



# Mark Rutherford School

## The Rutherford Review

### Headlines

Welcome to our Spring Term's newsletter; the term was so busy we are issuing it as we start the Summer Term!

We had another busily productive and successful term. Much was achieved with teaching and learning with students in Years 10, 11 and 13 all having mock exams. This new term starts with Year 12 having theirs too. In addition, many local and international trips went out; these support our students with engaging with their learning outside of the classroom whilst also developing their cultural capital. Many other trips are also planned for this term and culminates with the Camps International trip to Borneo. The term ended with performances for the A Level Drama exam and an amazing music concert. You will see from the contents of this newsletter how much is achieved and what fantastic opportunities our committed staff offer our students. We also have lots of amazingly talented students across a wide range of areas.

We will soon be into the formal examination period for students taking their GCSE and A Level exams. Students and staff have been working hard to ensure they are fully prepared and any NEAs have been submitted for internal marking in preparation for the external moderation process. Over the Easter holidays a number of revision sessions for Year 11 and Year 13 were held, to include by external providers, and we will also look to offer these during the May half term break.

I hope you enjoy reading our Spring Term's newsletter and here's to another busy and successful term!

Mrs K Foster, Headteacher

Calling former Mark  
Rutherford School students



CELEBRATE  
**50**

YEARS: 1973-2023

By giving us 50 minutes!!

Support our careers events  
inspire our students about your job &  
career;  
we'll even throw in a tour of the school!

Contact [Careers@mrus.co.uk](mailto:Careers@mrus.co.uk)

### Vallnord Ski Trip

During February half term six members of teaching staff took fifty students to Andorra for a week's skiing. With Beginner and Intermediate groups (and wonderful instructors!) all students were able to access slopes at their level. The group had six days of skiing accompanied by some relaxation time and evening activities such as a quiz, a coach-ride to the capital and bowling. Every day finished with nominations for students who had made progress alongside nominations for staff who were still trying to figure it out! All participants had a wonderful time and we'd all like to thank those involved for making it such a thrilling experience. All photos and videos can be seen on the Instagram page @mrsskitrip24.

Mr Johnson





## Culture Day

Sixth Form students arranged a Culture Day in order to unite the school community in a celebration of diversity.

The day featured music, henna, drummers, dance and cuisines from around the world; staff and students were introduced to different cultures in an interactive and engaging way. Culture Day highlights the impact of student-led efforts in promoting unity and inclusion in our school community and this event excelled, thanks to the work of all involved – the Culture Team (Anusha, Karina, Berago, Mirabel and Sumayyah), the teachers and other staff and students at the school who showcased their own culture. Thanks to all who participated to make this day so enjoyable and successful!

**Mazlifa, Year 13 student**



## World Book Day

To celebrate the annual World Book Day all teaching staff at Mark Rutherford School read aloud a small section of a short story to students throughout the day. Beginning in Tutor Time and finishing at the beginning of Period 5, the whole school read the story 'Harry' by Rosemary Timperley. This created a buzz throughout the day as students had an ongoing dialogue about 'what might happen next' as the day progresses. The twists and turns as more information is gradually revealed always engages the students and creates the culture of 'reading for pleasure' that we want to see at the school.

**Mr Johnson**

## Harpur Trust Together for Bedford

This year is the bi-annual Harpur Trust Art Competition. This is open to all schools across Bedford, from primary to secondary, with prizes for the different age categories culminating in an exhibition for the finalists at the Higgins Gallery and Museum.

To support the Year 9s develop a piece of work exploring the theme of Together for Bedford the Harpur Trust funded an artist workshop with Susan Eskine-Jones, an established artist and printmaker based in Bedfordshire. The students had a fantastic session learning the process of chine collé. We have some beautiful results; seven pieces will be entered into the competition.

