

# R W S

Friday 6th February 2026



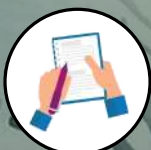
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Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter. As always, it has been a busy and purposeful fortnight at Ravens Wood, with many opportunities for our students to learn, explore and broaden their education beyond the classroom.

Last week's assemblies focused on languages and lifelong learning, with Mr French, Assistant Headteacher, and Mrs Jackson-Man, our Head of German, introducing students to the benefits of language learning through Duolingo and beyond. The message was clear: learning does not stop at the school gates, and curiosity and ambition are skills for life.

We were also delighted to take our Year 11 students to Poetry Live at the Apollo Theatre last Thursday. This was a fantastic opportunity to see their GCSE poetry come alive and deepen their understanding in an engaging and memorable way. My thanks go to the English staff who accompanied the trip and supported our students so effectively.

On Friday, some of our Year 10 students attended Future Frontiers, while we also hosted our annual Careers Fair here at school. With over 55 companies and representatives joining us, students were able to gain invaluable insight into a wide range of career pathways and future opportunities. Events like this play a crucial role in helping young people understand how the choices they make in education can shape their futures. Thank you to all our students for engaging so positively with our visitors, and to the staff who worked hard to make the event such a success.

This week has been just as full. Assemblies have been led by Mr Hunt, Assistant Headteacher, focusing on online safety and the importance of making responsible choices in the digital world. Year 8 students enjoyed storytelling sessions, while our Year 12 students took part in a research trip to the British Library on Thursday, developing the independent study skills so vital for success beyond school. We were also pleased to welcome back an alumni student who spoke to our sixth formers about Oxbridge courses and routes into higher education, as well as external visitors discussing the links between language and football through Mingalaba. A further group of students also attended Future Frontiers on Friday, continuing this important work around aspiration and ambition. As always, I would like to thank our staff for their dedication and commitment in supporting our students to broaden their education through rich and varied learning opportunities.

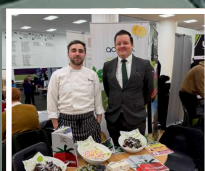
Following the incidents in the local community after school on Friday and Monday, we have continued to work closely with our School Police Liaison Team. I met with the police today and I am pleased to share that those involved have been identified and the matter is being dealt with.

As we approach the half-term break, this will be our final newsletter of this half-term, with just one week remaining. During the coming week, Year 11 and Year 13 students will be sitting their practice examinations (PPEs), followed by a further round of PPEs in the week commencing 23 February, when we return from the break. These assessments are an important opportunity for students to reflect on their progress, identify areas for development and prepare thoroughly for the summer examination series.



I would encourage all students, particularly those in examination years, to use the half-term break as a balance of rest and revision, taking time to recharge while also consolidating their learning and strengthening their study routines. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on 23 February refreshed, focused and ready to learn, and I wish all our students and families a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break.

*Ms M. Lester*  
Headteacher





# CAREERS FAIR 2026

On Friday 30th January, [Ravens Wood School IMPACT MULTI ACADEMY TRUST](#) hosted a hugely successful Careers Fair, bringing together over 50 employers, colleges and universities to inspire our students about their future pathways!



With over 1500 students attending, the event was full of energy, curiosity and meaningful conversations. Students had the opportunity to explore a wide range of careers from Tech, Insurance, Construction, Property, Finance, Accountancy, Recruitment, Public Sector - Met Police and The British Army, and many more. They had the opportunity to ask insightful questions and gain first hand advice from industry professionals and education providers. Some of our Year 12 students were even fortunate enough to be offered some upcoming work experience for July!



A huge thank you to all the organisations who gave their time and expertise, and to our amazing staff and Career Prefects [Freddie Crawley](#) [Amirah T. Annie George](#) and [John Bigattini](#) who helped made the day run smoothly!



Events like this fulfil a vital role in inspiring the next generation and helping young people see the possibilities ahead of them!



