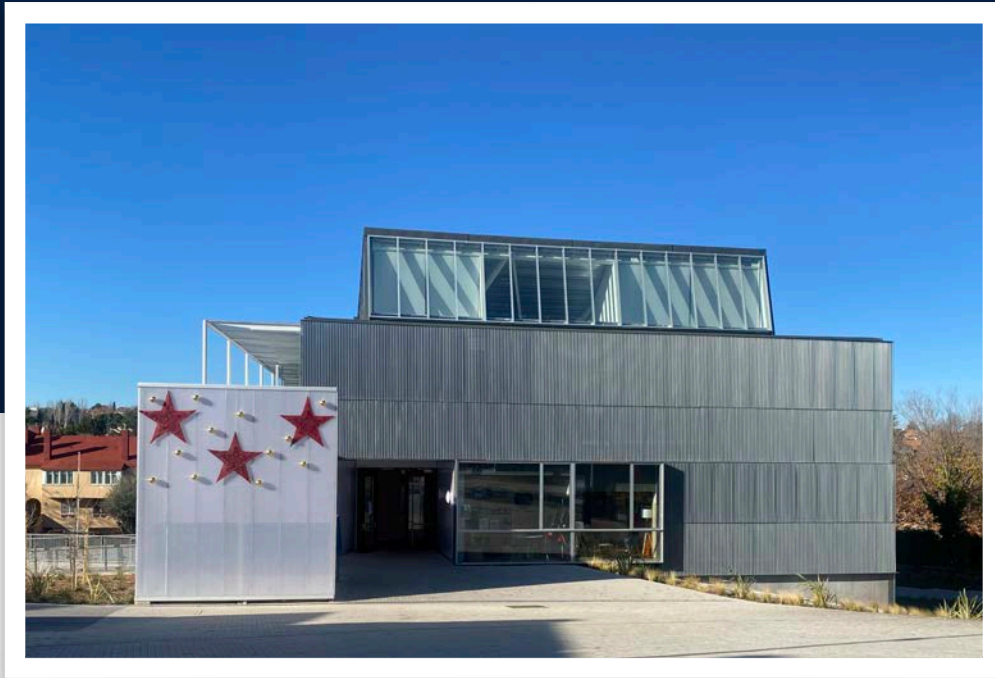


Prep School Newsletter



What a term! We have arrived at the start of the Christmas holidays, and it is a great pleasure to be able to look back and celebrate some of the many achievements the Prep School and its pupils have made since the end of August. Of course, the first big achievement is that we were able to welcome children all back into a new bespoke building. I hope you enjoy this newsletter, which captures merely a snapshot of the many activities we have got up to this term. The pictures and short articles all tell a story of pupils who are happy and very busy in their life at school.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Our first term in our new building has been a happy and very busy one, and I am sure all children are looking forward to a great holiday, and know that my colleagues all deserve a jolly good rest! We will be ready to go again on Wednesday 8th January 2025, and we look forward to seeing many more smiles then.

Thank you for your continued support of our Prep School.

All the best,
Duncan

— Remembrance Day —

On Monday 11th November at 11am, Runnymede College came to a silent standstill as we all paid our respects for Remembrance Day. Red poppies were worn on blazers as we paused for two minutes of silence and heard our bugler play the Last Post and the Reveille. This is a day when we remember all the soldiers, men and women, who fought in wars around the world to protect our freedom. Many of them sacrificed their lives so that we could live in peace. It was a poignant occasion and one that we are proud to uphold annually.



— Student Council —

Being part of the Runnymede College Prep School Council has been amazing! I was so excited when I was elected by my classmates to represent them. We had to talk about ideas and issues that mattered to everyone, and it was my job to share their thoughts in our meetings. Afterward, I would feedback everything we discussed to my form so everyone felt included. It felt really good to be involved in helping make the school a better place. We worked together on things like improving the playground. I've learned so much and enjoyed having a say in what happens at our school!

