



Rutlish House Newsletter

Autumn 2023



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 tweaks to a couple of the house names and emblems, so the names we currently use are:

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

The purpose of the House system is to provide all students at the school with a common goal to work towards, alongside their academic studies. With that in mind, our aim is to provide a range of different activities and types of competition for students to participate in so that everyone can contribute to their House's success, whatever their talents might be. This year, we are also aiming to link as many of our competitions as possible to national or international events with the goal of prompting students to consider some of the world issues that have a significance or impact for members of our school community. **SEPTEMBER:**

We kicked off the term with a rugby toss competition to celebrate the start of the Rugby World Cup. The challenge was to throw a rugby ball through a hoop as many times as possible in thirty seconds. There were some stand out performances from Simon (7V), Jack (8P), Luke (9C), William (10A) and Max (11K) who all beat the best teacher scores with their winning throws! We also had some excellent support from some of our sixth-formers keeping the chain of rugby balls flowing so the competitors didn't run out.

House Competition: Rugby Toss

To celebrate the start of the Rugby World Cup our first House Competition of the year will be a Rugby Toss.

Tues 12th Sept = Y7 & Y8
Weds 13th Sept = Y9 & Y10
Thurs 14th Sept = Y11

Where: Centenary Square

When: Break-time

Who: One entry per tutor group

What: How many times can you throw a rugby ball through a hoop in thirty seconds?

Look for: Mr Brogan



At the end of September, we celebrated European Day of Languages. This event is held on 26 September every year to celebrate the rich diversity of languages spoken across Europe and to encourage us all to both learn and use as many of those languages as possible. We held two competitions to mark this event:

Teacher Tag Hunt

You spent the day tracking down the teachers wearing tags and identifying the languages they were written in.

Did you spot the special tag Mr Cox was wearing?





Language Day Quiz

Did you know your burros from your burritos? Your Fräulein from your Frankfurter? Your baguette from your bicyclette? You worked as a team with the rest of your tutor group to answer all the questions in the quiz.

Food Sale Fundraising

The final event we held to mark European Day of Languages was a fundraising food sale during break and lunch times on the Thursday of that week.

Ms Mates will be running the London Marathon in 2024 to raise money for The Princess Alice Hospice.

You helped to raise funds for her sponsorship by buying French pains au chocolat and German Frankfurters.

Lots of you got involved with the tag hunt but a special mention needs to go to 8A and 10R for having more entries handed in than any other tutor groups across the school. These two tutor groups were also the two with the joint highest score on the quiz – clearly Mr Adegbenle and Mr Bashir are doing something right to get you so motivated!

TAG HUNT



Macmillan Coffee Morning

The final event we held in September was another fundraising event.

Macmillan Cancer Support is a charity that works with cancer patients and their families.

Friday 29th September is their annual 'coffee morning' event. We held a cake sale with over £200 raised for Macmillan.

A massive thank you to all the students and families who contributed to this by either bringing in items to sell, by buying something or by manning the stall during lunch. Every contribution was hugely appreciated.



OCTOBER: October was very busy in the House calendar with lots of important events taking place. First and foremost every year Black History Month is celebrated during October. We ran lots of different competitions for students to get involved with. Year 7 and Year 8 played 'Guess Who?' in teams, with each team trying to describe as



October: Black History Month

B:M

Throughout the month you played games and answered quiz questions that all centred on black history, culture and icons.

What's the point?

To remind ourselves of contributions made by members of black communities to sports, arts, politics, science and more, and to celebrate those often overlooked contributions.



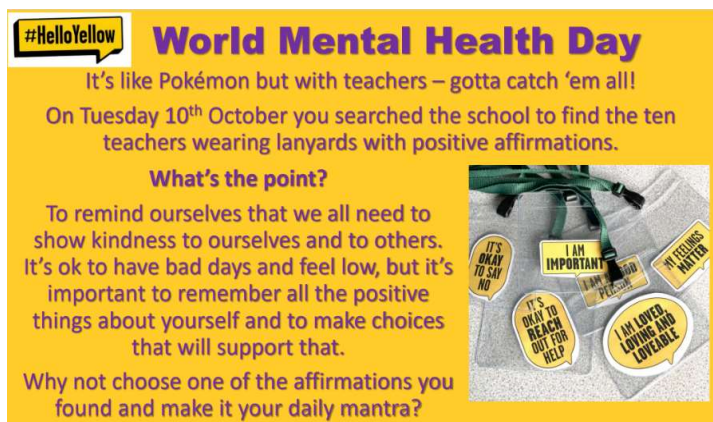
many people from their list to their guesser as possible in the time limit. Y9 played 'Pointless' – just like the TV gameshow the aim of the game was to come up with an answer nobody else would have thought of for each category. Year 10 and Year 11 participated in a quiz they had to revise for. They were provided with a list of people and told which specific facts about each person they had to go away and research. There was a fantastic turnout from Year 11, with seven out of eight tutor groups participating – it seems the revision bug had bitten you early! A special shout out goes to 10S and 10R (again!) for their joint top score of 16/20, beating all the Year 11 tutor groups. Congratulations to the students who represented these tutor groups for your excellent knowledge.

