Ranelagh School

Ranelagh School, Ranelagh Drive, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 9DA
Telephone: 01344 421233
Email: enquires@ranelagh.org.uk
Website: www.ranelagh.org.uk

21st October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of our first half term of the autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, encouragement and positive engagement with the school. The partnership between home and school plays an important role in helping our students to feel supported, achieve their potential and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

It has been a busy, positive and productive start to the new academic year and I am delighted with the way the students have settled. They have been developing their learning routines, building relationships with their peers and teachers and adapting to the expectations and challenges of the year ahead.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will find a selection of highlights from the first half of the term, celebrating some of the achievements, activities and experiences that have taken place across the school. I have also included important dates for your diary, along with details of forthcoming events and opportunities to look forward to during the second half of the autumn term.

Parking on site/off site

Please may I remind some parents and carers that students should not be dropped off on the school site unless there is an exceptional reason. Ranelagh Drive is a very narrow road that is shared by cars and pedestrians. Limiting the traffic at peak times is essential in helping to keep students and residents safe. If there is an exceptional reason then please do contact me at school. Those parents and carers dropping off/collecting children off site 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.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

PE Reminders

Contacting the PE Department

Parents and carers should email penote@ranelagh.org.uk for any PE-related issues. This ensures that messages reach all staff in the department, especially if a student needs to be excused due to illness or injury.

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Expectations for Excused Students

Students excused from PE are still expected to get changed, inform their teacher before the lesson, and take part in alternative ways such as officiating, coaching, analysing performances or learning rules.

If lessons are outdoors, they may wear a coat or additional layers over their PE kit.

Alternative Supervision

In exceptional cases, excused students may be asked to read or complete schoolwork away from their group if supervision is available. Please ensure they have suitable materials with them in case this occurs. Teachers will decide on a case-by-case basis.

Kit and Lost Property

Please ensure all PE kit is clearly marked — initials should appear on the outside, and full names inside each item.

We currently have a large number of unnamed items in lost property, including several whole bags of kit. Unfortunately, we cannot return these without identification. Please encourage your child to check the PE lobby shelves if they are missing any items.

Library - Harry Potter Book Day Celebrations in the Library



With the wave of a magic wand, Ranelagh library was transformed into a haven for Harry Potter Fans for the day on Friday 9th October. Students entered through Platform 9 ¾ to wield wands in Ollivanders shop, join Hagrid's Dog, Fang in his cosy hut; cover their ears from the shrieking mandrake root in Herbology, avoid the Grimm in Divination as well as wonder at all of the weird and wonderful spell ingredients in Potion Class.





At break and lunchtime, students took part in a spell hunt; part Harry Potter quiz, part test of their observational and puzzle solving skills. If given the clue 'I open at the close' would you know to look in the golden snitch at the Quidditch Pitch? If told you that 'this book bites!' would you remember to look in the chomping monster book in Hagrid's Hut? Thankfully, two teams managed to solve all of the clues to reveal the hidden spell: REVELIO.





Congratulations to team A: Aurora Fry 7W, Georgia Coleman 7W, Miriam Doherty 7Z and team B: Amelia Sanderson 7Z, Megan Davis 7Z, Megan Soiza 7V and Naava Karayath 7U; as well as our solo runner-up winner Thomas Rose 7W. All received Harry Potter themed goodies.



Modern Foreign Languages

<u>Celebrating European Day of Languages</u>
This term, we celebrated European Day of Languages in MFL, with students taking part in a range of fun activities during their lessons, including European-themed quizzes and language challenges. These activities gave students the chance to test their knowledge, while recognising the importance of learning languages and discovering different cultures.

Our Year 7 students also showcased their creativity in a poster competition on the theme "Why Are Languages Important?", sharing their ideas about the benefits of learning languages and how they can open doors to new friendships, cultures and opportunities. They also took part in a language-themed treasure hunt, putting their knowledge and problem-solving skills to the test!

Congratulations to all our winners, who received prizes in recognition of their fantastic efforts.

<u>Year 7 Poster Competition Winners</u> :
7U – Mia Mehlberg 7U, Leah Fung 7V(Overall winner), Kamile Sutinyte 7W, Zuzanna Selowoniuk 7X, Amber Chu 7Y and Sienna Edwards 7Z.

<u>Year 7 Treasure Hunt Winners:</u>

7Y - John Bankole, Jack George Flynn, Jack Rooney and Henry Costello.

Well done to everyone who participated and helped make the celebrations such a success.

<u>Languages Club</u>
We have had a very successful half term in Languages Club! Each week, students have enjoyed exploring a range of countries, discovering interesting cultural traditions and learning about different parts of the world through fun, hands-on activities. From discovering fascinating facts to creating colourful crafts, there has been plenty of opportunity to learn something new while having fun.

