

# RUTLISH SCHOOL



## NEWSLETTER

March 2021

### Message from Ms Howarth



It has been wonderful to have all our students back at school for the last few weeks of this term; we have really enjoyed their return.

The staff have done an amazing job during lockdown working remotely and supporting over 50 vulnerable and key worker students who attended school every day. I can't name them all but I am forever in gratitude of the teachers, administration, cover supervisors, SEN team, Inclusion team, SLT and the testing team for their hard work and dedication to our students and families.

I also want to thank our parents and carers supporting our students' remote learning this term.

Students have settled in well, been engaged in their learning and re-establishing their friendships.

As you will be aware from the Key Stage bulletins, our House competition has been running throughout the term with various activities, fund raising for charity and a collection for the local Food Bank and you will find more information in this newsletter.

As we return to our normal routines, the canteen will be serving breakfast for all students to purchase between 8am and 8.20am.

I would like to thank ex-student Wasim Haq for raising funds for the school. Please read more about this later in the newsletter.

Wishing you all a peaceful and restful break, a Happy Easter and Ramadan Mubarak, and a belated Happy Holi and Chag Pesach Sameach.

Laura Howarth

### Student Wellbeing

Lockdown and the challenges and uncertainties of the last year have increased anxiety for many of us.



Rutlish work with Place2Be, a children's mental health charity with over 25 years of working with students, families and staff in schools. They provide an in-school counselling support service for our students in need of emotional and mental health support.

Students can self refer for a Place2Talk (solution-focused therapy) if they would like support at break or lunch-times.. There is a form available for them to complete using their Microsoft login. Appointments are made during school hours on a Monday to Wednesday.

If you would like support during the Easter break or want to find out more please visit our website [Rutlish School - Place2Be](#)

An on-line resource available to students is Kooth, a mental health and wellbeing platform for young people. Kooth gives access to an on-line community of peers and a team of experienced counsellors: 12pm to 10pm weekdays and 6pm—10pm at weekends, 365 days a year. They also have webinar sessions for parents. For more information visit [Rutlish School - Mental & Physical Wellbeing](#)



### End of Term

- The last day of term is Wednesday 31 March.
- Celebration assembly in Tutor Time and Period 1.
- Students will have a staggered dismissal class by class from 12.15pm.

### Dates for your diary

- Monday 19 April: First day of term
- Monday 3 May: Bank holiday
- Wednesday 12 May: Year 9 HPV vaccinations
- Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June: Half term holiday
- Monday 28 June: Year 8 HPV vaccinations
- Wednesday 21 July: Last day of term

### Obituary



We were sad to learn of the death of Mr R B Coyle in December.

Mr Coyle was headmaster at the school from 1970 to 1985. The tributes we received included:

"I have fond memories of him, and his gift of loving Greek Literature translation stay with me to this day."

"A lovely headmaster who was firm but fair and had an uncanny ability to take an interest in all his students well-being."

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## RR6

March 8<sup>th</sup> was a big day, it marked our return to school, and day one of the lateral flow testing. The testing went incredibly well with the Y12 and Y13 students first to partake; I want to say a huge thanks to you all for your compliance and the consideration you have shown the process and each other. Huge thanks also needs to be extended to the testing team.

Our KS5 students have all shown tremendous resilience in the last year, even as I write that it's surreal. 'Pandemic', 'social distancing', 'lockdown v3', 'online learning', 'you're on mute' have become part of our lexicon. Currently, we are finalising with departments what and when you will be assessed and we are acutely aware of how important this is to our students. The system will be fair and rigorous.

The most important thing I would like to reiterate to all Y13 students is that your grades are well truly in your hands. Please ensure you are studying, completing all your tasks and attending all you lessons.

# RR6

WIMBLEDON

United in Excellence

Year 12s: this term is the term in which you need to start choosing the universities, apprenticeships or training that you intent to pursue after RR6. Please ensure you are taking part in the opportunities that have been made available to you. UCAS guidance will be provided in the coming weeks and we will ask that you start to create a shortlist of universities and courses that you

may choose for your future. You need to start writing your personal statement and, of course, you need to ensure that you perform well in the end of year exams, upon which your predicted grades will be significantly based.