As the month went on students attended House assemblies for the first time. This gave each Head of House the opportunity to speak to the houses they lead directly. It was a chance to come together across year groups in your houses and build some team spirit, as well as

hearing about the history of the people your house was named after and what your individual house ethos is. The main message from all of the Heads of House was clear though: PARTICIPATION IS KEY. Those tutor groups who consistently participate in every competition are the ones who tend to top the leader board, so it really is about showing up for your team every time not just being the best in one particular event.

It was clear that this message about getting involved resonated with lots of you because there was an incredible turnout for the World Mental Health Day tag hunt on 10 October. Special mentions to 7P, 7V and 8A for getting the most entries in for this competition.

As we reached half-term the final event before the break was sports competitions very kindly run by the PE department. Y8, Y9 and Y10 all competed in rugby tournaments, while Year 7 and Year 11 did football tournaments. The results of these athletic battles were:



#HelloYellow World Mental Health Day


It's like Pokémon but with teachers – gotta catch 'em all!

On Tuesday 10th October you searched the school to find the ten teachers wearing lanyards with positive affirmations.

What's the point?

To remind ourselves that we all need to show kindness to ourselves and to others. It's ok to have bad days and feel low, but it's important to remember all the positive things about yourself and to make choices that will support that.

Why not choose one of the affirmations you found and make it your daily mantra?



	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
1 st	K	R & S	T	S	C & R
2 nd	V	A	K	C	K & P & S
3 rd	R	P & T	C	A	T
4 th	P	C	P	R	A & V
5 th	T	V	R	P	
6 th	C	K	S	T	
7 th	S		V	K & V	
8 th	A		A		



House Rugby



NOVEMBER:

This was another busy month on the calendar. The main school tutor groups started off the half-term by writing slogans for Anti-Bullying Week, and the sixth-formers got involved by voting for their favourites from each year group. Some of the catchiest slogans were:

7A: Don't shove, show some love, bruv!

7C: Unite and speak, because bullies are weak.

7P: Bullying is Bad, and it's Bad to Bully!

7R: Anti-bullying starts with YOU. Have you started yet?

7S & 10R: Be a buddy, not a bully.

7T: Don't bully, it's not kind, so keep this message in your mind!



8A: Being a bully is no fun, being nice is the one.

8P: Bullying is not OK, stop ruining people's day!

8R: Bullying is bad, being nice is rad.

10V: Be thoughtful, be kind, you never know what's on their mind.

11P: Labels are for food, not people. Don't bully.

11S: Bullying is rubbish, let's not have it in Rutlish!

11V: Just stop it. Bulldoze bullies.

Congratulations to 11V for writing the slogan the sixth-formers liked the most. Once Anti-Bullying Week actually arrived, we started with Odd Socks Day on the Monday. The reason we hold this event each year is to embrace individuality and celebrate the fact that we are all different. As the week went on there were several tutor time activities for students to discuss and reflect on, then on the Thursday we really embraced this year's theme and 'made a noise about bullying' by shouting our slogans.

A **HUGE** thank you to Mr Evans for bringing along his fancy sound-meter, enduring all the shouts at close range to measure the volume achieved by each house, and performing all sorts of technical wizardry afterwards to work out which house had managed to make the biggest noise about bullying! The Parthians were the clear winners in terms of sheer volume, but Mr Evans gave a special commendation to the Trojans for the clarity they managed to achieve in their effort which made their slogan the easiest to hear clearly. The point of all of this of course was to get us thinking about what each of us can do to tackle bullying when we come across it. Thank you to all of the students and staff who participated in these activities. Remember to keep the conversation going and keep making a noise about bullying so we can work together to maintain a positive environment for all members of our school community.

Rounding off the end of Anti-Bullying Week we had a non-uniform day on the Friday to support the Children in Need fundraising campaign. Just over £1000 was raised at Rutlish. Thank you to all the families who contributed.

Almost immediately we were onto the next event with some of our sixth-formers helping to plan and deliver assemblies to commemorate International Men's Day:



International Men's Day

First introduced in 1992, and now observed annually on 19th November, the purpose of International Men's Day is to celebrate the positive contributions men make to society, their communities and their families.

