



# Richmond Park Academy

To make our best better

15 July 2016

## NEWS BULLETIN



### Open Letter from Paul Mundy-Castle

I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed as the new Principal of Richmond Park Academy and I am very keen to get to know parents, as well as the students and staff.

Since my appointment, I have had the opportunity to visit the school on several occasions and to meet with Ms O'Brien and the senior leadership team, students and staff. I would like to say thank you to Ms O'Brien for her support in ensuring the transition to a new Principal has been smooth.

From my experience of being a vice Principal in two different schools, I know that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together. All the staff and children have made me feel very welcome and I feel privileged to be joining your school community. Being a father of two, I am very much aware of the responsibility that my staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of teaching and learning is evident in all areas.

Richmond Park Academy has a longstanding history and I am looking forward to finding out more about the school so that the changes we make in this new chapter are supported by the whole school community. I do not have a very complicated philosophy in terms of what I believe makes the best schools and my approach is generally to keep things as straightforward as possible. My priorities are

simply these: excellent examination outcomes, impeccable behaviour, great teaching and the widest possible range of high-quality extra-curricular experiences for all students. With a clear focus and lots of hard work, these things are all achievable and will deliver what I think most parents want – happy children who leave school with plenty of choices available to them and are well-equipped to cope with the world outside. Parents and carers make an important contribution to children's achievements at school, and I want to develop the relationship between the school and parents for everyone's benefit.

I also hope to hold a "Meet the New Principal," meeting in the new academic year in order for me to gain a wider knowledge of the parent community. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or concerns, or if there is anything I can do to help and support you with your child's learning and school life.

I wish you all a safe and restful summer and look forward to your full support as we continue to make RPA the school of choice for the local community.

Paul Mundy-Castle  
Principal Designate

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### RPA students join Queen Elizabeth to commemorate Battle of the Somme



Ms Underwood and five students took part in the official events at Westminster Abbey commemorating the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme, in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh this term.

Shannon W, Pear L, Charlie A, Charlie M and Sydnee G all played a central role featuring readings and participation in an overnight vigil at the grave of the unknown warrior. RPA were one of only 16 schools nationwide to be chosen for this honour.

Ms Underwood said, "It has been a privilege to be involved with the Legacy Project and the Somme vigil. It was a really emotional experience".

The history department have shown real commitment to this project throughout the year. Their history display sums it up beautifully.



### Manifesto for a Better City

Year 9s, Jordan D and Abdu M, represented RPA and other young people at the "Open City Breakfast Briefing: My City Too! Manifesto for a Better City," this term. Speaking in the Chamber in City Hall in front of an audience of their peers and a panel including the Deputy Mayor of London, Jordan and Abdu argued for the importance of involving young people in the

development of their local areas and suggested that their involvement be a legal requirement. Their main message? Design what we want – not what you think we want. Ms Perry, who co-ordinated their involvement said, "I am very proud of them. They thought through their argument and delivered it very effectively in a very public arena."

### 6<sup>th</sup> Form grows up

It's been a big year for our 6<sup>th</sup> form this year as we said goodbye to our first Year 13 cohort after taking their A Levels. They have university offers from Kent, Brighton, Newcastle, Manchester Met, Exeter, King's College London, St Mary's, Bristol, Herts, Royal Holloway & Bangor. It's all action for KS5. Year 10s have had their 'expression of interest' interviews in preparation for 6<sup>th</sup> Form at RPA, our Year 12s have had work experience and the 6<sup>th</sup> form team is completing preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> form Induction Day for the 2016/7 cohort.



### It's a pleasure to meet you!

RPA had a very special visitor this term when 91 year old Beryl Jones came to visit us. Beryl was the School Secretary during the 60's, 70's and early 80's and saw it change from Boys Grammar to 6<sup>th</sup> form college and then to a comprehensive school. Beryl was the only member of support staff – and when the school was a boys grammar – the only lady in the school. Beryl had a tour of the site with her daughter Alison and son, Philip, who was a pupil at the grammar school during the 1960's. The highlight of the trip was when Ms Barlow managed to find an old register which Beryl had filled out all those years ago. It even had Philip's name listed in 1958! So, what do they think of the school now? Her daughter Alison reported, "We must compliment the students at the school as every one of them seemed polite and thoughtful towards older people. And, as we kept saying, the fabric of the site was immaculate."





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### Sports Day – who can stop Nightingale Foxes?

