



## Ranelagh School

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28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know, last Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May was the Holy Day of Pentecost a day when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to his disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations. As the day focusses on God's Spirit being poured out on believers, it is often one of the most popular days for Baptisms and Confirmations. I am aware that a number of members of our school community were indeed Baptised and Confirmed last weekend and wish to pass on my prayers and best wishes to them.

Many churches set aside the ten days between Ascension and Pentecost as a special time of prayer for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thy Kingdom Come, the global wave of prayer established in 2016 following an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, has seen millions of Christians across denominations and across the world joining together to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. If you would like to learn more and engage in this period do click on this [link](#).

*"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby*

This week, we have said our first farewells to Year 11 and Year 13 students as they all finish their courses and submit the final evidence for the Teacher Assessed Grades process. It would be fair to say that the 2-year courses both year groups embarked upon were not as expected with a variety of face to face and remote learning and formal and informal assessment taking place. Once again, I have been humbled and inspired by the dedication and determination of both staff and students as they worked together to ensure the evidence submitted is the best it can be. I am in the privileged position of having to review all of this work before it is submitted and I can say that it has been a joy to see such quality.

I am pleased to say that I was able to say goodbye to Year 11 personally last Friday and will do so to the Year 13 students in our get together in early July. I include some words here from other staff members shared with students in their last few days.

### **A note from Mrs Monaghan, Head of Year 11**

We wish our Year 11 students well in their next steps, many of whom we are looking forward to welcoming into the Ranelagh 6th form and others who will be taking up new exciting opportunities. Over the five years that the cohort have been students at Ranelagh, I have had the honour of being their Head of Year for four of them. I have had the pleasure of witnessing their successes amongst others; being National Mock Trials Champions for two successive years, seeing them excel in their sporting achievements both inside and outside of school, admiring their magnificent artwork in the corridors and classrooms on a daily basis, being awed by their magnificent dramatic performances, watching them develop and strengthen their relationships that they should cherish through experiences such as the Year 9 trip and Oakwood.



I am so proud of the way that the students have undertaken the challenges they have faced, both personal and brought about by the pandemic. They have demonstrated great courage, tenacity and resilience, all skills that we are sure will benefit them in future life. I would like to draw your attention to the channel that has been added to the Year 11 students' group on Microsoft teams called "Post-GCSE opportunities". We have gathered together some ideas of opportunities ranging from work experience to community projects should the students be looking to add to their CV or general life experience over the summer ahead.

As I said to the students in their Leaver's Assembly, the experiences that they have shared and the community that they have been a part of for five years will always bond them together. I wish all of the students the very best in their future ventures and look forward to seeing them further flourish.

#### **A note from Miss Sweeney, Head of Sixth Form**

Students finishing year 13 – what a journey it has been! Right back in those Revue days you showed that you were people of character and virtue; hard-working, committed, team-players. You should be extremely proud of the ways in which you have utilised these qualities over an extraordinary two years which have been anything but normal. We look forward to warmly welcoming you back for our Summer Formal Celebration on 9th July and to seeing you as alumni over the coming years. Well done!

Go well, and take with you our shared vision – 'For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, his Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control' (2 Timothy 1.7)

#### **A note from Mrs Stevens, CEO Bonitas Trust**

I have so many very warm and happy memories of Ranelagh and its community of students and staff. Among these is my recollection of how, particularly at the start of a new school year, students gathered, like bees round a honeypot, to look at the whole school photographs hanging in the corridor at the front of the school. I could hear them from my office and enjoyed snippets of their conversation. Sometimes they were looking for themselves; sometimes they searched for a friend or pointed out an older brother or sister. And it wasn't just the students. On parents' evenings or at school events, I would often find parents and family members huddled around a particular picture on display – searching not just for their children; sometimes they were looking for themselves and their teachers, getting genuine pleasure at being able to reconnect with their school. For me this epitomised the deep affection and sense of belonging generated by the people, past and present, who make up our school family. It is special, and like lots of things in life, you do not appreciate quite how special it is until you move on to new experiences.

Putting down roots, making memories and learning to develop your wings happens when you share together your joys, your tragedies, your triumphs and your mistakes – it is these, rather than your grades alone, that define the value of your school experience and it is in search of these that I urge you to look back today.

