









Welcome back after the half-term break. It has been wonderful to see our students return refreshed, focused, and ready to learn. The energy and enthusiasm across the school over the past two weeks have been fantastic.

We were particularly pleased to welcome back our Year 13 Geographers from their field trip to Iceland during the break. They explored dramatic landscapes shaped by volcanic and glacial activity, bringing to life much of what they have studied in class. A highlight of the trip was witnessing the Northern Lights – an unforgettable experience that perfectly connected their geographical learning with the awe and wonder of the natural world.

Our thanks go to Mr Galler, Mrs Francis, and Miss Northwood for their organisation and support of this memorable trip.

This half term began with another week of practice examinations for our Year 11 and 13 students. We have been extremely impressed by their maturity, focus, and dedication to revision over the break. These assessments play a vital role in building confidence and refining exam techniques ahead of the summer series.

Recent assemblies have been led by Mr Marriott, Deputy Director of Pastoral and Attitudes, on Remembrance, and by Mr Parfett, Head of Psychology, on Movember. Both topics provided powerful opportunities for reflection – Remembrance encouraging gratitude and respect for those who have served, and Movember highlighting the importance of men's health and wellbeing.

On Tuesday 11th November, the entire school joined together to mark Remembrance Day. A minute's silence was observed to honour those who served in the world wars and other conflicts, followed by a moving performance of The Last Post by our talented students – a moment of unity and respect that truly captured the spirit of Ravens Wood.

On Wednesday, we were delighted to host our Sixth Form Open Evening, welcoming both our current Year 11 students and many external students. Visitors attended presentations, met subject staff, and explored the wide range of courses and enrichment opportunities on offer. The event was very well attended, and we look forward to receiving applications in the weeks ahead.

We would also like to thank all parents and carers who attended the Year 10 Raising Achievement Evening on Thursday. Your engagement and support are invaluable in helping students navigate this crucial stage of their GCSE journey.

Today, staff took part in our second Professional Development Day of the year, featuring training from the Michael Palin Centre and an external Special Educational Needs consultant. This work focused on strategies to further enhance teaching and learning for all students. Continued professional development remains central to our commitment to helping every student at Ravens Wood thrive academically and personally.

As always, thank you to our parents and carers for your ongoing support. We greatly value the partnership between home and school in helping every student achieve their very best.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and restful weekend.

















SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thank you to everyone who attended our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday. We had a fantastic turn out and met some really lovely prospective students thank you for those applications! Our current Year 11 students visited departments and were able to discover what their next steps might look like, exploring new subjects such as Psychology, Graphics, Sociology and Economics.









Our Application form is now open and the deadline to apply is Friday 12th December. Current Ravens Wood students have been sent a link via their school email account which they can use to submit their application.

WORK EXPERIENCE APPLICATIONS

Our current Year 12 students are now actively looking for Work Experience placements and we are delighted to welcome our new Careers Officer, **Mrs Jackson Searle**, who will be able to guide students through this process. Please do make sure all placements are uploaded onto Unifrog.

Year 13 students have now completed their first round of practice exams and are looking ahead to their UCAS applications. Students are encouraged to see Ms Hollingsworth before submission, for one final check, so please allow enough time for this.

The deadline for UCAS is 19th December 2025.



CAREERS

Hi Everyone,

I am Mrs Jackson Searle, the new Careers officer at Ravens Wood. Nice to meet you all!

After studying International Business at Loughborough University, completing my teaching qualification and then back packing around the world, I finally stumbled upon a career in luxury fashion for an e-commerce retailer.

I have now joined Ravens Wood with 15 years of experience in Learning, Development and Talent where I coached, trained and developed individuals of all levels to be the best versions of themselves.

I feel like I have now come full circle doing what I love the most supporting students to gain an understanding of themselves by maximising their talents and realising their ambitions as they transition into the world around them.

I have two children in primary school, so I am very much balancing life with family commitments and working in a role I am passionate about.

I am looking forward to my next chapter at Ravens Wood in the Careers team alongside our Trust Careers Lead, Mrs Hayden, and supported by Mr McCartney, Assistant Headteacher

Thanks for the super warm welcome I have already received this week.