We are going to make our Careers Fair even bigger and even better next year so please get in touch at [careers@rws.uk.net](mailto:careers@rws.uk.net) if you or your company would like to be involved. We would love to increase our Media, Creative, Medical, STEM and Sports presence so if there are any parents / carers or alumnae in this space we would love to have you join us! We had 2 Ravens Wood alumnae join us from Baily Garner who are now successful quantity surveyors!



### Parent testimonial

"Our son made the most of Friday's careers event and came home really fired up, after discussing the possibility of apprenticeships in real estate. Now he has a goal which is great to see, and we are following up with a local estate agent in the hope of a work experience placement."



### Employer testimonial

"I just wanted to get in touch briefly to thank you for the excellent two days across both Ravens Wood School and LPGS. Daniel and I had numerous positive and engaging conversations with the students and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Many great questions were asked and I hope the students found our responses/conversation helpful."



### Student testimonial

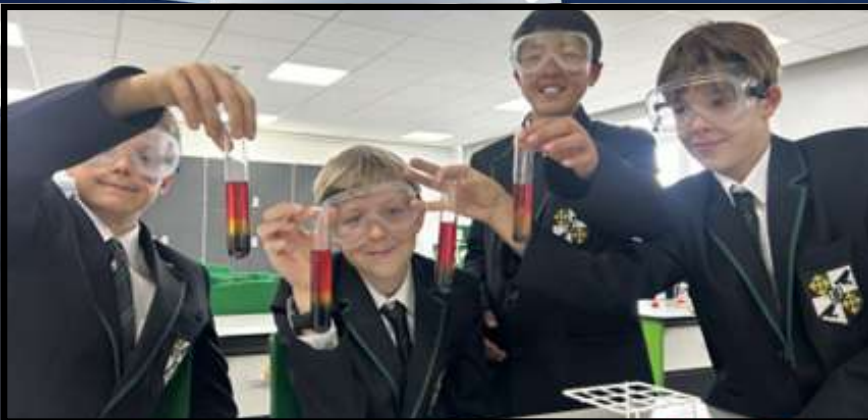
"Attending the careers fair was genuinely eye-opening. I had the chance to speak directly with employers, universities, and apprenticeship providers, which helped me understand the different paths available after school. The conversations boosted my confidence and gave me a much clearer idea of what I want to pursue in the future."



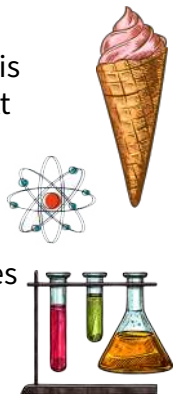
# SCIENCE NEWS

It's been yet another busy half term in Science at Ravens Wood. Our KS5 Biology, Chemistry and Physics students have all participated in the gruelling national Olympiad competitions for their subjects, and we patiently wait to hear about their results. All students who participated were challenged to apply their knowledge to different contexts and this will look fantastic on their next steps applications.

Year 7 Whizz Bang have had another exciting 6 weeks, making speakers, trebuchets, and completing the technicians in trouble challenge. Year 7 even saw their own cheek cells under the microscope. A big thank you goes out to our sixth form science prefects who have volunteered at Whizz Bang!



We do still have space available, so if your son is interested in joining next half term, please email Miss Winter ([ewi@rws.uk.net](mailto:ewi@rws.uk.net)).



Next half terms' activities include making bath bombs, ice cream and much more.

## WHAT IS A NHS CLOWN?

MEDICAL CLOWNS USE A RANGE OF TECHNIQUES INCLUDING HUMOUR (OF COURSE), MUSIC, MAGIC, STORYTELLING AND PLAYFULL INTERACTION, TO CREATE A POSITIVE, CALMING ATMOSPHERE

