

R W S

Friday 12th December 2025



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Media
Activity on
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Toby is away
this week



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of term, the past two weeks have once again been full of opportunities for our students beyond the classroom. I am continually impressed by the commitment of staff who organise these experiences and by the maturity and enthusiasm with which our students take part.

Last week, our Year 13 Economics students attended a specialist conference at the Emmanuel Centre, gaining valuable insight into contemporary economic issues and hearing from leading experts in the field. This experience supports their curriculum studies while broadening their awareness of the wider economic landscape they will soon enter. Students also saw the excitement of STEM in action with a Robotics Challenge trip involving students from across the Trust. Held at one of our partner schools, this event encouraged teamwork, innovation, and problem-solving — all essential skills for the rapidly evolving world of technology.

This week, our English and Art departments collaborated to deliver a memorable cultural experience for Year 7, taking the full cohort to London for a Dickensian Walk and a visit to the Tate Modern. This rich combination of literature, history and the arts provided our students with a real sense of cultural capital, bringing their classroom learning vividly to life.

Year 13 students were on the move again with a Mathematics trip, also at the Emmanuel Centre, allowing them to deepen their understanding of key A-level topics while hearing from inspirational speakers within the field.

On Thursday, Miss Hemetsberger and Mr Tysall departed with students for our long-standing German Exchange Programme in Leer, Germany. This valued tradition continues to strengthen international links, promote intercultural understanding, and provide students with an authentic opportunity to use and develop their language skills. We are extremely proud to continue fostering such meaningful relationships between our school communities.

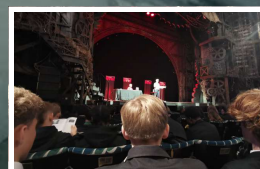
With just one week remaining, there is still much to look forward to. Next Tuesday and Wednesday, our much-anticipated Christmas Concerts will take place, showcasing the exceptional talents of our musicians and featuring our wonderful Year 7 massed choirs. These evenings are always a highlight of the school year, and we are delighted to be able to share the achievements of our young performers with families. Our wonderful PSFA will be running a Mini Christmas Market, with stocking fillers and festive goodies from 6pm, an event not to be missed.

On Thursday, Accent Catering will be serving Christmas Lunch, complete with all the trimmings, and on Friday we will be holding our Christmas Jumper Day, with a suggested voluntary contribution of £2, via ParentPay, raising funds for both Cardiac Risk in the Young, our school's chosen charity, and Save the Children. A reminder that students will finish early on Friday 19th December; full details are available in the letter to parents/carers on our Letters Home page.



As this is our final newsletter of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all families for their continued support. I hope you have a restful and enjoyable weekend, and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year. We look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 6th January, at 10.50am for registration with Form Tutors.

Ms M. Lester
Headteacher



MINI CHRISTMAS MARKET

from 6pm on 16th & 17th December
(before the concerts)

