

# Prep School



## Spring Term 2025

I have always been very proud to write the Opening Remarks of the Prep School newsletter because it shows just how broad and wonderful a Runnymede education is. It captures a few of the many highlights of the term, and shows just how hard our pupils work, although, at this age, perhaps they play a little bit harder! It also shows how smiles and laughter are an integral part of the school uniform. These smiles are in spite of the rather atrocious weather we have endured for most of the second half of term - very non-Madrid, I must say!

As you can see, our pupils remain the best advocates for our school - they remain happy, busy, polite and kind individuals who enjoy getting stuck in to as much as possible, while perhaps also having a stab at some passing light-hearted mischief - and the truth is that I wouldn't want it any other way! The next few pages tell a story of ambition, commitment, dedication, friendship and happiness, and for me, it remains a great privilege to play a small part in the journey that our pupils are on. And, there is plenty more to look forward to as the summer term should bring sunshine, outdoor activities, whole-school residentials, and of course, much more learning - both in and out of the classroom. I wish all Runnymede families a good Easter break full of rest and chocolate, and I look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday the 21st April - wearing the summer uniform and another big smile.

| **Duncan Bailey** Prep School Headmaster

# Maths Week

## House Maths Competition

Buzzers, questions, flashing lights. They define a quiz competition. You add children, you get the Runnymede Maths Competition. Taking place on the eleventh of March, students were struck with a mixture of suspense, concentration and glory. The four houses competed head-to-head, with Keynes coming out on top, after a breathtaking experience.

| Qingyou Year 6C



### Pi Winners!

Congratulations to the Pi winners from 6L Olivia C. and Jimena!

## Maths Trip Year 6



I am delighted to tell you about our year 6 Maths trip to la Escuela de Pensamiento Matematico in Torrelodones. In the trip, we first went to a gymkhana and our lovely monitor prepared different math games for us to play. For every game we won, we earned 1 point. After the gymkhana, we had our snacks and later went to a magic show. In the magic show, you could volunteer to do some math problems in front of the crowd. I am sure that if you go there, it will change the whole way you look at numbers in Maths. I hope this writing inspires you to continue your Maths journey and I really recommend going to this place.

| Luis Year 6C

# School Musical “The Sound of Music”

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From the 11th-13th of February, we had our school production of 'The Sound of Music' which was a triumphant success. Directed by Ms Lambert and musically directed Mr Blake, with support from several members of staff across the three schools, the students from both the Prep and Senior school displayed immense levels of talent. The dedication shown by our students who started rehearsals in September was truly worth it as there were rave reviews from staff, parents and students within the school community. It was hard to say 'So Long, Farewell' to the production but we are looking forward to more musicals in the future.

**Oscar Quinn** Head of Music Prep School



# Farewell to Jo Barr —

I came to Runnymede College in 2003 and I immediately felt at home through the kindness of so many people who welcomed me to the school. At that top of that list, I have to put Jo Barr's name whose sense of humour matched mine in so many ways. Later, I was also able to see at first hand her style of leadership as Head of the Junior School. Her door was always open: many tears were shed but also many problems made lighter through her compassion and advice. Jo Barr, like myself, was educated by teachers who had grown up and come of age during economic depression of the 1930s and the conflict that characterised the 1940s. As a result of these experiences, many of these teachers wanted our generation to fully experience freedom and independence in our journey to adulthood.



Jo Barr brought these principles with her to Runnymede College both as a class teacher and head teacher. Education, she insisted, should sometimes just be fun. As the years passed, we spoke more about our families. Her loyalty to her family is unconditional. As a parent, and now as a grandparent, she has made as lasting an impression on her own children as she has on the many, many children who have passed through her classrooms and as Head Teacher of the Runnymede College Junior School and Pre-prep

| Mr. Colin Fisher Senior Teacher



# Table Tennis Tournament

This term has seen two major crazes take off again! The first is the return of the Diabolo, and many of our pupils have purchased one, and thanks to Mr Smith, the playground has turned into a circus performance stage with new tricks and skills being attempted in spite of the rain. We have also launched the second Prep School table tennis championships with nearly 200 pupils signing up of the various tournaments. Our table tennis finals day saw Manuel Vásquez win the Under 11 tournament a year young, and Samir Parwani won the Under 13 festival match vs Bobby Hack, although Sonny Giles will play against Bobby in the U13 final at the start of next term. Adriana Garcia won a closely contested Under 13 girls final against Clara Lovera, and Gabi Timpanaro won the Under 11 tournament.



