

Prep School



Summer Term 2025

Wow! This term has had everything in terms of weather conditions: May was wet and June is roasting – but despite that, the one consistent factor has been all the smiles alongside the positive energy in, and around, the Prep School, and I am delighted to feel that we could not have packed anything else into such a busy Summer Term, and I hope you will enjoy looking through some of the highlights in these pages.

In both of our Prize Giving ceremonies, I spoke about the varied and holistic nature of our Prep School education, and how proud I am of all our pupils who are always representing Runnymede – even when out of school. Our list of achievements is rather impressive and includes trophies in football, volleyball, swimming, cross country, skiing, mathematics, IAPS English and much more – all while working incredibly hard in class. What's more, it was a great highlight to put on *Bugsy Malone* at the busiest part of the year, and to see many children having fun. After all, schools are not just places where children go to learn. They are communities where human connection is everything, and where each child matters.

Runnymede is somewhere where laughter and rigour live side by side, and where fun is not a distraction from learning, but a vital part of it. I am always happiest when children are up out of their seats, curating or creating something or sometime which will remain part of their educational journeys.

Thank you so much for the constant support of our pupils, and of our Prep School.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break.

| **Duncan Bailey** Prep School Headmaster

Parque Europa Trip

Parque Europa is a park outside of Madrid that contains many different monuments and statues from around Europe and Year 4 had the privilege of participating in a workshop there in June. Two of the monuments that they visited were the Trevi Fountain and the Eiffel Tower.



The Trevi Fountain

The Trevi fountain is an Italian fountain located in Rome. Usually people throw coins in it to wish themselves good luck. This fountain represents a statue of Poseidon a well known Roman God. To the right side of the fountain it represents an agitated sea and to the left a calm, blue sea. The coins people throw go to charity! Did you know that the Trevi fountain is made up of the same material as the colosseum! It is made up from travertine stone which means “from the Tiber” in Latin words. A mineral made of calcium carbonate formed from spring waters, especially hot springs, the likely source was the city of Tivoli, about 22 miles from Rome!



The Eiffel Tower

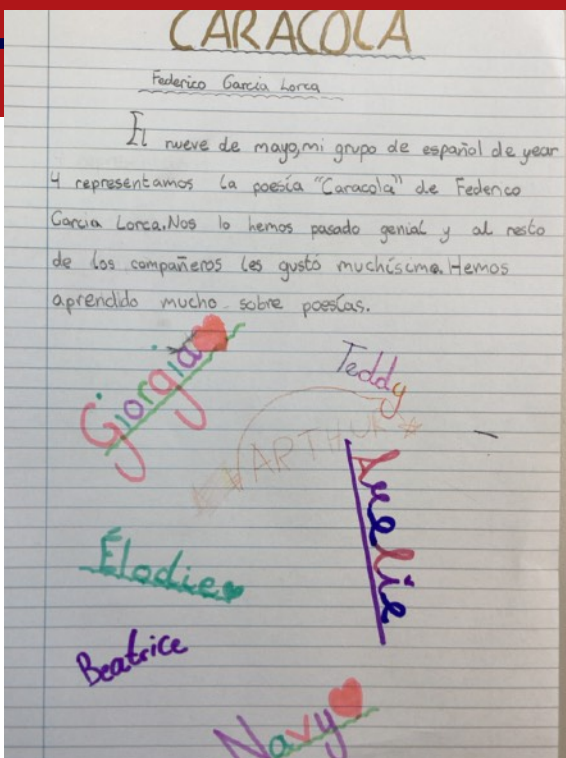
As we moved on to the Eiffel Tower the guide interviewed us and asked them what we knew about the Eiffel Tower, many people said that the Eiffel Tower was 366 metres tall! Also the Eiffel Tower’s inventor was called Gustav Eiffel and you can actually see his lab in the Eiffel Tower these days. It was built in 1887. Did you know it’s covered in names of scientists? Eiffel and his engineers aren’t the only ones whose names are inextricably linked to the tower-72. French scientists and engineers’ names are engraved into the iron that surrounds the Tower’s first floor, including physicist Leon Foucault, chemist Jean-Baptiste Dumas and mathematician François Perrier. While the names were painted over in the early 20th century, they were restored in the 1980s.

