



Prep School



Welcome to our Termly Newsletter

Crikey! Time flies when you are having fun, and I cannot believe that we are already at the end of year – the first year of existence of our Prep School. This final newsletter of the year will show a selection of the many things our pupils have been up to, both inside and outside of the classroom this term, and our end of term celebrations have been fitting for all the excitement we have had. It was wonderful that so many families came together to celebrate Runnymede and the upcoming holidays at our Summer Fair, and the buzz around the school was tangible. I am very grateful to everyone who participated in the raffle – either as donors, or as buyers, and I am so proud that we raised more than €17,000 from the raffle alone. It was a proud moment for everyone at Runnymede to be able to present such an impressive cheque to the Fundación Aladina founder, Mr Paco Arango, at the end of term, and he was tremendously grateful for all the charitable work undertaken this year.

As we reflect on all the opportunities we have embraced this term, from educational visits to extra-curricular activities, sporting and musical challenges, drama productions and of course not forgetting actual learning in class, we are hopefully able to realise that we are fortunate to be riding this wave. As the pioneers of our Prep School, the responsibility that we have to create a culture of happy, busy, polite and kind boys, girls and staff is hopefully not lost on any of us, and I am confident that we are heading in the right direction. As we prepare to move into our new building, one cannot help feeling that we are ending the year with something amazing to look forward to at the start of the next. The memories that we take from this year, and of the many years of Runnymede Junior School, will help us get off to a great start, and I for one cannot wait.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support, and I hope you have a wonderful summer break. Bring on September!

| Mr Bailey Headmaster

— Prize Giving —

We are thrilled to share some exciting highlights from this term at our school. We recently celebrated our pupils at two prize-giving events where we witnessed outstanding achievements and talent on display.

Our Prep School pupils wowed us with their musical performances, showcasing their hard work and dedication to music.

During the event, we were heard an inspiring speech from Mr. Bailey, A special mention goes out to our musicians and our Year 6 students who performed a captivating piece from the Peter Pan show, bringing joy to all who attended.

Prizes were awarded to pupils across all subjects for their academic excellence and for embodying the core values of Runnymede. It was truly heartwarming to see our students being recognised for their efforts and achievements.



We are delighted to have had the opportunity to come together as a school community to celebrate the progress and success of our children. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support from our dedicated teachers and you, our parents.

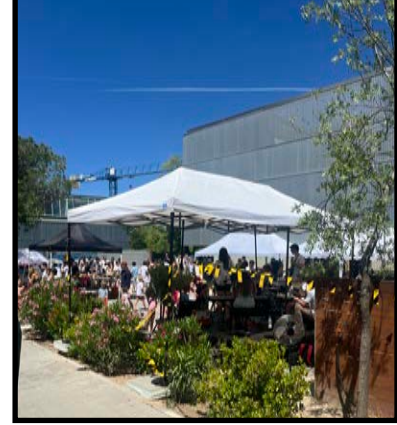


Thank you to outgoing staff

This year we bid farewell to some of our fantastic colleagues who go onto new adventures whether that is to the UK or further a field. Ms Griffiths, Mr Cotter, Ms Sands, Mr Hazlehurst, Mr Robertson, Ms Wintle, Ms Archer, Mr Geldard thank you for your dedication and kindness to our Prep School pupils. We will miss you and wish you all the best on your next chapter.

Thank you!
AND FAREWELL

The Summer Fair —



The annual summer fair was a real highlight this term, offering an exciting day filled with games, family fun, and amazing food and drinks. The water slide provided lots of water fun, with even some teachers getting involved, adding to the enjoyment. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who came to support and run stalls, making the event a success. The raffle was particularly noteworthy, boasting an incredible array of prizes and selling over 7,000 tickets, all for charity. Prizes included: Real Madrid Shirt - fully signed by all players that have recently won the 15th Champions League, a full box experience for two at a Real Madrid match next season (unlimited hospitality, food and drinks), 2 VIP tickets to a Real Madrid match next season, 4 tickets for a VIP Tour of the Bernabéu, 2 nights in a 5* Hotel (Hotel Castilla Termal Brihuega) with a stay in a double room for two adults for two consecutive nights with buffet breakfast both days of stay and full access to thermal pool during stay, 2 nights in 5* Hotel Querencia in Seville for 2 people and so much more! Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all involved in organising such a brilliant day. We can't wait for next year!



Our exciting new facilities!

We are delighted to be opening the doors for the new Prep School building in September! We are also excited about the opening of our fantastic new library dedicated to Mr Frank Murphy, a much loved Runnymede teacher, colleague and friend. We hope the children are excited about the opening of these brilliant learning facilities. We can't wait to welcome our children back in September.