We are delighted to have two professional table tennis players coaching too - Coach Chris and Coach Hugo have been offering table tennis lessons at lunch time, and we have just purchased another table to manage the demand for more lessons from them. Our aim will be to compete at IAPS level next year.

## | Mr. Duncan Bailey



On 28/3/25, the table tennis final was played in the Julia Powell. "The crowd was larger than ever!" said Manuel (one of the finalists and winner of the tournament). "It was a really intense match," quoted Álvaro (the other finalist) "but I lost." "It was the most interesting match I've ever seen!" affirmed Gonzalo, a part of the crowd. "The two competitors are the best I've ever seen!" Carlos and Noah commented. After one exhausting first game, the score was 1-0 in games and 11-8. Then, the second and last game ended 2-0 in games and 11-5.

The two finalists - Álvaro and Manuel - really enjoyed the match. When the two finalists entered, the intense music sounded all around the Julia Powell. In addition, the crowd cheered and chanted. In conclusion, the table tennis final has been one of the best table tennis matches that Runnymede has ever seen. What could happen next? Only time will tell. Maybe they become doubles world champions. It is not the most probable thing, but it might just happen.

## | Manuel Year 5.1

# Literacy Week



From 3rd to 8th March, the Prep School celebrated all things to do with Literacy. Our theme for the year was 'The Power of our Words'. There were lots of speaking, reading and writing activities taking place in all lessons, and classes all took a trip to our new library and to the pre-prep school to share books with younger readers. As usual, the week culminated in our annual celebration of the joy of reading during our World Book Day, with some incredible costumes on display.

During Literacy Week, all classes across the whole of the Prep School have read 'Malala's Magic Pencil', a book about the young activist Malala Yousafzai, who speaks up for girls and their rights to an education. All classes then carried out a piece of writing in response to the book. In many classes there were passionate speeches delivered about how to make the world a better place, and some of these were shared with the school in assembly. In Year 6, we looked at images on the book cover, and thought what they could represent about Malala. Then we imagined that we had our own magic pencil and what we would draw. We also responded to 'Mr Bailey's ludicrous rule' that all girls couldn't come to school anymore, and we wrote and presented speeches against this idea, also drawing images in Kerascoet's style to support our speeches. (By Louis M, Year 6)

Two competitions were launched in the build-up to Literacy Week. The first was to produce an 'Extreme Book Review' to promote a recently read book to classmates in an imaginative way. We had some wonderful entries, ranging from posters, interactive books, statues, animation videos and short films.

| **Mr. Andrew Moore** Head of Prep School English



## Winners of Literacy Week Competitions

Extreme Book Review Competition		Short story competition	
Year 4	Carlota Meana and Amelia Vickery	Year 4	Giorgia Mercadante
Year 5	Rafael Gonzalez and Elsa Harper-Dikme	Year 5	Odysseus Belivanakis
Year 6	Charlie Diment and Ana Pons	Year 6	Saskia Anbar-Faris
Year 7	Jaime del Arco	Year 7	Ariadna Ponte
Year 8	Yash Kishichand	Year 8	Ermis Belivanakis

# Inter School Tournaments Highlights

## JANUARY

Benjamín Football 6 Boys (Y5) 1st Place

## FEBRUARY

Infantil Basketball Boys (Y7-Y9) 2nd Place

Alevín Tag Rugby Boys (Y6-Y7) 2nd Place

Alevín Tag Rugby Girls (Y6-Y7) 4th Place

## FOOTBALL

2nd Place Alevín Boys Team

Infantil Girls Team qualified to play final round with Top Teams of the league

## BASKETBALL

First Victory of our Alevín Mixed Team against Padre Manyanet 31-30 in an epic match