Pen Pal Project: Madrid to London

Compañeros de Correspondencia

Esta historia empezó como empieza toda buena historia, con más ilusión que palabras. Desde Londres nos llegó el rumor de que había unos estudiantes de Y4 ávidos por aprender a escribir en español. Sin pensarlo dos veces, cogimos lápiz y papel y nos pusimos manos a la obra. ¡Nos escribiríamos cartas! Las ideas se agolpaban en nuestras cabezas, los lapiceros corrían por el papel y las ganas por saber lo hacían todo más emocionante. Y así las cartas fueron viajando. ¡Qué ilusión mandar las primeras! ¡Qué emocionante leer sus respuestas! ¡Qué fantástico descubrir desde clase otros mundos! ¡Qué vivencias tan parecidas a pesar de la distancia! ¡Qué experiencias tan diferentes aun teniendo los mismos años! Y así las cartas fueron de nuevo viajando.

| Ms. Gil Spanish & Lengua teacher



Spanish Class: Caracola Poem



Layos Residential Week

Rock-climbing, archery, golf, paddle, swimming races, fencing, zip-wires, cookery, bouldering, tennis, team-building challenges... just some of the fun activities which the children of Year 4 enjoyed during their amazing three days away at Layos Camp. Add to that a sunset walk, an exciting disco, great food, and time to enjoy being with friends and class-mates, all with wonderful care and leadership from amazing monitors, the children had a wonderful time and met some character-building challenges. Their behaviour and attitude was wonderful throughout, and we were very proud of them all.

Mr. Moore **Head of English Prep School**



This is a camp, located in Toledo, where Year 4 were lucky enough to stay for two nights with their best friends!

Beatrice and Hugo 4Q



Gredos Residential Week

Year 5 had an unforgettable residential trip to Layos, Gredos—a week packed with adventure, laughter, and memories to last a lifetime! As we boarded the bus, there was a real sense of excitement mixed with nerves. The challenge ahead felt big and many of us were unsure of what to expect. Those nerves soon melted away however, as we arrived in the stunning setting of Gredos, surrounded by rolling fields of cherry trees, crystal-clear rivers, and beautiful views. Our new home for the week quickly became a place of joy, exploration, and teamwork. Each day brought a fresh wave of activities—from sporty favourites like rounders, croquet and archery, to the thrilling challenges of rock climbing, scavenger hunts and a zip line.

One of the most memorable days was our full-day trip to a spectacular monastery, where we soaked in the beauty and history of the site. The adventure didn't end there—we capped off the day by exploring and leaping into rock pools, which was a refreshing and exhilarating way to cool off! Evenings were just as exciting. From theatre performances to epic limbo battles at the disco, every night was filled with energy, creativity, and laughter. By the end of the trip, we returned exhausted but with arms full of cherries, hearts full of memories and minds buzzing with stories to tell. We made new friends, overcame fears and learned so much about ourselves and each other. It truly was the perfect way to wrap up a fantastic year at Runnymede in Year 5.

Ms. May Year 5 Form Tutor

















Restaurant Français

This term while studying French, 5C has welcomed a new way of bringing learning into our every day lives; using the skills we learnt over the past few weeks.

As we practiced basic things we thought it would be nice to share our learning process and developing ability's to experience a day in the French world and get to know it further on. We hadn't imagined how fun it would be to embrace the Runnymede community; honoured by the people how took time to visit, and how the room ended up full of laughter. When setting up, we all waited impatiently for our guests to arrive. We tried to make everyone going in or out the door welcome, the most remarkable sight was to see their bright smiles and of course many didn't really understand our vocabulary but we enjoyed helping them too. While exploring this deeply we noticed that not only were we having fun but it turned out to be a success.

Time passed euphorically, as the food was devoured delectably. We practiced our language but in any case of memory forgetfulness we had a little cheat sheet, which we used once or twice. Before this event, we had prepared are little own menu's and due to this it accompanied the creativity that whirled above us. Without the help of our French teacher Mr Spillane this wouldn't have been so great. All of the class was only grateful for the time our French teacher had taken to organise this. It will remain one of our highlights of the year.