**Ms Saunders**



## Primary STEM Day 2024

On Wednesday 13th March we held our greatly anticipated annual Primary STEM Day. This year four of our STEM scholars Sara, Sumaya, Nuha and Maryam planned and carried out a variety of successful learning activities, ably assisted by Binta and Rima. Students in Years 5 and 6 from three local Primary schools attended; Ravensden Primary, Hazeldene Primary and Goldington Green Academy. They had a fun-filled morning finding out about different aspects of space travel and living. The younger years students made solar system models, did an egg drop in which an egg had to safely parachute to earth and made 'elephants' toothpaste' to show how oxygen can be produced in a chemical reaction. Our young visitors were very enthusiastic about the activities and all said they'd had a lovely time. Our Sixth Form STEM scholars are working towards their 'Future Leaders' award from Villiers Park in which students demonstrate different aspects of leadership skills.

**Mrs Baytar**



## National Careers Week

'Never give up on your dream' was the message from Jacqui, an operational dog handler when she spoke to Year 7s and 8s during of National Careers Week.

Jacqui achieved her dream last year, having wanted to be a dog handler since she left school. The students found out about her dog Jai's work, that takes them all over the country and to all sorts of events. Jai is trained to sniff out drugs and pyrotechnics.

**Mrs Unwin**



## Careers in the Navy

On 15th February, we saw our usually quiet library host to thirty prototypes of paper helicopters twirling round the room and thirty Year 7s trying to outdo each other on their design and launching prowess. The day was part of the Royal Navy's engagement team, who delivered a presentation on careers in the Navy, talked about their own experiences, answered questions and had a science lesson on forces used on a helicopter before they were set loose designing their own. The students commented:

- I learned about what people in the Navy do
- I learned about the machines and vehicles the Navy use
- I learned about air resistance
- I thought it was a great learning experience

**Mrs Unwin**



## Brilliant Club – Scholars' Programme

Fourteen Year 12 students are currently participating in the Brilliant Club. This year the topic has been 'Shakespeare or not Shakespeare? That is the question. Tutored by Michel, a doctoral researcher from the Shakespeare Institute at Birmingham University, the course explores the printed development of the Bard's canon. The course takes an original perspective on the changes to writing over the centuries.

Mr Nicholls

## Wadham Project

A group of Year 10 students have been involved in the Wadham Project this year. They have attended lectures about Genetics, Economics, Art History and Psychology to introduce them to possible new courses in the future. The next events are a STEM Day at Redbourne School and a summer visit to Wadham College at Oxford University.

Mr Nicholls

## Speakers

Year 12 have continued to have a range of Speakers in school to talk about their careers and particular topics. Zara Matthews spoke about the unique Panacea Society and her career in Museum work. This was followed by Dr Nicola Darwood from the University of Bedfordshire. She gave a very helpful talk about essay writing technique and how to reference. This is valuable for those writing NEAs (coursework) this year. Kathryn O'Connor (ex MRS) spoke about her move into university life and the opportunities afforded by the University of East Anglia. Following this we were really pleased to welcome back Mohammad Yasin MP. Mr Yasin spoke about his life before Parliament as well as the role he performs. Students really engaged with this session.

Mr Nicholls

## Lego

Mr Ladd organised a trip for students to visit the Lego headquarters in London. During the visit they were able to learn more about how the business operates through exploring how the many constituent parts of this multi-billion-pound business work together to be so successful – from design, to marketing, accounts and more. We are really grateful for the time provided by a range of Lego employees to make a highly successful day.

Mr Nicholls



## Apprenticeship Workshops

Ask Apprenticeships ran two workshops for our students considering Apprenticeships. Year 11 explored the National Apprenticeship website and looked at vacancies and salaries, while our Year 13 had an in-depth discussion on applications, and how to make the most of their skills and how to match buzz words on job descriptions with their experience.

