

Senior School



Welcome to our Half Termly Newsletter

This term we have been considering the importance of Community - one of our core School Values. We have been reflecting on how we can make a positive contribution to our own community both in Runnymede and beyond.

Our new Pupil Leadership Team has been busy doing just that. Pupils from all year groups have been invited to join the four committees (Academic, Charity, House and Sustainability) and they have been working together to develop new initiatives which aim to improve both our experience in school and the impact we have on the world beyond it. The Charity Committee this year has chosen to support Fundación Aladina - an organisation which aims to support children who are undergoing treatment for cancer. There will be opportunities to contribute to our fundraising efforts throughout the year, so please get involved where you can.

Seeing Runnymedians seek out opportunities to make a positive impact in society is always uplifting and makes me incredibly proud. This term pupils have, amongst other things, performed in an old people's residence, tutored and mentored younger children, arranged a collection of musical instruments for less privileged children and organised a school-wide effort to write Christmas letters to old people who will be alone this holiday.

Pupils who reflect on all that they have, make the most of opportunities they are given, and seek to serve and support others represent the true spirit of Runnymede, and we are very proud of them.

| Annabel Hawkins Senior Deputy Head

Head Pupils

Welcome from Micaela and Samuel



As Head Girl, I am thrilled to be representing the student body of Runnymede College and leading the Pupil Leadership Team. I hope to act as a means to communicate all ideas, raise concerns, and make sure everybody is heard within the school environment. I will also be giving my own ideas to contribute to School life. I cannot wait to do so, the best I can!

| Micaela Year 13

Hello, I am Samuel and I am Head Boy. I've been at Runnymede since I was 3 years old and I'm very grateful for this opportunity to give back to the school community. During this year, I hope to foster a culture of tolerance and open-mindedness through encouraging open discussion and the exchange of ideas. I also take pride in being an intermediary between the student body and the school faculty. We have so many great events in store for this year!

| Samuel Year 13

School Prefects 2024

As well as overseeing the Pupil Leadership Team, Sam and Micaela will be in charge of next year's team of School Prefects. The team will be in post from January 2024 to December 2024, before handing the reins over to the following year group.

This term we have received a great number of applications from Year 12 pupils who are seeking to take on the responsibility. Our thanks to all those who have applied; the strength of the applications has made the selection process has been very difficult. However, we look forward to introducing the new team to the Senior School in our start of term assembly in January, and supporting them in all they do.

| Ms K. Lowdon Assistant Head of Sixth Form

World Beating Results 2023



Every year, the examination boards which administer our A Levels award Outstanding Learner prizes to the pupils who have performed best - nationally, regionally or globally. Runnymede A Level candidates win prizes every year. We are very proud, as ever, to announce this years prize winners.

Many congratulations to these pupils, their teachers and their parents.

Ms Murphy Deputy Head Academic

1

Top in the WORLD

Further Maths A Level - Marcos
German A Level - Julia
Spanish (1st Lang.) IGCSE - Alec
Italian IGCSE - Santiago

2

Top in EUROPE

History A Level - Flavia

3

Top in SPAIN

Maths A Level - Adriana
English Lit. A Level - Álvaro
Biology A Level - Mafalda
Chemistry A Level - Shang
Physics IGCSE - Alec
English (1st Lang.) IGCSE - Alec
Drama IGCSE - Lucía
History IGCSE - Olympia

Charity Committee —

"Runnymede's very own Charity Committee, this year supporting Fundación Aladina, has already achieved some fantastic successes during the first term. Starting with our first hit, the snack sale and sponsored teachers' run at Cross Country, followed by a classic: a bake sale. Thanks to all your delicious autumn-themed baked goods, we were able to extend the bake sale for another day and raise more than we ever have before! And let's not forget our after-school party, where we brought the disco to the Years 6 and 7, which not only fostered a sense of community spirit amongst students but also contributed to our committee's goals. We're immensely grateful for all the contributions and support so far and only aim to keep on paying it forward.!



| Alec del Pino and Saanvi Kaushik



Key facts about Fundación Aladina

- Founded in 2005
- Supports children with cancer and their families
- Provides holistic support with their programmes for over 1500 children every year, as well as funding improvements to hospitals all around Spain.



