



Cultural Celebrations  
on Page 2



Educational  
Visits on Page 3



Library Bulletin on  
Page 5



Twitter on Page 11

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W  
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Friday 15th  
December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Seasons Greetings! Welcome to our last newsletter of 2023. I am sure lots of us are counting down to Christmas! I wanted to share a reminder regarding arrangements for the end of term and the start of the spring term in 2024; which were in the letter sent on 7th December, and can be found on the school website 'Information/Letters Home' section.

#### **Tuesday 19th December - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day**

Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings will be available, at a cost of £3.50. Those in receipt of free school meals will be able to purchase this meal and will be subsidised by the school. Tuesday is also our Charity Christmas Jumper Day, where students are invited to wear a colourful or Christmas themed jumper, along with their uniform. School trousers, shirts and ties must be worn. Participation is voluntary and a suggested £2 donation can be made via ParentPay from Friday 15th December. All proceeds will be split between Save the Children charity and our school's chosen charity, Cardiac Risk in the Young.

#### **Wednesday 20th December – last day of term**

A reminder that we finish early on Wednesday 20th December, and students will be dismissed from 12.10 onwards.

#### **Thursday 4th January 2024 - First day of spring term**

Students should arrive in school promptly for a 10.50am registration with Form Tutors. Students will then go to period 3 at 11.10am. Please remember that we return to School on a week A timetable. The school canteen will be open for students at lunchtime only on Thursday 4th January.

Our German Exchange students had a wonderful trip and returned on Wednesday. We hope they all enjoyed this visit and have really honed their language skills, you can read more about this on Page 3.

I would like to extend a huge congratulations for those students who participated in the Christmas Concert on Wednesday evening and we can't wait to see the second show, taking place on Monday 18th December. We know how hard you have been working and we have all enjoyed getting into the festive spirit as we have heard your rehearsals ringing around the school over the last week. Well done and thank you to all involved, including our fantastic music department.

Congratulations to our first ever U18 girls football team winners, who beat Beths Grammar School 7 - 0! We are also delighted for our Year 13 player Bethany, who has been called to the first team at Tottenham Hotspur, this is an amazing achievement.

Sadly, our RWS journey to the U18 National Vase came to an end on Wednesday, in a last minute defeat by Mill Hill School. Thank you to everyone who came to support in the rainy conditions, and to our players, we are immensely proud of you all!

Have a wonderful festive break,

*Ms M. Lester*  
Headteacher



# Cultural Celebrations - Hanukkah



Students had the opportunity to participate in the second cultural workshop of the academic year; looking at the celebration of Hanukkah.

A display of hanukkiot (Hanukkah menorahs) helped set the scene for understanding why the festival is celebrated and why it is an important moment in the Jewish calendar; Mr Tysall was on hand to explain the hanukkiot, answer questions and explain Hanukkah in more detail for students.



There was then the opportunity to sample some latkes, sufganiyot and other Hanukkah treats, before students were able to chance their hand and win chocolate coins in a game or two of dreidel.

A huge thanks to Mr Marriott and the Sixth Form Student Leadership team for their support in organising the event.

Mr Tysall, Head of History



## Annual Bebras Challenge—Results

In November a number of RWS students took part in UK Bebras 2023.

We had a fantastic set of results with a total of 25 students achieving the Gold award for being in the top 10% of the country for their year group. Some of our year 7 students are shown here receiving their certificates.

These students will now be invited to take part in the Oxford University Computing Challenge in the week of 15th January. The Challenge is an invitation only event to encourage students to develop their skills further and produce programmed solutions to computational thinking problems.

We wish all our students taking part the best of luck in the challenge and look forward to sharing news of their achievements in 2024.

Miss Boswell  
Head of Computer Science





On 6th December, a group of 15 students from RWS11 went on a visit to Bromley College. This was to give them an insight into the courses that Bromley (part of London South East Colleges) offer post 16, once they have completed their GCSEs. We had a good look around the different areas of the college -in particular the practical courses that interested the students, such as Motor Vehicle, Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry and Bricklaying. We also bumped into some ex students who were busy working on their Level 1 and Level 2 courses, and were able to give some first-hand feedback to our current students looking to follow in their footsteps.