Sports Day Scoreboard : Totals

SPORTS DAY SCOREBOARD				
	Boys	Girls	Total	Rank
Churchill Bulldogs	854	965	1819	3
St George Dragons	851	1016	1867	2
Nightingale Foxes	814	1151	1965	1
Shakespeare's Lions	785	970	1755	4

Nightingale Foxes won Sports Day last Friday for the 3rd time in a row pipping St George's Dragons into 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Sports Day sums up Richmond Park Academy sport perfectly. It was competitive, skilful and fun. The tug of war is always a focal point for fierce competition which, without exception, ends in laughter and the track events in the afternoon saw some exceptional athletes on show. One particular highlight was Year 7, Jake F, winning an all year high jump competition with a leap of 1.63m demonstrating a sensational technique! There were also a high energy group of students who participated in a number of events as they did their utmost to contribute to their house total. Well done to everyone!



### London Youth Games 2016

Congratulations to Chris S in Year 9 who took part in the Richmond London Youth Games Football team coming away with a silver medal. RPA can also boast 3 members of the Borough's Table Tennis team this year. Year 7s, Joseph D for the boys team and Jaikalin and Julia for the girls team, put in great performances, with the boys team making it through to the final tournament.



### RPA votes "Remain" in vain



RPA students went to the polls this term in a mock EU referendum and found themselves on the losing side with the vast majority of the rest of London, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 181 votes were cast on a wet June morning with 141 of those (78%) voting "remain". Mock elections are a real theme at Richmond Park Academy with students sharing really thoughtful views before they vote. Thank you to Ms Squires and the Student Council for organising the ballot.

### RPA - Outstanding!

RPA achieved an overall outcome of Outstanding in its recent Annual Health and Safety Audit. A huge thank you to our hardworking Facilities Team.

### Zac Goldsmith to open "diverse and imaginative" RPA Art exhibition

Zac Goldsmith, MP will open Richmond Park Academy's, **Café Walls Art Exhibition – Portraits, People, Nature** at the OSO in Barnes on Monday 18 July from 7pm. Art has always been one of the flagship successes of the academy. In this showcase of Year 11 GCSE exam pieces, students were free to choose the style and medium in which to work which has resulted in a diverse and imaginative collection. The exhibition runs from Monday 18 July to Saturday 30 July. All are welcome.

Those wishing to attend the opening night should email [events@richmondparkacademy.org](mailto:events@richmondparkacademy.org).





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### Lights down and action!

As is traditional, the summer term has been a term full of performance. The drama department production, "We Will Rock You" and "Live at the Rose" featuring RPA's choir took place last week. Congratulations to everyone who took part.



### EAL students host multicultural Tea Party

Teachers and students had a real treat this week when a group of English as an Additional Language (EAL) students hosted an EAL event with a traditional English tea party as the central activity. They made English scones, organised quizzes and activities and presented a 10 minute lesson on their country of birth. They concluded the event by sharing a typical dish or cake from their own country. Greek, Polish, Arabic, Lithuanian, Spanish and Portuguese fare, amongst others, was on show. Thank you to the students, the EAL team for their hard work and to all of the other teachers who, very happily, did the eating!



### SEN - Making our best even better

Ms Morris and the SEN Department are reviewing RPA's SEN provision and are consulting widely. To share your views please complete their [short questionnaire](#).

### Science bubbling with activity

The science department really are finishing the year with a flourish! Year 7 took part in a Science Fair this Friday with students displaying their individual science projects to each other. There will also be a science cake bake competition and a science and nature

photography competition with a dry ice display. Science will be welcoming a travelling hospital organised by Medical Mavericks at the end of term too.

### Mimi is Year 7 Spelling Bee

Year 7 have been taking part in a Spelling Bee over the last few weeks in tutor time. Each tutor group entered their top speller into the grand final which took place in a special assembly this week. Mimi M of 7T1 came out on top, after some very challenging spellings, with Akshay V of 7T7 coming in second. Congratulations to them and to all the other finalists, Mollie F, Ellie C, Ella B, Sonny H and Foloshade M.

### Trips past

As well as being a term full of performance the summer term is full of overseas trips too. The attractions of Barcelona are currently entertaining 40 of our students, but the school has already enjoyed Boulogne, Amsterdam and a Year 7 PGL trip.



### Trips future

There are a number of amazing trip opportunities on the RPA horizon. Don't delay in reserving your place before the end of term on the [ParentPay](#) site. You can find out more on the [trips page](#) of the RPA website.

- [Christmas Market, Aachen](#), December 2016. This is an annual favourite and encapsulates the best of the German Christmas Market tradition.
- [New Hampshire Ski Trip including New York](#), March/April 2017 - a real adventure!
- [Italy](#), May 2017. There are only 10 places left for this amazing trip featuring Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento and the Bay of Naples. Book Now!
- [Kenya, Spring Half Term 2018](#). Students will be able to volunteer in the local community and work at schools in developing areas. The trip is co-ordinated by leading volunteer travel organisation, African Adventures.

