

# R W S

Friday 10th January 2025



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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and were able to enjoy some well-earned rest with your family. It has been a pleasure to welcome students back to school this week, and we are excited for the term ahead.

As we enter the winter months, the cold weather is upon us and we are closely monitoring the conditions. Please refer to the school's Severe Weather letter on our website for details on the actions the school will take in the event of adverse weather, including school closures or any changes to routines. Your understanding and support during these times is greatly appreciated.

Since our last newsletter, we have had some fantastic events that truly showcased our school community. Our Christmas Concerts, held just before the holidays, were a resounding success. These concerts, which were preceded by the Christmas Markets on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December, provided an opportunity to come together and celebrate the festive season. A huge thank you to our talented music staff, the staff who volunteered their time to help, and to the participating students for their incredible performances. We are also grateful to the PSFA for organising the Christmas Market and raising essential funds to support our school. Thank you also to all our parents, carers, and visitors who came along to support the event.

Our Christmas Lunch, which was prepared by Accent Catering on Thursday 19th December, was another highlight during the last week of term. The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the festive meal, and it was a lovely way to celebrate together.

The last week of term also saw some trips taking place, with Year 10 students attending an Art trip to the Design Museum on Wednesday 18th December, and the Railway Club heading off to explore the railways of London on Thursday 19th December, with a special welcome message on the train's notice system. A special thank you to the staff who organise these experiences, providing students with valuable learning opportunities outside the classroom.

As we begin the new year, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the importance of consistency. At school, we are committed to delivering clear and consistent messages to our students, and we find that students thrive when they are provided with structure and routine. When this is mirrored at home, it provides them with the support they need to work well. This week's assembly, which I am presenting, focuses on how to turn New Year's resolutions into measurable goals with an emphasis on active kindness, ultimately leading to greater happiness. More details about this can be found on page 2.

I would like to wish all our families a happy and healthy new year. Thank you once again for your continued support as we work together

*Ms M. Lester*

Headteacher





# 2025

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

A New Year is like a blank book; it has 12 chapters and 365 pages, and **you** are the author. My wish for you is that this year you write the most beautiful story possible for yourself.

## WELCOME BACK ASSEMBLY

During the Welcome Back Assembly, students were reminded of our classroom expectations, and discussed what it means to have a New Years Resolution.

Being ambitious and setting your own personal goals that are achievable and don't just become forgotten resolutions.

What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.

- Vern McLellan

A **resolution** is a statement of what you want to change. For example, saving money.

A **goal** is a statement of what you want to achieve; the steps you need to take to achieve it; and when you want to achieve it by.

If we consider our **resolutions** and turn them into goals, with steps on how to meet those goals, and a timeframe for when you will complete them, then success would be more likely

"Happiness is not a goal, it is a by-product of a life well-lived."

Eleanor Roosevelt



Thinking about how acts of kindness can help in your own happiness and having a positive 2025

Learn

Lead

Excel

To continually explore and discover new skills, ideas and knowledge

To lead by example and inspire those around you

To be the best you can be through effort and endeavour

Ravens Wood School  
Our Classroom Expectations



We are kind and respectful



We arrive on time with the correct equipment and start the Hook



We actively listen and do not talk when someone else is talking



We follow staff instructions when given and ask for help if needed



We work hard and allow others to do the same



## Sixth Form Applications

Thank you to those who have submitted their applications for our next cohort of RWS12 students

## Important Dates for Applicants

- RWS12 Induction Day—Thursday 26th June 2025
- GCSE Results Day—Thursday 21st August
- Sixth Form Enrolment - Thursday 21st August (this is an 'in person event' )



## Important Dates for Year 12

- Parents' Evening - Thursday 16th January
- Year 12 Next Steps and UCAS Information Evening - Thursday 5th June 5.30-7pm
- Work Experience Programme—7th to 11th July 2025

## Important Dates for Year 13

- UCAS Deadline — Monday 13th January
- Year 13 PPE2—w/c 3rd February (students will be on Study Leave unless they are BTEC students, in which case a normal timetable will run).
- Year 13 Raising Achievement Evening (2) - Wednesday 19th March
- Year 13 Leavers' Breakfast - Friday 9th May
- Exam Contingency Date—Wednesday 25th June—all students should be available until this date, even if their last exam is prior to this date.
- A Level Results Day—Thursday 14th August
- From Monday 13th January, Intervention lessons will be added to those students who have been invited. Please check SMHW, these lessons are mandatory and there to support you get the best outcomes in your Summer Exams.