Stocking Fillers



Tombola



**Festive
Refreshments**



Mulled Wine

Mince Pies

Join us from 6.00pm for Christmas Festivities,
Performances start at 7pm

The Power of Love

Christmas Concert

2025

**Starring the Year 7
massed choir**

**Big Band
Ravens Band**

Rabble

Sunset Sax

The Music Academy

16th & 17th December

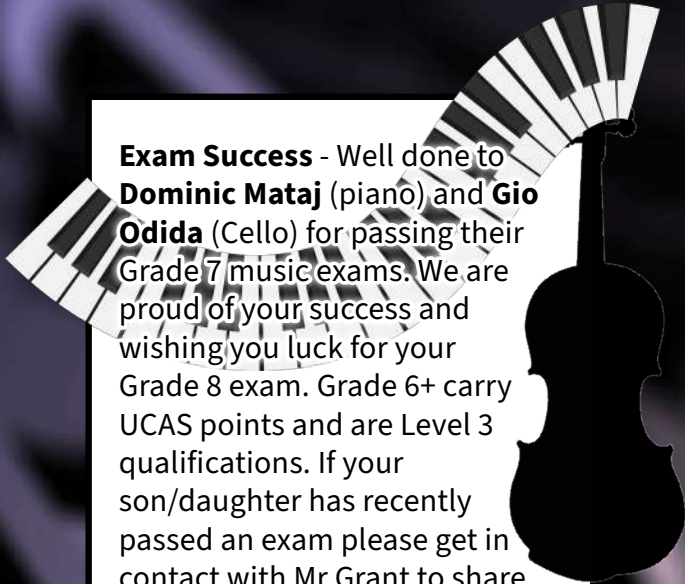
The Main Hall

Tickets on Parent Pay

£5

MUSICAL NEWS

Next week we have our annual Christmas Concerts featuring the massed Year 7 choir.
Tickets are still available on parent pay.



Exam Success - Well done to **Dominic Mataj** (piano) and **Gio Odida** (Cello) for passing their Grade 7 music exams. We are proud of your success and wishing you luck for your Grade 8 exam. Grade 6+ carry UCAS points and are Level 3 qualifications. If your son/daughter has recently passed an exam please get in contact with Mr Grant to share their success - ing@rws.uk.net



Instrumental Lessons - If you would like to learn an instrument in the spring term, with one of our visiting music teachers from BYMT, please sign up using the following link: [Eepos: BYMT Bromley Youth Music Trust](#)

Showcase Performance - This week we celebrate Patrick, Stevie, Joe & Oliver in the Year 9 Junior Academy of Music for arranging and performing a rendition of 'Baggy Trousers' by Madness, they have spent the autumn term writing and arranging this version for Saxophone, Clarinet, Trombone and Drums. This piece will be showcased in our Spring Concert next term.

Q&A with BSHP

Last week, we had the pleasure of meeting accomplished singer and RWS alumni Gabby Bishop (BSHP), a singer and pop artist who was signed to Island and Universal records. Gabby discussed the ups and downs of working in the Music industry with my Year 10 GCSE class. We were tasked with asking questions and Gabby was happy to answer and tell us about the pros and cons of major vs. indie labels and all the different ways to make an income from singing and songwriting. Gabby also performed her new single 'Miss You Issues' in Year 8 assembly, accompanied by Mr Grant on piano, she then talked about the industry and allowed students to ask questions. On behalf of my class, the Music Department and the Year 8 pastoral team, we would like to thank Gabby for giving up her time, answering questions and performing for us.
Gio Odida - Year 10



JACK PETCHEY AWARDS

5 of our students attended the Jack Petchey Awards for Bromley Schools this November. Where they received their formal award from the Mayor of Bromley. These students have been nominated by multiple members of staff for showing determination, ambition and leadership. All of which align with our Black & Green values.

These students received a **£300 grant** that they have chosen to spend on amazing tools and resources for Ravens Wood. Congratulations!



Benjamin



Raphael



Leo



Joseph



Thomas

Along with our winners who could not attend:

Daniel and **Anamaria**



A POETRY SLAM DUNK FOR RWS

On Friday 28th November, 45 of our Year 11 students experienced a remarkable day of culture; they attended poetry readings delivered by some of our nation's finest poets. Students went to the Apollo Theatre in Victoria, and benefited from listening to Owen Sheers, Carol Ann Duffy, Daljit Nagra, Simon Armitage, Imtiaz Dharker, and the star himself, John Agard. This experience not only opened their eyes to the power of poetry, it will also aid them with their English Literature exam as many of the poems and poets they heard and saw are part of their GCSE studies.



45 other students will gain the same experience in January, with a different roster of poets, so keep your eyes peeled for January's Newsletter and another update!



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.

