



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we head into the final days of the term, there is still much to celebrate with a busy week ahead! Next week, we are looking forward to our annual Christmas Concerts on Tuesday and Wednesday. This longstanding school tradition, which has been active for over 30 years, promises to be a highlight of the season. Year 7 students will join together to form a massed choir, performing a mix of hit songs and festive Christmas carols. We will also enjoy performances from the Ravens Wood Big Band, Rabble Chorus, Moonlight Sax, Super Smash Bros, Ravens Band, and The Music Academy.

We are also excited to explore a new addition this year: our wonderful PSFA will be running a Christmas Market before the concert. The market will offer festive refreshments, handmade Christmas decorations created by our students, and some great last-minute stocking fillers. Additionally, there will be a Tombola – a great way to get into the festive spirit while supporting our school. If you are able to donate any items for the Tombola, they would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be delivered to the school's main reception between 8am and 4pm by the end of Monday, 16th December.

On Thursday next week, Accent Catering will be preparing our annual Christmas lunch for students and staff, priced at £3.95 (see the delicious menu on page 12). Students eligible for Free School Meals will be subsidised by the school to ensure they can purchase their lunch.

On our last day of term, Friday 20th December, we will celebrate Christmas Jumper Day with a suggested charitable donation of £2, which can be paid via ParentPay starting today. Students will enjoy an extended break time to allow them to purchase food and will be dismissed by year group from 12.10pm.

Since our last newsletter, we have also welcomed back our German Exchange students and staff. A special thanks to Mr Tysall and Miss Hemetsberger for their guidance and hard work, ensuring that this exchange trip was another memorable experience for our students.

I would like to thank the staff in Art and English who took all of Year 7 on trips this week to the Tate Gallery and a Dickensian Walking Tour – a good time was had by all. I was also delighted to meet with our Sixth Form girls this week to discuss our Ravens Wood Black and Green values and the values of our female students. Additionally, I was pleased to award 12 students with the prestigious Above and Beyond award for their outstanding achievements – further details can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

As we approach the end of the autumn term, it's a good time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. While it is celebrated in many ways, at its heart, Christmas is about kindness, respect, and the sense of community that brings us together. These are some of the values that we continue to nurture here at Ravens Wood, not just during the festive season but throughout the year. I hope that the Christmas holiday break gives everyone the opportunity to spend time with loved ones, show kindness to others, and celebrate the spirit of togetherness.

Wishing you a wonderful end to the term and a very Merry Christmas!

Ms M. Lester

Headteacher





## PARENTS & GARLES



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

#### hove and Beyond Award

Harley in Year 7, for writing a superb poem on racism in sport, that was published in the school newsletter and helped to inform some of our whole school Ready to Learn sessions.







Anna in Year 13, for her recent achievements, including her involvement in school fundraising activities, and her work with conservation and biodiversity in the local neighbourhood.



Benjamin in Year 9

Zachary in Year 7



Year 9

Luke in

Year 12

Nathan in Year 11

Who all represented team Bromley in the London Youth Games Cross Country at Parliament Hill. The whole team of Bromley Boys won Gold overall to beat all the other London boroughs!



Vitali in Year 9, for being selected to represent the Ukraine football team.



Charlie in Year 9. for being **England under** 15's football team.









Noa in Year 9, for being selected to represent Bulgaria in the U14s football team.



The STEM Academy has been busy designing and building their robot that will complete in the First Tech Challenge "Into the Deep" tournament.



They recently got the opportunity to meet up with a number of other local teams at a scrimmage event hosted by Langley Park School for boys. They were able to test the robot within the game arena, share ideas with the other groups and look for inspiration from the other designs.

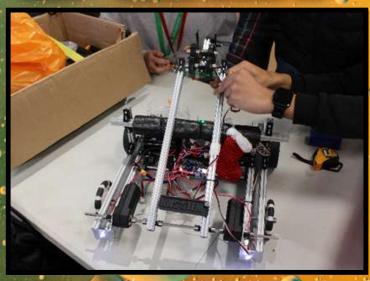


You can find details of their progress on our Instagram page (scan the QR code). If you are interested in sponsoring the team and getting your name on the robot, please contact us at stem@rws.uk.net.



#### STEM ACADEMY

# MOTAE DE LA CONTRA DEL CONTRA DE LA CONTRA DEL CONTRA DE LA CONTRA DEL CONTRA DE LA CONTRA DE LA CONTRA DE LA CONTRA DE LA CONTRA DEL CONTRA DE LA CONTRA DE LA CONTRA DE LA CONTRA DE LA CONTRA DEL CONTRA DE LA CON



They did themselves proud and were sharing their expertise with other teams, helping them with both the design of their robots and the coding needed to make everything work. They returned with lots of ideas to incorporate in the robot before the next scrimmage.





