



Ranelagh School

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11th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. It has been a very short half term with students and staff working incredibly hard sadly, once again, against the back drop of absence through COVID. Thank you for your continuing support of the students at this time. As I have said before, your involvement in their learning is so important.

“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)

As we head towards Lent, may I encourage you to spend some time accessing the Church of England resources for *#LiveLent: Embracing Justice*. This is the Church of England’s theme for Lent 2022. Both the [Archbishop of Canterbury’s 2022 Lent Book, Embracing Justice](#), and the daily reflections booklet for adults have been written by Isabelle Hamley. It invites us to examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray – for the church and the world far and near – that ‘justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream’ (Amos 5.24). Each week we will be able to follow a different thread through the many stories of justice in the Bible to explore how God works with humanity to bring justice, wholeness and salvation to all. As in recent years, the weekly themes of the Archbishop’s Lent Book are also explored in a daily reflection from the Church of England. *#LiveLent: Embracing Justice* offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a prayer, as well as a practical challenge linked to the week’s theme. An accompanying child’s version is also available to help children and their families explore how we can live well together. The book and booklets will be accompanied by daily social media posts from Ash Wednesday (2nd March) to Easter Day (17th April), together with a wide range of free digital resources for individuals, groups and churches.

A message from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

The six weeks of Lent are a journey. We travel together towards God’s promised world, one where his justice and mercy reign. For many people, Lent is a time of fasting, of choosing to go without. This Lent we are called to be speakers and seekers of justice. We reflect on the injustices of the world and ask what God is calling us to do about them. Over forty days, we step into God’s work in the here and now – and in doing so we move from brokenness towards wholeness. Our journey through Lent is one in which we seek inner transformation to be people of a new world, people who reflect God’s vision that all are created equal. Our prayer is that this may be a time for you – whether by yourself, in community, or online – to see afresh the vision of God and truly join in making his promise of a world transformed a reality.



A message from Adrian Laws, our Chaplaincy Team Leader

We are entering the half term break and are moving towards Lent. For our school this will begin with students making their way to Holy Trinity Church for a communion service on Ash Wednesday. The day signifies the time Jesus went into the wilderness to be tested and tempted.

As we edge towards the end of the restrictions brought in during the pandemic it feels as if we've all been tested, some of us to the point of losing jobs, losing purpose, losing hope and worse case losing friends or family. As we do enter the later stages I ask you to focus on what Jesus must have felt like at this time as he had no food, no water and Satan constantly teasing and testing Him. The feeling of relief and freedom he must have experienced as He was able to get back to normality, to once again meet up with his friends and to do the things that had been denied him. There are so many similarities between His struggle and ours in a world under attack by a virus during the pandemic. Thankfully light is cast out darkness and with it comes a new season of hope. With spring and then summer on the horizon I can really see that light and that hope, the thought of sunny days, summer holidays, meaningful time with friends and family and the chance to allow COVID 19 to become a part of history. Many give up something for Lent in remembrance of Jesus in the wilderness and if that's you I commend and salute you. If, however, you don't feel called to give up something why not reverse it? For forty days perhaps look to perform more acts of kindness, be a support to someone, check in on people and generally aim to make your interactions with people a more positive experience. This is a highly contagious act and perhaps it might turn in to a habit!

Finally, I am excited to share that, from Monday 7th until Friday 11th March, there will be a prayer space opening for all students and staff to attend in the school. I am excited as this is happening for the first time since the pandemic. I am hopeful that this space allows the school to join together in prayer, in thanks and as a connected family.

Have a wonderful half term break, come back refreshed, and be mindful that sunshine, light and hope await us all. Love & Blessings.

Testing during the half term holiday

There is no requirement for students and staff to continue to test over the half term break. I would ask that all students and staff do test on the morning of Tuesday 22nd February or the evening before if this is not possible. Please report all test outcomes via this [link](#) and, if the LFD test is positive, notify the school immediately via telephone or email. If you need more tests, you are able to collect them from pharmacies, community centres such as a library and COVID 19 test sites. You are also able to place an online order following this [link](#).

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Library

Ranelagh students celebrated Harry Potter Book Night on Thursday 3rd February with a magical quiz to test their wizarding knowledge. The library was fit to bursting with Potterheads – there were definitely no muggles present! All 11 teams, big and small, showed they were prepared to tackle any challenge, face any Dark Lord, to prove they had what it takes to win the title of Quizzarding Champions.