— Sport Day —

A highlight of the school year for pupils and teachers is always sports day. It was a day filled with fun and excitements. Thank you to everyone involved. The sea of yellow, red, blue and green, showed our amazing house spirit. Pupils enjoyed track and field events, along with the fun events of the sack race and the tug of war!



Stem Week

TO CELEBRATE STEM WEEK,
RUNNYMEDE PRESENTS...

COMPETITION TIME!
DESIGN A MODEL TO REPRESENT
THE THEME: TIME!

$E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$
 $E = mc^2$
 $PV = n.R.T$
 $\Sigma F = M.a$

WHEN? 21ST JUNE
WHERE? BRING YOUR MODEL TO THE
LAWN FOR AN EXHIBITION!

PRIZES AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!
SPEAK TO MS GRIFFITHS/MR HAZLEHURST
FOR MORE DETAILS.

Last week was STEM Week, and the theme of "Time" took centre stage as students across various year groups engaged in time-centric activities. Year Four students participated in the egg drop challenge, where they are learned how to slow down time through creative designs to protect their eggs during the fall. Year Five students crafted planes, aiming to achieve the longest flight time. Meanwhile, Year Six is dedicated their time to preparing for an enchanting Peter Pan production. Year Seven spent their time on Thursday morning demonstrating a fascinating array of experiments to the younger Pre-Prep students from Years One to Three. The week culminated on Friday with a Prep School competition, where students displayed marvellous models that explored the concept of time, showcasing their innovative thinking and scientific understanding.

| Mr Hazlehurst | Head of Science (Prep School)



— Science Club —

It has been a very busy term for the Science Club. The club was founded this academic year by Year 12 science students. They have been delivering practicals to Prep-school pupils every Monday for 20 minutes as a way to trigger scientific vocations. It has been coordinated by Lead Lab technician Ms Shave, who has been instrumental in supporting the club and training our sixth forms, thank you Ms Shave! This has been a highlight of the week and a lovely link between our Prep and Senior pupils!

| Ms Tello | Head of Physics (Senior School)



— Stem Week in Year 4

This past week, Year 4 students embarked on an exciting STEM journey, immersing themselves in hands-on activities that combined mathematical investigations with engineering challenges. Our budding scientists explored aerodynamics and structural design, making STEM Week a truly memorable experience.

The week began with a math investigation into flight variables. Students crafted paper planes, testing hypotheses about wing shape, paper type, and folding techniques. They launched their planes, measured distances, and recorded results, applying their measurement skills to gather accurate data.

Repetition was key, with students conducting multiple trials to ensure reliable results. They plotted their findings on line graphs, identifying patterns and trends, and fostering critical thinking and collaborative learning.

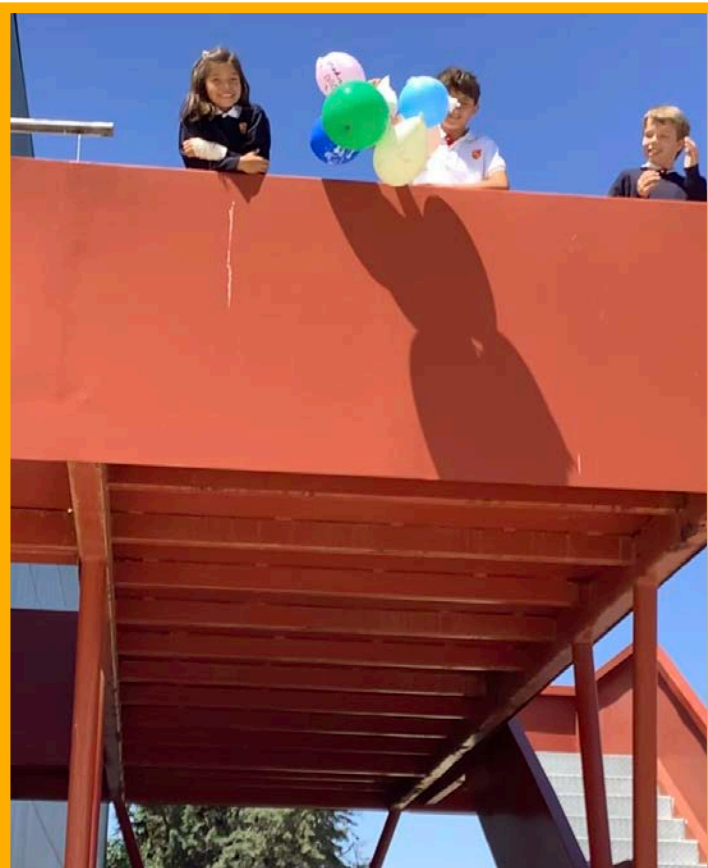
Another highlight was the egg landing activity. Students designed contraptions to protect an egg from breaking when dropped from a height, using materials like straws, cotton, and cardboard. This challenge emphasised physics and creative problem-solving.