Bake Sale



Staff Sponsored Run



Prep School Disco

PSHE in Year 9



Tuesday 5th December a representative from Madrid's Fundación Fad Juventud came to Runnymede, to deliver specialist workshops about contemporary methods of smoking and nicotine consumption. Raquel's presentation was very informed and interactive, and we look forward to her return in the new year to explore this important topic in further detail with the pupils.

| Mr Blake Deputy Head (Pastoral)

A busy term for Drama

On the 23rd of November the Music and Drama departments took Runnymede students for a whistle stop tour of all things creative in London. Blown away by the enchanting scenography of *Ocean at The End of the Lane* and the incredible vocal ability of the performers of *Les Miserable*, a magical experience was had by all, teachers and pupils included, as we navigated the festive streets of London, experiencing a musical theatre extravaganza.

Drama students have also been busy rehearsing and preparing for the Senior School production of *Antigone* which will be performed at the end of next term. More details about how to buy tickets coming soon .

| Ms Lambert Head of Drama



Physics in action

Our physicists have been busy this term. Year 13 visited the Telecommunications Department at Universidad Politecnica Madrid in September to take part in a clean energy storage workshop organised by Dr Ryu. Pupils attended a talk on state of the art research on Solar Panels and Capacitors and built their own working capacitor.

Prof. García-Pozuelo, from the Mechanical Engineering Department at Universidad Carlos III gave our Year 12 pupils the chance to visit his department and laboratory in November. Pupils attended a talk on the physics of Formula1 cars and the International Formula Student competition followed by a visit to their facilities, where students saw the last single-seat race car Carlos III students have built for this year's competition.

During Madrid's Science week in November 10 of our Year 12 students from Chemistry, Physics and Biology were chosen to take part in different science-related events organised by CIEMAT, such as a Science Dating activity and a visit to different laboratories. Pupils were introduced to different branches of research and had a unique chance to speak to scientists from different disciplines ranging from Biomedicine to Chemistry and Astrophysics.

| Dr Tello Head of Physics





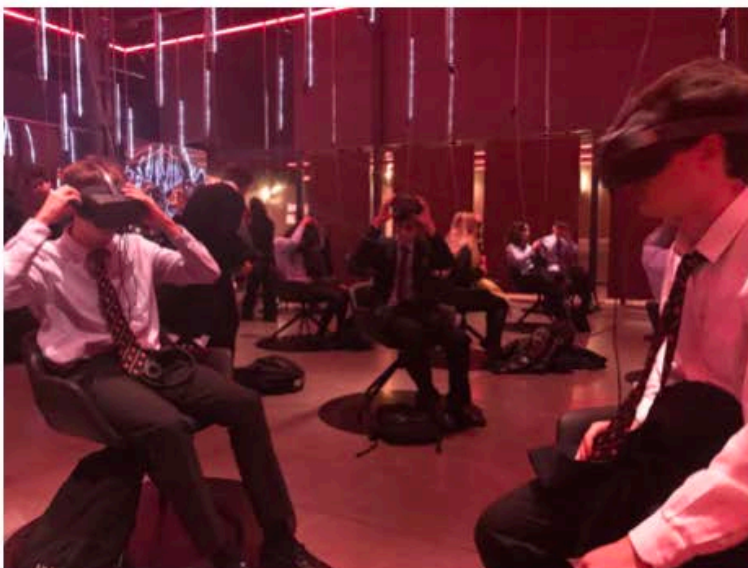
Trip to Carlos III - Formula Student



"On this awesome trip, we visited Carlos III University, where Mr. Garcia gave us a brief tour and then delivered a captivating lecture on the entire Formula Student competition. He explained the fundamental principles behind a Formula Student car and how they utilise data from practice sessions to enhance its performance. The highlight for me was when he showcased the car, allowing us to ask questions and gain insights into its workings. Mr. Garcia kindly offered us the opportunity to return for a more in-depth exploration of the car. I've already reached out to him, and I'm planning to visit with some friends in the next few weeks!"