## RAVENS WOOD DOES MOVENS WOOD DOES













Our litter picking event on Saturday 30th
November went extremely well, and we had a
visit from both MP Liam Conlon and the
Mayor of Bromley himself. **We raised over**£850 in just one hour of litter picking across
West Wickham. Thanks again to all staff and
students who took part. I hope everyone had
an enjoyable experience and will remember
the event in the years to come.

Thanks to our joint efforts this Movember, (growing, running, volunteering, begging, etc), we raised £6,700, which is significantly more than last years impressive total of £4,400, and places us 11th in the country! Thank you to each and everyone here for your support and dedication this month, it really has been a great experience and I hope both staff and students continue to see the benefits of adopting a more positive approach to masculinity.













The PE department have a limited stock of our RWS bobble hats for both students and parents to purchase, perfect for the changing wintery weather, (and a topper for a Christmas tree). The hats are available to buy now on ParentPay for £15 while stocks last!

Once payment has been made the hats can be collected from Visitor Reception



## CULTURES VULTURES



This week, English and Art have been busy running a combined cultural experience trip to London. Students visited the Tate Modern and took part in a tour of Dickensian London from St Paul's Cathedral to Bankside. The weather was suitably wintry, but we were well-warmed by lots of wonderful festive sights: reindeer, Christmas trees, quaint shops and Christmas markets- not to mention all the magnificent art and architecture- it was truly a brilliant, immersive experience.















#### NETBALL

Well done to our Netball girls who played a friendly tournament at Caterham School this week. The girls finished in 2nd place after 2 wins and then losing 6-5 in the final! A great achievement with just their 3rd competitive fixture of the year.

A big thank you to Mrs McCartney from Caterham for helping to organise the tournament. The girls were extremely grateful for the advice and coaching.

Player of the tournament went to E Fray for great defence and all round play.







On Tuesday 10th December, the U15A rugby team had their National Plate regional final. The teams run in the competition has seen them win the area quarter final, away at Dartford Grammar 26-14. Then a semifinal vs Langley Park School which they won 25-0. All leading to the Southeast final vs Reeds School. The game was a hard fought affair, and the half time score was 0-3 to Reeds. The second half started positively, and Victor Ginguad pounced on a Reeds error to finish in the corner and convert his own try. The last play of the game was cagey until Indie O'Regan slotted a drop goal to make the final score 10-3. The Player of the match was Harry Sharpe. The next match will be played in January against Wells Cathedral School in the quarter finals.

#### GERMAN EXCHANGE TRIP

After a long day's journey, travelling through 4 countries on 5 trains, we arrived in Leer, Ostfriesland on Thursday evening and our students finally got to meet their exchange partners and families in person, having previously exchanged calls and messages with them.

On Friday, we received a warm welcome at the Teletta-Groß-Gymnasium by the Head Teacher, Herr Wieligmann. He praised our students for their interest in other cultures and reminded them of the advantages and privileges learning another language can afford them. Our students also participated in the lessons of their exchange partners. From there, we went to the local tea museum, where we learnt a lot about the history of tea and the essentials for an East-Frisian tea ceremony. The students were very interested in learning more, asking fantastic questions in German and lots of them stocked up on East-Friesian tea afterwards. An outing to the bowling centre with the German exchange partners concluded Friday's programme.









On Monday, the students again participated in lessons and had lots of exciting stories to share about their weekends, some having visited a football game in Bremen, gone to Hamburg, visited Christmas markets and much more. Then it was time to get up close with some pigs and learn the ins and outs of pig raising at Erchinger's family farm, followed by some sweet treats and Kinderpunsch.

Tuesday was spent visiting the Lamberti Christmas market in nearby Oldenburg, where our students were able to make a start on their Christmas shopping and try out traditional German food. After a last afternoon and night spent with their host families, it was time for us to start our journey home on Wednesday morning. To pass the time, Mr Tysall and Miss Hemetsberger had prepared a quiz about our time in Germany, and we were impressed by how much our students absorbed in their short time there. Now, we are looking forward to welcoming the German students at Ravens Wood in the spring term.



