



# Senior School Newsletter



As we wrap up another busy and successful term, it's the perfect time to reflect on the achievements and experiences that have defined this year. From academic successes to exciting trips and extracurricular activities, our students have worked hard and shown tremendous growth. The festive season offers a chance to celebrate these accomplishments, spend time with loved ones, and enjoy a well-earned break.

This year, we're especially proud of the Fundación Runnymede, whose fundraising efforts have supported the meaningful cause of funding outstanding further education whilst strengthening our school community. We are deeply grateful to our students, parents, and staff for their generosity and commitment, making a difference to spread academic opportunities to students in Alcobendas.

In this Christmas edition, we revisit term highlights, share updates from across the Senior School, and showcase the incredible contributions of our community. We also take this opportunity to wish all our Runnymede families a joyful and restful holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at Runnymede College! We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Events next week!

| Ms Howe     Deputy Head



# Head Pupil Welcome —



As we approach the holiday season, excitement is building for the upcoming Christmas Fair, which will support Fundación Runnymede College and promises to be a wonderful community event. We were delighted to contribute to efforts supporting Valencia following the DANA Natural Disaster, with families and school staff coming together for a great cause. This term, we've already set a record with the cake sale, raising over €4000 —an incredible achievement that reflects the generosity and spirit of our school. Looking ahead, we are thrilled about the February production of *The Sound of Music*, which is sure to be a highlight of the year.






Our Year 13 students are in the midst of their university applications, and the school is incredibly proud of their dedication and achievements. This week also sees the start of the Carta for un Abuela project, spreading holiday joy through heartfelt letters, and we'll be visiting the residential home to perform for the elderly, sharing the festive spirit. Wishing everyone a joyful and successful end to the term!

| **Cristina de la Colina Gil and Sol Gortázar Ureña** **Head Pupils**

## — Results 2024 —

Runnymede College is extremely proud of the exceptional academic achievements of its students for the 2023-24 academic year. With 64% of grades being A-A\* at A Level and 70% at IGCSE, Runnymede pupils' grades remain outstanding and continue to compare favourably with those of private schools in UK which average 49% at both A Level and GCSE. Our students continue to strive for academic excellence, with many students achieving awards for top results in Spain, Europe and in the world. Every year Pearson presents its Outstanding Learner Awards to students for their standout attainment in the summer A level exams. The following students have received a 'Best In' award:

We would like to congratulate the students in our graduating class of 2024 for their performance and wish them the best of luck in the next chapter of their education.

 <b>World</b>	 <b>Europe</b>	 <b>Spain</b>
<b>Top in the WORLD</b>	<b>Top in EUROPE</b>	<b>Top in SPAIN</b>
<b>Maths IGCSE</b> Diego Hurtado Esteve	<b>Geography A Level</b> Arianna Lloyd	<b>IGCSE Biology</b> Cayetana Rica Torres
<b>IGCSE First Language Spanish</b> Sofia Buck Aquerreta	<b>History A Level</b> Sam Salesas	<b>IGCSE History</b> Nicolas Izuzkiza Fernandez
		<b>IGCSE Drama</b> Claudia Loizaga Oliviera
		<b>A Level Biology</b> Isabella Raskin
		<b>A Level Chemistry</b> Eva Schuppe

The following students have received the 'High Achiever' award: Jaime Abengoechea, Rosie Day, Gonzalo de Cordoba, Jorge Pastor, Isabella Raskin, Eva Schuppe.



# RUNNYMEDE COLLEGE EXAM RESULTS & UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2024



64% OF A LEVEL GRADES ARE A OR A\*  
(THE ENGLAND PRIVATE SCHOOL AVERAGE BEING 49%)

70% OF IGCSE GRADES ARE A OR A\*  
(THE ENGLAND PRIVATE SCHOOL AVERAGE BEING 49%)