One of the key themes every year in the UK is promoting a positive conversation about men, manhood and masculinity. With this in mind **your task was to nominate a positive male role model in your life and explain what it is about them that you admire or that inspires you.**

You had the freedom to choose anyone you wanted from any profession or field, real or fictional, either a public figure or someone in your own life.

There was a wonderful variety among the role models you nominated.



As a community comprised largely of young men, we felt it was important to mark International Men's Day and take this opportunity to consider some of the issues it seeks to highlight. The global theme this year was

'zero male suicide' which sets out the goal of reducing male suicide rates. This is due to the fact that around three quarters of all suicides globally are committed by men. In our assemblies we examined some of the physiological, psychological and social factors that make men more likely both to attempt and to successfully take their own lives. Some of these factors may be beyond our control but something we can all do is talk. The main message from our sixth-formers was the importance of talking to someone about how you're feeling and starting frank conversations about mental health.



Place 2 Talk

Drop in sessions available
every Monday and Tuesday
at break and lunch
Dom from Place 2 Be

"Right now I need someone to vent to,
I need someone to listen!"
Drop in sessions every day at lunch
Mrs Schwarz from Inclusion



We rounded off the assemblies by showing some of the entries to the competition that had stood out most. Well done to Jude (9S), Ewen (10S) and Jerry (10V) for making such compelling cases with your nominations and then presenting them so confidently. Special mentions should also go to Caden (8A) and Kyran (11P) for their beautiful presentation.



Some of the entries stood out because of how beautifully you had presented them, some stood out because you had chosen less widely known figures (like Terry Fox, pictured left), and some stood out because you had chosen people in your own lives who you look up to. The most inspiring thing about reading all the entries was the reasons you gave for selecting your role models.

A few of the most popular choices were:

Barack Obama

Spiderman

Marcus Rashford



DECEMBER:

As we reached the end of term Year 11 and Year 13 have had to focus on their mock exams but there was time to fit in a bit more fundraising. Staff and students participated in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you to all who got involved. In the last two weeks there have also been more sports tournaments for Year 7-10. Thank you once again to the PE department for organising these tournaments. This time Year 7 competed in rugby, while Year 8-10 played football. Some of the tournaments came down to a nail-biting finish with the winners of both the Year 8 and Year 10 competitions being decided on penalties! The results of these matches were:

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



As well as getting involved by helping out with the running of lots of our events this term, the sixth-form have also had an opportunity to compete for chocolates in a House History Quiz this week. They puzzled over twenty-four questions based on the people, places and customs related to the eight Rutlish houses. Congratulations to 12A and 13B for winning with their high scores in each year group. Commendations to 13A and 13F for your efforts too. Enjoy eating your prizes!



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!



7C: Alex H	8P: Jack C	9T: Ali B	
7K: David Z	8R: Dillan	9V: Denis	
7P: Morton	8S: Jonathan	10A: William T	10V: Jerry
7R: Faadil	8T: Joao	10K: Will A	11K: Waseem A
7T: Isaiah	8V: David A	10R: Antonio	11P: Kyran
7V: Simon C	9C: Luke G	10S: Sam W	11S: Ezekiel
8A: Caden	9S: Hassan A	10T: Harrison B	

An extra reward also goes to the following students who won the House Star draw for cinema vouchers in each of their year respective groups: Alex (7C), Caden (8A), Hassan (9S), Sam (10S), Kyran (11P).

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:

Mr Evans, Mr Adegbenle, Mr Neesham, Mr Bashir & 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, 10R 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!

	Total		Total		Total		Total		Total
7P	1225	8A	1485	9S	1200	10R	1600	11P	1550
7C	1200	8S	1175	9T	1175	10S	1575	11S	1125
7R	975	8P	875	9C	1000	10A	1225	11K	1025
7K	875	8R	825	9A	900	10V	825	11V	1025
7T	875	8T	800	9V	875	10C	650	11R	825
7V	825	8V	750	9R	750	10T	475	11T	750
7S	575	8C	625	9K	500	10K	450	11A	500
7A	450	8K	325	9P	425	10P	450	11C	375

	Total
Spartans	5725
Romans	5150
Parthians	4725
Argonauts	4710
Vikings	4350
Trojans	4150
Carthaginians	3975
Kelts	3275

In the race for the whole school House Shield the Spartans are currently commanding a strong lead but all that could change with just a few competitions so keep showing up for your team and remember, to win:

**PARTICIPATION
IS
KEY**