Mrs Unwin



## Year 10

At the end of December, we took thirty students on our first reward trip of the academic year. We went ice skating in Milton Keynes and managed to see Olympian, Greg Rutherford, practising for his upcoming stint on 'Dancing on Ice'. All the students were brilliantly behaved and had a great time.

In January, Kevin 'the magic man' Hayes, provided all students with an hour-long study skills workshop, where students learnt techniques for revision so that they feel confident ahead of their mock exams. Parents then joined us in the evening to enjoy their own workshop with Kevin and learnt the same techniques as the students.

During the last week in February the students took on their first set of mock exams in English, Maths and Science. All the staff involved were so impressed with how well they conducted themselves throughout the three days; this was great insight for the students to see how it will be for their actual GCSEs next year.

We are looking forward to our upcoming reward trips of laser tag and then Thorpe Park in the summer.

Year 10 Team

## 2024 Industrial Cadets Bronze Award Launch

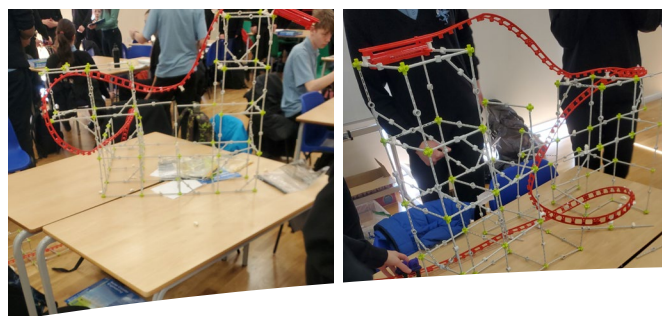
We are excited to announce that for the second year running, our Year 9 students have been offered the opportunity to participate in a Bronze Industrial Cadets project developed by EDT. This project leads to a nationally recognised award that students can use as evidence of their experience and take forward to complement their future applications and career journeys. Students develop key skills for learning, life and work and inform their future career paths and the exciting STEM opportunities available to them. Aligned with the Curriculum for Excellence and the Gatsby Careers Benchmarks, it enhances the work students complete in their academic education. This year's team, Honey, Freya, Olivia, Sophia and Jake (which will also include Hudson), together with their mentor from Mitsubishi Electric, Kenny Gibson-Chhetri met on Wednesday 6th March in The Garner Lecture Theatre for a virtual meeting with EDT and the other schools participating in the project. Following some quizzes and 'getting to know you' activities, the team then had a chance to discuss their project ideas with Kenny. We are excited to see how their project ideas work out and wish them every success!

Mrs Baytar

## Year 9 EDT Day 2024

On Thursday 14th March, we hosted an EDT (Education Development Trust) Challenger experience STEM Day in the Garner Lecture Theatre for students in Year 9. The theme this year was 'Rollercoasters'. Students were placed in teams of 5-6 and after a team building activity building a tall tower capable of holding a number of 100g masses, students then moved on to learning about the physics of rollercoasters and building their own rollercoaster from kits. Our students presented some really interesting designs and ideas, quickly warming to the tasks at hand. The presenters from EDT were impressed with the resilience and creativity of the groups and how well they worked in their teams. All students received a badge and Challenger award certificate as a result of participating in the workshop.

Mrs Baytar





## CERN Trip

Friday 19th January 2024, Mr Stokes, Ms Pinsent and Dr Pateman were greeted by ten very excited A Level Physics students at Bedford train station. Despite it being 4am, all students were eager for their journey to visit the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva to begin. On arrival excitement built as we made our way to CERN by tram, overlooked by gloriously sunny snow-capped mountains. The day was spent exploring the interactive museum at the impressive new visitors' centre, lunch with particle physicists and engineers in the CERN cafeteria and a tour which featured a show on the workings of a cyclotron particle accelerator and visits to the ALICE detector and the control centre. The students were buzzing with new knowledge from discussions with staff who worked there, with one student commenting 'I have been waiting for this day for a year and a half!' It is safe to say that both staff and students had an amazing day!