Rodrigo Barrento

Geography Trip to Pompeii Exhibition - Matadero



The Year 12 Geographers visited the brilliant immersive exhibition at the Matadero to learn more about the devastating impacts of the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The use of impressive virtual reality technology allowed students to get a feel for what life was like in Pompeii before the eruption.

Model United Nations —



In November, 20 Year 13 students flew to Munich take part in the 25th annual Model United Nations of Munich (MUNOM).

The conference is a demanding simulation of the real UN. Over four days the students – who formed the delegations of Egypt, Ethiopia, Romania, and Russia – lobbied other delegations, wrote resolutions, debated amendments, and cast their countries' votes.

The students comported themselves exceptionally, throwing themselves into their research, debate and into character as ambassadors!

“Adopting the perspective of countries that you might not know much about, MUN gives you the chance to explore different points of view when facing international problems. You must consider the different laws, religions, states of conflict, etc. of each country and how these interact.” Diego, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

“MUN was a great opportunity to develop a sense of global responsibility along with public speaking skills. It also allowed us to learn about the formalities and procedures of multinational conferences”. Gabriela, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt.



| Mr White & Ms Ingrey

New School Podcast!

“The Runnymede Times has decided to create a NEW podcast about school news presented by two of the sixth form students. They have interviewed teachers such as Mr Chophla and Mr Walter who have shared some study tips as well as fun and memorable knowledge about themselves. They also discuss the latest Runnymede news, thoughts about school life, as well as information about where our current Year 13s are applying to. The episodes are released every two weeks, and the latest one is their Christmas special - an interview with Mr Walter - which will be released on the 20th of December.”

| Gabriela Mayoral and Alejandra Martinez



Sixth Form

It has been a busy start to the academic year, where our priorities have been to get to know our students, support their academic progress and guide them through the university application process. We are very fortunate to have welcomed a vibrant group of new Year 12s who have integrated seamlessly into our school community. Our Sixth Form Pastoral team has also welcomed new additions, including Ms Lowdon as the new Assistant Head of Sixth Form, whose expertise and dedication will contribute to the wellbeing and success of our students.

This year we have introduced a vertical form system, amalgamating both Year 12s and Year 13s in each group, in the hope they will mingle more and learn from one another. Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and in particular we are pleased that the Year 12s are able to get a sneak peak of what Year 13 life will be like for them in the first term - very busy! We are very proud of our Year 13s as they have worked extremely hard on their university applications, many of whom have applied to more than one country, adding to what is already a significant workload. We wish them every success in their applications.

The school has hosted several university visits and a successful university fair this term. We extend our gratitude to the universities that took the time to engage with our students, broadening their horizons and offering valuable insights into higher education possibilities. We are also very grateful for the invaluable support from Old Runnymedians, who have provided guidance or mock interview practice to our Year 13s, showcasing the strength of our supportive school community.

The Sixth Form offers a plethora of opportunities for personal and academic growth, and we are thrilled to see so many students embracing these. From involvement in the Pupil Leadership Team to participation in Co-Curricular clubs, educational visits, and more, many of our Sixth Formers are making the most of their time at school. In the coming sections, we hope to provide a glimpse of what Sixth Form life has been like this term.

| **Maria O'Driscoll Head of Sixth Form**

Tea with the Headmaster



The Sixth Formers are very fortunate to have two weekly slots for 'Tea with the Headmaster'. A group of students are invited to discuss their interests, academic progress, future plans and whatever else may come up in conversation! It is a great opportunity to get to know one-another and certainly an enjoyable and memorable experience for all involved.