## Imperial College London

On Wednesday 6th December a group of 15 year 12 STEM students had a trip to Imperial College London to hear about some of the exciting courses they run and to have a tour of the campus. Due to a change of travel plans, we arrived in early and took full advantage of the close proximity to the Natural History Museum. The students had 50mins for a whistle stop tour of the Museum, including a chance to stand in the Earthquake room and where Ms Winter got to build her own arachnid. Arriving at Imperial College, we were shown into the lecture theatre where we first listened to an interactive lecture on Bioengineering, contrary to popular belief you did not actually have to study Biology to access the course. Students had hands on experience of looking at knee and hip joints as well as prosthetic legs. Then we listened to a lecture on Physics and in particular focussing on the Sun and its surface. Likening the Sun to a pot of boiling tomato soup, we found out that some of the Sun Spots seen on the surface are bigger than the Earth and can eject radiation that could wipe out communication on Earth and affect all electronics. The final lecture was on Material Science where using ideas that nature has already perfected, we looked at how this could be applied to practical ideas like Geko Tape which while easy to peel off substances was impossible to remove when two surfaces were stuck together.

Also investigating the fact that iridescent colours in nature are not real colours ,but due to the construction of the feathers and how this applies to making iridescent materials also grabbed the students attention. We completed the day with a tour of the campus and with the students contemplating areas of STEM that they had not previously thought about. Mrs Bristow and Ms Winter.



## German Exchange



A group of 15 Year 8 to 10 students have just returned from a successful German Exchange trip to Leer in Ostfriesland.

Whilst there, they had the opportunity to experience lessons in a German school and to learn about the important trading history of Leer and its relationship with England. Alpaca and llama trekking introduced everybody to the bracing (and damp!) East Frisian countryside, whilst a trip to Oldenburg with their exchange partners allowed the students to take in the sights, sounds, smells and, yes, tastes of a proper German Christmas Market.

Students commented about the trip:

"I really enjoyed visiting Leer and experiencing German family life."

"I learnt independence and lots of new vocabulary."

"I met lots of new friends."

"I would recommend the trip as it's good life experience and you get to visit new places."

All of the boys involved demonstrated the very best of lead, learn, excel and all involved are proud to say „wir sind schwarz und grün“

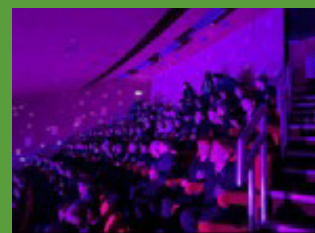
Everybody is now looking forward to welcoming the German teachers and students to Bromley in 2024.

Miss Hemetsberger and Mr Tysall

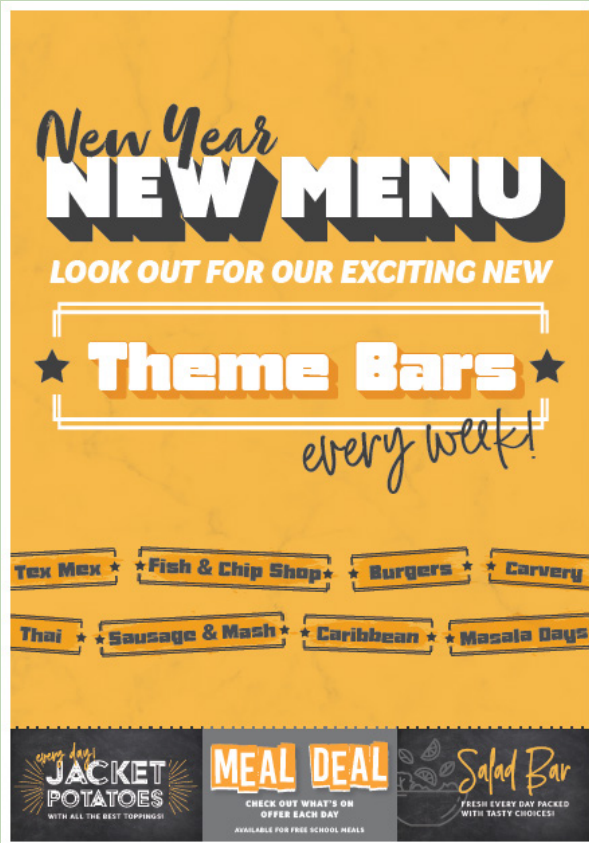


## Christmas Panto trip for Year 7

Our Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed Cinderella in Pantomime at Bromley's Churchill Theatre, on Wednesday 6th December, where fun was had by had by all! Thanks to our Year 7 Form Tutors and Pastoral Team for accompanying the boys for this festive treat.