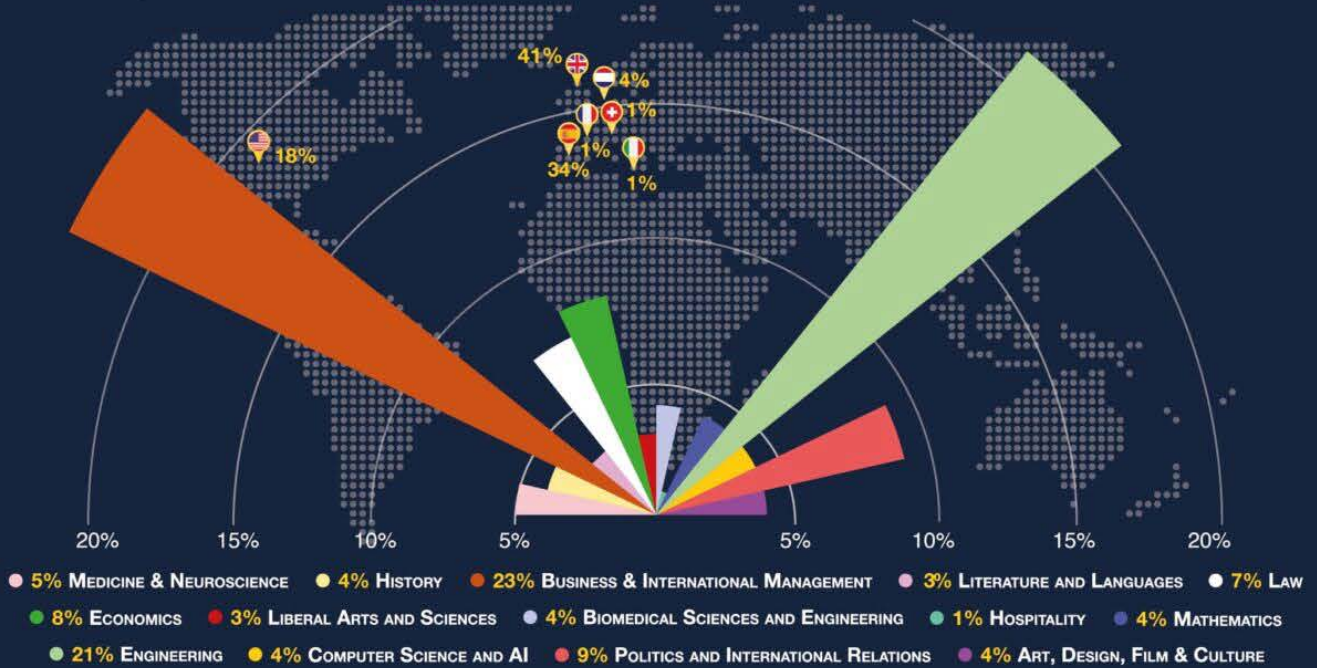


AT A LEVEL, AN A-A\* GRADE WAS OBTAINED BY 92% IN  
FURTHER MATHEMATICS AND BY 71% OF PUPILS IN PHYSICS.

(THE ENGLAND PRIVATE SCHOOL AVERAGE BEING 71% AND 50% RESPECTIVELY)

76% of pupils going to the UK will be attending **Top 10** universities (as ranked by the Sunday Times Good University Guide)

<b>STANFORD UNIVERSITY</b> 👤 1 Pupil	<b>HARVARD UNIVERSITY</b> 👤 1 Pupil	<b>IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON</b> 👤 1 Pupil	<b>UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA</b> 👤 2 Pupils
<b>COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY</b> 👤 1 Pupil	<b>CORNELL UNIVERSITY</b> 👤 1 Pupil	<b>UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON</b> 👤 6 Pupils	<b>LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS</b> 👤 3 Pupils



DEGREES IN **BUSINESS** WERE THE MOST POPULAR AMONGST THIS YEAR'S RUNNYMEDE GRADUATES, FOLLOWED BY **ENGINEERING**. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** AND **ECONOMICS** WERE ALSO POPULAR CHOICES, AS WAS **LAW**. THESE COURSES ACCOUNT FOR 68% OF THOSE CHOSEN FOR UNIVERSITY STUDY AMONGST THIS YEAR'S GRADUATING CLASS.

UK **BATH** 08 👤👤👤👤👤👤  
UK **UCL** 06 👤👤👤👤👤  
UK **LSE** 03 👤👤  
UK **KCL** 02 👤  
UK **St. ANDREWS** 02 👤  
UK **WARWICK** 02 👤  
UK **BIRMINGHAM** 01 👤  
UK **BRISTOL** 01 👤  
UK **EDINBURGH** 01 👤  
UK **HULT** 01 👤  
UK **IMPERIAL** 01 👤  
UK **YORK** 01 👤  
US **PENNSYLVANIA** 02 👤