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### Heads down....!

Year 7 and Year 8 were treated to 45 minutes of falconry this term thanks to Year 7's George R who had chosen falconry for his Jack Petchey prize. George was awarded the prize by his year group because he is consistently positive to his peers, hardworking and a pleasure to be around for students and teachers alike. Surrey Falconry treated students to a display featuring, a bald eagle, a gyr falcon, a great grey owl, a tawny owl, a harris hawk, a sunnda scops owl, a kookaburra and a boo book owl.



### Year 8 Dragonboat challenge

Mr Trace organised an exhilarating end of term reward for those Year 8 students with the best attendance and effort records. The students were chosen because they had attendance better than 98.3%, fewer than 5 lates and fewer than 5 Behaviour Points since September. The group was split into 2 boats with two students volunteering to beat the drum and keep everyone in check. Mr Trace's boat won the first two races which caused dissension amongst the ranks in the other boat! He was then 'promoted' to the drum which resulted in the other boat recovering to win the next two races. All in all, an honourable draw and a very happy Year 8 group!



### BBQ Fit for a Queen breaks records!

Around 300 parents and children attended the PTA organised, "BBQ Fit for a Queen" on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June. The event raised a huge £2183 which is the most ever raised by the PTA for school activities. A heartfelt thank you to all of those parents and students who gave up their time to make this event such a success.

### Battle of the Books

RPA's Year 8 students took part in the Battle of the Books again this year against other borough secondary schools. Our team were up for the challenge but after four difficult rounds it was Waldegrave School who won the title.



The team enjoyed the experience, especially a fascinating talk by the current Costa book prize winner, Frances Hardinge, who explained, amongst other things, how she writes creepy books with 'a dollop of weird' and a homicidal goose!

A special mention has to go to team captain Geordie S whose commitment and enthusiasm was exceptional.

**The Team: Geordie S, Daisy S, Deborah F, Jesse R, Raphaela R, Rowan C, Sabela L and Seraphina E**

### More good news from the library

To date RPA have a record breaking 71 students (5 up on last year) who have read over one million words. In total, students at RPA have read 230,215,656 words which is over 6% higher than the 2015/16 total. Our highest readers are Matthew H and Megan B who are both Year 7 students.

### RPA's Sustainable Living

There has been lots of activity in the staff garden over this term. As well as welcoming the pre-school group Little Growers, who have transformed the area into an active vegetable patch, we have added a chicken coop. Ms Hunter has ambitious plans to use the produce generated from the activity in the RPA kitchens.



### Farmers' and Artisan Market comes to RPA

The first Sheen Farmers' and Artisan Market takes place **this Sunday 17th July** next to the Oak Tree Café. Access is via the Hertford Avenue Car Park. The market will take place between 10am and 2pm and will feature a range of produce. Come and see for yourself!



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### Last Day of School

The last day of school is Wednesday 20th July. There will be an early finish at 12 noon. Please note that food will be available in first break but it will be a limited menu.

### Community News

#### Volunteer training with Home-Start Richmond

If you have some free time after the summer holidays, and you are a parent or grandparent, you could help other families with pre-school children. Local charity Home-Start Richmond is offering a free course to train you to be a home-visiting volunteer, supporting families with difficulties such as post-natal illness, bereavement or disability. The course runs 10am-2.30pm, every Tuesday for 10 weeks from 13 Sept – 22 November (not half-term). After the course, you would visit a family for 2-3 hours a week. For more information, please contact Angie Ahmed on 020 8487 8500 [info@homestart-richmond.org.uk](mailto:info@homestart-richmond.org.uk) or visit [www.homestart-richmond.org.uk](http://www.homestart-richmond.org.uk).

### Finally....

Enjoy your summer holiday and see you in September

Bookmark the [RPA website!](http://www.rpa.org.uk)

### What's On?

Date	Event
14 - 15 July 2016	6th form Induction
17 July 2016	Farmers' and Artisan Market
18 July 2016	Opening Night RPA Art Exhibition at the OSO, Barnes
19 July 2016	Prize Giving 2016
20 July 2016	Last Day of School - 12 noon finish
18 August 2016	A Levels Results Day
25 August 2016	GCSE Results Day
25 August 2016	6th Form Enrolment
26 August 2016	6th Form Enrolment
7 September 2016	First Day of School for Year 7 - 08.30
7 September 2016	6th Form September Induction. 09.00, Oak Tree Cafe
8 September 2016	First Day of School for Years 8,9,10,11 - 08.30
14 September 2016	RPA PTA meeting
12 October 2016	RPA Open Evening for Year 6 parents
24 – 28 October 2016	Half Term
31 October 2016	Inset Day
1 November 2016	Return to school

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