**“You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them”**

Maya Angelou

Let's give it all this term.

Ms Hyland, Assistant Headteacher and The RR6 team

## Key Stage 3

It has been so wonderful to see all our students return back at School!

The manner and attitude of our KS3 boys during testing has been exceptional and highly commendable. The testing went so smoothly and this would not be possible if it wasn't for our students' exceptional effort and attitude as well as the efficacy of our dedicated testing Team.

Now we can all agree, it is back to business as usual. We continue to learn well and with vigour, we learn in this way because we are born for success! Difficulties are still around us at this point of time but so be it! We, as a learning community have a job to do. A job to do by doing well in our lessons, a job to do to catch up with any work that has been missed, a job to do so that extra homework is done too.

The learning is a must! It branches out from the right attitude to learning and an impeccable behaviour. The impeccable behaviour to do the right thing whilst at school but also on our way to and from school. Being too noisy, littering on our way to home or being disrespectful to our neighbours is simply not who we are. As Rutlishians, we are uncompromising in our immaculate and respectful behaviour to all and at all times!

Students, seeing back in lessons makes me smile. It is where we belong right now and where our future endeavours will evolve from! So many achievement and Vivo points are there for taking and I am sure you will agree with me, getting as many of those as possible will make your parents so happy and proud of you!

Enjoy your learning time, and through your learning, continue to pursue your happiness and belief in your own individuality!

Mr A Redzepagic, Acting Assistant Headteacher KS3

## Key Stage 4

After weeks of silent hallways and empty classrooms, it has been an absolute delight to welcome all our students back at Rutlish School. A massive well done to our KS4 students who worked incredibly hard throughout the period of remote learning.

Extensive preparation and careful planning allowed the school to be able to safely re-open to all students again, and our staff and parents have been steadfast in supporting our boys as they settle back into their learning environment. I am proud to say that Rutlish has delivered an exceptionally meticulous and well-oiled operation that ensures staff and students receive lateral flow tests with minimal disruption to learning.

Though the school day looks a little different with the one-way system and masks in hallways and classrooms, it is quite wonderful to see shining eyes peeking over the top of masks, happy to be in the company of their friends and supportive teachers. I am particularly proud of our year 11 students who have acclimatised to the changes with such maturity and respect, in spite of the uncertainty they faced with this years' grading process. Hopefully, Mr Gormally's letter with FAQs about this year's grading process and assembly given to Year 11 students provided more clarity about the coming weeks. There will be more detailed information about the specific assessments the students will sit after Easter as we receive guidance from the exam boards this week.

In the meantime, it is important that students' mental health and wellbeing are supported. The exam season is a stressful time for students, and after an exceptionally challenging year, it is even more imperative now that students know there is support available for them in school. From their subject teachers to the pastoral team (their tutor, deputy head of year and head of year), there is always someone they can speak to if they need support and advice. Please see the Wellbeing section on the website. [Rutlish School - Wellbeing](#)

Mrs Alltraine, Acting Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 4



## Sport

Extra-curricular sport started back with a flourish when the students returned in March., reports Mr Joyce, Head of PE.

Activities including badminton, table tennis, indoor rowing, rugby, football and basketball restarted for Years 7 - 10. There have been a high number of students at all of the activities and hopefully it has allowed students to feel life is returning to normal.



Ball boy training has resumed at lunch times in anticipation of the Wimbledon Championships going ahead. The Year 10 selection day is Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup>.

The tennis academy at Cranleigh Tennis Club also resumed.



Extra-curricular tennis and other summer activities will start next term .

## Community

At Rutlish School we seek to support charitable initiatives both locally and nationally.

