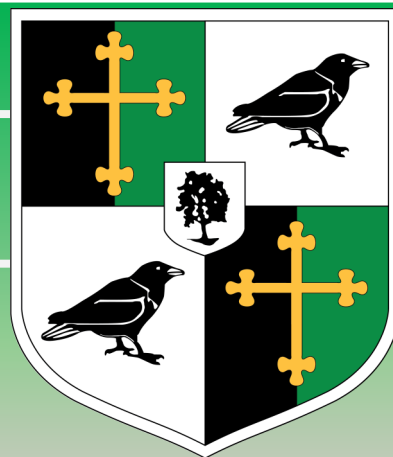


Friday 17th December 2021

Ravens Wood

Committed to excellence



Dear Parents and Carers,
It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the final newsletter of 2021. We hope that it finds you and your families well and excited for the festive break. Christmas can mean a variety of different things to people, even if they don't celebrate it. It can be a time of hospitality, appreciation and generosity; exchanging thoughtful gifts with loved ones (or Secret Santa!); watching our favourite Christmas films year after year; a time for reflection of the year passed and excitement for the one ahead. Whatever it means to you, I hope that your plans include some much needed rest and relaxation. Our thanks and admiration goes to those who continue to work and volunteer over this period.

With this spirit of goodwill in mind, if you know of anyone who may need support this Christmas, please remember there is help available. Bromley offer a household support fund for vulnerable families who may need assistance with food and utilities. The form can be found [HERE](#). The Salvation Army offer a variety of support including budget and debt advice, resources for families, children and young people and they are also organising a Christmas Present Appeal for children who might not otherwise receive a gift this Christmas - you can find out more via this [LINK](#). Bromley Mencap offer advice and assistance for those with disabilities, their families and carers - please click [Bromley Mencap](#) and for food bank referrals please visit [HERE](#). If you know an older person needs help, or is spending Christmas alone, then AGE UK may be able to help via 0800 678 1602 or visit their [Website](#). *#lookingaftereachother*

Last week saw our Rabble Chorus heading to the Glades Shopping Centre to rekindle their annual tradition of carol singing for local charity, The Maypole Project. Well done gentlemen and thank you Ms Potter Hicks for arranging this. We also hope that our Year 11 students enjoyed their Futures Day and Sixth Form presentations last week, in preparation for their sixth form applications, which are due by Friday 17th December.

It was lovely to see so many students sporting their festive wear today and we are grateful for all donations made to our school's chosen charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) More information about their valuable work can be found via their website <https://www.c-ry.org.uk/>. Our Year 8 Outdoor Club have also been getting into the festive spirit with their beautiful Christmas wreaths, one of which they kindly presented to me, and is now proudly hanging on my office door.

Please don't forget there are still ways to support our fantastic PSFA who tirelessly raise money for the school. You can buy a raffle ticket for daily draws between 13th-18th [HERE](#) and remember that if you need some new uniform next term, they sell both new and pre-loved items.

A letter was sent out to all families on Monday detailing the arrangements for each year group's return to school in January. Please do take the time to read this letter carefully and make a note of your sons/daughters times and dates to return. A copy of this letter is available on our website in the [Letters Home](#) section.

We are continuing to follow guidelines from the Department for Education and this includes the wearing of face masks in communal areas, such as the corridors, canteen and whilst travelling to/from school on public transport. Please continue to ensure our students are sent into school next term with a suitable clean face-covering. If they are exempt, please ensure their Head of Year is notified. Thank you for your ongoing support regarding this.

I would like to extend my enormous thanks to all the staff at Ravens Wood for their continued hard work this term. It makes me very proud as I walk the corridors to see not only an exemplary standard of teaching, but also a wealth of support offered to our students to continually meet their needs.

On behalf of the Directors, Governors and staff we wish you a very Happy Christmas. Have a lovely weekend,

Ms Spence, Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

PD Day & Year 7 On-Site Testing – Tuesday 4th January

Years 8-13 On-Site Testing – Wednesday 5th January

Students Return to School – Thursday 6th January

Year 12 Parents' Evening - Thursday 20th January

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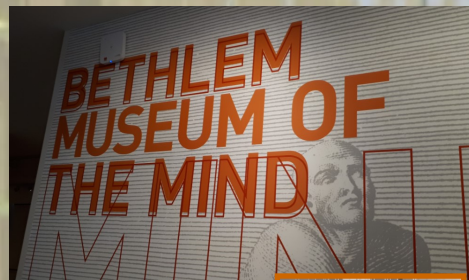


Remember, you can keep up-to-date with all of Ravens Wood's latest news by following us on Twitter. Simply search for @rw_school and follow us.

