

# Senior School



## Welcome to our Termly Newsletter

This term has been marked by academic excellence and a wealth of activities beyond the classroom, including numerous trips, learning opportunities, and sixth form events. Our IGCSE and A Level students have approached their external examinations with rigour, maturity, and perseverance. We hope their results in August reflect their dedication and hard work.

On June 21st, we bid farewell to our Year 13 cohort at the sixth form leavers' dinner. We extend our gratitude to Ms. O'Driscoll and Ms. Lowdon for their expert and compassionate leadership. We eagerly anticipate welcoming our graduates into the Old Runnymedian's network and hearing about their future endeavors. Our Year 13 students received a remarkable array of offers from universities in the UK, US, and Europe, and we thank our teachers for their support in guiding these students towards their next steps.

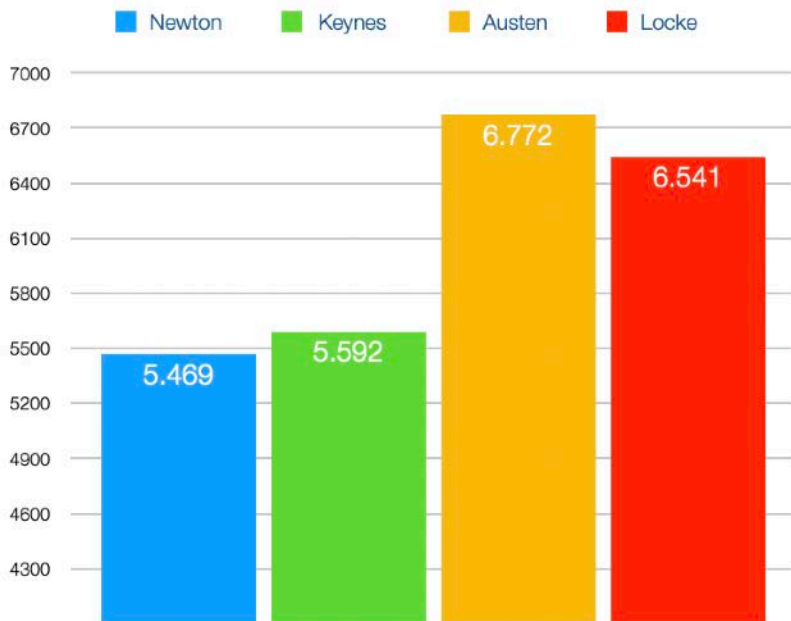
This term has been exceptionally busy, with internal examinations for Years 8, 9, and 12, as well as a variety of enriching activities such as sports day, art exhibitions, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, ski trips, and drama performances. Some of our Year 12 students are looking forward to beginning their summers with adventures in the French Pyrenees, China, and Nepal. We are excited to share more as these students return from their travels.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated educators, the parents, and most importantly, the students, who contribute to making Runnymede a warm and academically stimulating community. Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to welcoming you back to Runnymede in September.

| Ms Howe

Deputy Head

# — House Winners 2024! —



## Congratulations to Austen!



# — New Learning 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 wait to welcome our children back in September.



# — Business Studies —

We are immensely proud to have successfully launched the Business Department at Runnymede College and to have welcomed our first cohort of students. The enthusiasm and engagement they have shown from the very beginning have been truly inspiring. Their active participation and eagerness to learn have set a high standard for future students.

# — Senior School Speech Day and Prize Giving —

On Saturday 8th June, we hosted our annual Senior School Speech Day and Prize Giving. We were delighted to welcome our guest of honour Ms Cayetana Álvarez de Toledo, who spoke so eloquently, explaining to our pupils the importance of hard work, and being recognised for our achievements and the strength of our character. A heartfelt thanks to Cayetana for sharing her journey with us, and for sharing words of inspiration and passion with our Runnymede friends and family. Mr Powell reflected on the history of Runnymede and shared the exciting vision for the future of Runnymede, with our new three phase structure and our fantastic new facilities opening in September 2025.

The Prize Giving element of the ceremony saw huge applause for our pupils, with prizes awarded for Academic Excellence, for showcasing Runnymede Values and for sporting achievements. A huge congratulations to this years prize winners, who showcased the very best of themselves this academic year. We were delighted to award **Chloe Flames in Year 11** the Founders Award this year, for recognition of her academic excellence, perseverance and determination with her studies. A huge thank you to Mr Blake and our musicians who shared some beautiful musical elements with us.