Come and say hello in the Careers Office on the Humanities corridor or drop me an email careers@rws.uk.net

I look forward to working with you in achieving the best versions of yourselves!



SIXTH FORM Preparing for Success

ICELAND 2025

Recently, our Year 13 Geography students were fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to Iceland to explore the unique geology of the land of fire and ice. Over the course of the 4 days, the students gained many new experiences from walking into a flooded volcanic crater to climbing glaciers! We were lucky enough that Iceland had their biggest snow storm in a long time, the day before we arrived so we were able to see Iceland covered in over a foot of snow, as well as it's extraordinary greenery once it had melted.

On Day 1, after our super exciting flight, we travelled straight to the bridge between two continents (the North American and the Eurasian plates) which was incredible to be able to stand between (especially at sunset!). Following this, a major part of Iceland is it's high temperature geothermal system which we were able to see in action on the first and last day of the trip.







On Day 2, we had an action-packed day. Firstly, we walked through a lava tunnel with our geology guide, learning about the formation of it and what other rocks it consists of. Then, we went to the Secret Lagoon which was lovely, considering how cold it is outside! After this, we visited Gullfoss waterfall which was massive and incredible to see from such a height. After this, we were lucky enough to see a geyser erupt and walk down a (very slippery) slope into a flooded volcanic crater!





On Day 3, we visited Skogafoss waterfall, Iceland's famous black sand beach (which had enormous, destructive waves!), climbed a glacier and visited Seljalandsfos waterfall which we were able to walk into and behind the curtain of water! When we climbed the magnificent glacier, we made sure to taste the cold, fresh glacial water! After staying up late on day 2 and failing to see the Northern Lights, they appeared around 10pm on day 3, lighting up the sky!



On Day 4, we were all very sad to be going home however we still had 2 activities left to do! We travelled to one of Iceland's biggest geothermal power stations where we were able to see all the energy being generated, as well as experience a lava show, where we saw lava in all its states (once it comes out of an erupting volcano and once it hardens).





Many thanks to Mrs Francis and the Geography teachers for organising this once in a lifetime experience. It is one that none of us will ever forget!

Francesca Burke Yr. 13 Geographer



REMEMBRANCE

This week, we pause to remember and honour those who have served and sacrificed in the two World Wars and in conflicts since. Remembrance is an important time for our community to reflect on the courage, commitment, and selflessness of those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. At Ravens Wood, we recognise the significance of this moment in helping our students understand the value of peace, respect, and unity — principles that continue to guide us in our daily lives.







On Tuesday 11th November, the entire school observed a minute's silence, followed by the simultaneous playing of The Last Post by students across our community — a moving tribute that reminded us all of the enduring importance of remembrance.



S PPAL APPEAL

A huge thank you to the Year 7s and Student Leadership Sixth Formers who gave up their breaktimes to raise money for the Poppy Appeal.

YEAR 13 GENETICS WORKSHOP

Last week, our Year 13 Biology students visited the Royal Institution to take part in a genetics workshop. The workshop looked at bacterial evolution and students investigated four fictional bacterial outbreaks by performing restriction enzyme digests on DNA samples isolated from each of the scenes. Using gel electrophoresis, they compared the samples to known bacterial strains.

















RWS MEDICAL FUTURES - TOM SHRUBSHALL VISIT





Students attending medical club this week were treated to a very exciting careers talk all about life as an orthopaedic surgeon, from one of Ravens Wood's own alumni. Our students heard about advances in surgery, from laproscopic surgeries to nanotechnology and the future of AI in medicine. The talk certainly gave our students a lot to think about when it comes to healthcare

careers – and they didn't seem put off by photos of surgeries!



YEAR 9 CENTRE OF THE CELL VISIT

This week, 30 year 9 students had the opportunity to visit the Centre of the Cell exhibit. The day started with interactive, digital activities focused on cell biology and research. Students saw preserved organs and took part in activities that involved estimating the number of cells in their own body. After a quick lunch break, students took part in a 'Skin Deep!' - a workshop all about the science of our skin. Students learnt about fingerprints, how the skin protects us from infection, the importance of protecting the skin from UV and even learnt the science behind acne.













