

R W S

Friday 23rd January 2026



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Toby is away
this week



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move through the spring term, I would like to thank you, as always, for your continued support. The weeks since returning have been busy, purposeful, and full of opportunities for our students to learn, reflect, and plan for the future.

Last week's assemblies were led by Mr Ralph, Head of Year 11, who spoke about financial literacy. This was an informative assembly for students of the importance of understanding money management, budgeting, saving, and the value of making informed decisions—skills that will serve them well beyond school. This week, students heard from Mr Tysall, Head of History, who led assemblies on the Holocaust, as we approach Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January. These assemblies provided a powerful and thought-provoking opportunity to reflect on one of history's darkest periods, reinforcing the importance of remembrance, the dangers of intolerance, and the responsibility each of us has in standing up for kindness, respect, and humanity.

We were also pleased to welcome Year 12 families online for their first Parents' Evening on 15th January. It was fantastic to see such strong engagement, and these conversations are an important chance for families and staff to work together—checking in on the A Level and vocational subjects students have chosen, how they are settling into their courses, and the progress they are making so far. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed so positively.

This week our PSFA held their first meeting of the spring term on Monday, where they began planning fundraising events and ideas for the months ahead. We are incredibly grateful for their time, energy and commitment to enriching school life for all students. Details of future meetings or to contact the PSFA are on our website under the information tab.

On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome an external guest performer, who delivered a compelling one-man show of Jekyll and Hyde to our Year 11 students. This was a memorable and engaging way to bring literature to life, supporting students as they develop deeper understanding and confidence in their learning.

Today, our Year 9 students attended their Options Assembly, marking an important step in their journey towards GCSE study. Choosing subjects is a significant moment for students—one that requires careful thought about interests, strengths, and future aspirations. We encourage students to take time to reflect, ask questions and plan ahead so they can make choices that give them the best opportunities moving forward. Next week, we look forward to welcoming Year 9 students and their parents and carers to our Year 9 Options Evening, where families will have the chance to discuss pathways, explore subject content, and ensure students feel supported in making informed decisions.

Also today, some of our Year 10 students took part in a trip to Future Frontiers, which provided them with valuable guidance and inspiration as they begin to think more deeply about their post-16 options and longer-term ambitions.

As we head into the weekend, this time of year often brings a fresh sense of motivation and new beginnings—but it can also feel like a long stretch for students and families. January can be a month where routines and expectations are back in full swing, and it's a good moment to reflect on a simple but powerful question: What small habit could we strengthen this term that would make a big difference by Easter? Whether it's reading more regularly, improving organisation, reducing screen time in the evenings, or having a consistent sleep routine, the smallest changes often have the greatest impact over time. I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable weekend.



Ms M. Lester
Headteacher





The Headteacher Award

Term 1



Huge congratulations to **Toby** in 7A for receiving the prestigious **RWS Headteacher Award**. His hard work, dedication, and perseverance has undoubtedly contributed to his success, and we are so proud to see him thrive as part of our school community.



The Year Group Awards

Term 1



Silver Award

Arthur S
in 8A



Bronze Award

Toby W
in 7A

Daniel E
in 7A

Ben T
in 7A

Alfred F
in 7C

Charles E
in 7G

Jonathan T
in 7G

This is awarded in recognition of a student's hard work, dedication and exemplary character and highlights their commitment to our 'Black & Green' Values, as well as their consistent excellence across various areas, earning 'Teacher Points' through positive contributions both in and out of the classroom. Students were presented with their certificate and their blazer ribbon by Ms Lester.