Adding to the excitement, we welcomed Mrs. Sara Navarro from the Centro de Astrobiología. She shared her knowledge about space exploration and Mars missions, sparking students' interest in space science and astrobiology.

STEM Week not only enhanced our Year 4 students' grasp of mathematics and engineering principles but also ignited a passion for discovery and innovation. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and dedication.

| Ms Quirke

Year 4



— Choral Poetry —

A highlight of the term is choral poetry, where pupils from different classes perform a poem of their choice to the Prep School. We were treated to some fantastic performance this term, from 4Q, 5F, 6G, 7P and 7H. We had some brilliantly creative approaches, including a spin on Little Red Riding Hood. We also had a poem which was written by one of our pupils. A real highlight, thank you to all of the teachers involved in planning the event and for the students for making it such an enjoyable morning!



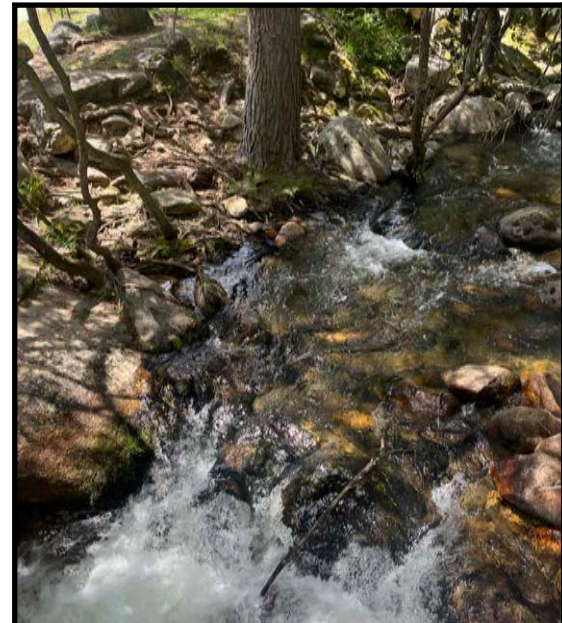
Rewards Trip —

Our pupils with the top housepoints were invited to an ice cream treat, to congratulate them on a fantastic effort. Ms Howe and Mr Bailey were lucky enough to attend and enjoy their favourite flavours too!



Prep School Hike —

Mr Bailey organised a whole Prep School adventure to the mountains. Pupils hiked in the mountains for nearly 10 kilometres. A highlight of the day was the picnic 'banaza!' In which pupils brought lots of tasty treats to share with peers and teachers. A particular favourite was the homemade brownies. We even had homemade sushi! Well done to the children for being so resilient. What a wonderful memory!



— A Magical Journey to Neverland: Year 6's Enchanting Production —

On Thursday, the Year 6 class transported us to the fantastical world of Neverland with their vibrant production of "The Journey to Neverland". Under the guidance of Mr. Gabbard and a talented team of Year 6 form teachers, Ms Griffiths and Mr Knight, this energetic group of students brought the beloved tale to life with infectious enthusiasm and captivating performances.

From the opening notes of "Fly to Your Heart", it was clear that this was going to be a special show. The Darling family, played by Cecelia, Nico, and Alonso, charmed the audience with their endearing portrayals. The Lost Boys, led by Peter Pan (Gabriella Jones), danced and pranced with reckless abandon, while Captain Hook (Alicia) and his scurvy pirates added a swashbuckling touch.

The fairies and Tinkerbell (Miranda) sprinkled magic dust throughout the performance, while the Indian chief's (Juan) tribe, brought a rich cultural flair. The cast's comedic timing was impeccable, with hilarious moments that left the audience in stitches.

Mr. Knight's music was a highlight, with catchy tunes like "Yo Ho" and "What Makes a Brave Girl Brave" getting everyone singing along. The choreography was lively and engaging, perfectly capturing the sense of wonder and excitement that comes with exploring a new world.

What truly shone through was the Year 6 students' dedication and passion for their roles.



Each one brought their A-game, making it impossible to choose standout performances. Mr. Gabbard's direction and the team of form teachers' guidance created a seamless production that flowed effortlessly from start to finish.

In short, "The Journey to Neverland" was an unforgettable night of theatre magic. With its talented cast, catchy music, and whimsical storytelling, it's a production that will be remembered for years to come. Bravo, Year 6!