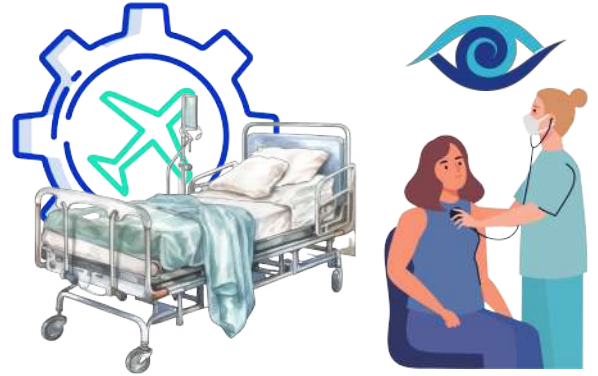
AN NHS CLOWN, ALSO KNOWN AS A CLOWN DOCTOR, IS A SPECIALLY TRAINED PERFORMER WHO WORKS IN HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENTS TO SUPPORT THE EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF PATIENTS.



THEIR PERFORMANCES ARE CAREFULLY ADJUSTED DEPENDING ON THE PATIENTS AGE, MOOD AND MEDICAL CONDITION. FOR EXAMPLE, GENTLE HUMOUR FOR ANXIOUS PATIENTS AND ENERGETIC COMEDY FOR BORED PATIENTS



Members of our RWS Medical Futures club, across Year 10, 11 and 12, spent this term giving presentations on different medical careers – where the brief was to find a niche career that you hadn't heard of. We learnt about Polysonographic Technologists from Tyler N and Kenan C in Year 10, NHS clowns from Aaron M in Y11, and Ocularists from Hannah P in Year 12. This is just to name a few, we heard about a huge range of careers, from aerospace physicians to doctors in tropical medicine. See below for some of the student's work!



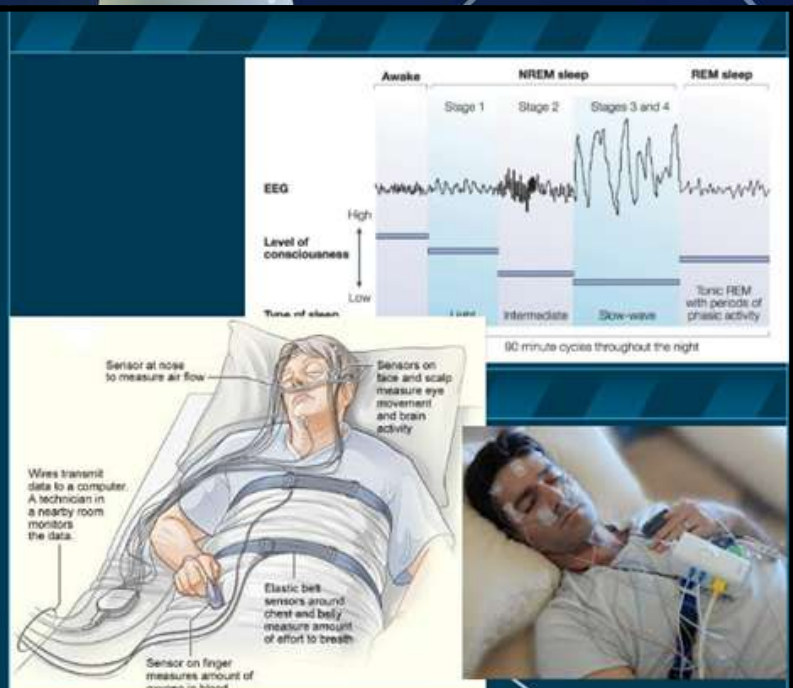
## How does an ocularist fit into a multi disciplinary team?

Ocularists fit into multi disciplinary teams when assisting with the rehabilitation of patients who have lost their eyes.

They work alongside Ophthalmologists who perform the surgery of the removal of the eye, Anaplastologists in complex cases involving trauma to the face structure and Oncologists if the eye loss is due to cancer to ensure prosthetic fitting aligns with cancer treatment and recovery plans

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF POLYSOMNOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGISTS

- Polysomnography or PSG is the study of sleep that involves recording multiple systems in your body.
- PSG uses sophisticated equipment to record your brain, heart and respiratory system giving doctors a comprehensive view of the quality of your sleep.
- A PSG technologist records information and make observations while the patients sleep.