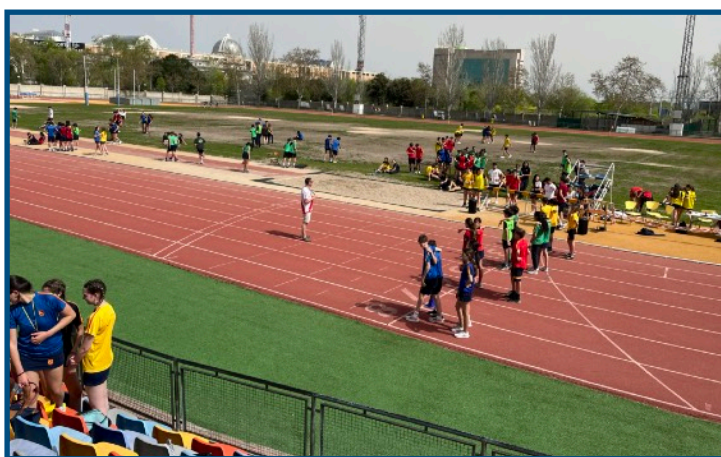
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Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the organisation of this years prize giving, to the Head Pupils and a special thanks to Ms Cayetana Álvarez de Toledo for joining us.



# Sports Day —

Sports Day was an exciting event, buzzing with energy and enthusiasm from our pupils. The day was filled with a variety of events, showcasing the talents and competitive spirit of our students. From races to team challenges, everyone participated with great zeal, making it a memorable occasion. The camaraderie and sportsmanship displayed were truly commendable, highlighting the importance of teamwork and perseverance. A real highlight was the tug of war between the sixth form and the teachers, unfortunately the sixth formers took the win this year, but there's always next year! It was a fantastic day of fun, and community spirit, leaving everyone eager for next year's Sports Day. Congratulations to Locke, this year's sports day winners!



# Exam Season —



As ever, at this time of year, our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils have been working extremely hard for their external IGCSE and A Level examinations. At such a stressful time, we are very proud of our pupils for approaching their exam with courage and determination. Congratulations to all of our examination pupils, we wish you all the best for the results days in August, and hope you achieve the results you deserve. Thank you to our exams officer, Ms Del Campo for organising our students to excel in their examinations.

## Team China — Summer 2024



The day after we break up for the end of term, a group of 28 Runnymedians from Year 12 and 4 members of staff will be off to China for a wonderful experience that should be both academically and culturally enriching - it is a joint venture between the faculties of Economics, Business, and History. The trip was previously run by the school 11 years ago, to great success, and we hope it will become a regular fixture, to give Runnymede students the chance to experience some of the highlights of this fascinating country.

We start in the political centre of China, Beijing, where we will visit Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace among many other things. Next, it is off to the cultural centre, Xi'an, the home of the Terra-cotta Army and what remains of the mighty Tang Dynasty. We end our trip in the financial centre, Shanghai. Here on the itinerary we have tours of the VW factory, the huge plant at Bay Steel, the production line of Yakult and the Lujiazui Financial District, to name just a few things keeping us busy. In total, we will be away for 11 days, for which the schedule is jam-packed and includes evening entertainment such as a harbour cruise in Shanghai, a Chinese Acrobatic Show, and a Dumpling Banquet.

We are thoroughly looking forward to what will be a unique academic experience. We will share stories and photos from our adventure when we return.

| Mr Wilmot



# Team Nepal — Summer 2024

On the 25th June, Mr White, myself and 17 Runnymedian's are heading to the Himalayas for the trip of a life time. We will be spending over two weeks, exploring the country, working with local NGOs and trekking in the Annapurna.

We will explore the magical old Kathmandu, with its colourful markets, shops, temples, and shrines. We will then be involved in interactive workshops with experts at inspirational international agencies working at the forefront of poverty reduction and conservation in Nepal: UK Department for International Development office (DFID), The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Practical Action Nepal and World Wildlife Fund Nepal. We will visit Buddhist monasteries and learn about cultural traditions.

We will then travel to Pokhara, to support a local school by building a water tank to provide fresh drinking water for school children and teachers. We will engage in cultural exchange, with our pupils leading activities for Nepalese children, and for those children to teach our students too. We have been fundraising, and with this money we will be buying sports kits for the children in the school, and hosting a sports competition to put the kit to good use.

Following this enriching experience, we will spend 5 days trekking in the Annapurna mountain range, testing our pupils resilience and seeing the incredible beauty of the Himalayas.