# Accent Catering



Accent Catering are pleased to introduce some new and exciting menus from January 2024. Due to rising food costs, there will be some increases to pricing, however we are increasing our meal deal offer, to give students great value options.

From January, the following meal deals will be available for £3.00.

Main Meal and Home Bake dessert

Large Pasta Pot and a Home Bake

Baguette and a Home Bake

Simple Sandwich, Home Bake and a small still water

Please look out for updated menus on the school website and ensure your child's ParentPay is topped up ready for the spring term. Please also check if limits are set to ensure students can purchase food at break and lunch if needed.



## Celebrating students



Our Headteacher, Ms Lester, was delighted to meet with the group of students in the above picture, who are the first in our school to receive the prestigious 'Above and Beyond' student award. The award is for any student who has achieved 'Above and Beyond' in any field, for example, sporting, academic, creative arts or extracurricular activities.

The group consisted of Bethany, who has been selected to play for a premieriership 1st Team football club, Joshua, who was selected to represent England in the Indoor Pentathlon event at Cardiff, and Daniel, George, Freddie, George and Max, who recently came first in the Geography GA Worldwide Quiz. Congratulations go to all of these students on their fantastic achievements.





**275 books  
loaned out  
this term!**



## Festive Recycling



**95 New  
Books!**



As the holiday season is upon us, we are delighted to share some festive cheer and creativity happening in the library this term.

Some of our wonderful students have been helping out in their lunch times, participating in a unique and Eco-friendly initiative - transforming damaged or dated books into festive themed art. It is an innovative way to re-purpose materials and spread Christmas joy around the library & beyond.

## Book Donation Drive

In the spirit of giving, we're also launching a Book Donation Drive. If you have gently used books at home that could use a new home, please consider donating them to our library. Your contributions will help expand our collection and promote the love for reading. Thank you to all those who have already donated some wonderful books, your support is very much appreciated. To get in touch, please contact us at [library@rws.uk.net](mailto:library@rws.uk.net).



## New Displays!

Every month our aim in the library is to have a new display, keeping the library current and exciting; they are not just decorative but gateways to knowledge, curiosity and fun. This month's immersive display has been taking our students on a global journey, showcasing diverse holiday traditions, customs and festivities from different cultures. From Sauna culture in Scandinavia to the lively street parades in South America. Each section is a mini cultural adventure, promoting respect and appreciation for diversity.

**Top Genre:  
Sci-Fi &  
Fantasy.**

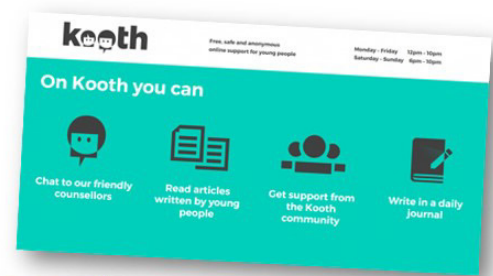




# Safeguarding

## FAO: All students

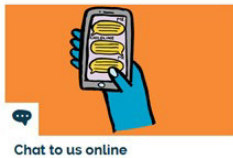
With the Christmas Holidays coming up, please make sure you know where to go if you feel worried or unsafe. Teachers and talk@ will not be checking emails so use the resources below:



CALL, CHAT ONLINE OR EMAIL US



Call us on 0800 1111



Chat to us online



Email us



## Staff Vacancy



**Ravens Wood School**  
**Invigilators**  
**£10.50 per hour**

We are currently looking to expand our invigilator team and have a number of positions available.