One particular favourite was our session exploring Denmark and creating *julehjerter*!
Julehjerter, which means *Christmas hearts* in Danish, which are traditional woven paper hearts, often made from red and white paper and are used as Christmas decorations. They are a much-loved part of Danish festive traditions and are hung on Christmas trees. Have a look at our school Instagram to see the students' lovely creations.

Fun Fact - Denmark is famous for hygge (pronounced "hoo-gah"), a Danish concept centred around cosiness, comfort and enjoying the simple things in life with others.

Songs of the Month: French and Spanish

Music is a fantastic way to experience another language. We are introducing our French and Spanish Songs of the Month, giving students the opportunity to engage with music from French and Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

Listening to songs in another language can help us discover new vocabulary, improve our pronunciation, recognise familiar expressions and gain a deeper appreciation of the cultures behind the music.

French Song of the Month / La chanson du mois

Song: *Gamins des Sables*
Artist: Jérémy Frerot

Spanish Song of the Month / La canción del mes

Song: *Vivir Mi Vida*
Artist: Marc Anthony

Scrapbook Club – Creativity, Calm and a Little Dancing!

Scrapbook Club, run by Miss Turner, with support from Miss Cole, in S43 at lunchtime, has been bringing students together for three years and it's busier than ever!

The club offers a welcoming, safe space where students from Years 7, 8 and 9 can relax, express themselves and get creative. From journaling prompts and mindful activities to colourful collages packed with stickers, washi tape and patterned paper, there's something for everyone. It's a chance to take a break from the school day, switch off, explore ideas and create something completely their own.

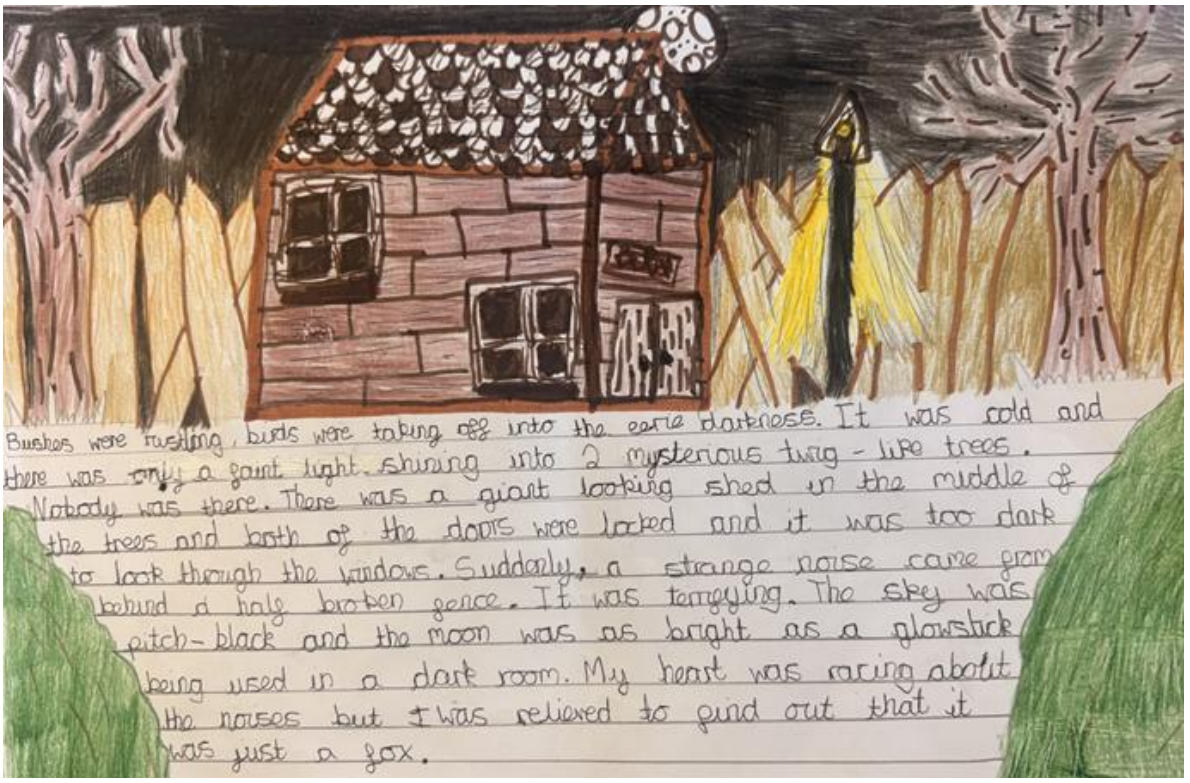
Students love having a space where they can be themselves, share ideas and get stuck into something creative with friends. Whether they're carefully planning a scrapbook page, experimenting with colourful designs or laughing together over their latest creations, there's always a buzz in S43.