BLACK & GREEN TUTOR AWARDS

PRIDE



A big congratulations to:

Toby W, Sean K, Alfred Y, Rory C, Joey E, Zak N, Henry T, Mentor B, Sam S, Leon M, Tobi A, Karley H, Bobby M, Alfie H-I, Max W, Hakeem G, Oneil M, Baker R, David S, Zachary G, William B, Callum M, Sam S, Kojo D, Logan McK, Callum R, Fabian L, Gio O, Aditya S, Zakir S, Tyler N, Harrison P, Benjamin R, William S, Harry S, Harry L, Max V, Daniel M, Jack S, Calum MacD, Eddie R, Evan G, Reiss G, Karina D-R, Joshua P, James Y, Betsy B, Jack F, Madeleine P, Ronnie P, Oscar A, Ryan A-S, Cruz W, Matilda S, Maia H, Anthony O'S, and Jack W, for winning the Tutor Award for **Pride**.

Above and Beyond Award



Buddy in 8A received an Above and Beyond Award for showing fantastic improvement and gaining achievement points, improved reading, and successfully gaining bike maintenance qualifications.



GERMAN EXCHANGE TRIP

Our recent German Exchange trip was an incredible adventure packed with culture, learning and unforgettable memories. From meeting our welcoming host families to exploring northern Germany, students were fully immersed in daily life abroad and had the opportunity to practise their German in real-life situations, including in lessons and watching an intense hockey competition between school classes.



One of the highlights of the trip was our visit to the Seehundstation in Norddeich, a seal rescue and rehabilitation centre on the North Sea coast. Students learned about the protection of marine life and the important work carried out to care for injured and orphaned seals. Another memorable visit was to Erchinger's pig farm. The students learnt about the importance of the Duke of Berkshire breed to the farm and got to meet some of the recently born piglets.

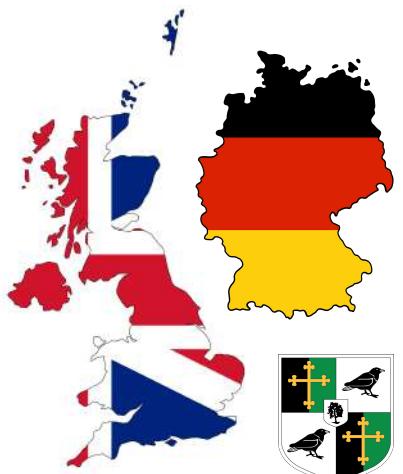
Students spent the weekend with their host families: a wide range of activities were enjoyed, including eating lots of German fare!

To round off the trip, we visited the Christmas Market in Oldenburg. With sparkling lights, traditional wooden stalls and the smell of Lebkuchen and spiced drinks in the air, the market was a magical experience. Students enjoyed trying German treats, buying souvenirs and soaking up the atmosphere in the beautiful historic town centre.



Overall, the German Exchange was an exciting experience. Students commented on “how much fun” they had, the fact they “got to have a go at lots of new German words” and how much they enjoyed experiencing a new culture.

We are already looking forward to welcoming our German partners to Ravens Wood in March.



Above and Beyond Awards



Mr Ralph for organising a great Staff Christmas Party, being a team player and an excellent mentor.



Ms Elmy for creating resources in well-being in her own time, and making the environment a place where students feel they belong.



Miss Protheroe for making Christmas Angels for the Christmas Market to raise money for school funds.



Ms Payne for her work on D of E and Outdoor Ed in absence of lead member of staff, and keeping everything running to the highest standard.



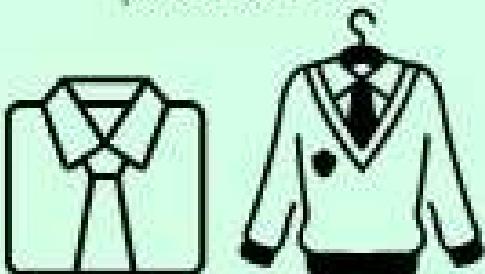
Ms Saunders for her continued work on the Guardian Angels' initiative for staff well-being.



Ms Winters for her help and support with Medical Students, helping



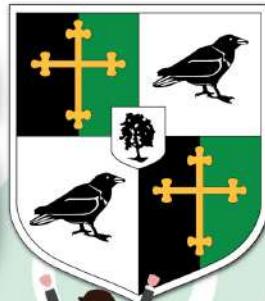
Ms Harrison for her research and work on Uniform tenders for the school, which is not part of her role.