## VOLLEYBALL

Alevín Team District League Champions

## INTER SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY

Runnymede 2nd Place, with several medals through all categories

## JUDO

Several medals in Alcobendas Championship



# Pirates of the Disco Sea Party

## Neon Galactic Dance Party

The Senior School Charity Committee have put on two fabulous discos for the Prep School this term to raise money for the school charity Fundación Runnymede College. The first was a Pirates of the Disco Sea themed party, while the second was a Neon Galactic event. We had lots of fun dressing up in various wonderful outfits, while some amazing tunes were played by DJ Rosario, and everyone was encouraged to dance by our Dancing Queen Ana!

Mrs Powell produced lots of good food, and great time was had by all - and importantly, we raised more than €2000,00. We have some exciting ideas for more charitable work next term - so watch this space!

| Mr. Duncan Bailey





# The IAPS Ski Championships

The Runnymede Prep School Ski Team set off to Pila, Italy in March to take part in our second IAPS Ski Championships competing against 19 other schools from the UK. We took a young team this year with pupils in Years 4,5,6 and 7, and once again it was clear we meant business with our accolade of being the best dressed team on the slopes! The camaraderie of the team was wonderful to watch, and I was delighted to see our older pupils supporting the younger ones, and even helping with evening homework!



Our Under 9 team were IAPS Champions, and Billy Ganteaume was the Individual Under 9 boys Champion with Alberto Comenge as runner up, and team captain Irene Escandon was 2nd in the Individual Under 9 girls! Other highlights were finishing 3rd in the parallel slalom competition, 2nd in both Under 11 girls and boys competition. Overall, we were the 2nd best team out there and the name Runnymede College is ringing through the ears of IAPS organisers and other schools. We made a mark, and we will attempt to go one better next year!

| Mr. Duncan Bailey

# Orquesta Sinfónica Juventas

Orquesta Sinfónica Juventas returned to Runnymede College for a second year on Saturday, 29th March. In this concert, which included a string orchestra of professionals, young musicians and many pupils from Runnymede, the audience was treated to a performance of classical repertory, film scores and rock anthems. Álvaro in Year 8 was this year's soloist, performing Popper's Concert Polonaise for cello. Lucía, Alex and Ricardo, three talented young drummers, joined the orchestra on stage for an energetic finale to the concert, from which a donation will be made to Fundación Runnymede College.

| **Mr. Blake** Deputy Head (Pastoral)



## Flag Competition

This half-term the children took part in the Prep School's first ever flag contest. Their challenge was to recognise flags from around the world and to name not only the country but also the continent and capital city. There were three very exciting but tense rounds. It all began with a form time competition, with the highest scoring member of each form going head-to-head in a year group assembly. We were so impressed by the children's knowledge that we decided to put the finalists from each year group against each other in Headmasters assembly. The finalists from each year group had such outstanding knowledge that the winner was only decided by a tie-break question! A huge round of applause to the winners in each category and to everyone for taking part. Well done to David Osuna from Year 5 for being the ultimate winner of the first Prep School Flag Competition!

| **Ms. Papworth** Head of Humanities Prep School



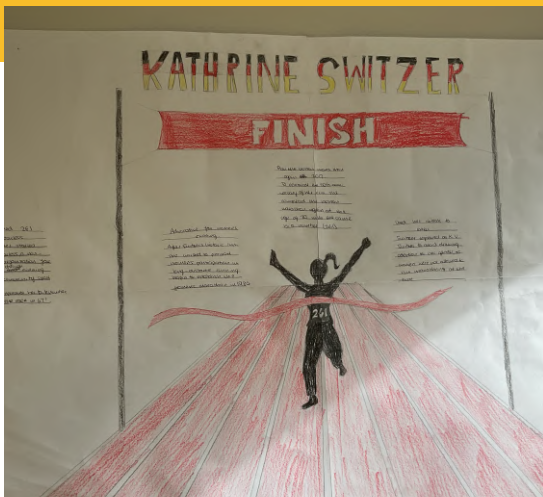
# History Club

This half term has been a busy one for the History Club. In preparation to enter the Townsend Warner Prize, a prestigious Prep School History competition, we have been meeting weekly to discuss and learn about all things fun and history related. The first edition of the History Club magazine will be out at the end of the month! Well done to all budding historians for your enthusiasm, dedication and hard work!