20 questions were asked, but this seemed nothing to these enthusiasts – most teams reaching mighty scores of 15 or more. Well done to everyone who took part.



However, in the end, there was only one winning team with a whopping willow of a score, 19 – The Sorting Hats! Congratulations to this deserving year 9 team: Finnley Knapp (9W), Liam Coggins (9W) and Benjamin Spring (9X).

PE

School Cross-Country Championships

On Saturday 22nd January, 42 of our students took part in the Berkshire School Cross Country Championships held at Newbury Showground. They competed against some of the best cross-country runners from across Berkshire.

There were some outstanding performances from Year 7 all the way through to Year 13. As a result of this, we have had numerous runners selected to represent Berkshire in an inter-counties fixture on Saturday 5th February (to qualify you needed to finish in the top-16 in the race) with the possibility to qualify for the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Kent on Saturday 19th March.



The stand out performances came from Edward Conaghan (7th) in the Year 7 Boys race, James Farley (11th) and John Youd (15th) in the Year 8 and 9 Boys race, Abi Farley came 1st the Year 8 and 9 Girls race, George Thomas (3rd) in the Year 10 and 11 Boys race, Ella Davey (3rd) in the Year 10 and 11 Girls race and Jasmine Young (4th) in the 6th Form race. There were also many team successes. Teams consisted of the first four runners from each school finishing and the team with the lowest score takes the title. The Year 10 and 11 Girls won the team competition with Ella Davey (3rd), Amelia Murphy (21st), Rhianna Battersby (26th) and Zoe Horsfield (27th). Our Year 7 Boys 'A' team (the first four Ranelagh runners to finish) finished 3rd in the team competition with Edward Conaghan (7th), Jack Gregson (17th), Will Jones (24th) and Ben Norton (25th). The Year 10 and 11 Boys finished 2nd with George Thomas (3rd), George Riley (26th), Theo Robinson (31st) and Ben Burton (41st).

All our students performed admirably and were a credit to our school.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

A list of enrichment opportunities available to students can be found using the following link:

<https://www.ranelagh.bracknell-forest.sch.uk/school-information/clubs-and-activities/>

Please encourage your child to take part in some of the activities on offer. They provide a great opportunity to make new friends and develop different skills.

Ranelagh Craft Club

Students at Ranelagh have been attending a new club at lunchtimes on Tuesdays for those who love to craft with Miss Nicklen and Miss Turner. Creations made so far have included bookmarks, pom-poms, Christmas tree decorations, jewellery and a fantastic pom-pom wreath, a team effort from the crafting club which proudly hung on Mr Griffith's door over the Christmas period. Hugo, our school Therapy dog also enjoys the talents of the students' craft making in the form of toys.



Projects starting soon are for special days such as Mother's Day, Valentine's day and holidays in the Christian Calendar.

We are keen on recycling and creating less waste so, if you attend the club, we are asking if you have any materials at home you no longer use that you think may be useful for the Ranelagh Craft Club please do bring them along with you.



If you have an old unloved jeans, we are currently looking for denim to create a 'snuffle mat,' for Hugo which will be used with students during sessions with him, so if you have any old jeans, please drop them in to reception.

Craft Club has been a confidence booster for students, especially for the year 7s who regularly attend and offers a chance for students to have good social interaction and make new friends. Students who have attended have now created strong bonds with each other whilst doing something fun, creative and mindful.



ROUTINE INFORMATION

School opening times

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

Absence

If your child is displaying the symptoms of COVID-19 or is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform the school early on the first day of absence (by telephone before 9.00am – select option 1 and leave message on the answerphone) and on each subsequent day of absence. If we have not received a message or you do not give the reason for your child's absence the school will contact you. Whilst we encourage prompt arrival to school please also remind your child to

sign in at reception if they miss registration. Please refer to the Attendance: School Practice Reference checklist, which is on the school's website.

Please ensure you complete a Notification of Absence form when your child returns to school following illness. This can be found on the school's website.

Further information regarding attendance can be found on the website: <https://ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk/school-information/attendance/>

SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL

PTA – The PTA Newsletter and information sheet (Appendix 1).

Friends of Ranelagh – News and updates (Appendix 2).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note that after half-term, school re-opens on Tuesday 22nd February.