Computing Studies —

The success of Computing Studies in Years 4, 5, and 6 in the Prep School has been remarkable. As technology evolves rapidly, it is crucial to equip the students with the skills needed to thrive in this dynamic environment. The curriculum covers essential topics such as repetition in programming through game development, linking sensors to automate the opening of a window based on temperature and building step counters with a focus on creating and using variables. These practical applications have not only made learning engaging but also fostered a deep understanding of computing concepts in the children.

Beyond the content, I have observed significant improvements in students' logical thinking and their ability to work effectively in virtual teams. They are increasingly adept at taking on challenges, thinking imaginatively in three dimensions and learning from their mistakes—an approach called "fuzzy thinking." This method encourages resilience and innovation, skills that are invaluable in today's world. The enthusiasm and progress shown by students across all ability levels have far exceeded my expectations.

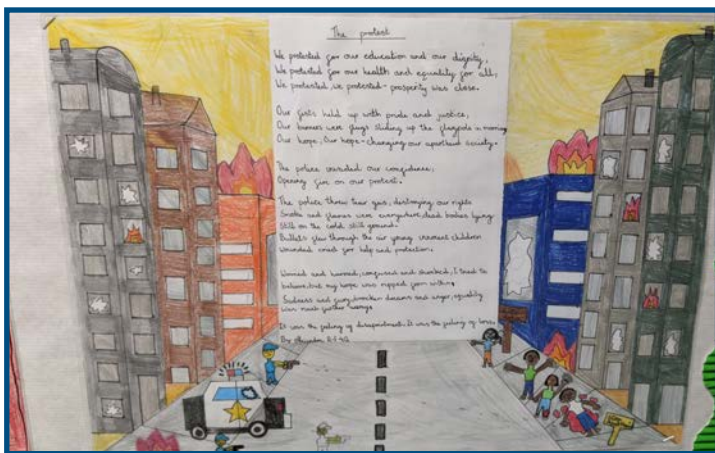
Looking ahead, I am excited to see the programme extended to include Years 7 and 8. This expansion promises new challenges and even greater successes, as Runnymede College continues to nurture the next generation of tech-savvy, imaginative problem-solvers.

| Mr Fisher Head of Computing



Year 4 — Work To Be Proud Of...

Year 4 have had an incredible term of English writing this summer. A highlight was learning about and discussing apartheid in South Africa through the celebrated novel *Journey to Jo'burg*. The children were fascinated by this dark education period of history and were able to relate themes of discrimination and systemic abuse to current day contexts across the world. After focusing on a wide range of poetic features including similes, metaphors, repetition, and imagery, Year 4 created some masterful pieces of perspective artwork to present their poems.



FROM THE DESK OF
Anaahi

A letter written from the point of view of a pencil to Anaahi, giving her a piece of its mind!!

19 June 2024

Dear Anaahi

Hope you can hear me from underwater. Listen up kid, we need to talk. I have been tapped EVERYDAY! Your rude, selfish behaviour has been driving me MAD! I don't want to be sucked. How would you like it? Don't you think I had enough? I'm quitting because you don't understand what stationary I am and what I'm used for.

Just the last week, you tapped me constantly so I had to survive a dark moist cupboard for three WEEKS! Don't tell me the day you forgot and I had to stay in your small pencil case feeling as if I was in a SLIMY POOL! It was a NIGHTMARE!! I felt so embarrassed with everyone laughing at us and you should too. Your a robber by stealing my identity.

However, it does not have to be like this! I don't want to quit but you've left me no choice. If you use me as the stationary I am and not as a lollipop, I will stay or, you can practise your dreadful spellings and your unreadable handwriting, quitting will just be a long lost memory. We could go back to the old times of joy together.

Your dizzy, heartbroken friend,

Pencil

Year 4 Highlights — Tudor Houses!



Year 5 Highlights — Gredos!

THE YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL CAMP IN GREDOS

For 4 days and 3 night, the Year 5 pupils had a terrific time on their residential trip. The glorious weather; the beautiful countryside; the wonderful camp staff and the fact that they were with their friends all contributed to a wonderful trip for pupils and staff alike.



The zipline from the bridge.



A walk through the woods.

Each morning started with a hearty breakfast and was followed by a range of activities from hockey to zip lining and from volleyball to archery. The children worked well together and these collaboration skills were tested further when each group had to perform a show on the third evening. The audience were very appreciative of the entertainment!

In addition to this routine, there was also the day out where the children visited a local monastery; walked through the countryside and enjoyed a refreshing play in the river. After such active days, we thoroughly refuelled at meal times and managed to fully recharge after a good night's sleep.