Ms Davis for her help supporting Ms Brown with the Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

RWS 2026

CAREERS FAIR



Highlights

Networking

Apprenticeships

Further & Higher Education

Friday 30th January 2026

Learning Commons

8:50 - 15:30



richard ward[®]



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

US

UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

LONDON
SOUTH EAST
COLLEGES



University
of Exeter



GENTLY INTRODUCING 2-11 YR OLDS TO SPORT



University for the
Creative Arts



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



better together



UNIVERSITY OF
GREENWICH



est. 1993



MORGAN
SINDALL
CONSTRUCTION



METROPOLITAN
POLICE



LONDON
BIGGIN HILL
AIRPORT
BUSINESS | TRAVEL | COMMUNITY



BARCLAYS

savills

ENSIGNA
www.ensignaconstruction.co.uk

VISIT TO THE TATE BRITAIN

GCSE Art students visited TATE Britain on Friday, 9th January. Students in Year 11 are embarking on their Component 2 projects, choosing a theme from the examination board paper. The gallery provided the perfect starting point for their Externally Set Assignment, providing a wide range of Art history for inspiration. From historical old masters such as Turner, Constable and Hogarth to contemporary artists such as Tracey Emin and photographer Lee Millar. Year 11 were sketching and gathering information first hand to bring back into the classroom for development.

Mrs Hemming and Miss Abbott
Art Department



RAVENS WOOD VS DARRICK WOOD NETBALL

Our netball squad secured a great win vs Darrick Wood last week running out 29-11 winners. This was the team's biggest win since their inception in 2024. Particular strong performances from Ella (Y13), Kitty (Y12) and Player of the Match Harleigh (Y12) set the tone and the team produced some of their best netball of the season.

Well done to everyone involved.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR U13 RUGBY TEAM!



SEASON STATS

- Played: 11
- Won: 11
- Points scored: 495
- Points conceded: 105
- Points difference: +390
- Average score: 45-10

A phenomenal effort from every player — commitment, teamwork, and pride on display all season long. A group to be incredibly proud of!

REDHEART THEATRE RETURNS FOR FOURTH PERFORMANCE OF JEKYLL AND HYDE



On Tuesday 20th January, all Year 11 were given the opportunity to see a professional, one-man production of The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

With a shortage of productions and adaptations that are true to the text, Rupert brings the story accurately and engagingly to life, with just a few simple props and a clever sound and lighting set-up. Year 11 were impressed with how well he was able to do this, with many commenting that it had been an excellent recap of the text and how interesting it was to see him narrate the story as he did.

Year 11 were a credit to the school in their conduct and engagement. We know that this will be a memorable experience and a huge help with their understanding of this compulsory literature text.



RWS' Poet Laureate

We are pleased to announce that Kojo Dampson has been appointed to the role of Ravens Wood's Poet Laureate. During his tenure for the 2025-26 academic year Kojo will work with Mr Bowman and will be tasked with penning poems to mark national and whole school occasions throughout the year. Kojo's first reading will be debuting an original piece he has written celebrating the power of poetry to open our Poetry By Heart competition taking place on Tuesday February 10th. We are excited to read your work and wish you every success in your new role!

Mr Bowman



COMMUNITY VISION CFC, WOODBINE GROVE, SE20 8UX

Monday 2nd February 10:00am - 11:30am

IASS Drop-in
Session X



Would you like guidance on supporting a child or young person with special educational needs and/or a disability?

Join our drop-in session! It's the perfect chance to meet our fantastic team and dive into all things education, health and care.

For more details, contact centre staff on 020 8778 2970, or reach out to the IASS team: iass@bromley.gov.uk or 020 8461 7630.



KENT SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday 17th January at Central Park, Dartford saw hundreds of runners from Kent schools turn up for the highly competitive Kent Schools Cross Country Championships.

To enter this race you have to be selected by the Bromley District co-ordinator and eleven RWS students made the cut after competing in the Bromley schools events. Unfortunately we were two down due to injury and illness but that left nine students toeing the start line to help secure Bromley team prizes and get a chance to be selected to run for Kent.