As well as supporting Comic Relief towards the end of term we collected non-perishable food donations for Dons Local Action Group. They are a local network of volunteers fighting poverty in Merton, Wandsworth and Kingston for more details please visit their website: [www.donslocalaction.org](http://www.donslocalaction.org)



The Headboy Team help to load the donations

Rutlish headboy, Vidal, writes "Dons is a local action group set up by three AFC Wimbledon fans in March 2020 in response to the Covid19 pandemic, to provide emergency food to the hungry, vulnerable, shielding and key workers in the community. Myself and other Rutlish students are proud to have been part of this group since the start and are really pleased that the whole school can support this important work."

## Rutlish School Website [Rutlish School - Home](http://Rutlish School - Home)

We launched our new website in January and hope you have found it easy to navigate as well as being useful and informative. It has lots of new features for us.

Have you had a look at our virtual tour of the school? [Rutlish School - Virtual Tour](http://Rutlish School - Virtual Tour)

## Jack Petchey

The Jack Petchey Foundation was set up to inspire and celebrate young people. It enables the school to recognise effort, endeavour and achievement.



## Jack Petchey Awards

Congratulations to Jadan and Sunyu for achieving their Jack Petchey Awards this term.

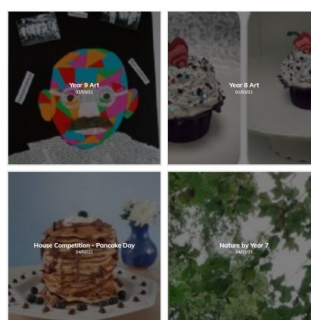
## Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

This is the largest speaking competition in the world for young people! The programme starts with a workshop for students and ends with them delivering a speech judged by a panel of VIP judges.



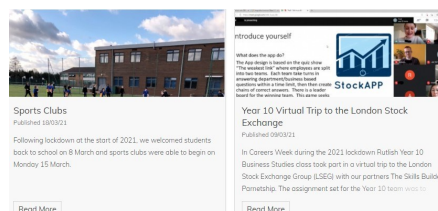
Congratulations to Tommy, for reaching the Regional Final last week. His speech on "No Person is an Island" was a reflection on a young person coping during lockdown and the importance of friendship and kindness.

Ms Howarth attended the event via Zoom and said "I was very impressed by how eloquently Tommy articulated his speech. The school are very proud of his achievement."



The new gallery allows us to showcase students work and activities [Rutlish School - Gallery](http://Rutlish School - Gallery) This has included art and DT work, house competitions during lockdown and photos from our sports clubs.

You can also read about different events our students are involved in, whether it is Safer Internet Day, Year 10 visit to the stock exchange or Children's Mental Health Week [Rutlish School - Latest News](http://Rutlish School - Latest News)







## Year 13 Ambassadors—Sahar, Mikael & Connie



Despite the circumstances, we have continued to try and be good role models as RR6 ambassadors. Some of the projects we have worked on include creating displays with individuals, their ethnicity and where they are from, wellbeing, cultural capital, CV and university applications, and creativity.

We hope this will inspire more people to become involved and develop new ideas to support people in the BAME community, those of us who are looking to the future and for all of us whose wellbeing needs to be a focus in the coming weeks.

### Our advice to Yrs 7-12:

We know that many things seem uncertain at the moment, and this can potentially make you feel stressed out or demotivated to do any work at all, but there is no future without the present. Try to find the positives in every situation, dream about the future, but work hard today -- goals and dreams only come true with action. If you find yourself feeling demotivated as nothing is set in stone yet, remind yourself that you can make good use of the time you have now to work hard and focus well in school 'as the best way to get something done is to begin.'

## Women in History: Astronomer Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin by Ayman, Y7

The woman who discovered what the universe is made of has never received proper recognition. Everybody knows that Charles Darwin discovered evolution and Isaac Newton discovered gravity and Albert Einstein discovered the relativity of time, but when it comes to the composition of the universe, we know it is hydrogen but nobody knows who discovered it?

Cecilia Payne was a very talented scientist, but her mother refused to pay for her college education, so instead she won a scholarship to Cambridge. Cecilia Payne completed her studies at Cambridge but they wouldn't give her a degree because she was a woman. So she decided to move to America and there she was the first person ever to earn her PhD in Astronomy.