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

If you have any questions about our Careers provision at RWS, please email Careers@rws.uk.net

Head of PSHE
Ms Brown

| Year | PSHE topic of the fortnight | The Wellbeing Hub resources |
|------|------------------------------|---|
| 7 | Emotional wellbeing | 1. Top tips for staying emotionally well 2. What to do if social media is affecting wellbeing 3. Altruism and wellbeing 4. 20 ideas to help you regain calm |
| 8 | FGM and how to report it | NHS information on FGM and the law |
| 9 | Understanding sexual consent | 1. What does consent look like? 2. Relationships and consent: a pupil's perspective 3. How to talk to young people about consent 4. How to talk to your child about sex, consent and pornography |
| 10 | Catfishing and sextortion | 1. What is sextortion and what should I do if it happens? 2. National Crime Agency sextortion warning 3. Supporting victims of AI generated image extortion |
| 11 | Income and expenditure | 1. Talking about money and finance 2. Money advice for teenagers 3. Teen finance 4. Why financial literacy is an important skill to learn early |
| 12 | Being safe on a night out | 1. Personal safety 2. Important travel safety tips 3. Webinar for parents and carers on personal safety 4. Alcohol - staying safe and making good choices 5. How to make safer choices around alcohol |
| 13 | The dangers of drug use | 1. Know your stuff: drug first aid 2. How easy is it for young people to get hold of drugs? 3. What are the first drugs used by teens these days? 4. How do I talk to my child about drugs and alcohol? 5. At what age should I be talking to my child about drugs? |

SUPPORTING YOUR FAMILY THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS WITH THE WELLBEING HUB

As valued members of our school community, we want to remind you that you and your children have full access to our Wellbeing Hub—an online platform packed with resources designed to support families with whatever life throws your way.

If you have not yet registered, parents can register using this link:

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/register/parents/?ca=9ef7418871f1ae058fc11a35332aacf9>

We understand that changes in routine, such as school holidays, can sometimes be challenging for children. Similarly, returning to school after a break can bring its own set of worries. To help, we've included a few useful links below, but we encourage you to log in to the Wellbeing Hub and explore the wide range of support available. Whether you're looking for tips on managing anxiety, building resilience, or simply need ideas for positive activities, the Hub is here for you.

[Back to school wellbeing checklist - The Wellbeing Hub](#)

[Seven tips for overcoming social anxiety - The Wellbeing Hub](#)

[Top tips for easing back-to-school anxiety - The Wellbeing Hub](#)

[What do you do for Christmas: Multiculturalism and belonging - The Wellbeing Hub](#)

[Tips for your family's first festive season without a loved one - The Wellbeing Hub](#)

Please note: School staff do not check emails during the holidays. If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing during this time, please contact the appropriate agencies for immediate support:

NHS 111 – For urgent medical advice if your child's health or mental wellbeing is at risk.

Local Crisis Team or CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) – For serious mental health concerns.

Emergency Services (999) – If your child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm.

Childline (0800 1111) – For confidential support for children and young people.

NSPCC Helpline (0808 800 5000) – For safeguarding concerns or advice.

Your child's safety and wellbeing are our top priority, and these agencies are equipped to provide the right help when school is closed. Explore the Wellbeing Hub today and take advantage of the resources available to you.

Winter Holiday Fun

Bromley's Holiday
Activities and
Food programme



**Bromley is running a holiday
club programme for eligible
children and young people.**



To find out more and to book

Scan the QR code or go to the Bromley website

www.bromley.gov.uk/HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme

George's Gift

Max McIntock BBC 500-word challenge

One day George was sitting in his den in the bushes outside of the school. George came here a lot just to escape reality. The den was quite big. George had spent many days after school clearing leaves and had broken off branches to expand his paradise. There was one special thing about George and that was the way he understood people. Not just people but the languages they spoke. You see George could understand any language in the world and that included animals. In his den he would sometimes just talk to birds and squirrels. He never really spoke to anyone about his gift. He never really spoke to anyone really. The animals were his friends.