Monday 14 – Monday 21 February	Half Term
Wednesday 23 February	Year 8 Parent-Carer Consultation evening (online)
Tuesday 1 March	Year 10 Parent-Carer Consultation evening (online)
Wednesday 2 March	Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Church
Friday 4 March	Year 8 The Globe Players : Macbeth
Friday 11 March	Year 7 Animal Roadshow in School
Wednesday 16 March	Year 12 Parent-Carer Consultation evening (online)
Thursday 17 March	Bronze DofE practice expedition to Swinley Forest (Year 10)
Thursday 31 March	Year 12 & 13 Art visit to Cornwall
Friday 1st April	End of Term
Sunday 3 April	Year 12 & 13 Art visit to Cornwall - returns
Monday 4 – Monday 18 April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 19 April	Start of Summer Term Summer Uniform
Thursday 21 April	Year 12 Geography visit to Windsor/Bracknell
Friday 22 April	Year 10 The Globe Players: Romeo & Juliet
Tuesday 26 April	Whole School Photo Year 12 Geography visit to Studland
Wednesday 27 April	Ranelagh Musician of the Year grand final 7pm
Monday 2 May	Bank Holiday
Monday 9 May	Year 10 Geography visit to Dinton
Friday 13 May	Boys' track & field cup county regional Year 10 Bronze DofE expedition to Henley
Saturday 14 May	Girls' track and field cup county regional Year 10 Bronze DofE expedition to Henley

Monday 16 May	Year 10 Art trip to London
Thursday 19 May	Year 10 Art visit to London gallery
Thursday 26 May	Holy Communion/Ascension Day – School Hall 9am
Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June	Half term
Saturday 4 June	Year 7 Bracknell Athletics

And finally...

I would like to wish you all a lovely half term holiday. I hope you all have a relaxing time over the coming week and that you are able to catch up with family and friends. I look forward to seeing the students back in school on Tuesday 22nd February.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. R. S. Griffith', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mr T R S Griffith
Headteacher



Ranelagh School Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

PTA HALF TERM UPDATE

February 2022



FUNDRAISING & SPENDING UPDATE



In our meeting at the end of January, the PTA committed to pay £9,000 on new music software, ovens and oven servicing, equipment to refurbish the breathing space, new science equipment, DT equipment, two new table tennis tables and some new gym mats. We know that equipment will benefit every Ranelagh pupil in some way and we have already had messages of thanks from department heads saying how much difference that equipment will make! 🥰

We have managed to raise just over £6,700 this year so far, which is a great start, but we still have a way to go to reach our £15,500 target to fund a year's worth of youth counselling, new bike storage racks and the first year's lease of a new school minibus on top of the school equipment we have already funded.

A huge THANK YOU to each and every one of you who has supported the fundraising events and initiatives that have helped us so far. **We have several more fundraising activities planned for this term AND various opportunities to support us - see below for details!**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOW until Thursday 24th Feb – [Bag2School collection](#)

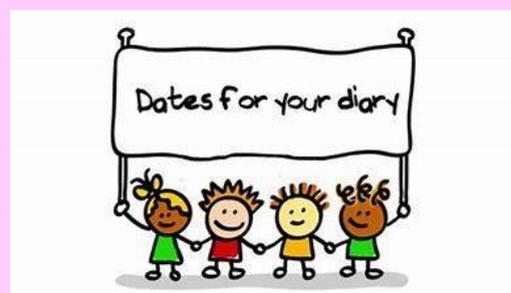
Saturday 26th Feb - [SHU sale](#), 12-3pm

Saturday 26th March – [Quiz night](#)

Thursday 12th May – [PTA meeting](#)

Summer term (dates TBC) – [Fundraising auction](#)

Saturday 2nd July – [Founders Day](#)



Bag2School collection



We are having another Bag2School collection shortly after half term.

We are collecting clothes, paired shoes, handbags, belts, accessories and more – see the full list at <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect> (n.b. we cannot take uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)

Donations can be dropped off any time from now until 8pm on Thursday 24th February to one of the following locations:

- 10 Lysander Drive, The Parks, RG12 9NZ
- 28 Astra Mead, Winkfield Row, RG42 7TA
- 27 Top Common, Warfield, RG42 3SH

The more the bags weigh on collection day, the more we get paid!



Second hand uniform (SHU) sale

**SECOND HAND
UNIFORM SALE**

**Volunteers
Needed!**



We are planning to hold an in-person second hand uniform sale at school on Saturday 26th February 2022. The sale will take place in the school hall. Appointments are not necessary - just turn up between 12pm and 3pm, but please be patient with us as we may need to restrict the number of people in the hall at any one time to ensure social distancing.