The successful candidates will be employed on a casual basis to supervise our students during their examinations throughout the school year, including mock exams.

We offer full training and induction for this vital role.

You will:

- Be organised
- Be enthusiastic
- Be confident in communicating positively with students

In return we can offer you:

- A friendly working environment
- A 24/7 Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)
- An on-site fitness suite available for free use by staff
- Excellent catering facilities including a coffee shop

We are committed to equality of opportunity for all our staff. We particularly welcome applicants from ethnic minority backgrounds as they are currently under-represented on our staff body.

We recognise the vital contribution that members of a diverse team make to our students learning. The range of cultural experiences, differing viewpoints and role models this brings is essential in our Trust and we recognise the gap that would be left in our offering without these.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Employees of the Trust must uphold Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

To apply please download an Application Form from our website under Support Staff vacancies at [www.ravenswood.bromley.sch.uk](http://www.ravenswood.bromley.sch.uk)

Closing Date: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 9am

For enquiries please contact Jo Acott on: [jobs@rws.uk.net](mailto:jobs@rws.uk.net) or Ravens Wood School, Oakley Road, Bromley, BR2 8HP, Tel: 01689 856050 Fax: 01689 869948. Ravens Wood School is part of the Impact Multi Academy Trust

## Design Technology

This week some of our Year 8 & 9 students have been constructing and painting model racing cars in Design Technology. They have been developing their team work skills working collaboratively in small groups, making huge progress with following instructions, attention and listening.





Please, please, please, can I  
have an e-scooter AND ...



A £300 fine

Fixed Penalty Notice for no insurance

Six penalty points on my drivers licence

E-scooters are **illegal** to use in all public areas in Bromley.  
You can only ride an e-scooter on private land with the  
landowner's permission.

OR

As part of the government  
trial rental scheme, **Bromley**  
**is not** part of this scheme.

For more information visit  
[bromley.gov.uk/e-scooters](http://bromley.gov.uk/e-scooters)

Or scan the QR code



**e-scooters**  
**are illegal in Bromley**  
**except on private land with the**  
**landowners permission!**



Supported by



## e-scooters and the law

Under Government regulations, e-scooters are classed as 'powered transporters' – a term used to cover a variety of novel and emerging personal transport devices which are powered by a motor.

This means they are treated as a motor vehicle and subject to the same legal requirements such as MOT, licensing, tax and insurance.

As e-scooters don't have number plates, signal ability and don't always have a visible rear light, they can't be used legally on the roads.

Their use is also prohibited on cycle lanes and pavements.

e-scooters are currently only legal to ride on:  
- private land with the landowner's permission,  
**or**  
- as part of a Government trial rental scheme, which Bromley is not part of.

Any **illegal** e-scooters stopped by the Police can be seized, and riders can be **fined in excess of £300.**

Scan the QR code for  
more information





# Christian Union

RWS Christian Union is a student-led group of Christians who come together every Friday lunchtime to read and discuss the bible. Every session has something new and profound which is meant to help everyone there. We sometimes watch videos or listen to someone's faith story. Another benefit of the club is that there are always biscuits!

This term, we've been going through the Gospel of Mark. Personally, I have to say that the talks given really do help me and I have taken a lot of them on board. The material is delivered by students. We have even had a Year 7 deliver an amazing talk! In each session we discuss how each passage can be applied to our lives as teenagers and as Christians.

In our opinion, it is of the utmost importance that those who identify as Christians can have a group of like-minded friends at school. We believe that having a congregation of fellow Christians beside you is amazing, because it helps you stay strong in your faith, and you are also able to help others in their faith too. The love and care everyone in the Christian Union has for each other is remarkable and incredibly encouraging.

Surprisingly, we are also visited by several atheists as well in the fellowship. We're a group that enjoys having new people that don't even practice the faith. We have discussions which can enjoy.

!Do feel free to pop in and see what we're up to.

Shiloh, Year 11

## Health Matters

Young People and their healthcare rights, Art Competition;

<https://www.transformationpartners.nhs.uk/children-and-young-peoples-healthcare-rights-arts-competition/>



### Children and young people's healthcare rights arts competition



#### Creating change and empowering children and young people to know their healthcare rights.

Over the next few months, the NHS in London and our partners are inviting children and young people to enter a creative arts competition, so you can express your views and help us learn what matters most to you.