Year 13 Trip to Bethlem Museum of the Mind

This week the Year 13 Art students went on a trip to the Bethlem Museum of the Mind. The students were given a talk about the history of the hospital and how the museum was started, where they were given an opportunity to get involved in discussions and see drawings based on the hospital from artists such as Hogarth. Once the talk was over the students were allowed to explore the galleries freely and discover art created by the patients of the hospital. The students behaved impeccably, creating sketches, and taking photos of the work which will now be part of the NEA portfolios.

O Day, Teacher of Art



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FORM GROUPS BELOW WHO HAVE ACHIEVED THE TOP ATTENDANCE SCORE IN THEIR YEAR

Top Forms for Attendance w/e 10th December 2021

1st Place with 96.7% = 7F

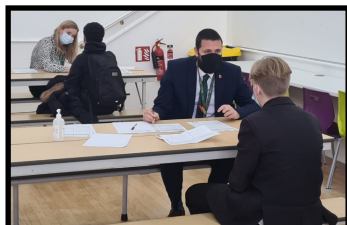
2nd Place with 96.9% = 11D

3rd Place with 96.6% = 7C Congratulations!



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Applications to the Sixth Form close on 17th December.



Year 11 met with members of the Sixth Form Team and SLT on Wednesday to discuss their application and subject choices. It was wonderful to meet so many prospective students to discuss their future choices.



Sixth Form Sport



Our girls' football team continue to go from strength to strength, playing their second team game this half term. Despite losing 5-4, our girls have improved their skills and stamina.



Some of our Sixth Form students have been working with Bromley Y, focusing on Managing Exam Anxiety. These have been beneficial sessions, supporting our students through their journey towards their A Levels.

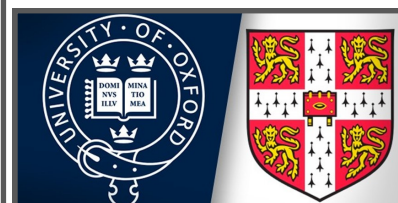
University Applications and Oxbridge

Seven Year 13 students completed their online interviews with their chosen college at Oxford or Cambridge university last week. We wish them luck as they wait to hear whether they have been successful.

Candidates have received interviews to study:

- English
- Natural Sciences
- History and Politics
- Mathematics
- Medicine
- Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
-

Miss Prescott has also been busy meeting with Year 13 students to send off their UCAS applications. We have received a plethora of offers from universities. The deadline for sending off UCAS applications is **Friday 14th January**.



UCAS



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS





EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY



News and Updates from around the school on issues around inclusion, equality and diversity

This week our Diversity Ambassadors have been working together to bring you this page for the newsletter. Our Diversity Ambassadors have attended their second Diversity Workshop where they have been discussing untold stories, issues affecting our school, meeting with our Sixth Form leaders and how they can affect change in Ravens Wood School.

What have the students been learning?

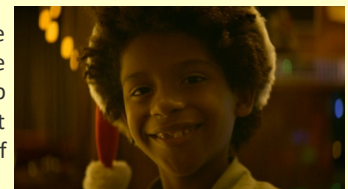
Our students were split into three groups this week, all working on researching different civils rights movements, these were; Racial inequality, LGBTQ+ rights and Women/Gender equality, Ableism and many more. Below are some topics of discussion our group raised. In our most recent session, our ambassadors have been working on creating their own Ready to Learn content for the rest of the school to take part in. The themes for this week were:

- Use of gender neutral terms in other languages, examples used were German and French
- Brenda Howard the “Mother of Pride” and how her work influenced the Bisexual community
- How can schools act more effectively to prevent and protect students from harassment and bullying?
- How can Ravens Wood still have a uniform policy that still inhabits the ethos of the school, but allow for expressions of individuality?

A Christmas Themed look at Racial Equality

It's the 1980's. And, like every child, the protagonist of O Boticário's video released in 2020 loves Christmas. Keen-eyed, the boy takes in a variety of thematic images, including those in his own home, and notices that they all point to a similar depiction of Santa Claus. "*So many Santas out there and no one looks like me?*" reflects the boy. Fast-forwarding to 2020, the story tells that the things he ever wished for and believed in have made all the difference. He is now the protagonist not only of this story but also of the celebration of love among all peoples: he is a Black Santa Claus.