The day started like any other; he had a normal first two periods. But it all started when the fire alarm went off. Everyone thought it was just an annoying fire drill like always but this time it wasn't. George didn't like fire drills already because of the loud noises and he was about to like a real fire a lot less. He was in the changing rooms for PE, and he had just got into his running kit when the loud, screeching alarm went off. He covered his ears and walked out leaving his bag behind. You see, George can be very forgetful and this time he happened to leave his bag behind. When he realized what was in his bag his heart dropped to his feet.

George's Dad owned a huge Animal rescue service. Their most recent animal rescue was an extremely rare golden falcon with sky blue wings; George had befriended this rare bird and treated it like it was a newborn baby. This bird was his best friend. And it was sleeping peacefully in the nest George had made for it. In his bag. He was walking out leaving the sweaty changing rooms behind, they smelt like old socks. He suddenly realized his mistake and started to hyperventilate. That bird meant everything to him. Just then smoke started pouring out of the hall right next to the changing rooms. He was desperate. He remembered having a conversation with a tiger at the zoo once and had given him a sandwich. The tiger had said he owed George a favor, so he called for the eagles. They came swooping down and picked up George as the whole school watched in awe.

The zoo was in sight as George yelled for all the animals to help and where the tiger goes all the other animals follow. There was now a stampede of lions, tigers, elephants, birds, and hippos running through the streets led by George riding on the back of the lead tiger. They reached school and leaped over the gates as the elephants tried to put out the fire. George fought through fire and smoke, determined to save his friend. He sped down the hallways and into the changing rooms, he grabbed his bag and was reunited with his friend.



Two Year 7 Students
have made it
through to the next
round of the
BBC500
competition, ahead
of over 50,000 other
student entries!

We wish them the
best of luck for the
next round.



The story of a mysterious little girl

On the horizon, an ominous, gothic cathedral was looming in the distance, with arctic-white mist floating down towards the sleepy Barcelona suburb. Gracefully, the shivering snowflakes began their ghostly ballet routine as they pirouetted down. The delicate ballerinas were carried by a sub-zero, icy gust of wind, howling like an injured wolf. A thick blanket of solemn snow stretched across the frost-bitten rooftops; only the bare lifeless chimneys remained, they stood like sentinels guarding the dark, gloomy labyrinth of alleyways below.

Fingers of ice hung like daggers dangerously threatening to impale the windows from the icy gables above. Houses were shivering like bodies in a freezing winter's night. The translucent windows, which were frost-glazed, had no illuminous light within them, laying lifelessly. With no movement, the huddled, beige houses stood in eerie stillness: no lights were on and the faint glow of street lamps barely reached the darkened windows offering no clue of life within, the stillness of the quiet air.

Then through the archway, a small figure appeared – a little girl. The moment she entered everything changed, like a drop of paint on a black and white canvas, she defied the town's pale grey, darting between snow drifts and dodging icy patches on the slippery white cobbles. Her flushed cheeks and crimson-tipped nose, showing proof of the biting air that clung onto her. Faded, sepia posters were clinging desperately on the town's damp, dull walls for dear life. A peculiar blackboard appeared with hundreds of names written on it, with a piece of chalk hovering in front of it. So, the little girl writes her name on the board too. In front of the little girl, who was called Alma, a foggy, misty shop window. Tentatively, she rubbed her sleeve on it and a mysterious figure appeared. A familiar figure stood in the frosty window, a mirror-image of her eerily stood in front of her...

Slowly, she creeps into the shop, where hundreds of figures stood on shelves, with name tags attached to them. Suddenly, she has an urge to go behind a mysterious fading, red curtain. Behind it, she sees a secretive portal with a sign next to it, "enter if you dare". Curious, she decides to go through. It sends her spinning off her feet through a mysterious blue whirlwind and takes her to a dark, candle-lit room. Looking around her, she sees all of her friends that have steadily vanished from Barcelona over the past two years.