My highlights of the week were seeing the seals and going to the Christmas market in Oldenburg, I also enjoyed the skate park. My host family were very kind and showed me different foods they have in Germany. My favourite new food I tried were Poffertjes that we had at the Christmas market in Leer. I learnt about a common greeting in Northern Germany 'Moin!' or if you live in Hamburg you say <mark>'M</mark>oin Moin!' - **Zinedine,** Year 9





#### A THERAPY DOG'S CHRISTMAS

Tobi had a busy day on Friday 6th December.

He started the day greeting and soaking up the adoration of arriving students by Reception, then went to the Staff Meeting, where he was promptly deluged in a second round of cooing, petting and cuddles.

Worn out from all that, Tobi returned to Wellbeing, where he received his Christmas presents, which made him smile.









They were quickly opened, eaten, and played with.



## CHARITY CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

FRIDAY
201H
DECEMBER

On Friday 20th December, students are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform for a £2 donation to support Save the Children and Cardiac Risk in the Young. The event is voluntary, and donations can be made via ParentPay from 13th December. All proceeds will be split between the Save the Children charity and our school's chosen charity, Cardiac Risk in the Young and should be paid via ParentPay at the link here.



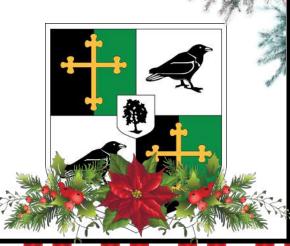


https://www.parentpay.com/



#### **PSFA Tombola**

The PSFA kindly ask parents and carers who are able to donate items for the PSFA Tombola to drop them off at the school's Main Reception (students can also drop off items, but we request that they are not given any alcoholic items to deliver). Thank you in advance, your generous contributions will support our school fundraising.



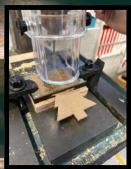
#### OFFCUT ENGINEERING













Over the last three weeks, our Design & Technology enrichment club students have been designing and making Christmas decorations for the PSFA to raise funds at the Christmas Concert.

Our 'Offcut Engineers' used tools and machinery in the workshop to cut and shape the decorations, before finishing them with spray paint, glitter and Christmas themed twine.

The decorations are superb and we are very proud of our students, their commitment and the hard work they have put in.

Special thanks to Mr Jones, Mr Cudmore, Mr Rees and Ms Saunders for helping run this club and providing our students with such a wonderful opportunity.

Mr Ring Head of D&T













# ARTTRIP TO THE EMINANUELS CENTROLES CENTRO



On Wednesday, 4th December The Art Department took Art, Photography and Graphic Design students to the Emmanuel Centre in London. Students were treated to a series of enrichment lectures by well known creatives such as prolific sculpture and installation artist Cornelia Parker, renowned award-winning portrait artist Stuart Pearson Wright, acclaimed photographer Simon Roberts and trailblazing graphic designer Lakwena Maciver who constructs large community murals. Students were respectful and wholeheartedly engaged throughout the sessions, representing RWS values brilliantly.



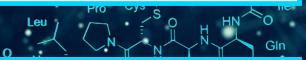




## SCIENCE KEYSTAGE 5 UPDATE

Our Year 13 scientists are currently at a very busy period of their studies. They have recently completed their first round of practice A level exams, which they all worked very hard for, and are now back into learning new content.

They are also continuing to work towards their Practical Endorsement which they will receive alongside their A level grade, and shows they are competent when working in a laboratory environment.



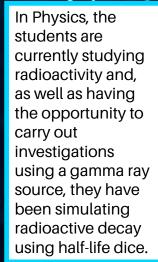
The Chemists have been undertaking an Organic Chemistry practical where they have been making, purifying and then testing aspirin - always a bit of a headache!





Our Biology students have been using mealworms to investigate the response of animals to stimuli using choice chambers.









On Thursday 5th December, 14 A Level mathematicians ventured gu London to attend the "Maths in Action" event at the Emmanuel Centre. This event was aimed at both Year 12 and 13 students studying mathematics who were interested in understanding the uses of mathematics outside the classroom and away from text books. The day had a variety of speakers with some truly inspiring stories, including industry leaders, academics communicators all of which offered expert insights and shared their real-world experiences.