RWS CHRISTIMAS SHOEBOXAPPEAL







A big thank you to our entire RWS community for their contributions towards our Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Year 9 Citizenship students did an excellent job of packing and organising over 100 shoeboxes this year, which is the most we have ever done. We couldn't do this without such a supportive and kind parent and study body, and we really appreciate all the help and support. A big thank you also to our Year 12 Community Students, who wrapped a huge number of shoeboxes for us.

Ms Brown and Miss Davis

MOVEMBER 4

MS. ELMY AND THE WELLBEING STUDENTS ROWING CHALLENGE

Ms. Elmy and the wellbeing team are encouraging students to row the equivalent distance from Dover to Calais by the end of the month!



"So far students and staff have rowed 7km! We are rowing from Dover to Calais although we may go further afield at this rate!!!"

Mrs Elmy

During their lunch hour on (5/11/25) students rowed a further 4310m taking our overall total to just over 11km from Dover to Calais in our Wellbeing Rowing Challenge to support Movember.



WILLIAM'S 3D PRINTING

William is going to 3D print and make Moustache related items (Key rings, combs etc) and sell them to raise money for charity





KEYS FOR MOVEMBER

Lonnie is learning a new song on Piano each week and playing it in the canteen each Friday.



RYAN AND OSCAR

Ryan and Oscar in year 13 are setting themselves a huge running distance of 400K combined to run by the end of the month, will they reach their target?

BROTHERS SWIMMING CHALLENGE

Ed and Henry have given themselves a huge 255Km swimming challenge, the distance from Keston to Exeter!'





CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

On Wednesday 12th November 11 RWS students took part in the Bromley Schools Cross Country Championships at Darrick Wood school. These were held as a trial to be selected to run for Bromley in the Kent Championships.

It was a lovely Autumn morning at the Darrick Wood course as the rain held off and the sun came out. First off were the Inter Boys team (years 10 and 11) comprising of Benj E, Matthew T, Akin A, Samuel H and Archie C. Benj came home first for the team in 10th place. This was despite an ongoing injury which he determinedly put to one side in order to battle against club mates for a qualifying position. He was closely followed by Matthew, Akin, Samuel and Archie all showing great commitment to their run. Archie should also get a special mention for having a fantastic attitude to the race as the only year 11 that decided to take part. Despite knowing he wasn't going to qualify, he gave his all to the tricky 5k course and finished in a commendable 17th place, knocking 4 minutes off last year's time! He also went back to encourage and run in with the last runner.





Next to race were the Junior Boys, which are years 8 and 9. There was an excellent battle for first place between Zach E and a rival running club mate from LPSB, with Zach just clinching victory by 2 seconds at the end. It should be noted that Zach was running as one of the youngest in the race so a well-deserved gold medal to him! Billy P placed a fantastic 4th and Gabri R, also one of the younger ones, achieved a brilliant 11th place against some very good club runners. This means he is in with a chance of qualifying for Kent schools. Ethan B, Alex V and Edward S all made up the team and showed great spirit in running the 3.8km course through woods and fields.

Congratulations to all. You wore your new RWS running vests with pride!











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.

As part of Black History Month, our PSHE lessons explored themes such as identity, equality, and the contributions of Black individuals in history and society. These sessions aim to promote respect, understanding, and open conversations both in school and at home.

If you still need to sign up for The Wellbeing Hub, you can do so here. If you have any questions about PSHE, please email PSHE@rws.uk.net.

Ms Brown Head of PSHE

Year	PSHE topic of the fortnight	The Wellbeing Hub resources
7	Online Safety: Al and misinformation	 How AI is shaping the job market of the future What are the risks of students using AI for school Supporting victims of AI sextortion Deepfakes – challenges and solutions for schools
8	Online Safety: Al and child sexual	
9	abuse materials	
10	Online Safety:	5. How to stay ahead of AI as it replaceshuman tasks6. Effects of technology on brain
11	- AI, hallucinations and conspiracy theories	development Other useful AI resources for parents
12	Online Safety: Al and deepfake pornography	 Parents' Ultimate Guide to Generative AI NSPCC: Artificial Intelligence tips for parents Online Safety tips for the parents of teens How and why teens use AI companions AI family learn: parenting education in the AI world AI literacy toolkit for families
13	Online Safety: Al and papasocial relationships	