By Jorge Year 7



— Sport —



It has been amazing to see so many Prep School pupils representing Runnymede across lots of different sports. The Alevín boys finished with a bronze medal in the Inter-school Football tournament, and the Infantil and Alevín girls are currently both 2nd in their leagues with exciting squads and tremendous progress being made. Carlota Neves is the top goalscorer across the school! We have a new basketball team which has been launched, a group of skiers who spent a week away training in Austria, and we entered our first team into a large Inter-school golf tournament. Bobby Hack won the individual handicap Stableford competition. We also had lots of athletes take part in a televised cross-country championship in Alcobendas – a competition that included the current European champion! What a great experience this was for them all. Our thanks go to Mr Rodriguez and his team of coaches for their dedication and can-do attitude with all our extra sporting provision.



— Sport —



— British Ambassador to Spain —



Runnymede College was honoured to welcome the British Ambassador to Spain, Sir Alex Ellis, to campus in November. Greeted by Mr Powell, the ambassador was given a tour led Victoria and Gabriel from Year 8. His visit included a look at Phonics sessions in the Pre-Prep, a Year 5 Science class, and Drama workshops in our new Prep School. He also observed a rehearsal of *The Sound of Music*, visited the Senior School's Science labs and Art Department, and concluded with a stop at the Julia Powell Sports Hall and the Frank Murphy Memorial Library. We are grateful for the ambassador's visit and the chance to showcase our vibrant school community.



— Corre Por Valencia —



Nearly 200 runners from all sections of the school stood on the start line of a 5k and 10k road race to raise money for those affected by the tragic floods in Valencia. Dressed in bespoke blue Runnymede running shirts, pupils, parents and staff made a big impact on the race. Mr Baxter from Senior School finished in the top 20 in the 5k, while two Yr 8 girls achieved their target of finishing last! James Clough in Yr 3 won the 2km race, but more importantly, it was a great occasion for our wider school community to come together and raise some money for a very worthy cause. We are already planning the next event.



— Dani Caverzaschi —

It was a tremendous privilege to be able to welcome Dani Caverzaschi to Runnymede. Dani won a fantastic bronze medal in the Paralympics in Paris, and he was proud to bring it in for a special assembly to show us all. Dani is an Old Runnymedian, and he was very happy to come and reminisce about his happy days here at school and to answer many questions about his inspirational tennis career. No question was off-limits, and we even managed to embarrass him about a Calvin Klein video he made. He was kind enough to give his autograph to everyone present, and he has agreed to return to Runnymede in the summer to play an exhibition match against the Prep School Headmaster! Watch this space.



— Bake Sale —

One of the first big events for the school charity was the Bake Sale which took place just before Half Term – and it was a huge success! Yoli received more than 150 cake donations from busy bakers, and everyone was so generous with their financial contributions towards the charity. In the end we raised €5,004 euros in one day – and I challenge anyone to find a bakery in Madrid that was as successful as this! Many thanks to everyone involved, but especially to Yoli and her kitchen team, and the brilliant 6th Form Charity Committee.



— Lunchtime Clubs —

Throughout this inspiring Year 8 journey, we have been organising five engaging and imaginative clubs for the younger students. From unleashing their creativity in Drama Club to twirling and grooving in the amazing sessions of Dance Club, we have worked hard to bring excitement and energy to each activity.