We started with Colin Wright, an eminent mathematician and game theorist who spoke to us about how the mathematics of simple games like Nim and Officers can be used in far more complicated real-life contexts such as modern warfare. Emily Grossman, a bestselling author, public speaker and TV personality then talked us through how newspapers use statistics to tell some fascinating stories but that the mathematics behind them are not always what they seem - never believe what you read! We had a fascinating talk from Sophie Maclean who gave us some really useful advice on how to get rich quick - along with some warnings about playing the stock market! After lunch was an extremely insightful session on some key exam techniques from Nicole Cozens, then some fun sessions from Alison Kiddle, a previous Who Wants to Be A Millionaire winner and the day was rounded up by Ben Sparks, a maths magician! Overall a really interesting day for our Year 13 students - watch this space for a Year 12 opportunity!



#### 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.

## ECAREERS





#### PSHE CAREERS



DEFINITION OF CAREER:







Students in Years 7 to 10 engaged in a PSHE lesson centred around the theme: What is a career? During the session, students were encouraged to think about their future, imagining where they see themselves in 20 years' time. They explored the concept of a career, what it means to have one, and the variety of pathways that can lead to a successful career. The lesson also highlighted the diverse range of skills required for different careers and jobs, and class discussions about personal strengths, skills and aspirations.

This activity not only inspired students to think about their long-term goals but also equipped them with valuable knowledge about the world of work and the steps they can take to achieve their ambitions.

Students in Year 11 have been actively working on their Post 16 GCSE option choices and planning their next steps for the future during PSHE. Using their Unifrog accounts, they were asked to complete a Plan A and a Plan B activity under the 'post-16' tab.

These activities encourage students to reflect on:

- Plan A: What do you need to do to achieve your best-case scenario?
- Plan B: What steps can you take if things don't go as planned?

We hope that this will support our students with planning their career pathways beyond Year 11 and GCSEs.

Our Year 12 students, during their PSHE lesson, explored the value of networking and its impact on future career success. The session highlighted the importance of networking and how building professional relationships can open doors to new opportunities in the world of work. Also

understanding how a positive reputation and strong employability skills can support future career prospects.



In their recent PSHE lesson, Year 13 students engaged in a thought-provoking session on the benefits of opting for an apprenticeship after Sixth Form.

- Understanding the Pros and Cons of both apprenticeships and university.
- Exploring Application Processes for apprenticeships, including timelines and tips for success. This session allowed students to reflect on their options and make informed decisions about their next steps.

Thank you to Hayley Hayden, the Trust Careers Lead for supporting with these sessions.



#### **NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER?**

We are recruiting graduates for our next Initial Teacher Training cohort starting Sept 25.

> Contact 020 8300 6566 or visit www.bscteach.co.uk



#### LWFCI SPORTS CLUB

#### BASKETBALL FOR Young People (ages 11-16years). All abilities are welcome!

Do you like to play basketball or looking to try new sports? Join our basketball team, learn basketball skills, advance ball-handling, basketball dribbling, footwork, defense, team play, scoring moves and fun friendly indoors Basketball game.

Providing Mix of Basketball coaching with fun skills session and tournament.

Every Tuesday 5:30PM-6:30PM

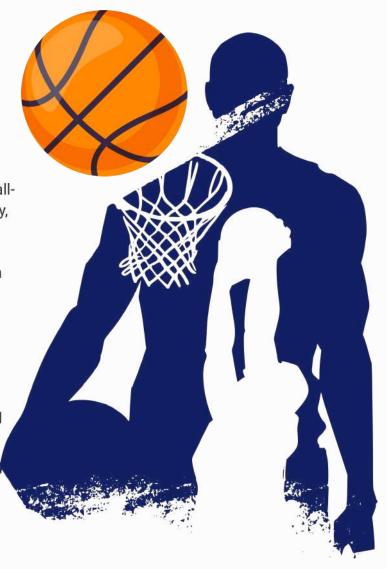
Venue, Bromley URC, 20 Widmore Road, Bromley, BR1 1RY

For only £1 per session

All sessions are led by qualified coached, all first aid trained and DBS checked.

To Join the team, please call on Tel 0203 583 3005, Mob 0795 074 6544, email us at: info@lwfci.org.uk

Just bring your basketball boots and join in on the day. For more info, visit our website www.lwfci.org.uk.





Tuesday 17th December Wednesday 18th December 5:30pm - 6:30pm

**Featuring** 

MULLED WINE

MINCE PIES

WINES

SOFT DRINKS

CHOCS

TOMBOLA

CHRISTMAS CARDS

CHRISTMAS THEMED GIFTS

### REACH FORTHE STARS

RWS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2024

STARRING THE Y7 MASSED CHOIR & RAVENS WOOD ENSEMBLES

DECEMBER 17TH & 18TH - MAIN HALL \*
CHRISTMAS MARKET FROM 5.30PM
CONCERT FROM 6.30PM
TICKETS ON PARENTPAY (£5)

Both concerts are 1 Act long and will last approximately 1hr10mins.