# Tails with Tobi



RWS Library News



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February initially dawned grey and gloomy, until Tobi the RWS Therapy Dog visited the Library to support our Year 8s with their reading.

The students were thrilled to see their RWS doggo again.



(Don't worry; Tobi was only wearing a cloak of students for a few seconds).



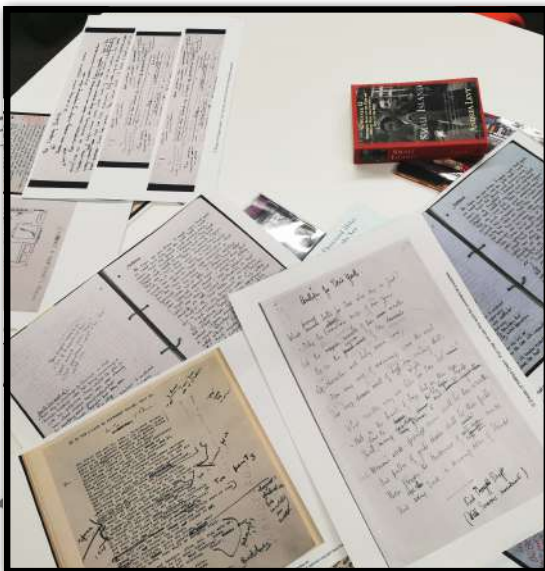
Worn out from all the adoration, Tobi flops onto the Library floor for a good rest.



# RESEARCH MATTERS FOR THE EXTENDED PROJECT



On Thursday 5th February, Year 12 students undertaking the Extended Project visited The British Library, where they benefited from a workshop titled 'Research Matters', led by Royal Literary Fund Fellow Writer, Deborah Chancellor. She opened the students' eyes to the value of academic libraries as places for research, and gave them access to invaluable archives. Amongst other resources, the students read Faber & Faber's original rejection letter to Orwell's 'Animal Farm', and original annotations made by Angela Carter. As English teachers, Ms Hollingsworth and Mr Crizzle enjoyed the trip as much as the students did!





APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR

# JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026



## **Working together to lift attendance and ensure ambitious curriculum experiences across our Trust schools**



Leaders from across Impact Multi Academy Trust have been coming together at the start of this term for focused collaboration sessions, including on how we ensure a really powerful and whole-Trust core offer of curriculum experiences for all children in our Trust. This includes visits and trips outside of school, as well as activities outside of the classroom in school. This work builds on our Trust values of inclusion and ambition and is part of our aim that every child in our Trust schools is able to "find their something" that inspires them. This will build on the strong offer that is already happening in our individual schools and we look forward to sharing more in due course.

Then also in January, our school leaders came together to focus on one of the most pressing challenges facing schools and families nationally-attendance. Attendance in our Trust is good compared to national averages and is improving over time but it is still a key priority for our Trust schools. We heard from each-other about bold, creative strategies to re-engage students who are struggling, strengthen resilience, and support families. These include specific support for individual students, interventions to smarter use of data, improved pastoral care and really strong joint working with families. By sharing approaches our schools are shaping a unified strategy to support strong attendance across our Trust

What emerged clearly from all the sessions was the power of collaboration, one of our Trust values, and we look forward to sharing more in future updates.

## **Together, we enable everyone to thrive.**



# JUNIOR STEM ACADEMY

This week, after working hard, the Junior STEM academy entered the Science & Innovation Competition, which is run by the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Imperial College.