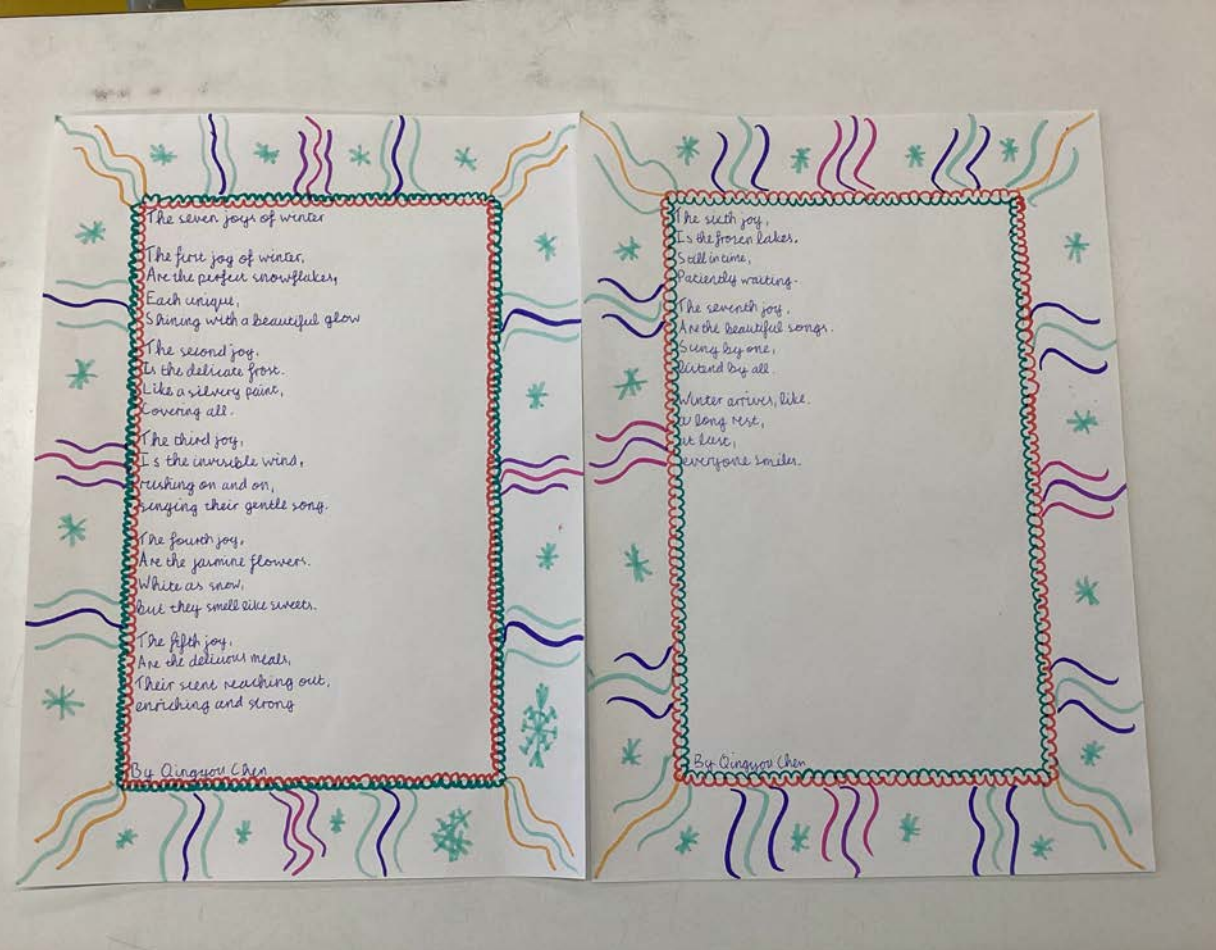
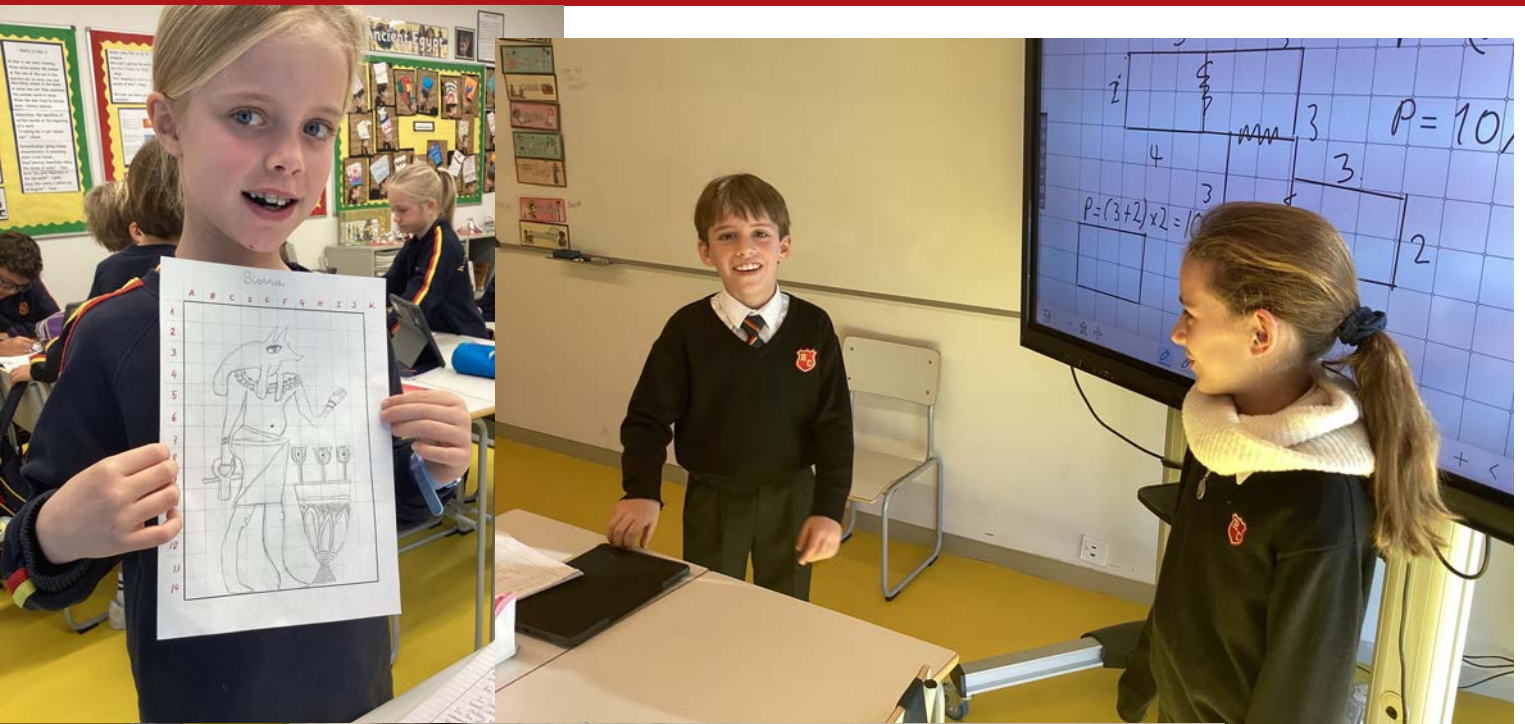
In Arts and Crafts Club, we have created spaces where imaginations soar, while in Lego Club, students have tackled amazing building challenges and collaborative projects, showcasing their skills and creativity. Finally, in Film Club, we have explored the art of presenting and acting out scripts and scenes, helping young students grow their confidence.