US **BOSTON COLLEGE** 01 👤  
US **COLUMBIA** 01 👤  
US **CORNELL** 01 👤  
US **DREXEL** 01 👤  
US **HARVARD** 01 👤  
US **NORTHEASTERN** 01 👤  
US **NOTRE DAME** 01 👤  
US **PURDUJE** 01 👤  
US **SAN DIEGO** 01 👤  
US **STANFORD** 01 👤  
US **TUFTS** 01 👤  
SP **IE** 08 👤👤👤👤👤👤  
SP **ICADE** 07 👤👤👤👤👤

SP **ICAI** 04 👤👤  
SP **UAM** 02 👤  
SP **CUNEF** 01 👤  
SP **UNIVERSIDAD DE NAVARRA** 01 👤  
SP **UNIVERSIDAD DE NEBRIJA** 01 👤  
NL **TU DELFT** 02 👤  
NL **UTRECHT** 01 👤  
IT **BOCCONI** 02 👤  
FR **EMLYON** 01 👤  
CH **EHL** 01 👤



# Fundación Runnymede College

Two years ago Mr Powell set up a Fundación to fund the provision of first class, British Further Education to pupils from Spanish state schools with outstanding academic records

Fundación Runnymede College is a non-profit organisation dedicated to facilitating access to elite Anglo-Saxon university education in the United Kingdom or the United States for the best students of public high school institutes in the municipality of Alcobendas. The mission is to transform lives through knowledge and academic excellence.

The first winner of our scholarships is María Nuñez, a 2º high school student at I.E.S. Severo Ochoa Alcobendas. After a selection process with several candidates, this first scholarship was obtained by María due to her excellent curriculum and personal and academic potential. As a school this year our chosen charity is Fundación Runnymede College. As a community we are committed to raising funds for this incredibly important cause.

Recently Mr Powell was honoured with an award by the Ayuntamiento de Alcobendas in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Values, Excellence, and Innovation in Education through Fundación Runnymede College. We are extremely proud of Mr Powell's achievement and to be part of the Fundación's journey.



## — 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 by our Head Pupils. 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.



## — Valencia Collection —

In November, Runnymede students and staff organised a collection for the victims of the DANA in Valencia, which devastated the southern area of the city. Runnymede College's donations were so substantial that they filled not only a truck but also two additional four-by-fours.

The supplies, furniture, and IT equipment were successfully delivered to Colegio San Blas, one of the schools hit by the floods. Carles, a local teacher, expressed deep gratitude, explaining that their entire stock of materials and furniture had been damaged. Thanks to our collective effort, their school is closer to resuming lessons.

Our sixth-form volunteer team did an outstanding job organising, packing, and labelling the donations, which allowed for efficient delivery to other affected schools in the region, including Escuela Infantil Be You, Escoleta Guardería Infantil Xicalla, Colegio San Carlos, Colegio San Blas, and CEI Garabatos.

Thank you to all of those who supported and for the families who kindly donated.



## — Corre Por Valencia —

Nearly 200 Runnymede pupils, staff and parents took part in the “Madrid Corre por Valencia” event in support of those affected by the recent floods in Valencia.

It was a lovely occasion on a cold Sunday morning. It was wonderful to see runners of all ages ready to show support for the victims of Valencia.

A big congratulations to Team Runnymede for their incredible effort and solidarity!



# — Reclaiming Narratives —

During October we celebrated Black History Month, with the History Department leading the initiative. Year 12 historians presented to form groups, on a variety of forgotten narratives. Mr Baxter, Head of Year 9 and teacher of History led a fantastic assembly and many students got involved in the writing competition.

Thank you to all those involved.

## Black History Times

By Nina  
Ms Ramsden's form

### Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou, a heart so kind,  
A writer, a poet, an intelligent mind,  
Working for Dr Martin Luther King Jr, a true activist,  
They tried to turn her down, but they missed.  
Autobiographies, what hasn't she done?  
Working in projects like plays and films, she is the one.  
All good citizens are to remember this woman,  
50 honorary degrees, 8 billion spectators and children.  
Mary Angelou is her name, forever shall we accept her fame.



### Ronald McNair

- Ronald was the second African American to travel to space.
- He died aged 35 on the doomed Challenger mission of 1985
- Today, the building that housed the library in South Carolina where McNair was refused books as a child is named in his honor.