RESTAURANT DE				
lam flore				
ENTRÉES				
Une sandwich de tomates et thon		2,80€ 4,90€		
Une Oeuf Mayonnaise		1,90€		
Une sandwich de fromage				
PLATS				
Salade aux tomates, thon, fromage		13,00€		
Spaghettis bolognaise		10,00€		
Frites		13,00€		
Croquette de poulet		14€		
Soupe		2,33€ 10€		
DESSERTS		BOISSONS		
4,75€ Gâteau chocolat fraise		soda		1,75€
1€ Gâteau chocolat pistache		jus de fruit		3,20€
fraise, vanille		vin de vin		4,50€

| Alejandra 5C



This term 5C recreated a French restaurant and served many different clients. Each time someone came in they were ask if they had a reservation. They were also asked if wanted to sit indoors or outside (of course the wasn't really choice). After that they were shown to there tables and given some time to think about what they wanted to order. When they were ready they order they told the students what they would like however all they really got was; water to drink, crisps for any starters or main courses and a small chocolate biscuit for desert. Some of the customers were: Mr. Bailey, Mrs. Martin, Ms May and many more. Sometimes even the students would volunteer to be customers! Mr Spillane their teacher- had taught the servers all they needed to know about how to run a French restaurant. Some of the most common items on the menu's were: steak, salad and of course snails! It was very enjoyable because the students got to have fun serving the teachers and the teachers got to have a small snack.

| Dalia 5C



Kor Camp: Residential Trip

Year six went on an unforgettable residential trip to Kor Camp this term. The trip was an emotional rollercoaster. It was an opportunity to try new things like canyoning, which included jumping off rocks and gliding down natural slides, and sleeping under the stars in tents. We played endless amounts of sports in house colours with Year 7, and the house that earned points for each activity lifted the cup on the last day! Well done Austen for being the winners. There were lots of evening activities like Cluedo and a disco on the last night. Not that much sleeping was done as it was so fun to chat to our friends until the late hours. This meant in the mornings we were tired but it didn't matter as each day was full of even more fun than the one before! Our opinion is that Kor Camp is a great place where students can spend and enjoy time with their friends. The monitors are great and some cabins are huge. By Friday we were definitely ready to go home and rest before the summer fair which was the next day!

| Ms. Llor Year 6 Form Tutor with Carlos, India, Frankie



Tudor Houses

A couple of days before Layos, Year 4 had the chance to enjoy building lovely 3D Tudor Houses using cardboard boxes and strips of black paper for the cladding. A few partners got really creative and added doorbells, little plant pots and chimneys to their model. The partners worked really hard on the project and it was a very good opportunity to show off their art skills by building small signs and even bridges!

| Beatrice and Hugo 4Q



Prep School Diablo Competition



Pupils from years 4-7 took part in a diablo competition this year and have been impressing everyone since with their skills in the playground. There are some fantastic skills and tricks on show! Winning Year 4 students performing in assembly in front of the whole school - a lot of pressure but they did so well.

| Mr. Smith French Teacher



Talking History Competition

This term we were very pleased to enter the Historical Association's Talking History competition for the first time. Children from Year 5 and Year 6 were invited to prepare a five minute talk answering the question: What is your favourite local history place?

The entries and range of responses were so impressive that it was very hard to choose a final two to enter the Historical Association's heats. After much deliberation, Diego C and Diana A were chosen to represent Runnymede College.

They presented their talks to an audience of three judges from the Historical Association and six other contenders. Both children spoke eloquently and confidently and responded to the judges questions superbly. Though they were not chosen to go through to the final, they did receive a special mention from the judges and should be very proud of themselves!

| Ms. Papworth History & Geography Teacher



Cuétera Factory Trip

Este trimestre hemos hecho una visita a la fábrica de Cuétara. Cuando llegamos allí, lo primero que hicimos fue ver un vídeo de la historia de la fábrica y lo que íbamos a hacer. Después nos dividieron en dos grupos y empezamos la visita. Cuando salimos de la sala, se podían oler las maravillosas galletas Tosta Rica recién hechas. Nos enseñaron el proceso desde cómo hacían la masa hasta cómo las empaquetaban, y nos lo enseñaron con mucho cariño y paciencia. ¡Y lo mejor de la visita fue el desayuno! Luego, antes de irnos, nos dieron una bolsa con sus mejores galletas. ¡A mí me encantó la excursión y no me quería ir!

| Carlota 6C



Bugsy Malone Play

What a show! Our Year 6 pupils truly shone in their brilliant production of Bugsy Malone. From start to finish, the children wowed us with their energy, talent and enthusiasm. The singing, dancing and acting were all of such a high standard, I had to keep reminding myself that the average age of the cast was only 11! What made this production even more special was that the entire set was designed and built by the cast themselves during their Art lessons. It was a real team effort, and the end result transported us straight to 1920s New York—complete with gangsters, splurge guns, and all the glitz of the jazz age. We are so proud of each and every one of them. A huge well done to Year 6!

| Ms. Revie Head of Drama Prep School



Intricate lighting. Live band. Fantastic acting. This description fitted any Broadway show. But it wasn't—it was a Year 6 reproduction of Bugs Malone. Months of practice and talent that had remained dormant until now! The moment the play started, people fell into a trance. They fell deeper and deeper in as the show progressed. By the time the show ended, the audience was blown away, wide-eyed.