**Mr Stokes, Ms Pinsent and Dr Pateman**



## Shuttleworth College Visit

Our Year 10 animal lovers enjoyed a visit to Shuttleworth College and Equine Centre set in beautiful parkland and countryside. They had a tour round the zoo and saw a huge range of small mammals, snakes, fish, frogs, lizards, monkeys, gorgeous tortoises and an armadillo. Then went in a very steamy Biome to see which animals were hiding. They also braved the mud to pet the donkeys and say 'hello' to dwarf and giant rabbits and turkeys. They were able to visit student areas and talk to staff about pastoral care and the courses. In the afternoon, they visited the equine centre, which was extremely popular as the horses were very friendly. Students said that the best things about the day were petting the donkeys and the horses, and finding out about different types of animals.

**Mrs Unwin**



## Berlin Trip 16th-19th February 2024

Day 1 started at 4am with a two-hour coach ride to Gatwick airport where we boarded our flight at 9.15am. After a quick flight of just over an hour and a half we landed in Berlin Brandenburg airport. We took our coach to the inner city where our hotel was situated, opposite the infamous memorials of the Berlin wall. We dropped off our luggage and started a guided tour of Berlin where we walked through the streets and down the Unter-den Linden boulevard; while walking we were looking at all of the buildings around it such as the Nazi book burning memorial. During the walk we also saw the magnificent structure of the Brandenburg Gate as well as the Holocaust memorial. The tour had ended and we walked to our dinner reservation. Lastly the Reichstag, walking to the very top learning about its history and seeing the views of Berlin was fantastic.

Day 2 started early, firstly we walked to the Topography of Terror Museum, This was a guided tour full of information on the years spanning from Hitler's chancellorship to post WW2. Subsequently we made our way to Checkpoint Charlie. By now it was lunch time, we made our way to the mall of Berlin which became a hotspot for shopping and eating. Now full of energy a long walk to the Passive Resistance Museum was ahead. In the museum we learnt about resistance to the Nazi regime by young groups and minorities. The museum also held a spot where an assassination attempt occurred on Hitler. Dinner for tonight was an Italian restaurant both the pizza and pasta were delicious. Tonight's activity was bowling, groups of six and under got together and had some nice games of bowling. Mr Margetts had to reign victorious.

Day 3 started off with getting on a coach to Sachsenhausen concentration camp, once there we split into groups for an hour guided tour. The tour started off by showing us a map of the camp, the camp consisted of six main areas, three of which we explored. Firstly, we saw the sleeping quarters these conditions were horrific; up to 300+ people were crammed into a tiny place with only no more than thirty bunkbeds between them all. Next came the rollcall courtyard, here we learnt about the hard labour and punishments the prisoners had to face hours upon hours a day. Lastly came the execution chambers, this was a shocking sight to see as we found out that over 80,000 people sadly died in the concentration camp. On the way to the Olympic stadium, we took a quick pitstop at McDonalds. As we arrived at the Olympics stadium the sheer size of the stadium became apparent. Being one of the few people inside made the experience more surreal. We got to go inside the changing rooms and to the president's box in which Hitler once stood. The Palace of Tears was our final destination. In this building we learnt about the creation of the Berlin Wall and how day to day life was in east and west Berlin. For our last dinner in Berlin we went to a German restaurant situated underneath the TV tower.

Day 4 was our last day in Berlin, as we had to leave early, we walked around Berlin one final time seeing the Reichstag and Brandenburg gate once again. On the way back to our hotel one final stop of at the mall of Berlin was needed. We made our ways back to hotel, gathered our belongings and got on a coach back to the airport. After a long wait in the airport, we boarded our flight around 6pm. Finally, we landed back in England and a two-hour coach ride back brought us to the end of the trip.