This is the story behind the video featuring in a host of initiatives of Brazilian cosmetics and perfume brand O Boticário to celebrate Christmas. The commercial also gets people to think about the importance of believing in our own dreams. “We have a robust diversity strategy and we'll keep building on it, well aware of the challenges ahead. As Brazil's most beloved beauty brand, we see that our role is to promote and appreciate plurality among people”, says Alexandre Bouza, head of O Boticário.



For years O Boticário is a brand with a direct approach to racial equality, including diversity in their commercials and productions. This time has been no different. In sync with a number of initiatives and commitments of the company, we aimed at an inspiring story with the emotion the season demands. We're telling the story of young black child who just wanted to feel represented in the figure of Santa Claus - a figure that has lately (and fortunately) been more diverse in public spaces, Christmas specials, and content actions," says Pernil, executive creative director at AlmapBBDO. The video can be seen here: <https://www.lbbonline.com/news/o-boticario-perfume-commits-to-racial-equality-this-christmas>



*NEWS*NEWS*NEWS*NEWS*NEWS*NEWS*NEWS*

The Guardian recently reported the story of a servicewoman in the armed forces who a few years ago was subject to an act of alleged assault by a colleague. The incident was reported to the military authorities and a wealth of evidence was provided, including pictures of bruising, eyewitness accounts and a detailed video statement.

Justice has still not been served.

Not only was the case reduced to a disciplinary matter in the military court system, but the alleged offender was allowed to continue his service. Sadly, this case is not a one-off.

What do you think about this? Should to offender have been allowed to continue his service?





A JAMMY CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST!

JAM form students have been busy creating a Christmas playlist of their favourite festive songs both sacred and secular, both popular and well know and some a little out there! To access the playlist you can either click on the following link <https://spoti.fi/31WQK9o> or by using the QR code. We hope you enjoy the Christmas playlist over the festive season.



Mr Z Bamping, Teacher of Music



Congratulations to the members of *Rabble Chorus* who helped local charity, The Maypole Project, raise over £600 carol singing in the Glades on Thursday 9th December. A special mention to Jack Stevenson for adding the traditional pinch of drama to the event.



Exam successes:

George Morrison (Y8 JAM) Grade 5 Piano with Merit

George Morrison Grade 2 Cello with Distinction

Charlie Hay (Year 8) Grade 1 Electric Guitar with Distinction

Laurie Sullivan Grade 3 Piano Pass



On Friday 10th of December, members of the RWS Big Band and Music Academy travelled to the Royal Albert Hall to watch *The Guy Barker Big Band Christmas Concert*. Our first trip to an event since March 2020, a festive time was had by all! #musicforlife



All of us in the Music Department would like to **congratulate** our amazing students for all their hard work, dedication to rehearsals, positivity and endless energy. This term has been superb in reviving live music at Ravens Wood from our weekly Sixth Form performances in Assemblies to the Festival of Strings and Song in October, GCSE Solo Performances in November and making music with KS3 in the Music block again. Whilst we may not be presenting our Christmas celebrations in the usual way, you can still see our musicians in action through our virtual concert, 'Santa's passport to Christmas' where we perform Christmas music from Nigeria, the Czech Republic, Sweden, the U.S. and the UK along with a few festive favourites. It has been truly fantastic to hear you all playing again not only on your own but collaboratively. Keep up your practice over the holidays ready for more exam success, performances and fun next term. We are looking forward to February for 'Plugged in', our gig for bands, drummers and everyone electric followed by our 'Brass & Woodwind showcase' in March and at the end of term we will be taking a trip to the West End for our 'Musicals' Spring concert.

Wishing you all a very merry and musical Christmas!

E Potter Hicks, N Grant, Z Bamping and L Simmonds

#musicforall #workharddreambig





EQ+U-A-L IIT Corner



Student-led weekly discussions in a safe place to discuss topics such as Racism, Feminism LGBTQ+ and how to support these movements.



-Tuesday Lunchtimes
-ML2
-Years 7-13
-Tutors: Miss Hemetsberger & Mr Marriott

"What does Equality mean to you?"

"What can we do as individuals to create a more equal society?"

"Why do movements like BLM, Pride and Feminism exist?"

RWS11

Autumn Term 1.7

#BeExtraordinary

'Making every day count'



Key message: Make the last week count!!