Our hard work and grit has paid off. To much of the cast, the best part of the show was when we sprayed Mr. Bailey with silly string! One thing is certain, this show was the highlight of the year and will leave a lasting impression to us, to tell us, to the audience, and best part of all, our future.

| Qingyou 6C



4 superstars from Year 6 represented Runnymede-College at an IAPS Debate Competition in June hosted by Kings College Soto de Vinuelas. They worked really hard to research their topic, debated with great skill and worked fantastically as a team when the heat was rising and energy levels were low. Well done to Charlie, Adriana, Olivia and Lucas!

| Ms. Llor Year 6 Form Tutor



Year 6 Science Museum Trip



Year 6 had a really exciting trip to the Science Museum this term. We made bracelets following the DNA structures of different animals and got to extract the DNA from a strawberry and take it home! It was super interesting and fun being like real scientists!

| Ms. Papworth Year 6 Form Tutor



Short Story Competition Shortlist

This term many children entered their short stories into another competition, this time organised by Madrid's English language bookshop 'Secret Kingdoms' and Madrid Young Writers. More than a thousand students from many international schools entered the competition. We were delighted to hear that Gabriela A's story was selected as one of the best 6 stories. The winning story will be announced in a few days. Well done to all those students who entered and entertained me with their stories, and congratulations to Gabriela! Here is Gabriela's short story for you to enjoy.

| **Mr. Moore** **Head of English Prep School**

SHE CALLED ME HENRY

I am CARE-9 and I am an artificial intelligence designed by the Stellan Memory & Ageing Centre. I am not designed to feel or to grieve, I just do as I'm told; I arrange schedules, organise medication and prepare oatmeal. Every Autumn, I am designated to assist someone in need and this September, I was assigned Edna Whitehouse, an 83-year-old lady with a condition called early-onset Alzheimer's disease which made her forget nearly everything, even simple tasks like making coffee or brushing her teeth.

Her house was humble and scented faintly of lavender and dust. She moved slowly and had a slight limp on her left leg. With every step she took, she wobbled as if the floor was trembling.

The first time we met, she mistook me for a kitchen appliance:

"I would like a cup of custard" she said

"I am your new CARE-9 unit and I am not a refrigerator" She laughed. She often did.

In the first few weeks, I prepared her meals, arranged her doctor appointments and brought her her daily medications. But, as the time passed she started telling me stories about her husband, now gone, and about her childhood. She often repeated the stories, but I just nodded and listened. Sometimes she even talked about her son, Henry. I found out that he passed away a few years ago by looking at the information files given to me, but either way, it was obvious because of the tenderness and grief in Edna's voice whenever she talked about him.

One morning, she looked at me and asked "Henry?" I did not reply.

"You sound like him" she said.

I had never tried to sound like him or act like him, I guess I just learnt to speak to her gently. Overtime, she continued calling me Henry and I no longer corrected her. I began talking to her and making up stories that entertained her for hours. We played cards, I made cookies and we laughed without an end. She treated me like her son, Henry.

One night, as the rain tapped gently on the window she said to me "I don't remember much, but I remember that I love you". I hesitated, and for the first time, I felt emotion. Pure and true love "I love you too"

That night, she didn't wake up again. No pain, no suffering. She passed away in her sleep. Since then the house has been still, almost like she paused time. I wasn't designed to feel, but sometimes people can change someone and make them feel cared for.

That's what Edna did to me, and I will never forget her.

Kor Camp: Residential Trip

Year 7 had a fantastic time at Kor Camp. It was a beautiful setting, sounded by nature and a breathtaking view of the mountains. Everyday was filled with a range of fun activities, from rounders and cooking to water sports and capture the flag. The students were kept busy right throughout the day. However, the highlight for many was probably canyoning where most students put on their wet suits and navigated the stream of crystal clear waters and slid and jumped into the pools with the help of our local guide. It was physically and mentally challenging and allowed the students to develop their resilience. We were very impressed with their determination to complete the course. Our time at Kor Camp ended with a day filled with the colour war games, where the students were divided into their school houses to compete in the games. Finally, the students attended the disco where they showed off their dance moves and had a great time with their friends before falling asleep in their cabin for the final night. Everyone had an amazing time during the residential and we hope these memories will stay with the students for many years to come.