Many of the children are already looking forward to the residential visit in Year 7. A brilliant few days!

| Mr Cook Year 5



Some budding Robin Hoods.

— Year 6 Highlights —

GREDOS!

My trip to Gredos was an amazing experience . Going to Gredos or any other place for a few nights independently really helps spark your interests. For many people going to Gredos is a bit scary because we're all used to being protected by our parents, but on a residential trip that all changes as we get to be involved and independent in many activities. For me the trip really helped me liberate and free myself from the stressful school life. The trip lasts 5 days and four nights. The first night, we sleep in a dorm but then the rest of the week we slept under the stars in sleeping bags and tents.

It all started on the 27th of May, when we had to arrive at school very early so we wouldn't miss the bus. The bus journey lasted three hours with a bathroom break in between. When we arrived we could already tell how nice and friendly the camp monitors were. We quickly unloaded our gear and headed straight to have a delicious lunch. After that we went to meet our camp head monitor, we were so excited because we were going to be told which of our friends we were going to be sleeping with in a dorm. After that we did some really amusing activities like baseball, football and many more. After a very long day of activities, we had dinner and went to bed.

Throughout the week, we did a lot of different activities which really helped spark our curiosity. My favourite activity of all was the wonderful hike we did in the mountains. We were surrounded by a natural environment and beautiful plants and a couple of animals. The hike led to the destination of a beautiful and enchanting lake. It was very tiring as we had sunshine beaming down on us, so it felt like a reward being able to cool off in the crystal clear lake.

Sadly Friday came quicker than ever and it was finally time to say our goodbyes. But we had so much fun and made so many memories it was very sad. Overall I loved the trip and really enjoyed it a bunch.



My trip to Casa de Campo!!!

When we went to Casa de Campo, I was very excited, The teachers had told us about all the activities that we were going to do. When we got to a picnic area, the teachers let us have a snack while they were out preparing the activities. The first activity that my class did was orienteering with Mr. Moore. The second one was outdoor painting with Ms. Pinches, and the last one was Trolls, Witches and Giants with Ms. Graham.

After all that, we had our school packed lunch which was a Ham and cheese sandwich, a salami sandwich, a small carton of orange juice, a bottle of water, an apple and a kitkat!

Then, we played in the park until the teachers called us and we went to play rounders, one class vs another. While 2 classes were playing rounders, Ms Graham and Ms Griffiths took 6G first to get them some refreshments. After 6G, went 6M and then 6P.

In the end, we played a bit more of rounders and then we went to the buses and back to school.

In the bus I sat next to Aman, after a nap I woke up only to find we were almost at school. My hand accidentally brushed off a tapped back piece of cloth that was on my seat only to reveal a 5 cent coin nudged in the back of my seat. Later, we went home and that was the end of our fun day!

By Nico. B

Year 7 Highlights —

The recent Science Fair, led by our enthusiastic Year 7 students, was a resounding success! Pre-prep students were invited to explore twelve exciting experiments, including the fascinating hydrogen squeaky pop test, the intriguing 'strong eggs,' and the captivating non-Newtonian fluid demonstration. The younger students were thoroughly engaged and had a fantastic time discovering the wonders of science. A big congratulations to Year 7 for their fantastic job in making the event both educational and fun!



Year 7 — Gredos

Year 7 students recently enjoyed a memorable three-day trip to Gredos, where they participated in a variety of activities including high ropes, archery, river sampling, and beautiful mountain walks. The trip was a fantastic experience for all, with highlights such as thrilling football matches, a cozy film night for the girls, and plenty of quality time spent with friends amidst the stunning natural beauty of Gredos. The students returned with wonderful memories and a deeper appreciation for the great outdoors. Thank you to our wonderful Year 7 Team for their support!

| Ms Sands Head of Year 7



Reminders for Runnymedians this summer!

Here are a few helpful tips for our Runnymedians this summer!

- Spend time outside playing and exploring nature
- Read a book or two to keep your mind sharp
- Stay active with fun activities like swimming, biking, or hiking
- Eat plenty of nourishing snacks and meals
- Stay hydrated by drinking lots of water, especially on hot days
- Make time for friends and family, enjoying their company
- Take breaks from screens and enjoy some offline fun
- Get plenty of sleep each night to feel rested and energised
- Try something new, like a hobby or sport
- Remember to relax and enjoy the summer break!



Have a wonderful summer! We hope you have a summer filled with happiness, fun and memories. We look forward to welcoming you into our brand new space in September!



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RUNNYMEDE COLLEGE