**Mr Margetts**

## Poet Encounters

We were incredibly fortunate to be able to welcome local poet Anthea Barclay back into school to work with our Key Stage 3 students. Anthea hosted an interactive session for Years 7, 8 and 9 in regards to the importance of reading in all subjects and the significance that literacy holds in all areas of life. We were also lucky to have Anthea perform some of her own works. Anthea will be back later this half term to work with our Key Stage 4 students ahead of their exams.

**Mr Johnson**



## Cambridge University

Some of our Year 10 mathematicians went to the Centre for Mathematical Sciences at Cambridge University for a day about Maths after GCSE. Our students were able to network with professionals from a wide range of careers demonstrating how maths is used in their industries, from the obvious to some that were surprising. Students took part in a Dragon quiz, creating the longest dragon by solving various mathematical puzzles. We also looked at numbers and where they came from, and how maths can be used to understand the world we live in on a grand and tiny scale.

Mr Doughty



## Careers Fair

Parents, carers and students had the opportunity to meet and chat with various organisations, businesses, Universities and Colleges at our Careers Fair in January. This was a very successful event, appreciated by students, parents and exhibitors.

*"The event was well organised and great to be part of."* SSG training

*"Lots of interest from parents & teachers about current & future roles."* Hybrid Air vehicles

*"Nice range of stalls, everyone was very informative and kind."* Parent

*"Well organised with a good mix of organisations."* Parent

*"All four of us came to the careers fair yesterday evening. Rebecca had a really wonderful time with the engineering stands and we are hoping to organise some work experience with the Airlander group."* Parent

Mrs Unwin



## U16 Bedfordshire County Golf

Evan is now the U16 Bedfordshire County Golf - Scratch Champion.

Evan has worked really hard at his golf and winning this tournament is a testament to this work. This is also the first time that Mark Rutherford School has had its name on the trophy.

Congratulations Evan. A super way to recognise your achievement, and the support that you have from your family. We are all very proud!

Mr Gale



## National Apprenticeship Show

A group of Sixth Form students went to the National Apprenticeship Show at Milton Keynes, where they had the opportunity to talk to various local and national companies such as the BBC, Tui, MBDA and Howdens to find out about their apprenticeship schemes, and we were entertained by the Army Musical Corps.

Mrs Unwin



## Geography Round Up

We have had some of exciting trips during the winter months. We took a group of Year 8 and 9 ambassadors to the climate change conference at the University of Bedfordshire where the students engaged in debate and workshops to think about the challenges and solutions to the climate issues facing us today and in the future. We learnt about how space could offer a solution and the merits of creating renewable energy from hydrogen particles, along with dozens of hands-on stalls and discussions linked to the issues. The students were engaged and motivated and were fantastic representatives for the school. Our Year 13 geographers also completed their three-day residential visit to Southwold and collected all the data they need for their NEA. The weather was really kind and the students collected some excellent results. We saw coastal processes at work and the trip was enjoyed by all. We look forward to more visits in the summer term and beyond...

Mr Morgan

## New Group Reading Tests

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have all continued to be assessed by our NGRTs (New Group Reading Tests) this term. These tests highlight the progress made with students' literacy and allows us to track and monitor reading data across the school. There's no 'revision' required for these tests other than to continue to read for pleasure inside and outside of school.

Mr Johnson

## Taster Day

A group of Year 10 and 11 students had a taster day at Brook Salon, part of Bedford College, to find out about the hairdressing, beauty and barbering courses offered there. The students had a go at practical sessions, blow drying and styling mock heads, and we all came away with beautiful painted nails. We also had a tour of the building and found out a lot about the courses and expectations of the College.

Mrs Unwin



## Summer 2024 Term Key Dates

Thursday 18th April

Year 10 Subject Evening

Monday 6th May

Bank Holiday

Thursday 23rd May

Year 12 Subject Evening

Monday 27th to Friday 31st May

Half Term

Thursday 18th July

End of Summer Term

Friday 19th July

Training Day