Running these fun-filled clubs has not only allowed the younger students to shine but has also helped us in Year 8 develop our leadership skills. We are proud of what we've achieved and invite you to experience and explore these exciting opportunities in our school community next term!

By Rio and Nora, Year 8



— Prep School @ work —

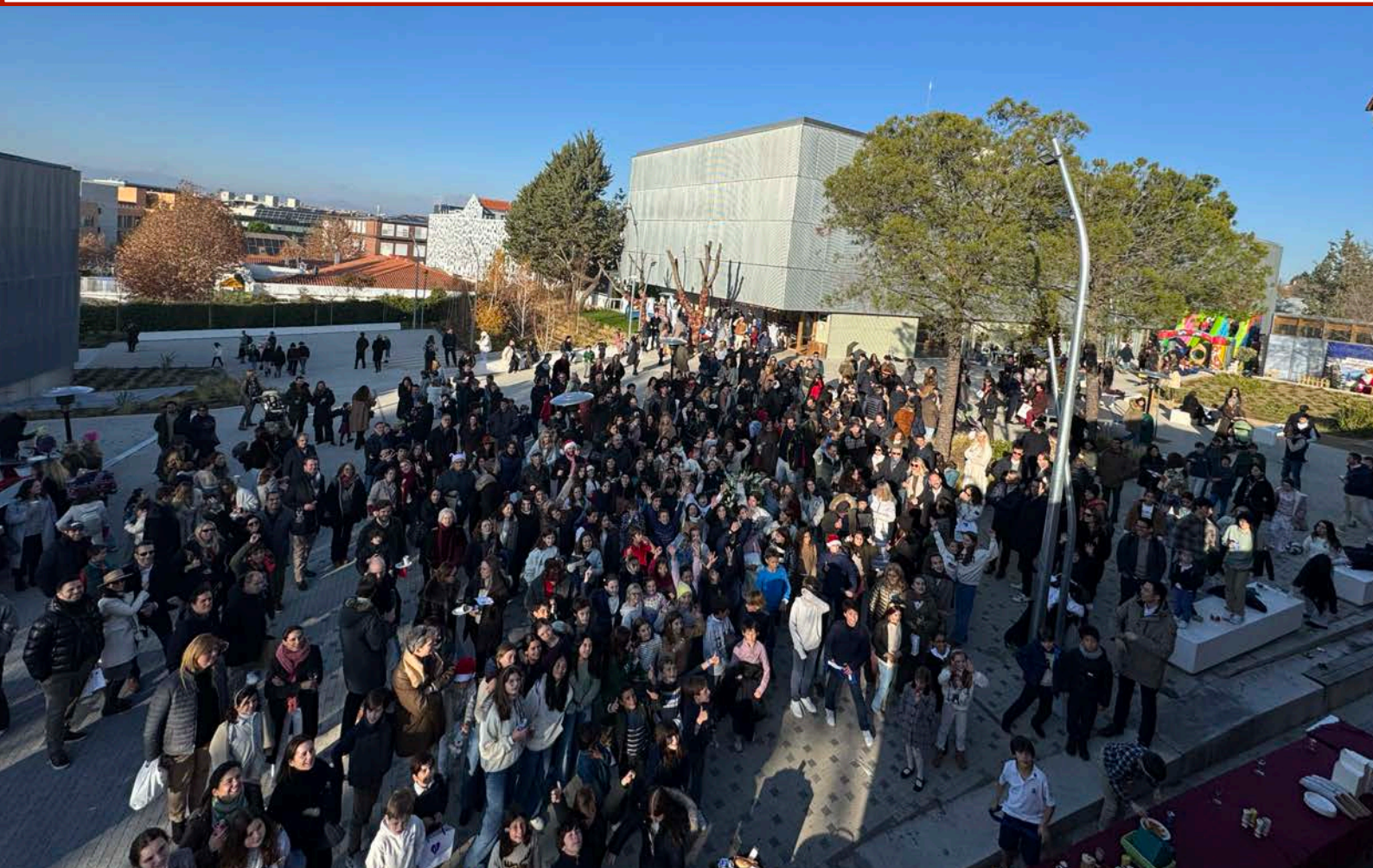


— Christmas —



Christmas Fair

The Winter social event of the year took place on Saturday 14th December as we welcomed nearly 800 people to the Runnymede Christmas Fair. It was a wonderful occasion for Runnymede families to come together and share time with each other while making the most of the open bar, and enjoying delicious paellas, several BBQs, 2 different curries – not to mention the mince pies and mulled wine! 9 stalls indoors allowed some the opportunity to do some extra Christmas shopping while Mr and Mrs Powell generously hosted the VIP Moët & Chandon bar. The children (and some parents!) enjoyed the 2 bouncy castles, and many other activities including elaborate face painted tattoos. However, the busiest person on the day was definitely Santa Claus, and he told us that he was so pleased to be with us to have a break from organising presents for children all over the world! Overall, it was a special day full of the Christmas spirit, and the event raised more than €35,000 for Fundación Runnymede. On behalf of the Fundación we offer two heartfelt words - thank you.



Carol Concert

A new tradition of coming together to celebrate Christmas with a Carol Concert began in the last week of term. It was a wonderful occasion with fabulous music and an opportunity for everyone to sing some carols. Readings from the Pre-Prep School, the Prep School, the Senior School and Mr Powell meant that the Christmas story was told, and, as always, we finished with a rousing version of *Feliz Navidad!*

— Important Dates Term 2 —

Please see below important dates for your diaries for the beginning of 2025...

Wednesday 8th January: Start of Term (08.50am)

Sunday 26th January: Founders Day

Tuesday 28th January: Inter-schools Cross Country

Tuesday 11th - Thursday 13th February: The Sound of Music Performances (more information to follow).

Thursday 13th and Thursday 20th March: Prep School Parents' Evenings



We hope you have a wonderful and restful break.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school in 2025



EST. 1967

RUNNYMEDE COLLEGE