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Autumn Term draws to a close it is important for us to reflect on what has been a hugely successful term for our Year 11 students. Students have completed their first round of mock exams; a big challenge, which they have overcome with **real maturity and resilience**.

The determination of this Year 11 group is without question. **This week 170 of our RWS11 students attended at least one after school revision session on Tuesday/Thursday.** This underlines the positive reaction from our students after seeing their PPE1 grades and teacher predictions this week.

It is vital to remember that **PPE1 is a starting point.** It is normal to see a dip in comparison to End of Year 10 grades. The PPE exams cover the entirety of GCSE specifications and are very rigorous. **If students respond positively they will make lots of progress between now and their Summer exams.** **Please remain positive with your son.**

Please continue to encourage your son with **100% completion of homework** and all students should now be in a **routine of revision and retrieval** through the use of **flashcards and GCSEPod.** Keep quizzing your son on key content so he can test his knowledge!!

We thank all of our RWS11 parents and carers for their magnificent support this term and we look forward to working with you in 2022.

Merry Christmas,

Mr Davis, Director of KS4

Mr Morgan, Head of Year 11

Past Paper Routine

All departments will be sharing past papers with your son and these will be worked on regularly in class and tasks will be set for homework. Please encourage your son to work with past papers routinely. He will then be far more familiar with exam papers with PPE2 in mind.

Planning for Essays!

We will continue our work on essay planning in the Spring Term but your son can get ahead with this now. Our students need to write a brief plan to ensure that paragraphs are developed and that written answers contain all the ingredients to access the top end of the mark scheme.

6th Form Meetings

On Wednesday 10th December all students met with a member of the senior leadership team to discuss their choices for 6th form; RWS11 students have clearly considered their next steps. These conversations should provide key motivation for our students to achieve their potential in the Summer. Please do get your son to read up on all A-Level options on our website to ensure he is fully informed on his next steps. <https://www.ravenswood.bromley.sch.uk/post-sixteen/applying-for-the-sixth-form/>

OUTDOOR CLUB

Last week in Outdoor Club our students made festive wreaths from foraged holly and Christmas tree off cuts and gifted them to staff members to make the school look christmassy!



SANTA'S WORKSHOP



Offcut Engineers in DT Enrichment have made these cute Robot Santa's for tree decorations. After assembling them together they were painted and ready to take home!

Well done gents!



RWS UNIFORM



Uniform sales are run by the PSFA on a completely voluntary basis. Purchasing new or second-hand uniform from the PSFA allows all profits to be given back to the school which benefits all students.

RWS new uniform can be ordered from Mrs Clarke by calling: 07956 103786 or by emailng:

merylclarke@hotmail.com

For your convenience, our price list can be found here [RWS Uniform Price List](#)

More information about uniform can be found on our website [HERE](#) and acceptable footwear [HERE](#)

Second-hand Uniform: Please email: ravenswoodpsfa@yahoo.com. (Donations of good quality logo items would be gratefully accepted - Please contact us for drop off/pick up details).



PSFA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

We were pleased to launch our Christmas Raffle in conjunction with Parentkind and thank everyone for your support in purchasing tickets.

The final draw is on 18th December 2021.

Good Luck!



JOIN OUR TEAM



If you would like to find out more about the PSFA or have any great fundraising ideas, please contact us: ravenswoodpsfa@yahoo.com

Follow us on Twitter: [@RW_PSFA](https://twitter.com/RW_PSFA)



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Free School Meals/Pupil Premium Payments are available to all eligible pupils attending Bromley maintained schools.

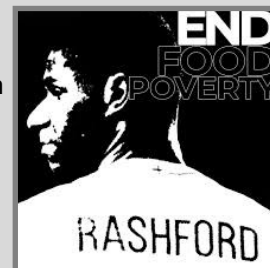
An application must be submitted to secure both Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium Payment. Pupils who have been eligible for Free School Meals since April 2018 do not need to renew applications until April 2022.



HOW TO APPLY

Application forms are available from Bromley Schools, or you can apply online:

https://www.bromley.gov.uk/site/xfp/scripts/xforms_form.php?formID=180



BROMLEY Education MATTERS

Bromley Council have published details of Household Support Fund grants available to support vulnerable households and families, with or without children, who require it over the coming months. The support is available for Bromley residents until 31 March 2022 (or until the fund has been utilised).

Please click on the link for further details:- <https://bromleyeducationmatters.uk/Article/93210?source=Newsletter&guid=08B2905B-BAB9-4942-9302-8D30A4826A8C>

Year 7 Birthday Celebrations

Our Year 7 students who celebrated their birthdays over the past two weeks, enjoyed cake and a drink with Ms Spence this week.

