread some smiles with his Pikachu costume!



In the last two weeks there have also been more sports events for years 7-9. Thank you once again to the PE department for organising these tournaments. This time it was basketball with some hard-fought matches and several tied positions. Year 10 will be participating in this competition after the Easter break so watch this space for more scores. The results of the matches played so far were:

	Y7	Y8	Y9
1 st	S	T	R
2 nd	V	K	K
3 rd	A	A	A & C
4 th	P	P	T
5 th	K & R	S	V
6 th	C	C	P & S
7 th	T	R	
8 th		V	



HOUSE STARS:

This week we have come together in year groups for our Celebration of Achievement assemblies. In recognition of the contributions these students have made on behalf of their Houses the following students have been nominated as House Stars for this term. Congratulations to all of you and keep up the enthusiasm!

7A: Alex S

7C: Alex H

7P: Ahan K

7R: Faadil D

7S: Benedict

8A: Iskender

8C: Cem N

8K: Michael B

8P: Andre

8S: Toni B-G

8T: Nathaniel

8V: Joshua K

9A: Jan J

9C: Caleb C

9K: Ed W

9P: Gabriel

9S: Jude Q

9V: Toby P

10A: Thakshan

10K: Jamie

10P: Joel M

10R: Zain C

10S: Matthew D

11K: Sebastian S

11P: Alex F

11V: Isaac B



An extra reward also goes to the following students who won the House Star draw for cinema vouchers in each of their respective year groups: Faadil (7R), Toni (8S), Jan (9A), Zain (10R), Isaac (11V).

There have also been some members of staff who have gone above and beyond with their support of their tutor groups and enthusiasm for House competitions this term. This term's House Stars among the tutors are:

Mrs Guliyeva, Mr Brogan, Mr Pittrof, Ms Escande, Mrs Nash & Mr Ahmed

And finally...

The most important part of this newsletter for most of you will be the score updates for each year group and the overall totals for the House Shield. Congratulations to 7P, 8A, 9S, 10S and 11P. Please enjoy sharing the sweet treats awarded to your tutor groups and ask your tutors to proudly display the trophies you have won! Congratulations also go to 7C, 8C, 8K, 9A, 9K, 10P and 11V for winning the most improved participation awards this term. There will also be most improved awards next term so it's never too late to get involved.

	Total		Total		Total		Total		Total
7P	3850	8A	3985	9S	3100	10S	4100	11P	3525
7C	3275	8S	3325	9A	2900	10R	4050	11S	2075
7S	2450	8P	2850	9K	2750	10A	2275	11V	1975
7R	2125	8V	2725	9C	2400	10V	2050	11K	1750
7K	2075	8T	2600	9T	2175	10K	1625	11R	1500
7T	1750	8C	2500	9V	2150	10C	1550	11T	1000
7V	1475	8R	1925	9R	1600	10P	1425	11A	975
7A	1450	8K	1500	9P	1525	10T	825	11C	750

	Total
Spartans	15125
Parthians	13375
Argonauts	11735
Romans	11375
Carthaginians	10600
Vikings	10425
Kelts	9800
Trojans	8425

In the race for the whole school House Shield the Spartans are still leading the table but at less than 2000 points ahead of Parthians that could change with just a few competitions so keep showing up for your team and remember, in order to emerge victorious:



**PARTICIPATION
IS
KEY**