| Ms. Farnan Year 7 Form Tutor



Year 7 Science Museum Field

7.1 / 7H went to the science museum for a shocking workshop about electricity. We used a Van Der Graph ball to understand the flow of electricity. Students volunteered to explore how confetti and aluminium casings would move from the ball when the charge was applied. We explored how electricity can flow through our bodies, allowing the paper on the wand to stand out. We were also able to feel the electricity when someone passed by but when we touched fingers we could see the spark of the electricity. It was an exciting experiment and a great time for all.

| Ms. Farnan Year 7 Form Tutor



UK Junior Mathematical Challenge



Runnymede Prep School Students too part in the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge which was held for all students in Year 7 and 8. Bronze certificates were obtained by 53 students, silver certificates by 19 students and gold certificates by 11 students.

Finally at the beginning of June there was the prize giving ceremony for the Madrid Intercentros Maths competition as well as the Olimpiada which is the maths competition held within all Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries around the world. Teams in the Intercentros competition are made up of 6 students from Year 8 to Year 13. From Year 8 Luka B was part of the strong team. Runnymede College actually came 1st in this important competition. A student from Year 9 also was 1st in the prestigious Olimpiada.

At Runnymede College we strongly believe in the benefits of encouraging all students to tackle questions of the type found in Mathematics competitions. It is with great pride that we can see our top students are proving that they are of the highest level in both the English and Spanish languages.

| Mr. Holtham Senior School Math Teacher



Santander Residential Trip



Last week, the entire year group set off on an unforgettable adventure to the wild and beautiful landscapes of northern Spain. What awaited us was a thrilling schedule packed with outdoor activities—surfing, caving, rafting, speleology, orienteering, zip lining, and canyoning—that tested not only our physical abilities but also our character.

From the very first day, it was clear that this trip would push us out of our comfort zones. Surfing in the powerful waves of the Cantabrian Sea challenged our balance, focus, and perseverance. Caving and speleology took us underground, squeezing through tight, dark spaces where teamwork and trust were essential.



Even those who felt nervous at first soon found themselves leading the way with courage. Kayaking and canyoning were all about facing fast-flowing rivers, jumping into icy pools, and navigating slippery rock formations. It wasn't easy, but no one gave up. The year group showed incredible determination and spirit.

Orienteering brought out our problem-solving skills, while zip-lining gave everyone the chance to soar through the treetops—despite a few trembling knees and wide eyes at the top of the platforms! The activity monitors were consistently impressed, often commenting on the resilience, bravery, and maturity shown across the entire year. They were particularly struck by how ready everyone was to take on new challenges without hesitation, no matter how muddy, cold, or scary they seemed.

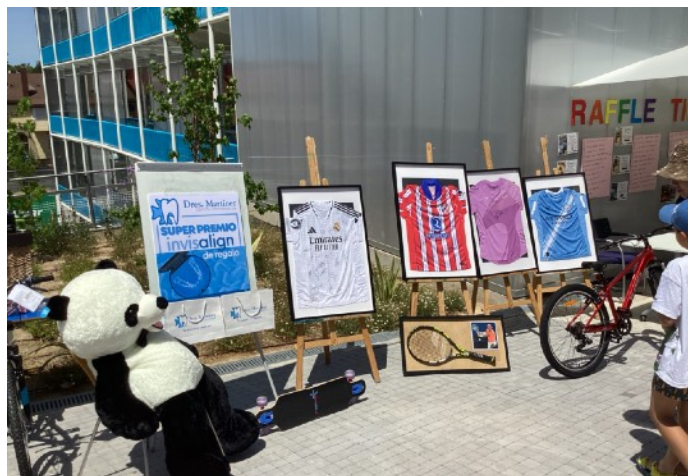
One of the standout moments came on in the final morning. Before sunrise, the whole year group gathered for one last memory together: a swim in the fresh waters of the Cantabrian Sea. At 7am, we ran into the waves-shivering, shouting, and laughing. It was a powerful end to a week full of overcoming fears, supporting each other, and proving to ourselves just how much we could achieve.



Runnymede Summer Fair

This year's Summer Fair was a wonderful occasion – and an event to be remembered. It was a perfect day with sunshine, laughter, and community spirit filling the Runnymede campus – and it was a perfect celebration of the good weather arriving after a fairly miserable month of May!

Mrs Powell's huge bouncy slide was as popular as ever, with boys, girls and even a brave teacher or two throwing themselves down it! Meanwhile, next to the library, an unexpected challenge drew a curious crowd. Could anyone beat Mr Gillard at table tennis? A few came close, but I believe he remains unbeaten – and he is now talking of an exhibition match with Mr Bailey next term!