We look forward to sharing all of our Year 7's birthdays with you over the next few months.



RBL Poppy Appeal 2021

The Royal British Legion have sent their thanks to all of our students and staff for our wonderful efforts in raising an amazing £419.23 for the Poppy Appeal and thanked Ravens Wood School in supporting this worthy cause.

Well done Ladies & Gentlemen!



RWS Safeguarding Information



The Safeguarding Team would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students and their families a very Merry Christmas. We hope that you all have a peaceful and happy break and enjoy the festive period with your families and friends. We would like to remind you all that the Safeguarding Team will not be available over the Holidays, therefore we have provided information below and also a link to our safeguarding section on the school website. <https://www.ravenswood.bromley.sch.uk/about-us/child-protection-and-safeguarding/>

Kooth

Kooth.com is a confidential support service for all young people in South East London. It is a safe means of accessing mental health and wellbeing support.



Bromley Children Project

The project is a borough wide service that supports families living in Bromley to create a safe, secure and happy environment for all children, by reaching out to expectant parents, current parents and young people aged up to 18 years; particularly those who are struggling and are in need of additional help.



The Bromley Children Project is linked to all Children and Family Centres, and works with private, voluntary and independent Early Years providers in the borough.

NSPCC Net-Aware

During the Christmas break it is likely that young people will spend more time online and will potentially be gifted new pieces of technology. Net-Aware provides young people and their families with up to date information on how to keep safe online.





THE PHYSICS OF SANTA CLAUS

Calculations maintain that the laws of physics should prevent Santa Claus from delivering all his gifts and that Santa would burn up in the atmosphere if he tried.

Every Christmas, these calculations circulate that have been dubbed "The Physics of Santa Claus". The calculations cast doubt as to whether Santa Claus could possibly deliver gifts to all the world's good children – and still remain within the laws of physics.

If Santa Claus is to deliver all the gifts to all the good children, his sleigh must fly so fast that he would burn up due to air resistance. But it has already been documented that Santa has no problem climbing down a chimney with a fire burning below. So how does Santa solve the problem of heat?

Santa obviously has an ion-shield of charged particles, held together by a magnetic field, surrounding his entire sleigh. This is how he solves the heat problem. Likewise, Santa Claus doesn't travel in our four dimensions (remember that time is the fourth dimension), but makes use of some 11 dimensions. These dimensions make it quite easy to pick up gifts from his warehouse at the North Pole. Recent string-theory allows for the use of at least 26 dimensions. The more dimensions, the easier to deliver gifts.

Another apparent impossibility with Santa Claus are his reindeer, who don't just plod along and it is a bit odd that reindeer don't have wings.

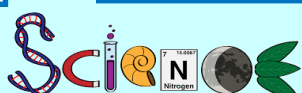
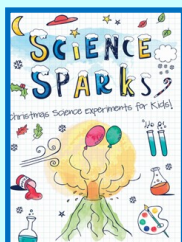
Santa Claus of course uses vacuum energy. The sleigh and reindeer use repulsive energy to compensate for the force of gravity and therefore can fly.

So never fear the gifts are on the way.

Stuck for things to do over Christmas check out the links to the Science Christmas Quiz and the Fun Science experiments to complete over Christmas. Please send pictures of your boys completing the science experiments to sjb@rws.uk.net and the best 3 will gain a prize.

<https://www.ravenswood.bromley.sch.uk/assets/Documents/General/ScienceChristmasQuiz.pptx>

<https://www.ravenswood.bromley.sch.uk/assets/Documents/General/ScienceSparks.pdf>



MFL



FRENCH POETRY

This week, 8WE were asked to write a poem in French using colours and similes. Each new line started with "If I were a colour, I would be... /... like".

Penn and Aidan decided to write an ode to cheese and dedicate it to Ryan, who loves cheese!

Can you work it out?

Un poème pour Ryan : il adore le fromage.

Si j'étais une couleur, je serais le jaune,
Jaune comme le fromage. J'adore le
fromage.

Si j'étais une couleur, je serais le bleu,
Bleu comme le fromage bleu.