We really need a few more volunteers to help at this SHU sale. If you are able to help, even for just an hour, please email secondhanduniform@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk

Quiz night

We are delighted to be planning our first in-person fundraising quiz for a couple of years on Saturday 26 March 2022, from 7pm! If you're in the mood for having some fun with friends whilst also helping us raise vital funds for our school, get yourself a team and get signed up!



The details:

- Each team should have 6-8 players
- This is an adults only event
- Tickets are £10 per person, which includes your quiz entry fee and a selection of nibbles.
- Tickets are only available to purchase online here - <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/RanelaghPTAQuiz2022>
- We only have space for 15 teams in the school hall (to allow for plenty of space between tables and teams) so get organised and get your tickets early to secure your place!
- Tables are welcome to bring their own food / additional nibbles, but we ask that all drinks are purchased from the bar on the night.

At the point of purchasing your ticket(s) you will be asked to provide:

- The names of the people you are buying tickets for
- A contact email address
- Your team name

Any questions at all, please email us - PTA@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk

Summer term PTA meeting



If you're interested in finding out about the work of the PTA and/or would like to support us, we would love to meet you. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12th May 2022. Please [email us](#) and we will confirm where the meeting is taking place and send you over a copy of the agenda and papers.



Ranelagh School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) FEBRUARY 2022 HALF TERM UPDATE

Summer auction



As well as running in-person events, **we are hoping to run an online auction again in the summer. If you have anything that we could auction off, we would be VERY keen to hear from you!** Could you give us a voucher for a service? Could you give us a gift voucher? Could you persuade your employer to donate something? Do you have any unwanted gifts that someone else might want? Whatever you have, please [get in touch](#).

Founders day

We are delighted to be planning our first face-to-face Founders Day in two years at school on Saturday 2nd July.

Further details will be confirmed in time, but in the meantime, please do save the date in your diaries!

Ranelagh School
**Founders
Day 2022**

Other ways you can support our fundraising efforts



Bracknell Forest Lottery is a weekly lottery that raises money for local good causes. Tickets cost £1 each per week, with 50p of every pound going towards your chosen good cause. You have a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize every Saturday when the numbers are drawn, with a top prize of £25,000! That's much better odds of winning than the National Lottery or the Health Lottery! You can find full details and sign up here - www.bracknellforestlottery.co.uk/support/ranelagh-school-pta



KindLink is the online fundraising platform we use for supporters to make one-off or ongoing donations towards PTA fundraising targets. Kindlink was set up to help charities like us raise more money whilst not losing out to high online processing fees. Giving is easy at kindlink.com/charity/ranelagh-school-pta/profile



Please sign up to easyfundraising.org.uk and raise funds when you shop online at no extra cost to you! Just [go to the webpage](#) and register stating that Ranelagh School PTA – Berkshire is your chosen charity to receive any commission donated by the stores you shop from.



If shopping with Amazon simply sign up for their **Amazon Smile** scheme and they too will make a donation every time you shop. It costs you nothing! Find out more here - <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

GET IN TOUCH



If you would like to know more about anything in this update, what the PTA do or how you can support us, email PTA@Ranelagh.Bonitas.org.uk.

You can also keep in touch with us through Facebook - [ranelaghschoolpta](#) and the [PTA pages](#) on the school website.



Raising money for your children's benefit

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this update about the work of the Friends of Ranelagh.

The Friends have continued to be active since my last letter to you, working on ways to support the school and its students.

Most recently, we considered a request for funding to purchase 'Big Pads' for classrooms to replace the very old projectors and smartboards, some of which are more than ten years' old.

Big Pads are the most cost-effective and affordable displays for the school and, as the name suggests, they can be used just as one would a tablet, only larger.

These new screens should be appearing in the Centenary Block and the Old Building by September. We are hoping to publish students' reactions to how these new screens are impacting their learning so you can hear from them how parents' generosity is directly impacting school life.

It never ceases to amaze me how fortunate we are to have such committed parents; thank you.

One of the major benefits of contributing via the Friends is our ability to top-up parental and other donations by claiming Gift Aid, which we can use to help the school. If you do not currently donate, I urge you to do so. You can contact me by e-mail [robbiemcl@hotmail.com] or via the Friends page on the school's website [<https://ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk/associations/friends-of-ranelagh/>].

As we take steps to return to some sort of normality, I look forward to seeing you at future school events but do let me know in the meantime if you want to know more about the work of the Friends.

Kind regards

Robert McLean
Chairman
Friends of Ranelagh