The PSFA will be selling drinks and snacks before and after the performance.



BCFForum and London Borough of Bromley Children Disabilities Team are excited to offer a range of enrichment activities each holiday and our December Shortbreak is in partnership with The Studio Projects Chislehurst.

This specialist provision is to offer 'respite" short breaks which are intended to provide opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to have enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers, contributing to their social inclusion and personal and social development.

To enquire please email: shortbreaks@bcfforum.org or visit: bcfforum.magicbooking.co.uk

Following a consultation with the local authority, all short break providers are now implementing a 55 charge for each short break space. This change is due to several factors, including a reduction in funding across councils. The charge aims to help create more spaces and ensure that booked spaces are not wasted by children failing to attend without a valid reason.

LIMITED











**BCFForum and London Borough of Bromley Children Disabilities** Team are excited to offer a range of enrichment activities each holiday and our December Shortbreak is in partnership with Lay Witness For Christ (Destiny Children).

This specialist provision is to offer 'respite" short breaks which are intended to provide opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to have enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers, contributing to their social inclusion and personal and social development

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BRAND NEW FOR CHILDREN WITH SEND

#### CHRISTMAS IS HERE!

#### **BROMLEY** SHORT BREAKS

Packed full of fun and enriching activities to provide your child with the ultimate fun and safe experienc Come and make friends with other children and try new things!

have fun

THIS CHRISTMAS BREAK DON'T MISS OUT @ ST MARYS CRAY SCHOOL BR3 4AR 23RD 27TH 30TH DECEMBER & 2ND JANUARY



Inclusive Short Breaks programme, designed for children and young people with SEND Staffing ratio 1:4 and children must be referred by the local authority.

> For more information please contact: charlie.faux@sportworksltd.co.uk



BCFForum and London Borough of Bromley Children Disabilities Team are excited to offer a range of enrichment activities each holiday and our January Shortbreak is in partnership with Lay Witness For Christ (Destiny Children).

This specialist provision is to offer 'respite' short breaks which are intended to provide opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to have enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers contributing to their social inclusion and personal and social development

To enquire please email: shortbreaks@bcfforum.org or visit: bcfforum.magicbooking.co.uk

Following a consultation with the local authority, all short break providers are now implementing a £5 charge for each short break space. This change is due to several factors, including a reduction in funding across councils. The charge aims to help create more spaces and ensure that booked spaces are not wasted by children failing to attend without a valid reason.







#### 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 98% = 7F 2nd Place with 97% = 7A, 7D, 7G, 8A, 8G, & 8H 3rd Place with 96% = 7B, 7C, 7E, 7H, 8D, 8E, & 8F



#### **Dates for your Diary**

Christmas Marketplace - 5.30 - 6.30pm, 17th & 18th December Christmas Concerts - 6.30 - 7.45pm, 17th & 18th December Student Christmas Lunch - 19th December



Charity Christmas Jumper Day and Student Early finish from 12.10pm - 20th December Staff Inset Day - Monday 6th January 2025 - school closed to students

Students return to school and late start at 10.50am - Tuesday 7th 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

Members of the sixth form team attended Bullers Wood Boys School Year 11 careers fair today. It was great to speak to so many prospective students. A gentle reminder that deadlines for sixth form applications is Friday 13th December.

#LearnLeadExcel







Ravens Wood School @rw\_school

This morning, our Headteacher, Ms Lester met with the female sixth form students to discuss the school values and ask them to reflect on their own values. It was an empowering session.

#LearnLeadExcel



Ravens Wood School @rw\_school Despite the winter months, our running club (on Wednesday lunchtimes) is still going

During Movember the running club also clocked up 240km during their lunchtime runs.

#LearnLeadExcel





Ravens Wood School @rw\_school A wonderful evening full of fantastic solo performances from our Y11 GCSE Music students.

#LearnLeadExcel









Ravens Wood School @rw\_school

Our students on the German exchange trip had a taste of farm life today, getting to handle some piglets and learning about pig rearing. All before enjoying some homemade Kinderpunsch. Thank you to Familie Erchinger!

Dec 2, 2024







Ravens Wood School @rw\_school Congratulations to the pupils at @rw\_school who have raised over £5,000 for @MovemberUK. They've been running fundraising events and encouraging men & boys to be confident in talking about mental health. It was a pleasure to join them for their final event in West Wickham today!