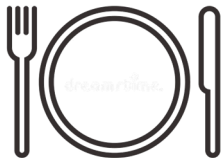
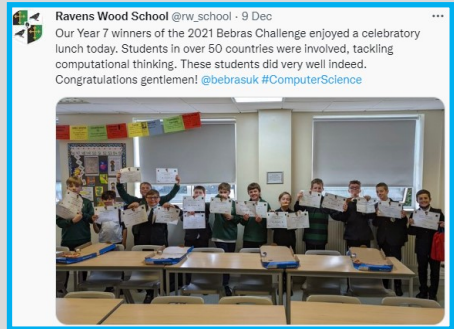
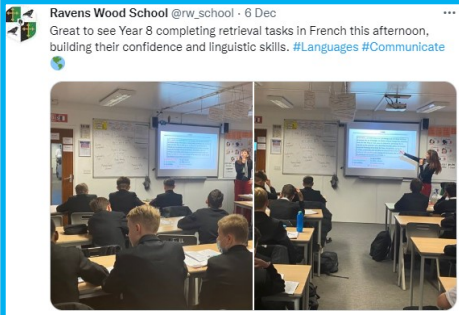
Si j'étais s une couleur, je serais le rouge,
Rouge comme le Leicester rouge. J'aime le
fromage.

Si j'étais une couleur, je serais le vert,
Vert comme le fromage moisi!

Si j'étais une couleur, je serais le blanc,
Blanc comme le brie
Ryan adore le fromage.



@rw_school - Recent tweets from RWS
Keep up with the latest news as it happens!



PRE
Table Talk
December



Dinner conversations are a great opportunity to engage with your children in rich conversation, share important lifelong interest in the news. Talking at meal times helps to benefit the health, emotional and academic outcome for children of all ages. Here is a topic guide to help get talking this December!!

- Year 7 :** What are the key features of an Abrahamic religion?
- Year 8 :** Is capital punishment ever ethical?
- Year 9 :** What does a person have to believe to be a Muslim?
- Year 10 :** Do all Christians have to go to church?
- Year 11 :** Where did life come from?

NOTICE FOR STUDENTS

CHANGING WEATHER CONDITIONS
 As the weather drops in temperature please may we remind you to ensure your son/daughter wear appropriate clothing. Students will need to remain outside and break and lunch time—a good winter coat is essential.
 Please also ensure your son has a school jumper to go underneath his blazer, as classroom windows will also remain open.
 Thank you



P.E. NEWS



RUGBY NEWS

It has been fantastic to have the rugby programme back up and running at full capacity this term. Across all of the age ranges here at RWS we have fielded 20 different teams and completed 135 fixtures since September. This is a fantastic achievement for all of the students involved and it would not be possible without the outstanding support we receive from parents / carers, thank you! As we head into a well-earned Christmas break, all players are reminded of the importance of maintaining their levels of fitness (whilst also indulging in festive fun) as when we return we have block fixtures against two of the most prestigious schools in the country, Whitgift and Brighton College.

A special mention must go to our U14A team, who ensured they remain unbeaten in 2021 with a hard-fought win over an incredibly physical Gravesend Grammar School in the fourth round of the national cup on Tuesday. The competition continues in the new year, so watch this space for updates!

B Petty, Master in charge of Rugby

Code of Conduct

Sports Spectator Conduct

Just a polite request that whilst we love how much support parent spectators give the students during sports fixtures, it is important that this support is respectful and encourages 'good play' from Ravens Wood and not 'poor play' from the opposition. School sport is developmental, regardless of the level in competition and staff, parents and coaches must role model good conduct at all times. We rely on the good will of staff and parent helpers/referees who give up their time to ensure sport takes place and open criticism will put people off! I am very proud of how well our students handle disappointment and being a good loser is a critical life skill that is as important as being a good winner.

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support.

N Freds, Head of Physical Education

SPORTS AND PE KIT

Students and parents can purchase additional sports and PE kit from our kit provider PlayerLayer.

With students needing to wear PE kit several times a week, parents can buy optional additional sports wear from the website, that students can wear on their PE days. These items include additional sports T-shirts, RWS sports rain jacket (with pockets), RWS tracksuit bottoms (with pockets) and RWS 1/4 zip fleece.

Items can be purchased via:
www.playerlayer.com/teams/ravens-wood-school



 **PLAYERLAYER**



BASKETBALL NEWS

Well done to all students involved in the basketball programme for a very successful first term. Collectively, as a school, we are 13-7 with multiple teams still in the Kent Cup and all teams looking strong in the Bromley Basketball League.

Well done to the year 11 team who remain undefeated through the first term (3-0)!

Mr S Pillow, Master in charge of Basketball