GIRLS FOOTBALL 1ST MATCH OF THE SEASON VS. NORTH KENT

The girls kicked off their 2025-2026 season with a great 2-1 win vs North Kent. A number of girls were making their debuts for the school and it was great to see their hard work in training (led by Miss Wallace) paying off. The girls went 1-0 down after a goal against the run of play, but were the dominant team in the 1st half. The 2nd half started positively and the girls scored 2 goals in quick succession early in the 2nd half. The first, a fantastic 30 yard free kick which sailed past keeper from Poppy Kirby (Y12) and the 2nd and own goal following relentless pressure from RWS. The girls had a few opportunities to extend the lead, but couldn't quite execute in the final 3rd. North Kent threw everything they had at the girls and a fantastic save from Dominique Bouwer (Y12) kept them from levelling towards the end of the match. The final whistle sounded and cheers of jubilation followed.



A brilliant start to the season and it was great to see the camaraderie between the girls in their first game of the year.



Christmas Concert





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

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



NIGERIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Shakeel delivered an assembly to all of Year 8 about Nigerian Independence Day. He was confident and clear in his delivery and kept everyone engaged.
Well done Shakeel.

UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

On Thursday 6th, Monday 10th, and Thursday 13th November, Sixth Form students at Ravens Wood School who are carrying out the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) were privileged to take part in workshops organised by the University of Greenwich outreach team. The Great Skills Workshops are 'designed to support students to develop key skills relevant to their academic learning and their preparation for the transition to university and beyond.

Our EPQ students are some of the most ambitious students in the school, who wish to carry out research akin to University, so getting to learn about different kinds of referencing, how to evaluate a source's validity, and how to best frame their research question, are valuable skills not only for their EPQ, but for future, ambitious qualifications.

YEAR 7 MINI MARATHON

Congratulations to 7D on winning the Year 7 Interform Mini Marathon. They had all three runners in the top thirteen, including two in the top three. Ish, 7D, won the individual race with a time of 11:07, with Charlie, 7F, and Freddie, 7D, picking up second and third. Well done all!





MORE CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Zachary E (Y8) and his two team mates ran and won the u13 boys National Road Relays and become National Champions last month up in Birmingham. A massive well done to Zach.

Additionally, Last weekend Benjamin E (Y10), Billy P (Y9) and Zachary E (Y8) also ran for Bromley in the London Youth Games Cross Country at the iconic Parliament Hill. The Bromley team won Silver overall which is a fantastic achievement.

Well done to all our superb athletes!

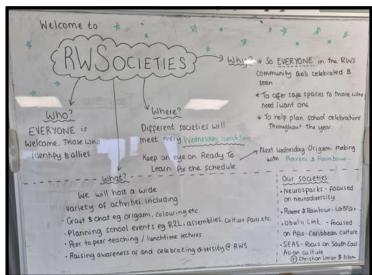
RWSOCIETIES LAUNCHIES ACROSS THIE WHOLE SCHOOL

After a half term of thoughtful planning and preparation, RWSocieties have officially launched and are now open to the entire school community. The launch took place at the vibrant RWSocieties Fair on Monday, which saw an impressive turnout. Students engaged in thought-provoking activities and had the opportunity to connect with Society leaders, sparking meaningful conversations and curiosity.

Currently, three societies are up and running:

- Ubuntu Link celebrating and exploring Black African and Black Caribbean heritage
- NeuroSparks raising awareness and understanding of neurodiversity
- Ravens & Rainbows supporting and celebrating LGBTQ+ identities

Throughout the year, these societies will take the lead in hosting assemblies, planning Ready To Learns, and organizing celebrations that enrich our school culture. In addition, every Wednesday lunchtime will feature a different society-led activity.



The first Wednesday meeting will be hosted by Ravens & Rainbows on Wednesday 19th November, with a relaxing and creative Origami Making session.

More societies will be introduced as the year progresses, shaped by student feedback and interests—so watch this space!

A full calendar of events will be shared with students via Ready To Learn—stay tuned and get involved!