We are very excited for the trip and can't wait to share more on our return!



The Gurkha Welfare Trust is the leading Gurkha charity, and provides development support to build earthquake-resistant schools, clean water and sanitation systems, and offer essential medical support. The Patron of the Trust is HRH The Prince of Wales.



With Headquarters in Kathmandu, The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) serves 8 countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas to strengthen livelihoods, and protect communities from the effects of climate change.



Practical Action provides alternative technology to poor communities in Nepal, which increases access to energy and food security, and assists in disaster risk reduction.



World Wildlife Fund (WWF) aims to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and threats to biodiversity in Nepal; whilst promoting conservation and protecting endangered wildlife.



Kopan Buddhist Monastery houses 740 Tibetan refugee monks and nuns. Our donations at Kopan go directly to support their projects in remote mountain areas, including an orphanage, animal sanctuary, and health clinic.



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

We also visit the British Embassy's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to learn how our UK Government is reducing poverty and helping people to access health and education in Nepal.

| Ms Howe





# — The Art Exhibition —

We have been blown away by the talent of our IGCSE and A Level artists this year. The talent of our students was seen in our Art Exhibition, organised by the fantastic art department, Ms Magnus and Ms Rosser. Thank you to the students for sharing your pieces with us, and thank you to the art teachers for your hard work and dedication. We hope many of our Runnymede families were able to share this experience with us in the family event in June.



# Sixth Form Events —

We are extremely grateful to the incredible guest speakers who have generously given up their time to speak to our Sixth Formers about their diverse professional experiences. Their insights and stories have provided invaluable inspiration and guidance. What an absolute privilege for our students to learn directly from such impressive and accomplished professionals.

It was also fantastic to have a masterclass delivered on Hyperinflation by Pedro A Palma, offering our students an opportunity to learn about Venezuela's economic journey. Thank you to all our speakers for their contributions and for making these events so enriching and memorable for our Sixth Formers.



## University Offers 2024 —

We are very pleased and proud to announce that our Year 13 students have, once again, secured an outstanding set of university offers this year. Our pupils have been offered places in prestigious universities in the UK, USA, Spain, Netherlands, Italy, France and Switzerland. In the UK, our students have received offers from University of Oxford and University of Cambridge, and the cohort has achieved a stellar number of offers from top institutions including Imperial College London, UCL, The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), University of St Andrews, Durham University, University of Edinburgh, University of Warwick and University of Bath.



Our early applicants to the US received offers from Stanford University, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, Tufts University, University of Notre Dame and Drexel University. This success has been followed by regular decision offers from Harvard University, University of California, Berkeley, Yale University, Columbia University, UCLA, Cornell University, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Northwestern University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Brown University and Purdue University amongst others.

We have an increasing number applying to universities across Europe and we are very happy that our students have been offered places in Delft University of Technology, Università Bocconi, and at the Institut Polytechnique de Paris.



# Take a Runnymedian to Work Day —

We are extremely grateful to all the generous individuals who warmly welcomed our Year 12 Runnymedians into their workplaces on Thursday, April 25th. It was a truly enriching experience as they explored diverse working environments and gained valuable insights into inspiring career journeys. This event not only exposes our students to various professions but also ignites curiosity and broadens horizons. Thank you to everyone who participated in shaping the future aspirations of our students!



## — Old Runnymedian Drop Ins —

We are delighted to have had a number of Old Runnymedians drop in to share their experiences and top tips to our Year 12s. They shared their stories about studying in the US and Canada, what the application process was like and what their first year experiences have been.



## — Runnymede Science Club and Fundacion Unblock

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 to excite our children about the world of science! 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!



The Year 12 Science Club team then visited Fundacion Unblock to share their love of science and carried out experiments with the students there. They had to carefully plan the learning activities, prepare all the necessary equipment and teach the students how to complete the practicals. It was a great success and all involved learnt a great deal from one another!



# Duke of Edinburgh —



This year has been exceptionally successful for the Duke of Edinburgh programme at Runnymede College, which has grown from strength to strength. With over 60 participants, we proudly achieved a record number of awards presented. Our students engaged in numerous volunteering opportunities, significantly impacting the lives of those less privileged while fostering their own personal growth. Additionally, we conducted four successful expeditions to Navacerrada, Gredos, and the French Pyrenees, providing our students with unforgettable experiences and valuable skills. The dedication and achievements of our students continue to be a source of pride for our school community.



Have a wonderful summer break, we will see you for the start of term for pupils, on the 5th September 2024!



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