# — Year 13 Spanish Trip —



On Thursday 7th November, all the Year 13 Spanish students enjoyed a day out in the centre of Madrid learning about Federico García Lorca's works and life in Madrid. These pupils are studying *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, written by the worldwide known author born in Granada so expanding their knowledge about his figure was a very valuable tool in preparation for the A level exams they will sit in June 2025. We walked along the streets in the central areas of Madrid: Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor and Plaza de Santa Ana, before visiting the Residencia de Estudiantes in Calle del Pinar where Lorca lived during his years in the capital of Spain. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



## — Sixth Form Summit —

In October, we were excited to host our first Sixth Form Summit in the picturesque setting of La Granja de San Ildefonso. The day began with a warm welcome and breakfast at the Parador conference centre, followed by engaging presentations from representatives of Imperial College, LSE, and UCL. Students received valuable guidance on university life and the application process, with ample opportunities to ask questions about their academic futures.



The summit then moved to the palace and its beautiful gardens, where students participated in a series of intellectual and creative challenges. Competing in classics, geography, history, mathematics, and the sciences, as well as poetry and drawing, each form competed for the prize of an exclusive lunch at the Parador. Our sixth formers impressed with their collaboration, enthusiasm, and creativity. Congratulations to Mr Hornshaw's form, who won the top prize and enjoyed a celebratory lunch.

With a crisp, sunny autumn day, the setting was ideal for exploring the grounds, making it a truly memorable event. We were delighted to see the students engage so fully throughout the day. Thank you to Ms O'Driscoll and Ms Lowdon for all of the hard work organising this fantastic opportunity for our students.



## — New York Trip —



The recent school trip to New York, was an incredible experience, filled with unforgettable moments and exciting opportunities. Led by Miss Lambert, Mr Blake and Mr Quinn, the group stayed at The Manhattan at Times Square Hotel and explored the best of New York City. Students were thrilled to visit iconic landmarks like the Empire State Building and the 9/11 Memorial, and were captivated by Broadway performances of *Chicago* and *Hamilton*. A special highlight was the *Hamilton*-themed acting workshop, where students learned directly from Broadway performers. They also enjoyed a scenic ferry ride with stunning views of the Statue of Liberty and explored Central Park and Macy's Department Store during their free time. This amazing trip not only immersed students in New York's vibrant culture but also provided them with a unique and enriching learning experience that they'll remember for years to come.