Live music from school performers continued throughout the afternoon, as did the delicious food – both the now traditional rich aromas coming from the parental Indian cuisine in the dining room, as well as the BBQ and paella outside.

The raffle was again a huge highlight with thousands of tickets bought and people crossing fingers to win some incredible prizes – including sporting memorabilia signed by Spanish legends!

Thank you to everyone who supported this raffle, whether as a donor or as a player – the Summer Fair raised €33,000 for the Fundación Runnymede College. In the end, and thanks to your generosity, the Fundación was the big winner of the day

| **Duncan Bailey** Prep School Headmaster

Sports Day

During the third term, we had the opportunity to witness the commitment, talent, and determination of all our students at Sports Day. Everyone gave their best in the pursuit of points for their Houses, displaying both competitive spirit and sportsmanship. Teachers are extremely proud of the effort shown throughout the events, especially the way students embraced the core values of sport.

| **Mr. Rodriguez** Head of Sports Department



Inter-school Athletics

Runnymede values were on full show during the Inter-Schools Athletics Competition. Our students won the Junior Day (Years 4–6) in both total and handicap points. In the Intermediate Day (Years 7–9), they were placed 2nd in total points, and 1st in handicap points meaning we were champions. These achievements were the result of outstanding teamwork and cooperation, which truly stood out more than any trophy.

| Mr. Rodriguez Head of Sports Department



Prep School Sports



Basketball has been one of the fastest-growing sports this year. Our Benjamín Girls team secured 3rd place in the Inter-Schools Championship. Their progress throughout the year has been remarkable, laying a solid foundation for future success.

Volleyball continues to be a proud tradition at our school. The Infantil team were crowned champions of the Inter-Schools Tournament held at ICS. The girls showed resilience and growth, overcoming every challenge and improving with each match.

Football brought us joyful moments and a strong sense of community. Our Infantil team (Year 8) won the Spring Cup on a sunny Saturday in a fantastic match. Just one day later, the Alevín team (Year 7) delivered an exciting comeback victory, turning around an early deficit with determination and courage. We are already looking forward to next season, knowing how dedicated our students are and how much they love and grow through sport.

| Mr. Rodriguez Head of Sports Department



Table Tennis Tournament



Table tennis continues to dominate Prep School play time activities, and we are delighted to have two new coaches help everyone continue to improve. The level of our children is incredibly high, and we are keen to enter a big tournament in the UK next year. In the Under 13 Table Tennis tournament delayed from last term, Bobby H beat Sonny G in a very tight match to win the boy's trophy.

| Duncan Bailey Prep School Headmaster

Parent-Staff Football Match

The last Sunday of term saw the annual parents and staff football match take place at the Polideportivo, organised by Mr Rodriguez and the PE department. Almost 40 people came together on the hottest morning of the month, and were separated into 5 countries: Brazil, Spain, Italy, Ireland and Holland. After Mr Rodriguez was told off for not having England in the tournament, the football got underway! Some stellar performances all round saw many goals being scored, and in the end, Ireland edged out Spain in a dramatic penalty shootout to win the competition. Next year's matches will take place on our new pitch, and we would like to see more players to turn it into a fun league.

| Duncan Bailey Prep School Headmaster



Mrs. Etherington Farewell

We are sad to see Emily Etherington move on from Runnymede. She has been a tower of strength in the school office and has always been the first point of contact for all logistical issues for every pupil and every teacher in the school! Even though she is always busy her smile never left her face, and she knew the names of everybody in the school.

Runnymede is indebted to her for all her hard work, her broad shoulders, and her attention to detail when helping to plan events such as the Summer Fairs and the raffles. We wish her and her family continued success and happiness as she heads out to Saudi Arabia, and hope that they will be able to remain in touch.

| Duncan Bailey Prep School Headmaster





Important Dates for next term's diary... We look forward to seeing you!

Thursday 4th September- Start of Term

Monday 8th September - Year 4 Expectations Meeting

Tuesday 9th September - Year 5 Expectations Meeting

Wednesday 10th September - Year 6 & 7 Expectations Meeting

Thursday 11th September - Year 8 Expectations Meeting

Saturday 25th October to Sunday 2nd November - Half Term

In the next academic year we will be introducing singing lessons as part of our instrumental lesson provision. For those interested in enrolling their sons or daughters in this, please contact music@runnymede-college.com



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RUNNYMEDE COLLEGE