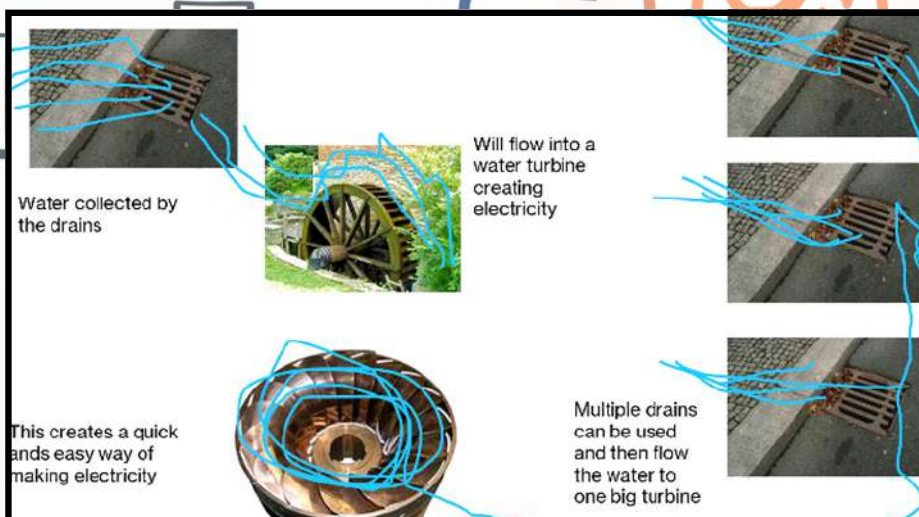
The purpose of the competition is to motivate young people to engage with science, to encourage them to work together as part of a team and to engage them in a fun activity that is motivated by their curiosity and drive.



## The goals we have chosen and why

- ▶ **Good health and well being** – this is a perfect fit as the air purifier will improve overall health especially for those with allergies.
- ▶ **Sustainable cities and communities** – this is a good fit as it will improve workspaces in factories throughout cities and helping communities.
- ▶ **Life on land** - this is another great goal for us as it improves the quality of air that everyone breathes in helping little by little.

Teams were asked to develop a new and innovative scientific solution to help achieve one of the [United Nation's Global Goals for Sustainable Development](#). To enter, teams were asked to create a 5-minute film. Examples of the entries included a Nutri-Box an ambitious plan to solve world hunger potentially with the help of drones. An air purifier that could clean cities air from any pollutants helping people breath. Finally using an old idea of water turbines the team promoted the idea of using the rainwater to power the houses around the drains.







HERITAGE of LONDON  
TRUST

# AN EXCITING PROJECT FOR BROMLEY

**4 PLAISTOW GROVE** in Bromley was David Bowie's family home from 1955-1967, from the age of 8 to 20. This was a period of early creative experimentation that led to his breakthrough hit, *Space Oddity*, in 1969. The house represents David Bowie's early beginnings, his upbringing and the place that shaped him – a unique connection to the man before the public image. It is an extraordinary heritage asset for the community and the nation.



## WE ARE HOSTING A SECOND COMMUNITY EVENT:

Please join us for an opportunity to learn more about the proposal, ask questions, let us know your views and share your memories.

You can also write to us –

[info@heritageoflondon.org](mailto:info@heritageoflondon.org)



Copyright: Kevin Cann Archive

Heritage of London Trust has purchased 4 Plaistow Grove with the aim of preserving it and opening it to the public. Heritage of London Trust is an independent charity founded in 1980 dedicated to rescuing and restoring London's historic buildings and monuments.

The charity runs a youth engagement programme, Proud Places, which inspires young people with their local heritage.

In 2024, Heritage of London Trust helped restore the famous 'Bowie' bandstand in Croydon Road Recreation Ground.

**ST MARY'S BROMLEY  
CHURCH HALL (BUCHAN HALL),  
63 COLLEGE ROAD,  
ON SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY  
FROM 11.30AM-1PM**



# You may have questions in the meantime

## **I TRANSPORT & PARKING**

As the house is adjacent to Sundridge Park railway station, we will encourage all visitors to use public transport. Long term residents will know that this train service has declined over the years and we hope this project will support the broader campaign for maintaining/improving the station.

There is a large free car park to the east of station and any cars will be directed to park there. There will be no coaches.

The size of the house means that only a small number of people could visit the house at any one time (around 15 people).