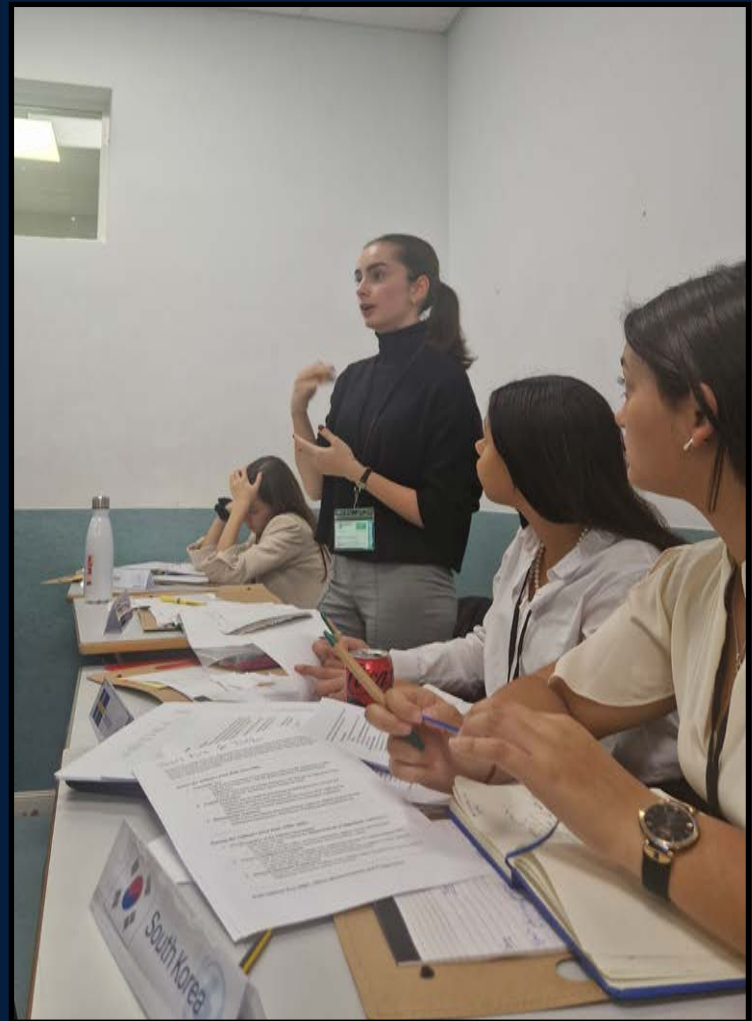
# — Sporting Events —





— Model United Nations  
(Brains School Madrid) —

On the weekend of the 29th November, 15 delegates from the Senior School took part in the Model United Nations (MUN) conference at Brains School. It was an exciting event, bringing together students from various schools across Madrid and Murcia, to simulate global diplomacy. Over the course of the conference, the participants took on the roles of delegates representing different countries and debated pressing international issues, ranging from nuclear power to workers' rights. The experience required organisation, planning, teamwork, critical thinking, and public speaking, as students worked to draft resolutions and negotiate compromises. The MUN conference not only enhanced students' understanding of global politics but also fostered a sense of responsibility and global citizenship.



We are incredibly proud of all of our students who did a phenomenal job, and a special congratulations to Nazar Sobal for his Best Delegation Award!

Ms Koppinen, Economics

# — Year 13 Valencia Trip —

In September, we took Year 13 geographers on an enriching trip to Valencia, where they engaged in hands-on learning about key geographical issues. At the Oceanogràfic, they explored the complex relationships between sustainability, tourism, and conservation. A visit to L'Albufera included a boat trip offering close encounters with local biodiversity—highlighted by a fish jumping into the boat—and a tour of rice fields, where students learned about traditional agriculture and its impact on water security. On the final day, we explored the El Cabanyal neighborhood, examining gentrification and the conflicts between locals and tourists, particularly the effects of Airbnbs. Throughout the trip, students practiced valuable techniques for their independent investigations and refined their proposals for their coursework. This immersive experience made our charity collection following the devastating DANA storms even more meaningful, as students had seen firsthand the importance of protecting these vulnerable environments, having recently visited the effected areas.

Ms Lee, Geography



## — UAL Art Visit —

In November, Year 12 artists were visited by Conchita Currie - professor and European Admissions officer from UAL. They were given portfolio advice and tutorials on their coursework projects. Thank you to Ms Magnus and the art department for organising this helpful event for our Runnymede artists.

Ms Magnus, Art

*upcoming*  
**EVENTS**

**DECEMBER**

**14**

Christmas Fair  
(12.30 - 16.30)

**DECEMBER**

**18**

Carol Service in  
the Julia Powell  
(18.30pm)

**DECEMBER**

**19**

Christmas  
Jumper Day with a  
donation of €1 to school  
charity.

**DECEMBER**

**20**

End of Term at  
13.00

**DECEMBER**

**21**

Official Opening of the  
Frank Murphy  
Memorial Library  
12.00



# — Year 11 and 12 Borneo Trip —

Borneo, one of the most beautiful islands in the world, will be a once in a lifetime experience. The trip dates are planned to depart between the 22nd – 23rd June 2025 and the duration will be 15 days including travel. We are travelling with the same company students travelled to Nepal with in June 2024, Global Action, if you would like to see more, the video from Nepal 2024 is available on the school website.

The purpose of the trip is centred around global learning, encompassing cultural exposure, volunteering and expanding citizenship. Borneo will be an incredible experience. Beginning in Sabah, we will enjoy spectacular views of Mount Kinabalu, and explore the tropical Borneo Rainforest, an area of vital importance to many endemic species. Alongside an environmental charity, students will enjoy a unique community project, as well as participate in important projects to reforest the wildlife corridor. We will enjoy learning about Jungle Survival, before embarking on an exciting trek into protected rainforests. We will see conservation efforts first-hand: visiting the inspirational Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, and Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre. We finish this special trip by exploring a beautiful tropical island, in the Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park.

**Should you wish to sign your child up to the trip, please complete the Permissions Form on the new Parents Portal by Wednesday 18th December.**

If you have any queries or questions please contact Ms Howe at [bhowe@runnymede-college.com](mailto:bhowe@runnymede-college.com)



**Closing  
Wednesday 18th  
December!**





## — 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)

**Tuesday 14th January:** World Cultures and Religions Fair (families welcome from 4pm)

**Thursday 16th January:** Year 9 Parents and Options Evening

**Thursday 16th - Friday 24th January:** Year 11 Mocks

**Sunday 26th January:** Founders Day

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

**Saturday 29th March:** Symphonic Orchestra for Fundación Runnymede

We hope you have a wonderful and  
restful break.

We look forward to welcoming students  
back to school in 2025.



EST. 1967

RUNNYMEDE COLLEGE