University Fair and Visits —

In our Autumn University Fairs in November, we hosted universities from the UK, US and Spain to give pupils and parents the chance to compare and contrast universities, and help find the place that best suits their strengths and interests. The representatives answered their questions and gave an understanding of each country's admission process, educational opportunities and student life- We also hosted several prestigious universities for exclusive visits which enabled our pupils to have an in-depth look into the kind of student profile these universities are looking for and the courses and research opportunities on offer.

We would like to thank the representatives from the numerous universities for taking the time to visit us and speak to our students and parents, including:
UK Universities of Imperial College, UCL, Durham, Bristol, Bath, Lancaster, Falmouth, Brighton, St Andrews, University of the Arts

US Universities of New York, Rice, Sarah Lawrence College, DePauw, Fordham, UPenn, Notre Dame College
Spanish Universidades de Navarra, Pontificia Comillas and IE.

| Ms de Campo, Exams & Higher Education Officer



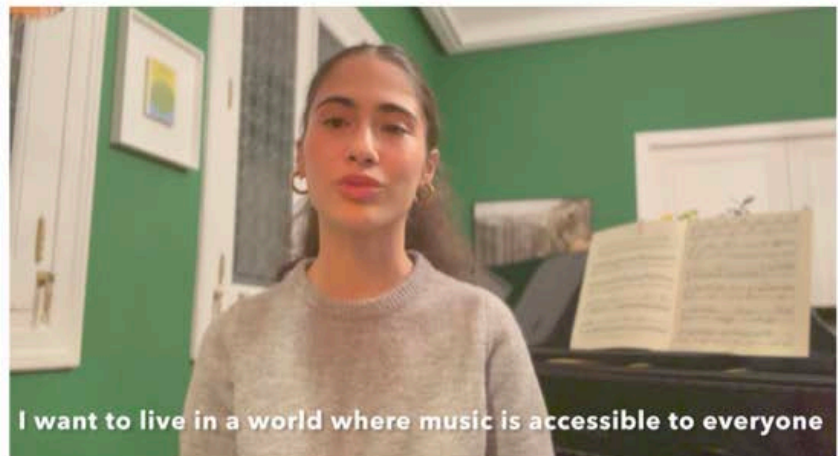
Extended Project Qualification - EPQ

"This term saw the launch of the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) at Runnymede, an exciting qualification which teaches students many skills they will make use of at university and beyond, including project management, academic research and referencing, data collection, and presenting. These tools are then wielded by students as they develop a project unique to them. These can result in academic essays or an artefact of some kind, and students are currently perusing projects as diverse as the use of pink in Barbie Movie marketing, building an autonomous drones for use in the delivery sector, and modelling the brain at different stages of Huntingdon's Disease."

Celebrating our Sixth Formers

Music Charity Initiative

"Music has a unique ability to connect us, inspire us, and bring joy to our lives. In education, musical studies have been proven to enhance cognitive abilities like listening, problem-solving, and concentration - directly improving the academic performance of young students."



Acción Por La Música is a charity based in Madrid whose mission is to provide children from less fortunate backgrounds with musical education, quality instruments and support to allow them to engage in the enriching experience of creating music. We have supported them by getting students to bring any unloved or unused instruments left lying around homes." |

Thank you to all those who donated musical instruments to this very worthwhile cause!

| **Olympia Bonte**

Old Runnymedians

On Thursday 21st December, we hosted former pupils in an OR event in school. It was wonderful to see so many leavers - both recent and not so recent - returning to chat with their former teachers. They also had the chance to have a tour of the School site, which has seen a great number of changes in recent years, not least the current construction work for the new Prep School Building.

We look forward to future events and building on the terrific links between past and present Runnymedians.

| Ms O'Driscoll, Head of Sixth Form



Dates for next term's diary... We look forward to seeing you there:

January 24th - Year 9 & 12 Parents' Evening from 16.15

January 31st - Year 9 IGCSE Options Evening

February 7th - Year 8 & 10 Parents' Evening

March 13th - Year 11 A Level Options Evening

March 20th & 21st - Senior School Play: Antigone



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RUNNYMEDE COLLEGE