And as for looking forward? Well, I turn to the words of St Paul when I say that, as a member of the Ranelagh family, having experienced the wisdom, love and care of your teachers, together with all who form part of this school community, my hope is that you are clothed with *compassion, kindness, humility and patience*. We cannot have enough of these things in our world.

#### **Kathy Winrow, ex-Headteacher, honoured**

It gives me great pleasure to let you know that our ex-Headteacher, Kathy Winrow, has been honoured by the Diocese of Oxford by being installed as part of The Order of St Frideswide. I

have included the notification from the Diocese below. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Kathy for her dedication and service.

“Kathryn has held many senior roles in education and was headteacher at Ranelagh School in Bracknell, an 11-18 church secondary school. During this time, she was also a National Leader in Education and worked with schools in the diocese and beyond who needed support. She has served on the DBE several times and worked with five DDEs. Since 2012, she has been chair of ODST, an MAT which now has 38 schools.

She worships at St George’s Church in Newbury, where her husband is associate priest. She has oversight of the work with children and young people, including the annual Holiday Club which welcomes over 100 youngsters. She is a PSO and leads on several PCC working groups. She has also served on General Synod for six years as an elected lay representative.”

### **Covid-19 - testing and reporting**

The DfE have once again emphasised the importance of both staff and students:

- ✓ Continuing to test twice a week over the half term holiday (Monday and Thursday).
- ✓ Reporting results to the school and NHS track and trace. Students have been given enough test kits to enable this level of testing.

Parents and carers only need to inform us of a positive case if a student has developed symptoms/received a positive home test result within 48 hours of last being in school. Please do this using the [trackandtrace@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk](mailto:trackandtrace@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk) email address which will be monitored on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May only. We will then identify close contacts and advise self-isolation as appropriate. If a student develops symptoms/receives a positive test result after Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May then please contact NHS test and trace or dial 119.

### **Parking**

Students should not be dropped off on the school site. If there is an exceptional reason, please contact the school. Those parents dropping off/collecting children at the rear or front entrance to the school are also reminded of the importance of not obstructing driveways or access points for residents and other road users and of not waiting in their car with the engine running. The school enjoys positive relationships with its neighbours, and it is important to preserve these.

The safety of all pedestrians must be our priority.

## **DEPARTMENT NEWS**

### **Art**

#### **Royal Ascot Art Competition 2021 - Results**

We were once again fortunate to be able to participate in the 2021 ‘Royal Ascot Schools Art Competition’. Taking part in this competition, is one of those occasions when we are able to showcase just some of the creative talent, that so many of our students here at Ranelagh have in the lower school.

This year, we had 27 students enter the competition, with 8 of the students’ work shortlisted by Ascot to go the live voting stage. As always, we are so proud of all our students who took the time to contribute their ideas and creativity. We would like to congratulate them for their fantastic effort and hard work.

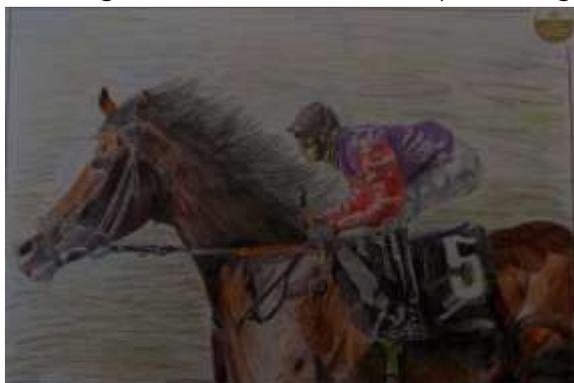
A special mention and well done for the shortlisted entries;

Year 7: Olivia Ciccarello (7U), Alice Murtha (7V) and Violet McMahon (7Z)

Year 8: Ruby Cuthbert (8X), Megan Jones (8Y), Maya Cirio (8V) and Lienkie du Plessis (8U)

Year 9: Daisy Williams (9V)

We are delighted to announce that Maya Cirio was the overall winner of the age 12-13 category and Megan Jones was the runner up of the age 12-13 category.



Maya Cirio (8V) Winner



Megan Jones (8Y) Runner Up

As well as receiving their own individual prize, Maya will be invited to attend Royal Ascot and both Maya and Megan will be invited to attend a zoom video call with one of the jockeys in celebration and recognition of their success.

Maya and Megan's artwork will be enlarged and will join last year's artwork display in the Ascot Heath Tunnel before Royal Ascot takes place. Congratulations to them both!