**| Ms. Papworth Head of Humanities Prep School**

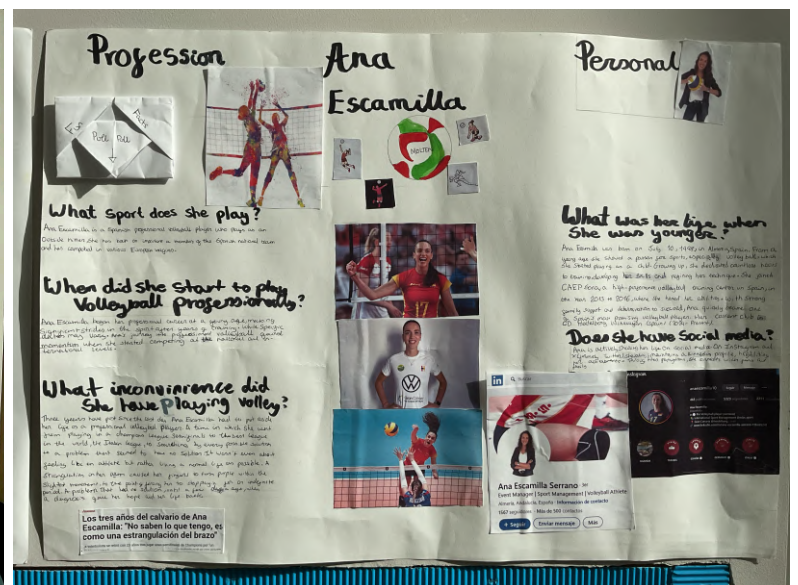


# International Women's Day



This half term for International Women's Day we learnt the history of Kathrine Switzer, the first woman to run a marathon. This inspired lots of interesting and thoughtful conversations about women in sport, their impressive achievements and what is still yet to be achieved. Thank you to all the entries for the poster competition; we now have a fantastic display celebrating amazing female athletes from a range of disciplines and it has been brilliant to see so many children stopping this week and taking a moment to enjoy reading about potential role models.

**| Ms. Papworth Head of Humanities Prep School**



# Archeological Museum Visit

Year 4 trip to the Archeological Museum to have a greater understanding of the Ancient Egyptian period.



# Science and Music

Science used to create instrument to investigating sound and pitch





Proyecto de Sociales de la Edad Moderna Este trimestre hemos hecho un proyecto sobre los monumentos de Madrid creados en la Edad Moderna. Yo estoy investigando Alcalá de Henares, y lo que más me ha gustado es descubrir las cosas diferentes que hacían en esa época y lo que hacían parecido a la nuestra. Por ejemplo, en esa época también había universidades y teatros. Me está encantando aprender la historia de Madrid.

| India Year 6C

## Victorian Day Year 5



On Thursday, the 3rd of April, Year 5 held Victorian Day – a day on which the Year 5 pupils, who have been studying the Victorian era and the Industrial Revolution, came dressed as Victorian-era schoolchildren and experienced a day in a Victorian-style classroom. Incredibly, many of the children described enjoying the Victorian-style education. In particular, one Year 5 pupil stated, “I would have liked for everyone to have a chance to get the cane and wear the dunce’s hat.” Nevertheless, many also expressed relief that modern-day teachers are kinder, that there are more opportunities to ask questions, receive help, and use a range of contemporary resources to support their learning. The teachers also were relieved to return to the 21st century in which education is a much more dynamic, positive and creative endeavour.

| Ms Brackin Year 5 Teacher





**Important Dates for next term's diary... We look forward to seeing you!**

**Monday 21st April - Start of Term**

**Friday 25th April - Prep School Sports Day**

**Monday 26th - 30th May - Prep School Exam Week**

**Monday 2nd - 5th June - Prep School Residentials**

**SATURDAY 7th JUNE - SUMMER FAIR**

**Thursday 19th June - Buggy Malone**



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