#### Enter the competition today

You have until **midnight on Friday 26 January 2024** to enter.

#### Find more information about the competition below...

##### When does the competition close?

Entries can be made until midnight on **Friday 26 January**.

##### Is there a prize?

Yes, competition winners will be decided by a judging panel and contacted in February next year.

##### What art work can I enter?

You can submit one entry which you have created. You can submit a cartoon, illustration, a copy of a painting or drawing, a poem, photography, or a short video (this might be a film, a recording of a song, or spoken word). **Please note: we can only accept digital submissions through our competition entry form.**

##### Who can enter?

There are two categories to enter with prizes for the winning entries:

- 10 years and under
- 11-25

If you have any other questions about this competition, please contact us on this email address: [england.cyptransformationlondon@nhs.uk](mailto:england.cyptransformationlondon@nhs.uk).



#### Public Health

Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH

Telephone: 020 8464 3333

Direct line: 020 8313 4769

Internet: [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)

Email: [Nada.lemic@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:Nada.lemic@bromley.gov.uk)

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear parent / guardian,

As we enter the winter and holiday season, it is important to be aware that viruses such as flu circulate more during this time and are especially common in young children. Flu can be a very unpleasant illness in children, some may even need to go to hospital for treatment, including intensive care.

It's not too late for your child to have their flu vaccine this year, if they missed it in school, please contact the Bromley School Age Immunisation Team on 0203 903 3375 or by email on: [Hrch.ImmunisationTeamBromleyMailbox@nhs.net](mailto:Hrch.ImmunisationTeamBromleyMailbox@nhs.net), up until the end of January 2024.

There are some concerns that have been voiced by parents about the nasal flu vaccine, so we thought to provide some information to commonly asked questions below:

#### Safety of the vaccine:

The nasal flu vaccine is offered to all children each year, it contains a live attenuated (weakened) influenza virus which helps protect against influenza infection in those who receive it. Over 25 million doses of the nasal spray have now been given in the UK and it has an excellent safety profile. All vaccines go through a regulatory approval process to ensure they meet strict safety and effectiveness checks.

#### Effectiveness of the vaccine:

The vaccine is highly effective and studies have shown a 93% reduction in hospital admissions due to confirmed influenza and a 94% reduction in GP consultations for influenza-like illness in primary school children. The vaccine also reduces the chance of children spreading the flu to others who could be at greater risk of flu, such as grandparents or those with long term health conditions.

#### Exposure to virus from the vaccine:

A very small dose of vaccine fluid (around 1/50<sup>th</sup> of a teaspoon) is given in each nostril. No 'mist' of vaccine virus escapes into the air and therefore other people in the room are not at risk of "catching" the vaccine virus. During the extensive use of the vaccine over many years in the UK, no transmission of the vaccine virus from the nasal spray has been reported to date.

#### Shedding of vaccine virus in those vaccinated:

Although vaccinated children do shed a small amount of vaccine virus for a few days after vaccination, the virus does not survive for long outside of the body and the dose is below that normally needed to infect others. There is no need for any child or staff member to be excluded from school during the period when the nasal flu vaccine is being offered or in the following weeks. This is in contrast to natural flu infection, which spreads easily during

the flu season. In schools where most children are vaccinated the overall risk from influenza virus is massively reduced. Children with immune problems, and their siblings and family contacts, should themselves be vaccinated, usually with an injected (inactivated) vaccine.

For more information, please see:

[Child flu vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

[Flu vaccine | Vaccine Knowledge Project \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk)

Yours sincerely

*Nada Lemic*

Dr Nada Lemic  
Director of Public Health  
London Borough of Bromley

## Dates for your Diary

Christmas Concert - Monday 18th December

Christmas Lunch (£3.50) and Christmas Jumper Day (£2) - Tuesday 19th December

Last day of term - Wednesday 20th December

Wednesday 3rd January - INSET Day

Thursday 4th January - Students Return to School at 10.50am

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



### Attendance

1st Place with 98% - 7E

2nd Place with 97% - 7A

3rd Place with 96% - 11A







**The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.**

**We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.**

**This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.**

Scan the QR code to  
take part



 **CHILDREN'S  
COMMISSIONER**

[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)



# RWS PE, Sport & Outdoor Education Department



**RWS PE, Sport & Outdoor Education Department @RWSPE · Dec 5**  
Congratulations to year 10 student Josh for another outstanding achievement in athletics.