Congratulations also to all the artists who took part. We are excited for another opportunity next year. Hopefully we will see even more entries, so get practicing!

### **Royal Ascot Design Competition 2021**

We have been incredibly fortunate to be able to participate in a new competition for the older students at Ranelagh this year; working with both Royal Ascot and Samsung.

As part of Ascot Racecourse Supports Schools' engagement programme, young designers were invited to enter this competition; to style an outfit to be worn at Royal Ascot using a Samsung Flip 2, UHD interactive Digital Flipchart, which was donated by Samsung to each participating School.

Ranelagh Art Department have been incredibly lucky to have received this amazing piece of technology which we will be able to incorporate into our lessons.

A few of our students rose to the challenge of creating their outfit designs. It was fantastic to receive these, we are always proud of those who choose to have a go and the effort that they put into creating their work. Well done to:

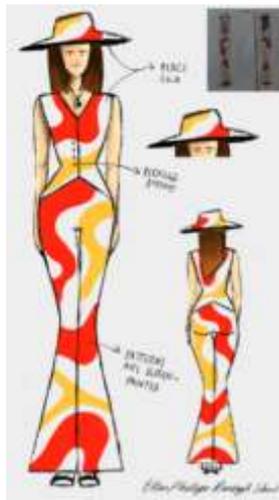
Caitlyn Street (10W), Anna-Rose Forsdick (12A), Isobel Butler (13D), Ellen Phillips (13B) and James Simmons (13C) for entering this competition and for their beautiful designs!

Unfortunately, only three could be shortlisted to the next stage; which was to re-create their designs using the Samsung Flip Chart. After mastering the new technology and a small amount of practice, Ellen Phillips, Isobel Butler and James Simmons set about illustrating their designs on this interactive board. It was a busy time for them, and we are grateful for the extra time that they spent perfecting their entries and working to such a short deadline.

These are the designs drawn onto the interactive flipchart;



James Simmons 13C



Ellen Phillips 13B



Isobel Butler 13D

The final 3 entries were sent off, along with other participating schools' designs, to be judged by fashion designer Zeynep Kartal. Zeynep is a designer who produces beautiful dresses and tailoring based in Manchester. Her website is currently under construction, but you can get an idea of her designs here: (<http://zeynepkartal.co.uk/>).

We were thrilled to receive the news regarding the winner and are therefore delighted to announce that Isobel Butler won the Competition. Congratulations to Isobel for her stunning design!

Isobel will be working with Zeynep, who will be manufacturing her winning design and she will be invited to attend Royal Ascot, wearing her outfit to celebrate her success.

We are so proud of each of the students for taking part and delighted for Isobel to be able to have this wonderful opportunity. We are hoping that this will be an annual competition and invite all designers 15+ to start thinking of their designs for next year!

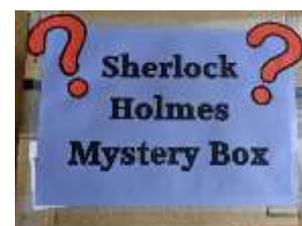


Creating the designs using the Samsung Flip2;

## English

### Sherlock Holmes Competition

In honour of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, creator of arguably the greatest fictional detective, all year 7 tutor groups took part in a mysterious competition in their library lessons. Each tutor group had to guess the six Sherlock Holmes related items in the mystery box. They were limited to asking 20 yes or no questions – the tutor group with the most correct guesses would win an edible grand prize. If each tutor group had the same correct guesses, it would come down to the best, out-of-the-box, questions asked.



Perhaps Miss Oblein made it too tricky as everyone got the same 3 items but seemed stumped by the remaining 3!

There was, of course, a deerstalker hat, a pipe and a magnifying glass. The remaining items were... a jigsaw puzzle piece for all the puzzles and riddles Mr Holmes solves, a crown as he was often asked to find valuable items and finally...a red herring, to represent the misleading clues in his investigations!



As each tutor group had the same number of correct guesses, the winner was determined by their questioning prowess. The best interrogating tutor group, with the most intriguing and thoughtful questions was...7Y!

Congratulations!

### Legacy Books

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the Year 11 and 13 students and parents who have kindly donated Legacy Books from our school Amazon wish list. These books will be used and treasured by all our students; both present and future. Should you wish to donate a book to the library please do look at our current list which can be found here: [tiny.cc/RanelaghBooks](https://tiny.cc/RanelaghBooks) We are always delighted to receive new books to add to the library's collection and aid the student's thirst for knowledge and enjoyment of reading.