Not only did Cecilia Payne discover what the universe was made of, but she also discovered what the sun was made of too, but unfortunately she was never given credit for this and instead her fellow astronomer, Henry Norris Russell got the credit after he told her not to publish her papers. Cecilia Payne is also the reason we know about variable stars (stars whose brightness we can see from earth). Cecilia Payne was the first woman to be credited to full professor from Harvard and inspiring more women into the field of Science.

Cecilia Payne was amazing and everyone should know her name as the woman who discovered the composition of the universe.

## What our students say

"Schools with more than just academia are the one that set themselves apart, I believe Rutlish to be one of those schools.

I feel as though Rutlish can offer academics, opportunity and an experience that changes you into a good person, helping develop society in ways generations before now could not achieve."

"Lockdown brought a whole new way of life that may have been more than difficult to adjust to, being stripped of all social normalities that have become essential to life. This has caused mental health impact on a large amount of the population, it is important to give students a person to speak to, to make school a safe place its intended to be."

## Anti-bullying Ambassadors

The anti-bullying ambassadors have played an instrumental role in raising awareness around the school. They have helped with school assemblies, anti-bullying week and school initiatives.

Here are some testimonials from two anti-bullying ambassadors in the Year 10 team.

Aryan: "I have been a member of the team since Year 7, and I have participated in every assembly since then. I also took part in the METRO workshop. This organisation helps promote health and wellbeing to anyone experiencing issues relating to sexuality, gender, equality, diversity and identity'."

Aiden: "I have been in the team since Year 7. I helped with the anti-bullying week assembly in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10. I participated in the METRO workshop who trained me to champion equality, nurture aspiration, embrace difference and challenge others to do so.

In my role I aim to promote mutual respect between all members of the school community and to be available to speak to any students who may have been bullied. This was evidenced by my resilient Rutlishian certificate received for inclusiveness this year. "

## Our motto interpreted by our students

**Modeste**—I will always remember to behave modestly

**Strenue**—I will be thorough and strive never to drop the baton or let even the smallest things be overlooked or forgotten.

**Sancte**—I will be a conscientious person and will always behave in a morally good way".

"Our school motto is a great base for a positive ethos. It is both empowering and humbling. By trying you follow the motto it keeps students grounded and gives pride for the school and what it wants to achieve."



## PTA

The PTA continue to do an amazing job raising funds for the school. As well as at regular events you can support them in a number of ways; buy a lottery ticket, choose Rutlish as your cause with Amazon Smile, Easyfundraising and the Co-op or sign up to Riverford using SCH\_MER\_RUTLISH code.

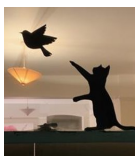
The PTA invites all parents to a meet up on the evening of 23 June 2021. More details will be on [Classlist](#) nearer the time. You can register on Classlist to connect to other Rutlish parents.

You can get in touch by email [rutlishpta@gmail.com](mailto:rutlishpta@gmail.com) also check their Twitter account @parentrutlish for regular updates and the school website [Rutlish School - PTA](#) for full details.

## The Great Big Art Exhibition

The Great Big Art Exhibition was launched by Sir Antony Gormley, asking people to make an artwork at home and put in their window or garden. KS3 students have thrown themselves into converting their window spaces, front gardens and railings into exciting art displays as part of the national initiative to get the nation to express their creativity during lockdown.

The Art department were blown away by the amount of submissions and the outstanding quality of work on display and we applaud all who took part in this fantastic opportunity. For more examples of the art work please visit our website [Rutlish School - Gallery](#)



## Rutlish Re-cycle a Bike Scheme

It's wonderful to see so many riding their bicycles to school. These students may be interested in this great opportunity.

In association with Sustrans, Rutlish students can take part in a six-week bike course where they can hone their skills as a bike mechanic.