Josh represented England and secured the win in the U16 Boys SIAB Pentathlon and had PBs in every event! 🌟

[bbharriersac.org.uk/siab-u16-penta...](http://bbharriersac.org.uk/siab-u16-penta...)

#BlackandGreen

#Leader

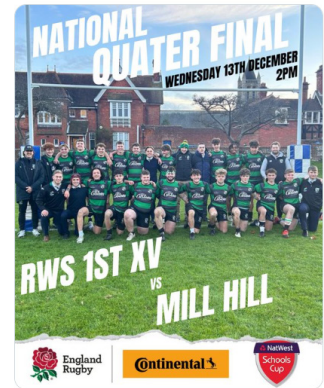
#Athletics



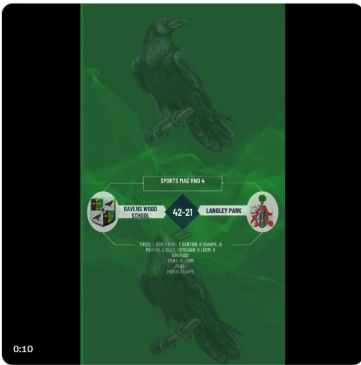
**RWS PE, Sport & Outdoor Education Department @RWSPE · Dec 6**  
Continental Tyres Schools Cup: NATIONAL VASE 1/4 FINAL

VS: MillHill  
Ravens Wood School  
U18 National Vase 1/4 Final  
14:00  
13th December  
www.schoolsports  
Ravens\_wood\_sport

Show more



**RWS PE, Sport & Outdoor Education Department @RWSPE · Dec 11**  
Congratulations to our U14's for progressing into the last 16 of the Sports Mag National Cup. A great performance against a strong and skilful Langley Park side.



**Ravens Wood School @rw\_school · 20h**  
Unfortunately our first XV rugby team lost their 1/4 final this afternoon (14-19). A great performance but just short. Good luck to Mill Hill.  
#WeAreBlackandGreen



Ravens Wood School reposted

**RWS PE, Sport & Outdoor Education Department @RWSPE · Dec 6**  
History made today with our first ever U18 girls win! The girls were amazing.

Goals from M. Beswick 🏆, L. Wootton 🏆, M. Neath 🏆, M. Mooney-Clarke 🏆 and M. Howliston 🏆  
LoM - M. Neath and M. Howliston

#blackandgreen #rwsfootball #history #girls



Liked by rathbone\_market and others

**ravens\_wood\_sport** A huge congratulations to Y13 PE student Beth who will be attending Indianapolis University next year through their football scholarship programme!

In addition to this, Beth got her first call up for the @spurswomen 1st team today! 🎉

A huge achievement by a brilliant student!

#leader #ladiesfootball #RWS13



**RWS PE, Sport & Outdoor Education Department @RWSPE · Dec 11**  
Our ever popular bobble hats are back on sale for students and parents on ParentPay for £12.50.

Perfect for the changing winter weather, when supporting our students pitchside & make great Xmas stocking presents too!

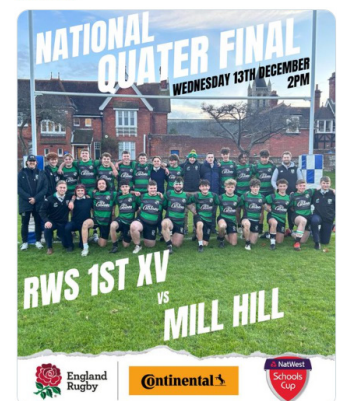
Available to collect from Reception from now!