### E-Library

Ranelagh's IT support team have been hard at work recently, updating access to the Ranelagh e-library. When students log in now, they must use their Microsoft 365 username and password, the same as when they log in to the school computer or from home. Their old e-library account will soon be deleted.

The e-library is a wonderful resource for students to access, with a wide range of fun titles to explore.

To log on, go to: <https://ranelagh-hantssls.wheelers.co>

If there are any issues with the e-library please email: [elibrary@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk](mailto:elibrary@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk)

## Geography

Year 7 students have been hard at work in geography thinking about sustainable settlements for the future. As part of this topic, they created a model of a sustainable house using only recyclable materials from home. The students then gave a presentation to their class, showing their building and explaining their reason for its design. They rose to this challenge with great enthusiasm and created some truly fantastic models, demonstrating creativity, curiosity and geographical knowledge. The quality of the models was very high. We would like to congratulate all the students. A special mention goes to those whose models were voted 'most sustainable' by the class. Alice Murtha (7V), Lewis Anderson (7Z), Freya Dawkins (7V), Alexander De Lan Pascua (7V), Artjoms Stevens (7V) and Lily Marshall (7Z).



## PE

### Duke of Edinburgh

Firstly, I would like to thank Craig Barter, Victoria Jacques, Rebecca Jacques and Emma Vaughan for the part they played in the recent memorial events for the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh. They spoke with great positivity and enthusiasm about the awards that they took part in. The interviews were played on BBC Radio Berkshire on the day of the funeral. Emma and Craig also took part in TV interviews that aired on the 6 o'clock news on BBC South Today. It was a fantastic thing to be involved in and to promote the great experiences the DofE award can offer.



On that positivity, on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May it was fantastic to have Duke of Edinburgh expeditions running once again. The year 11 have been waiting to do their expedition since March 2020 and it is taken them over a year to get out and about. What a wonderful couple of



days it was to have the groups out exploring the local area and really testing their navigation skills. All the teams worked really hard and took onboard advice even if some of them became navigationally challenged. Each group practised



their navigational skills and somewhat edited camping skills to complete their qualifying expedition in the Waltham St Lawrence and Swinley area. The groups now need to complete

their volunteering skill and physical sections before completing their award. Congratulations on persevering through these tough times and coming out the other side with an award.

### ROUTINE INFORMATION

#### School opening times

The School Office will be closed over the May half term break.

### SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL

PTA – Please find the PTA Newsletter and information sheet (Appendix 1).

### STUDENT SUCCESSES OUT OF SCHOOL

#### Karate – Chloe Makepeace



Chloe Makepeace (9V) passed her karate black belt grading over the Easter weekend. This was achieved following 5 years of training and over the last 12 weeks, training or teaching karate for 8 hours a week on top of her school work, piano practice and dancing lessons.

I think you will all agree this is an amazing achievement and a wonderful show of dedication.

Well done!



#### Irish Dancing – Megan Green (11Y)

Some of you may remember the article on Megan in the Newsletter of May 2017 (picture right).

Megan has been a competitive Irish Dancer since the age of 5. She has taken part in many school dance shows since starting at Ranelagh in year 7 showcasing her talent. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, Megan was unable to take part in the World



Championships in 2020 and the majority of the Major dance tournaments were also cancelled. Megan's dance school moved to online training and teaching, so students could keep up to date with their skills and progression. Last summer Megan auditioned and was accepted onto the inaugural Riverdance online Summer School and whilst she had planned to attend Dublin in person after her exams this summer, sadly this has once again moved online. As a dance community there have been many opportunities online for the dancers to learn from the professionals of Riverdance, Lord of the Dance and Fusion Fighters.



However, in the midst of all the changes we have all had to face over the past year, it gives me great please to tell you that two

weeks ago and after months of only online classes, Megan took Grade 10 and has been awarded one of the highest distinction grades. She will go on to take the remaining grades over the next couple of years.

Congratulations Megan!

### **Golf - Joseph Byrne 10W**

Joseph is a very passionate golf player and as a result of his hard work and dedication has been invited to play golf at The Junior Masters Golf Tournament in June. This will take place at the Pollak Golf Club in Glasgow, it is a sponsored event and is played as a 54-hole stroke play event, with a 36-hole cut for the leading players to contest the final round.