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**You can find out all about us at**  
[www.bowieshouse.org](http://www.bowieshouse.org)  
[www.heritageoflondon.org](http://www.heritageoflondon.org)

**We hope to see you on 7 February!**



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## **2 VISITORS IN PLAISTOW GROVE**

Entry to the house will be via the rear entry from the alley behind the Crown pub and its garden. There should therefore be negligible impact in Plaistow Grove. Of course, people interested in Bowie do already visit to see the house and its 'blue plaque.'

## **3 BENEFITS TO THE AREA**

Studies suggest that buildings of historic and cultural significance raise the profile of an area and make it more desirable. We will work with local schools as part of our Proud Places programme to teach young people about the history of Bromley, particularly its musical history.

## **4 ROLE OF LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY**

The London Borough of Bromley is responsible for planning decisions in the first instance. Your ward councillors are Councillor Alisa Igoe and Councillor Tony McPartlan.



# FOOTBALL NEWS

Football began its block fixtures with 96 year 7 students representing the school against City of London. There were strong performances from all of the RWS teams and all students enjoyed their games. The next block fixture was today, when RWS year 7's face off against Wilson's School.



Year 8 begin their block fixture campaign on 9th Feb, with 6 fixtures against Maidstone Grammar School.



In competition news the 1st XI are currently top of the Kent Academies League, with the 2nd XI joint second, the 3rd XI are top of their North Kent League. The 1st XI are awaiting their next round in the defence of their Kent County Cup title too.

Year 10 B continue the defence of their ESFA National Title with a tough trip away to Shenfield, Essex, on Wednesday 11th Feb.



Year 8B travelled to Tunbridge Wells Grammar on Wednesday 4th Feb, for the last 16 tie in the ESFA cup before facing the same opposition in the Kent County Cup Final, watch this space for time and date of the final.



Year 11 played away in a game to Oakwood Park on Thursday 5th Feb, in the England School Elite Cup Quarter Final, and won. They now progress to the Semi Finals.

All district cup competitions are underway.

# BASKETBALL NEWS

Frankie in 11H was part of a select group of U16 basketball players who made UK club history, by being the first UK team to make it to the finals in the Xmas tournament in Belgium. Placing 2nd for silver medals above some of the very best club teams in Belgium, France, Netherlands, Germany and beyond. Well done Frankie!



# PSHE

## AT RAVENS WOOD SCHOOL



At RWS, we really value PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education as it plays a vital role in helping our students develop the knowledge, skills, and understanding they need to navigate life safely, confidently, and respectfully.

This fortnight focussed on careers education across all year groups. Students explored age-appropriate topics designed to support their future pathways, from early discussions about personal strengths and aspirations, through to GCSE options, and the key transitions at post-16 and post-18. These sessions aimed to help students make informed decisions, understand the range of qualifications and routes available, and feel more confident about the steps ahead.

We've included this fortnight's PSHE topics below, along with links to relevant resources from The Wellbeing Hub. These are provided in case you'd like to continue these important conversations at home. If you still need to register for The Wellbeing Hub, you can do so [here](#).

If you have any questions about PSHE, please email [PSHE@rws.uk.net](mailto:PSHE@rws.uk.net)

If you have any questions about our Careers provision at RWS, please email [Careers@rws.uk.net](mailto:Careers@rws.uk.net)

**Head of PSHE**

**Ms Brown**

Year	PSHE topic of the fortnight	The Wellbeing Hub resources
7	Sessions on careers, transitions and next steps	1. <a href="#">Information overload whilst career planning</a>
8		2. <a href="#">How to help young people find career inspiration</a>
9		3. <a href="#">Finding your career 'why' (16-18)</a>
10		4. <a href="#">Common limiting beliefs while career planning</a>
11		5. <a href="#">Managing change</a>
12		6. <a href="#">What pathway options are available after GCSE?</a>
13		7. <a href="#">What are the alternatives to university?</a>
		8. <a href="#">Your guide to university clearing</a>
		9. <a href="#">How to make a strategic UK university clearing</a>
		10. <a href="#">Moving from school to work (16-18)</a>
		11. <a href="#">Moving from school to work parent guidance</a>



# Friends of Ravens Wood Fund

Becoming a 'Friend of Ravens Wood School' by giving a regular amount or annual donation to the fund, 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 can be made via the 'Just Giving' platform, 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](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ravens-wood-fund) <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ravens-wood-fund>  
or scan the QR code below to get started.