**RWS PE, Sport & Outdoor Education Department @RWSPE · Dec 6**  
Continental Tyres Schools Cup: NATIONAL VASE 1/4 FINAL

VS: MillHill  
Ravens Wood School  
U18 National Vase 1/4 Final  
14:00  
13th December  
www.schoolsports  
Ravens\_wood\_sport

Show more





**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

@rw\_school

@rwspe

@RWSMusicDept



**Ravens Wood School @rw\_school · Dec 11**  
Our German exchange students spent a wet morning walking with some friendly German llamas and alpacas. They also got to feed some sheep and chickens! ❤️❤️  
#GermanExchange #ModernLanguages #WeAreBlackandGreen



14 758

**Ravens Wood School @rw\_school · 19h**  
A mix of year 12 & 13 students have had a great time finding out about the future of Nuclear Fusion at the Joint European Torus. #STEM #TOKAMAK #JET ❤️❤️



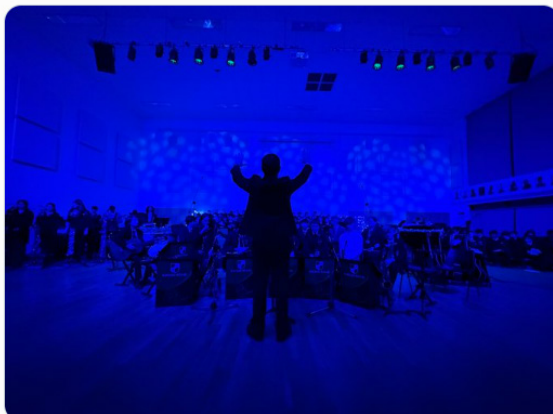
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**Ravens Wood School @rw\_school · Dec 12**  
Our first XV rugby team are in the quarter final of the National Vase this week. #WeAreBlackandGreen ❤️❤️❤️



1 11 749

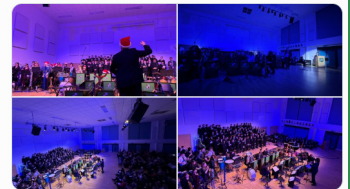
**Ravens Wood School @rw\_school · 19h**  
Act one of the Concert for Christmas is complete! Some amazing performances and we look forward to Act two... #LearnLeadExcel ❤️❤️🎄



11 369



**Ravens Wood School @rw\_school · 15h**  
The Concert for Christmas has concluded. An amazing evening full of incredible performances. Thanks to the students and teachers! #LearnLeadExcel #WeAreBlackandGreen ❤️❤️



13 494

**Ravens Wood School @rw\_school · Dec 6**  
Our Year 7 students were rewarded with a trip to the panto this afternoon! They had an amazing time watching Cinderella at @TheChurchill #WeAreBlackandGreen ❤️❤️🎄



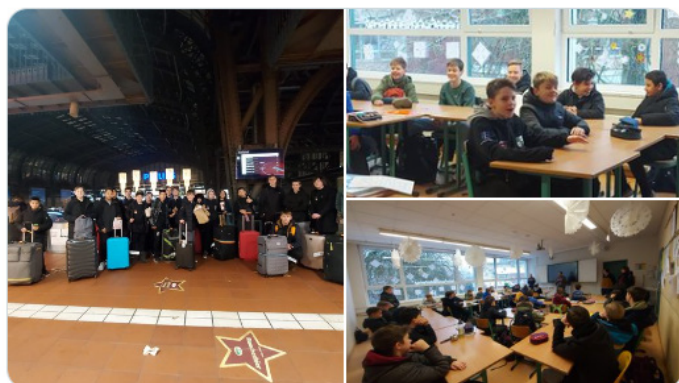
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**Ravens Wood School @rw\_school · Dec 12**  
Some amazing drumming during rehearsals for the Christmas concert! #LearnLeadExcel #WeAreBlackandGreen 🎵❤️❤️



1 14 905

**Ravens Wood School @rw\_school · Dec 8**  
After a very late arrival last night, our German exchange students received a warm welcome this morning from Herr Wieligmann, the head teacher of our partner school Teletta-Groß-Gymnasium in Leer. 🇩🇪  
#GermanExchange #ModernLanguages #LearnLeadExcel ❤️❤️



16 1.1K

#WeAreBlackAndGreen