By Daniel Elliott, 7A, Ravens Wood School, Bromley



CROSS COUNTRY - UNDER 13S KENT CHAMPIONS

Zach came 1st in the last of the U13 boys XC races in the Kent XC league and won the Kent XC league overall for U13 boys to become Kent XC Champion! The U13 boys team also came first overall to win the trophy!





Lost Property!

Please label your belongings

LOST & FOUND KEYS



Do you recognise any of these keys? If so, please report to Student Reception to claim them.

Learn to drive with Samuel Velarde
RED DRIVING SCHOOL



EXCLUSIVE BLACK FRIDAY OFFER TO RWS STUDENTS!

Why learn with me?

- Flexible lesson times that fit around school
- Expert support for both practical driving *and* theory test
- Access to hundreds of RED resources to help you pass first time
- Progress tracker app so you can see how you're improving every lesson
- Lessons tailored to you – calm, patient and at your pace
- Brand new Volkswagen Polo – easy to drive, great for learners
- Backed by the UK's largest driving school for peace of mind

EXCLUSIVE RAVENS WOOD STUDENT DEALS

Standard rate: £40 per hour



Book by Friday 12th December to secure these rates

Show your Ravens Wood ID:

- 10 hours – **10% off**
- 20 hours – **12% off**
- 30 hours – **15% off**



Call or send a text to 07948 547971

Or scan the QR code and message me on Facebook

JOIN US FOR

CHRISTMAS
lunch



18th
December

£3.99

Vegetarian option £3

WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS!



CHRISTMAS MENU

MAIN

Half Roast Chicken Breast with Pigs in Blankets

or

Jumbo Pig in Blanket

or

Squash and Vegetable Wellington

all served with:

stuffing, gravy, roast potatoes, carrots and sprouts

A choice of DESSERTS

Chocolate Yule Log, or

Christmas Pudding, or

Christmas Biscuit, or

Mince Pie

All served with optional custard



BROMLEY POLICE SAFETY TIPS

With the nights drawing in, many students are travelling home in semi or complete darkness. This being the case, Bromley Police have asked us to share the following advice with students and parents/carers:

Stay in populated areas within the town centre. Suspects target lone individuals around parks and isolated back roads.



Keep valuables out of sight, especially mobile phones.

Enable tracking on phones.



Record your IMEI in a safe place (dial *#06# to find it). Your phone has a unique identifying code.



NMPR[®] Police System

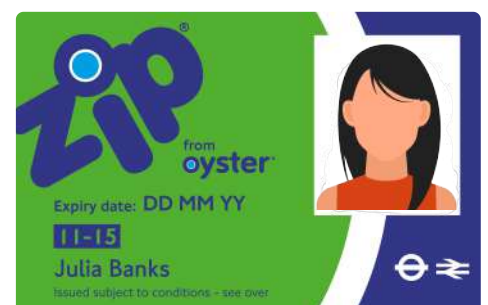
Approved Partner

Register your phone on the national mobile phone register.

Insure expensive items on your home insurance, as typical clothing often gets missed.



Expensive coats are often targeted by criminals.



Always use a Zip card on buses so the exact bus can be identified for CCTV.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Bromley Police
High Street
BR1 1ER

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Subject: Robbery Crime Prevention Advice

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to raise your awareness around Robbery Prevention. Whilst the number of robberies is relatively low in Bromley, they do occur and when they do, they have a very negative impact on the victim.

Whilst those responsible for robberies will often target their victims at random, it's usually because they want to steal their phone or jacket. More and more reports that I read involve the theft of an expensive jacket and the thief has made their victim take it off and hand it over.

Whilst we may deserve nice things, we do not deserve to be victims of crime and so I ask that you consider what possessions your child is bringing to school. Having expensive items, particularly Jackets, may make them more vulnerable to theft. We want your children to be safe so please consider this.

I also ask that you encourage your child not to have any valuables on display and this includes a mobile phone. Not only are these expensive items to replace but they can take away your child's focus from what is going on around them.