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

## ATTENDANCE

**1st Place with 96.6% = 7D**

**2nd Place with 96.4% = 10D**

**3rd Place with 96.2 % = 7G**



## Dates for your Diary

- Poetry by Heart Competition; Tuesday 10th February 2026
- Ski Trip; Thursday 12th - Saturday 21st February 2026
- **HALF TERM; Monday 16th - 20th February 2026**
- Year 12 Workshop trip to the British Library; Monday 26th February 2026
- Year 7 Parents Evening; Thursday 26th February 2026
- Politics Conference Westminster; Monday 2nd March 2026
- Macbeth Revision Trip to the New Theatre Wimbledon; Tuesday 3rd March 2026
- Year 7 HPA Trip Guildhall; Tuesday 3rd March 2026
- Year 7&8 Bromley High Disco; Wednesday 4th March 2026
- Year 9 Parents Evening; Thursday 5th March 2026
- Year 9 Vaccinations; Friday 6th March 2026



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





**Learn** To continually explore and discover new skills, ideas and knowledge

**Lead** To lead by example and inspire those around you

**Excel** To be the best you can be through effort and endeavour

**Our new WhatsApp broadcasting channel**



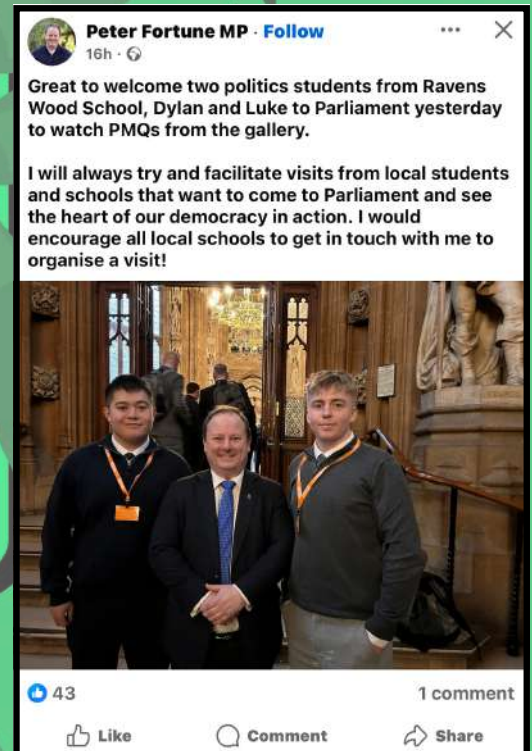
**ravens\_wood\_sport**  
Great win last night for our Y11 Basketball team in the Kent Cup  
They've secured 2nd place in the group stage to go through to the knock out stages  
MVP - K Glean Martin & N Gyan for both delivering a great impact off the bench



**ravens\_wood\_sport**  
Match Day Vibes!  
Maidstone GS  
28th January  
Kick off 14:30  
Jimmy Cup



**RWS9**  
Our Year 9 students enjoyed an exciting introduction to the GCSE option subjects available to them today. It was a fantastic event, with students fully engaged and exploring their future choices



**RWS9 Options Evening**  
A huge thank you to all the parents, carers and students who joined us for our Options Evening! We hope you found the event informative and helpful as you begin thinking about next year's choices.  
The presentation slides and a digital copy of the Options Booklet will be shared shortly - keep an eye out!

**RWS Careers Fair**  
What an incredible day! Students from Years 7-13 connected with employers, discovered new possibilities, and explored their next steps. Thank you to all the organisations and supporters who helped make this event amazing!



**RWS Languages**  
Our RWS9 cohort had an informative and engaging talk from Mingalaba on languages and football today. It was a great session and the students really enjoyed it.