## Sixth Form Wellbeing Sessions

Starting Tuesday 14th January - Drop in sessions for Sixth Form students in the Wellbeing Centre . All sixth form students are welcome



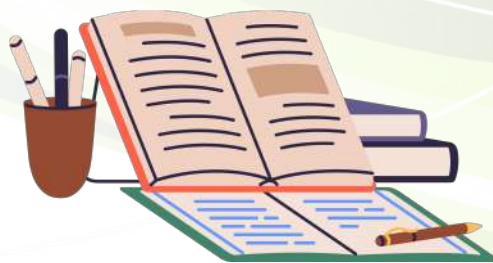
## Road Safety

On Thursday this week, students in RWS12 and RWS13 were invited to a Road Safety Assembly delivered by an external provider from the Local Authority. Our students are at the age where they are on the cusp of learning to drive, or have recently passed their Driving Test. The safety of our students is always at the top of our list of priorities and we hope they took the advice and information on board, whether they be behind the driving wheel or in the passenger seat.



## Mock Monday

Year 13 have started 'Mock Monday' in their Silent Study sessions on a Monday. This is to support with preparations for the upcoming assessments and beyond. The Sixth Form team were really impressed with the focus and resilience our Y13 students displayed. #ambition



## Silent Study Masterclasses



The Sixth Form team have delivered 'Silent Study Masterclasses' to all Year 12 silent study classes. They have explored: how to best make use of this time, effective revision and independent study techniques, and the value of using this time effectively. #LearnLeadExcel





# CHRISTMAS AT RWS





# Christmas Concert & Market



Thank you to all staff, students and parents involved in this year's Christmas Concert and market. The PSFA have raised a considerable amount of money for the school and the market was a great new addition to the event. A big shout out to Leon in Year 10 who led, arranged and ran an ensemble in this performance and we wish him luck in his upcoming shows with the London School's Symphony Orchestra

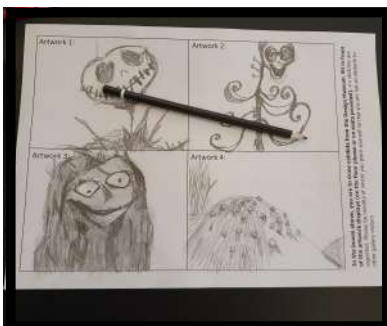






## FOR SOME OF US, HALLOWEEN IS EVERYDAY

Year 10 Art students visited The Design Museum on 18th December to visit The World of Tim Burton exhibition. Students were engaged and fascinated by the displays of sketches, film props, costume designs and animations all made by the film maker. Year 10 are responding to Tim Burton's work and will use this educational visit as the stimulus for their Y10 Assessment which is forthcoming in the Spring term. Students did themselves proud and all displayed their Black and Green values whilst representing the school off site.





# Congratulations

to Albie in 8A for winning Kimbleton International!



# SAMARITANS

Together we can make a change that saves lives



## About me and the journey:

My name is Bailey Arnold-Lee. I'm a 20-year-old university student who loves to challenge himself and help others. Last year, I ran a 10K for Cancer Research and successfully raised over £400.

This year, I've set an even bigger challenge for myself: walking the length of England in just two weeks to raise £2,000 for The Samaritans. This incredible journey will take me from Lizard Point in Cornwall all the way to Marshall Meadows Bay in Berwick-upon-Tweed which is over 500 miles.

## Why should you donate?

The Samaritans provide vital emotional support to people in distress, including those contemplating suicide. Every donation helps ensure that someone in crisis has access to a compassionate listener who could make a life-saving difference.

- £10 could help the Samaritans answer a call from someone struggling to cope.
- £25 could help train a compassionate listener for an entire year.

If this cause resonates with you, please don't hesitate—scan the QR code or copy the link below into your browser to donate.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/bailey-arnold-lee-530>

SCAN ME



On the last week of term, the RWS Railway Club went on a trip exploring the railways of London, which included a special welcome on the train!