Alex R, Seb E and Ish K all had great runs in the year 7 race; finishing within 8 seconds of each other. All made the top 50 in a field of well over a hundred runners.



Zach E and Billy P were part of the Junior Boys race. Zach, a year young in the age group, had a fantastic run managing to secure the bronze medal and getting automatic selection to run for Kent in the English schools race. Billy finished in an excellent 21st and is in a strong position to also be selected.

Benj E and Matthew T ran in the Inter Boys race. Benj was part of the scoring team finishing a little outside the top 30. Both boys were running a year young in this age group.



Finally, Nathan C and Ryan A-S were part of the Bromley team in the Senior Boys race. Nathan had a very strong finish managing to edge just into the top 10 in 9th place with Ryan finishing in an impressive 24th.

Bromley dominated the team prizes, winning a medal in each category: Year 7 and Inter boys won Gold, Junior boys got the Silver medal and Inter boys the Bronze.

Well done to each and every RWS runner that took part. All of you contributed to the Bromley team spirit and you were praised by the District Coordinator for your conduct, behaviour and attitude. Huge congratulations to all!

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

Head of PSHE
Ms Brown

Year	PSHE topic of the fortnight	The Wellbeing Hub resources
7	Stereotyping and discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Challenging stereotypes and believing in everyone's potential 2. Understanding microaggressions in schools 3. Discussion on diversity, inclusion and belonging
8	County lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. County lines – what every parent needs to know 2. NSPCC – protecting children from county lines
9	Understanding sexual consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	Sexual harassment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action breaks silence podcast 2. Sexual offences involving young people 3. Talking to your child about pornography 4. Understanding sexual abuse 5. How to talk to young people about consent
11	Debit, credit and loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	Catfishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What age can you use dating apps and are they safe? 2. What is sextortion and what should I do if it happens? 3. National Crime Agency sextortion warning 4. Supporting victims of AI generated image extortion
13	Social media and dangerous online content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The connection between self esteem and social media 2. How to make social media a positive place for you 3. Steps to take when social media affects your wellbeing 4. What shall I do about harmful content on social media 5. Radicalisation – what every parent needs to know

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
or scan the QR code below to get started.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ravens-wood-fund>



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% = 7D

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

3rd Place with 96.3% = 10D



Dates for your Diary

- Year 10 Assessments - Monday 26th - Friday 30th January 2026
- Year 9 Options Evening - Wednesday 28th January 2026
- Year 11 Poetry Live at the Apollo Theatre - Thursday 29th January 2026
- Year 8 Parents Evening - Thursday 29th January 2026
- Career's Fair - Friday 30th January 2026
- RWS Scholars applying for Oxbridge Session - Wednesday 4th February 2026
- Year 12 Research Matters Trip to British Library - Thursday 5th February 2026
- Ski Trip \student Meeting - Thursday 5th February 2026





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**

Congratulations to our U14s!

Finishing the season in style with a fantastic win over Brighton College.

A huge thank you to Mr Lovell for all his hard work and commitment throughout the season, and credit to the boys for their dedication, effort, and teamwork week in, week out. A season to be proud of!



 **ravens_wood_sport**
Great way to kick off 2026 for our 1stVII netball squad vs Darrick Wood this week.

Starting the year with a win and with their highest ever scoring performance



Students received their Bronze and Silver Headteacher Awards this week. Well done on an amazing achievement!



Black and Green Tutor Awards

We were delighted to celebrate the students nominated by their tutors for this year's Black and Green Pride Awards. A huge well done to all of our inspiring awardees!



 **ravens_wood_sport**
Great end to the term for the Netball squad with 2 games vs Gravesend Grammar School this afternoon. The 2ndVII, playing in their 3rd ever fixture, gave it their all, but credit to GGS who were strong for us today. Our 1stVII make it back to back wins in a hard fought 13-9 win.

Player of the Match K Jeffery and T Shilland