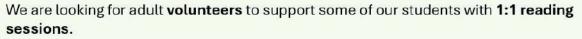
2025 Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday 2 3 4 5 6 8 9 11 12 13 14 15 16 RWS Societies RWSocieties take over R21 fair 17 18 20 22 23 Origami with Ravens & Rainbows World Toilet Day Assembly socioeconomic and cultural diversity 30 24 28 29 Ubuntu Link crafty lunch

COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESPECT PRIDE INTEGRITY AMBITION COMMUNITY

Reading

Volunteers Wanted





Just a small amount of your time can make a big difference in helping our young readers build confidence, fluency, and a lifelong love of books.

No experience needed – just a friendly face, a love of stories, and a willingness to listen. Whether you can spare some time once a week or a little more frequently, we would love to have you join us.

As a thank you, we will provide a free hot drink during your visit – tea, coffee, or hot chocolate, on us!

Please note: A DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check will be required for all volunteers. We will guide you through the process if needed.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact Ms Acott at jea@rws.uk.net

Thank you for helping us nurture the joy of reading in every child!



WHEN?

DROP-IN 1 - 23rd Sept 2025

INTRODUCTION

DROP-IN 2 - 13th Nov 2025

ASD & ADHD

DROP-IN 3 - 13th Jan 2026

VISUALS, PECS, MAKATON

DROP-IN 4 - 5th Mar 2026

MASKING IN GIRLS & BOYS

DROP-IN 5 - 21st April 2026

DYSLEXIA & ARFID

DROP-IN 6 - 25th June 2026

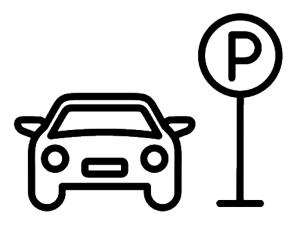
SLEEP ONSET &

SUMMER SURVIVAL!

0900-1200hrs

ALL WELCOME.

PARKING CONSIDERATELY



A gentle reminder to please park considerately when attending school events or dropping off and collecting students. Please respect our neighbours and local residents by avoiding blocking driveways or parking on verges. Thank you for your cooperation and support.



The PE department have a limited stock of our RWS bobble hats for both students and parents to purchase, perfect for the changing Autumn weather.

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







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 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

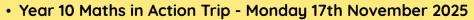
ATTENDANCE

1st Place with 98% = 7F & 7G 2nd Place with 97.3% = 7D &9G 3rd Place with 97.2% = 8F & 11C





Dates for your Diary



- RWS8 Raising Achievement Evening Wednesday 19th November 2025
- Jack Petchey Speak out Challenge Monday 24th November 2025
- Year 12 Maths in Action Trip Wednesday 26th November 2025
- Year 11 Poetry Live at the Apollo Theatre Friday 28th November 2025



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















Ravens Wood School

Welcome back!

We hope your child had a smooth and successful return to school after the half-term break. Meanwhile, RWS students didn't stop exploring - check out the incredible Geography trip to Iceland that took place over the holiday!









Ravens Wood School

Black and Green Tutor Awards

Congratulations to all students nominated by their tutors for the Black and Green awards which were presented yesterday!





Ravens Wood School

Rememberance Day

Ravens Wood School respectfully observed the national two-minute silence today in rememberance of those who have served and sacrificed. The tribute was marked by a moving performance of the Last Post by four of our students, whose rendition was both impeccable and deeply poignant. We will remember them.

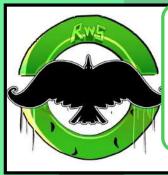




Ravens Wood School

Standing Room Only

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is underway. Standing room only for the first speech! The next one is 6:30.





Ravens Wood School

Movember at RWS

As ever, Movember is taking centre stage here at RWS - and the energy is incredible! Students and staff are coming together in full force to support this brilliant cause, taking on some truly inspiring challengers to raise awareness and funds for men's health.

Our fundraising page is here:

https:/uk.movember.com/team/2444827



Ravens Wood School William in Year 8 is going to 3D print Moustache related items (Key rings, combs, etc) and sell them to raise money for charity





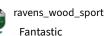


ravens_wood_sport

The Yr8b footballers progress to the next round of the KSFA Kent Cup! Another team coming out on the right side of a local derby!







performance from our Yr8a Basketball team this evening. Running out winners after a hard fought local derby! Great job boys!