# Congratulations

to

**Leon Morrison**

and

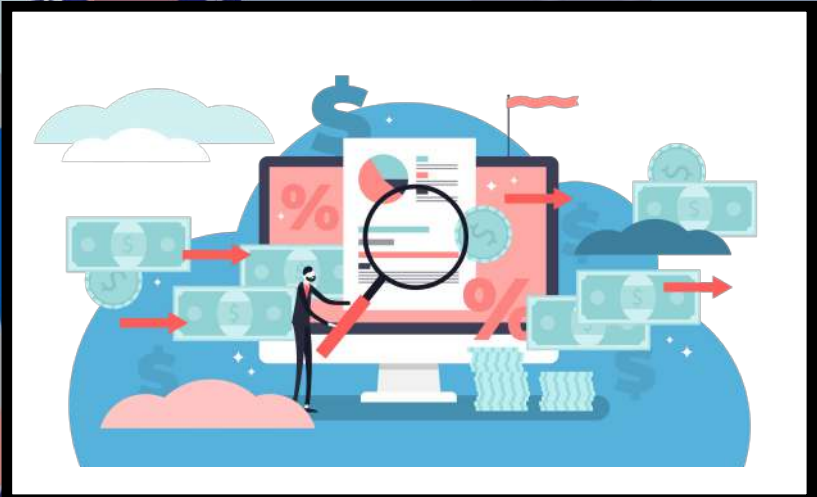
**Lewis Hayden**

for their recent Grade

Examinations, both gained high marks and are showing excellent progression on their instruments.



# RAVENS WOOD CAREERS FAIR



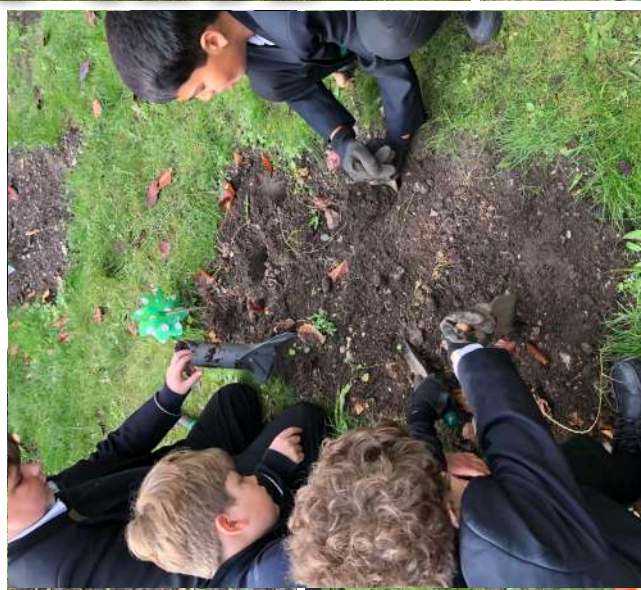
We are excited to announce that we will be hosting our annual Careers Fair on Wednesday 12th February 2025. The purpose of the day is to help our students develop an insight into the knowledge and skills required when moving on from school into post-16 provision. All students are now expected to stay in some form of education or training until at least the year in which they turn 18, so the day will provide them with an appreciation of the options available to them when they finish their GCSEs



If your company or organisation is interested in having a stand, please email [lbo@rws.uk.net](mailto:lbo@rws.uk.net). We'd love to hear from you!







The Growing Greens Gardening Club have worked really hard since the RWS allotment has been up and running. The RHS have awarded them with a Level 1 School Gardening Award for all their hard work. Well done guys!







**Mums, Dads and Carers -  
we want to know how best we can support  
you with your own emotional wellbeing  
and that of your children and young people.**

**So please take a couple of minutes  
to complete our quick and  
anonymous survey.**



**To complete our survey please either:  
[CLICK HERE](#) or [SCAN](#) the QR code below**



**Submit your name, email, and  
completed questionnaire by  
5pm on Friday, 31st January  
2025, to enter a prize draw for  
a £30 Amazon voucher.**

**The winner will receive their  
voucher in the week of 10th  
February 2025.**



**Want to remain  
anonymous? - no  
problem. It is a  
choice. We would  
still love to hear  
from you. All  
entries will be  
anonymous unless  
you choose to give  
us your details.**



# PARENTS & CARERS



THE RWS PSFA NEEDS  
**YOU**

Each year the PSFA requires additional volunteers to replace parents whose sons/daughters are leaving the school or, are not currently able to offer support due to other commitments.

The PSFA Committee meets once a half term and runs a number of functions and events during the school year to raise funds for the school. Last year approximately **£11,000** was divided between the departments to provide additional resources to aid teaching and learning and improve the students' environment.

If you are interested in joining the committee, or are able to spare a couple of hours to help out during an event, please contact

[ravenswoodpsfa@yahoo.com](mailto:ravenswoodpsfa@yahoo.com)



MERRY CHRISTMAS



& A HAPPY NEW YEAR



FROM TOBI AND GARETH

A Christmas card from the school  
therapy dog

*Dear Staff & Students,*

*Merry Christmas from us  
both and thank you for  
welcoming us to RWS.*

*We hope you have a  
pawfect Christmas with  
friends and family and  
wish you a safe and  
prosperous New Year*

*with best wishes,  
Tobi and Gareth*



WE NEED YOU!