I also ask that you advise your child to plan their route to and from school and avoid shortcuts into isolated places. Remember, if they are targeted, don't fight back, property can be replaced!

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Your co-operation and awareness are crucial in ensuring the safety and well-being of our children.

Yours Sincerely,

Simon Alexander PS 202 SN

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Accompaniment Requirement for Minors on Friday 19th December 2025

Dear (Recipient),

We hope this message finds you well.

The Glades Shopping Centre is implementing specific measures to ensure a safe and pleasant experience for all visitors on **Friday 19th December 2025** and, coinciding with the beginning of the Christmas school holidays.

Given the anticipated increase in footfall as schools close for the holidays, we kindly require that all students and children under the age of 16 visiting the Glades from 12:00pm on Friday 19th December 2025, be accompanied by an adult or guardian.

The safety and well-being of our customers and staff remain our highest priority. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a secure and enjoyable environment for everyone.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Management Team

The Glades Shopping Centre



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 96.5% = 8D & 10D

2nd Place with 96.4% = 7F & 8F

3rd Place with 96.3% = 7D & 7D



Dates for your Diary

- Sixth Form BFI Ruben Library Trip - Monday 15th December 2025
- Christmas Concert - Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th December 2025
- Accent Christmas Lunch - Thursday 18th December 2025
- **Students finish EARLY on LAST DAY OF TERM - 12:30pm Friday 19th December 2025**
- PD Day 3 - Monday 5th January 2026
- **First Day of Term; LATE START FOR STUDENTS - 10:50 Tuesday 6th January 2026**



Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

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**



The festive season has officially begun!
We were delighted to put up our Christmas tree yesterday and get into the holiday spirit. A huge thank you to all our amazing sixth formers who helped make it happen!



A final message from our Movember champion
Thanks to all for your hard work and donations.
Over £6000 raised and the link is still live



What an amazing day at the first Robotics Scrimmage on Friday! All three RWS teams got their robots moving, and one even scored by getting the ball in the box! Proud of these future innovators.



Celebrating Tradition with Accent Catering. Today we continued our annual tradition with Christmas Biscuit Day - a showcase of handcrafted festive treats prepared by our catering team!



Rugby Results from last week



team sheet
National Plate 1/4 Final
RGS Guildford
13:30
Wednesday 3rd December

RUGBY RESULTS

WEDNESDAY

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| RWS 1 st XV | 29 14 | LPBS 1 st XV |
| RWS 2 nd XV | 31 10 | DC 3rd/4 th XV |
| RWS U14 | 32 26 | RAVENSBORNE U14A |

FRIDAY

| | | |
|----------|---------|------------------|
| RWS U12A | 5 30 | JOHN FISHER U12A |
| RWS U12B | 15 30 | JOHN FISHER U12B |
| RWS U12C | 15 20 | JOHN FISHER U12C |
| RWS U12D | 35 55 | JOHN FISHER U12D |
| RWS U12E | 10 40 | JOHN FISHER U12E |
| RWS U12F | 50 20 | JOHN FISHER U12F |

RUGBY RESULTS

SATURDAY

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| RWS 2 nd XV | 3 17 | JOHN FISHER 2ND XV |
| RWS U16A | 31 17 | JOHN FISHER U16A |
| RWS U15A | 0 26 | JOHN FISHER U15A |
| RWS U15B | 10 44 | JOHN FISHER U15B |
| RWS U14A | 20 14 | JOHN FISHER U14A |
| RWS U14B | 5 50 | JOHN FISHER U14B |

SUNDAY

| | | |
|------|---------|------|
| U13A | 25 10 | U13A |
| U13B | 15 55 | U13B |
| U13C | 30 30 | U13C |
| U13D | 50 30 | U13D |



RWS German Exchange
After a long journey, our students and teachers have arrived safely in Leer. They are looking forward to continuing our strong partnership.