The event will count for World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR).

It is Joseph's ambition to attend a college/university in the US to play college golf in 2024.

What a great achievement, and we wish him well for June. Good luck!

### **BRACKNELL FOREST FUTURES 2021**

If you would like to learn more about the Bracknell Forest Futures 2021 event please do click on this [link](#).



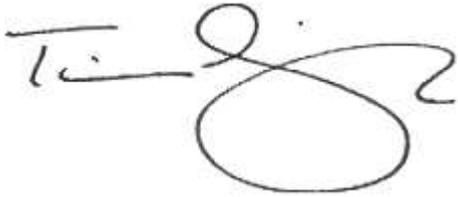
### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Monday 31 (bank holiday) - Friday 4 June	Half term
Monday 7 June	New term begins
Tuesday 20 July	End of Summer Term
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Professional Training Day
Wednesday 1 September	Professional Training Day
Thursday 2 September	Year 7 and Year 12 induction only
Friday 3 September	Year 7 only
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	All students return

**And finally...**

I would like to wish you all a lovely half term holiday. I hope you all have a relaxing time over the next week and that you are able to catch up with family and friends. I am looking forward to returning on Monday 7th June with the possibility of even more normality ahead of us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Griffith'. The signature is stylized with a large loop and a horizontal line extending to the left.

**Mr TRS Griffith  
Headteacher**



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to all of you who have supported us over the past half term. You may have joined in with our online Spring market, participated in our first virtual quiz night, or bought/donated second hand uniform or revision guides perhaps. All support is truly appreciated. Here are few updates on the next activities we have planned:

### Bag 2 School

We have arranged a Bag 2 School second hand clothing and shoes collection on Friday 18 June to raise funds for our school. Details of what we can and cannot accept can be found here

– <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>. If you do have anything to donate, you are welcome to drop donations to one of our PTA volunteers, Liz, at 10 Lysander Drive (The Parks) RG12 9NZ, any time between now and 8pm on Thursday 17 June. Alternatively, you can drop donations to the metal cage that will be available in the school car park between 8.30am on 16<sup>th</sup> June and 9.00am on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Clothes can come from anywhere, so please ask your neighbours for donations too!



### Pre-Loved Uniform & Textbook Donations



Now that the uniform isn't changing until September 2022, we hope to hold a second-hand uniform sale (on an appointment-only basis) in the summer term and are appealing for donations of pre-loved uniform, PE kit, text books and revision guides. You can drop items into the metal cage that will be made available at the front of school from 7<sup>th</sup> June, or you can drop donations any time to one of our PTA volunteers – at either; 10 Lysander Drive (The Parks), RG12 9NZ or 27 Top Common (Warfield), RG42 3SH. Find out more [about our SHU sales](#) on the school website.

### Online Auction

This year's auction is moving online. This allows us to expand our audience, increase the timescale over which we can accept bids. This makes it easier and safer for supporters to make payments online through a secure auction site. The auction will be going live sometime in June (we will let you know when and how to bid after half term!) and we would love to receive more donations before then. Any donations that are suitable for auction can be dropped to our PTA co-chair (Liz) who lives near Ranelagh – 10 Lysander Drive, The Parks, Bracknell, RG12 9NZ – or emailed over to us (for vouchers etc) - [pta@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk](mailto:pta@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk).

**Online  
Auction**



**Match  
Funding**

### Does your Company have a Match Funding Scheme?

There are many companies that support charities through match funding schemes. This means they match any funds raised for charitable causes if one of their employees is linked to the charity event. So, if you work for a big company or your company supports charities in this way, please do [get in touch](#).



### Other PTA events

Coronavirus has hampered our ability to hold face to face events for those in our school community this year. Rest assured that as soon as we are given the green light by the government, the local authority, and the school to go ahead with face-to-face events again, we will get planning but as yet there are no firm dates in the diary! We will let you know as soon as anything changes!



Our **next committee meeting** is scheduled for w/c 14<sup>th</sup> June (date and time TBC). Email us for meeting details. Everyone is welcome!

You can **keep in touch** with the PTA via school emails, our [Facebook page](#), or the school website [PTA pages](#). You can also email us - [pta@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk](mailto:pta@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk) or [secondhanduniform@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk](mailto:secondhanduniform@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk).

Wishing you all a very enjoyable half term break.

Ranelagh PTA