(Again)



If the organisation that you  
run, or work for, is in a  
position to offer a student  
placement, we would be most  
grateful to hear about it. If  
you think you can help with  
this, please email us at  
[workexperience@rws.uk.net](mailto:workexperience@rws.uk.net).



# RWS CAREERS

Careers  
@

# BDO



## The World's 5th Largest Accounting & Professional Services Firm

This special session, designed exclusively for our 6th-form students, covered:

- The range of career paths available within BDO
- Tips on navigating the transition from school to professional life.
- Advice on developing key skills for success in the modern workplace.
- Insights into internships, apprenticeships, and graduate opportunities.

In December, as part of the RWS Scholars Programme, we welcomed back a representative from BDO, one of the world's leading accountancy and business advisory firms, to share invaluable insights into the world of careers and opportunities beyond 6th form.



This was a fantastic chance for students to hear directly from a professional about the realities of working in an international organisation and gave them an opportunity to ask questions and gain inspiration to take their next steps with confidence.

## TRAINEESHIP





# Friends of Ravens Wood Fund

You will recall that we wrote to you in May this year, regarding becoming a 'Friend of Ravens Wood School'. By giving a regular amount or annual donation to the fund, it makes a real difference in the school being able to keep resources and equipment up to date, enriching and enhancing the unique and special opportunities available to your child/children.

Donations have been made via standing order in the past, however, this system is changing to a 'Just Giving' platform. Donations can be made either monthly or as a one-off single payment as you prefer. The amount you donate is entirely your decision, but £10 per month or £120 per year is a suggested contribution rate. Please follow the URL: Ravens Wood School Fund - JustGiving or scan the QR code below to get started.

## Reminder to update bank details

Please be advised that should you currently be donating via standing order you will need to cancel this with your bank, as the account currently being used is closing, and we would encourage you to use the new system.

In addition, if you are a UK taxpayer you are able to make a Gift Aid declaration which allows the school to claim tax you have already paid back from the Inland Revenue, meaning that every pound you donate will be worth an extra 25 pence. Please tick the relevant box when prompted on the Just Giving platform.

We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from our parents and carers, and do hope that you will consider helping the school in this way. Please scan the QR code or follow the URL link as detailed above.

Yours faithfully

The Finance Department  
Ravens Wood School



**1st Place with 97% = 7D, 7F, 7G & 9D**



**2nd Place with 96% = 7A, 7B, 7C, 7H, 8A, 8D, 8E, 8G & 8H**

**3rd Place with 95% = 7E, 8B, 8F, 9A, 9E, 9F, 9H, 10C & 11A**



## Dates for your Diary

**Sixth Form Media Trip to BFI Rueben Library - 13th January 2025**

**Year 12 Parents Evening - 16th January 2025**

**English HPA Lectures at Langley Boys - 22nd January 2025**

**Year 13 Biology Trip - 24th January 2025**



Please check the SOCS website for regular updates regarding sporting fixtures <https://sport.rws.uk.net>





@rw\_school @rwspe @RWSMusicDept



Ravens Wood School @rw\_school  
Thank you to @AccentCatering  
for an amazing Christmas lunch.  
It was enjoyed by students and staff.  
#LearnLeadExcel ❤️❤️



Ravens Wood School @rw\_school  
Our RWS Christmas Carol Concert finished  
on a high with amazing performances from all.  
Massive thanks to Mr Grant and the music team  
for putting it together.  
#LearnLeadExcel ❤️❤️



Ravens Wood School @rw\_school  
Thank you to @AccentCatering  
for baking lots of Christmas themed  
cakes and biscuits for our students.  
They were very much enjoyed!  
#LearnLeadExcel ❤️❤️



Ravens Wood School @rw\_school  
Our STEM Academies and some RWS10  
physics students, had an exciting talk by Alia  
Ardron about Space X. She demonstrated how  
rockets can be a route in to a STEM career.  
#LearnLeadExcel ❤️❤️



ravens\_wood\_sport  
Great performance for our Y8  
Basketball team today in the Kent Cup  
This team are definitely one to watch  
MVP - H Greiff - 18 points and 67 FG% from  
beyond the arc



ravens\_wood\_sport  
A great comeback win from our Y11s  
tonight in the district cup vs Bullers Wood  
The boys were down 13 at half time and  
bounced back to pick up the W. A brilliant way  
to finish their half-term



#WeAreBlackAndGreen ❤️❤️