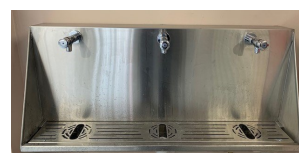
The course will be run in April immediately after the Easter break. Students can speak to Ms Dawkins if interested.

Sustrans are a charity who encourage young people to cycle as a way of improving mental and physical health.



## Water Fountains

New bottle filling water stations have been installed around the school site. Please make sure students bring in their own water bottle. Help us to reduce single use plastic.



## Drama Club

Drama Club is open to all year groups in Key Stage 3 at lunch time on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Students will alternate between improvisation, dance and script exploration.

## Mayor of Merton



On 17 March, Ms Howarth was delighted to welcome the Mayor of Merton to Rutlish School.

The Mayor presented a certificate to recognise the "school's committed dedication, professionalism and resilience in educating your students during this exceedingly difficult Covid19 pandemic."

## Comic Relief

On Friday 19 March we supported Comic Relief with a "Red Clothes Day". Students and staff raised an amazing £848.70.



## Assemblies

Regular assemblies continued remotely during lockdown., with a wide variety of topics including Internet Safety, LGBTQ+ History Month, International Day for the Elimination of Racism and Children's Mental Health Week as well as the return to school and hard work.

Students reflected on the different international and national influences on these topics as well as how they can impact them personally.

One message to take away from this week's assembly could apply to all these subjects

***"contribute to making the world a more welcoming place for everyone."***





## Thank you!

Ex-Rutlish student, Wasim Haq, has raised funds to support individual students during home learning who may require a device or broadband.

We thank him for his generous donation of £2,530. This has allowed us to provide laptops to students during their home learning this term.

## Driving Near the School

You are reminded not to drive down Watery Lane when dropping off and collecting. There are restrictions in place and you may be fined.

Additionally, please do not drive down Manor Road as this is a dead end road. It becomes dangerous for students and our neighbours who are walking down the road when cars are turning.

Please remain considerate of our neighbours around the school. Thank you

## House Competition

Mr Foster, House Co-ordinator reports that he is really pleased that even with a disrupted term we were able to continue with the Rutlish house competitions.

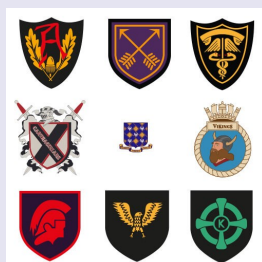
During our period of online learning the students were set a caption competition. We had some great entries and it was wonderful to see some of the students managing to make light of the lockdown. Our second competition was run in conjunction with Careers Week and was organised by Ms Graham. We ran a quiz where students had to guess the previous careers of many of our members of staff (Which English teacher is a trained make-up artist?). Our final competition this term was to celebrate Women's History Month with the History Department organising a 'famous women from history' quiz.

It's been a great term for the house competition and I am really looking forward to the summer term where we hope to see lots more great competitions.

The top 3 on the leader board remains unchanged from December, though 2nd and 3rd have swapped places.

### Leader Board

1st      Trojans  
2nd      Kelts  
3rd      Argonauts



## Staff Wellbeing Week—March 2021

Staff appreciated their second wellbeing week last week. A week of fun after-school activities rather than the usual scheduled meetings.

One event for staff was a mental health and wellbeing webinar. This covered topics to support staff wellbeing not just at work but home too; how to keep a work/life balance, and the importance of self-care and strategies to maintain good mental health were just of the two topics covered.

We thank Old Rutlishians' Association who organised and paid for this as part of their commitment to supporting staff in the school. Find out more about Old Ruts on their website, or by visiting our website [Rutlish School - Old Rutlishians' Association](#)

Thank you to everyone who participated in all the events, Ms Doherty for making the arrangements and the PTA for their well-being breakfasts.

## Test Centre

The beginning of March saw students return to school after the national lockdown.

The government asked schools to test students for Covid19 on their return to help stop the spread of the virus in the community.



Our test centre did an amazing job with the majority of our 1387 students having their 3 tests between Monday 8 and Thursday 18 March.; usually over 80 students an hour and minimal disruption to lessons. This would not have been possible without our student's exceptional attitude and the efficiency of our dedicated testing team.

Thank you to Mrs Quin for her organisation; and her team including Ms Higginson, Ms Parchment and Mr Cox as well as some of our invigilators.

Students have been tested three times in school before being given home test kits. For further information on home testing please visit our website [Rutlish School - Covid19](#)

## Covid Testing during Ramadan

The British Islamic Medical Association's view is that taking polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lateral flow device (LFD) tests during Ramadan does not invalidate the fast.

People may feel more comfortable doing the tests when they are not fasting. With the move to home-testing, students can continue to test at a time that suits them. For more information [COVID-19 Vaccine Hub - Statements | British Islamic Medical Association \(britishima.org\)](#)



## Numeracy

The Maths Department are challenging students to complete the UK Mathematics Trust weekly Maths puzzle. The puzzle can be found on Fronter and send your solution to Ms Eastaugh. You can also follow them on Twitter @UKMathsTrust



Congratulations to Mahdi, Fabian, Ranveer, Mohammed and Thakshen for getting the answer to Puzzle 2 correct: 7 more pentagons were needed to complete the circle.

UKMT was founded in 1996 to advance the education of young people in mathematics. We run their challenges during the year for our students.

Next term, all Year 7 & 8 students in Maths sets 1 & 2 will sit the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, on-line, during their Maths lesson on Monday 26 April. If any additional Year 7 or 8 students wish to sit the challenge, please message Mrs Eastaugh on Fronter and they can do so after school on Wednesday 28th April.

The challenge is a 60mn multiple choice competition open to all students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning and precision of thought to solve interesting problems.

Practising past papers is really helpful and these can be found at [Junior Mathematical Challenge archive | UK Mathematics Trust \(ukmt.org.uk\)](http://ukmt.org.uk)

The top 40% of students nationally will get a bronze, silver or gold award. The highest scoring entries will go through to the follow-on rounds.

## Summer 2021 Exam Grades

Letters have been sent out to Year 11 and 13 parents and students, with the information we know about how grades will be awarded this summer. You will find these on our website [Rutlish School - Letters Home](#)

The Joint Council for Qualifications, JCQ, has just issued new guidance. The school are processing the impact for Rutlish and will be in touch as soon as possible. In the meantime parents and guardians can read their information [JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf](#)

**"I work as hard as anybody will ever work and I like that. That's why I've been successful and that is when I feel good about myself. If I do my damndest and don't succeed I feel good about the effort."**

Mark Wahlberg

## Literacy

It has been another busy term promoting the benefits of literacy across the school, with the additional challenge of celebrating World Book Day while students were working remotely. We used a range of activities including audiobooks, competitions, and Drop Everything And Read sessions within lessons. The audiobooks are still available to provide some Easter listening for you: [World Book Day Audiobooks](#) The book-token design competition is open until 2 April. All students received £1 book-tokens. Details of how these can be used are on the token and website, please see the Literacy Fronter page.



A selection of the books being read by Year 7 on World Book Day

The theme of this year's Young Writers' Competition is: 'My Name Is...' The challenge is to write a short story or poem around this theme. The Literacy Fronter page has full entry details which must be submitted by the end of the day on 16 April. Last year many of our students won prizes and commendations for their imaginative writing, so why not have a go?

We will once again be joining Wimbledon BookFest to celebrate reading, including an author event which we will broadcast in our English lessons.

Y8 students have been auto-enrolled in Merton's libraries and we are continuing to organise this across all year groups. Parents will get an email detailing the benefits and will only need to respond if they do NOT want their child to be a part of this. [www.merton.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.merton.gov.uk/libraries)

We are delighted to have reopened the LRC to students. This will still be on rota basis and students will be advised through their tutor groups of the arrangements. Check the LRC Fronter page for more information.



In the summer term there will be a Reading Club for KS3 students: details to be announced.