Scrapbooking isn't all we get up to. We have created our very own official Scrapbook Club dance routine – because why not combine creativity with a little fun?

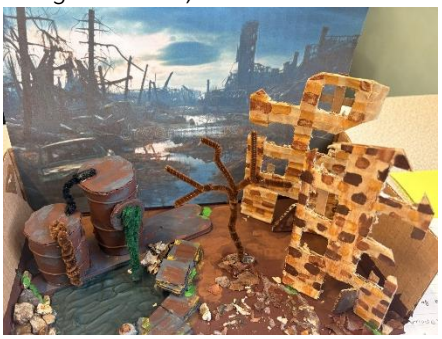
With boys and girls from different year groups sharing ideas, making memories and enjoying time together, Scrapbook Club is a wonderful reminder that creativity brings people together. Here's to another year of colourful pages, happy memories and plenty of dancing!

Welcome to Our Dystopian Worlds! Year 8's Hunger Games Project

What happens when you combine *The Hunger Games*, imaginative writing and a whole lot of creativity? Year 8's fantastic dystopian worlds!

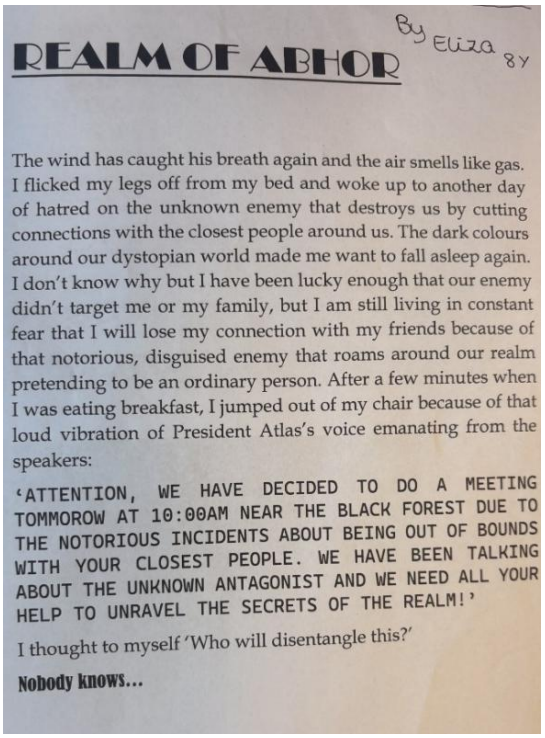


As part of their study of dystopian fiction with Miss Turner, students in 8H2 and 8H5 have been exploring how writers create unsettling, mysterious and often terrifying worlds. Inspired by *The Hunger Games*, students took on the challenge of creating their very own dystopian setting, bringing their imagined worlds to life in wonderfully inventive ways.



From atmospheric descriptive writing that transported readers into dark, unsettling futures to incredible three-dimensional creations made from LEGO, cardboard boxes and even 3D-printed models, the range of ideas was brilliant. Students put an enormous amount of thought, time and effort into their work, carefully considering how their settings would look, feel and operate. Some imagined societies controlled by powerful leaders, while others created strange, futuristic worlds where survival was the ultimate challenge.




REALM OF ABHOR

By Eliza 8Y

The wind has caught his breath again and the air smells like gas. I flicked my legs off from my bed and woke up to another day of hatred on the unknown enemy that destroys us by cutting connections with the closest people around us. The dark colours around our dystopian world made me want to fall asleep again. I don't know why but I have been lucky enough that our enemy didn't target me or my family, but I am still living in constant fear that I will lose my connection with my friends because of that notorious, disguised enemy that roams around our realm pretending to be an ordinary person. After a few minutes when I was eating breakfast, I jumped out of my chair because of that loud vibration of President Atlas's voice emanating from the speakers:

'ATTENTION, WE HAVE DECIDED TO DO A MEETING TOMMOROW AT 10:00AM NEAR THE BLACK FOREST DUE TO THE NOTORIOUS INCIDENTS ABOUT BEING OUT OF BOUNDS WITH YOUR CLOSEST PEOPLE. WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE UNKNOWN ANTAGONIST AND WE NEED ALL YOUR HELP TO UNRAVEL THE SECRETS OF THE REALM!'

I thought to myself 'Who will disentangle this?'

Nobody knows...

To celebrate their achievements, we held a special Dystopian Gallery Lesson, transforming the classroom into an exhibition of Year 8's imagination. Students explored one another's work, shared ideas and left thoughtful comments, celebrating each other's creativity and effort. It was wonderful to see them taking pride in their own creations while showing genuine interest in the work of their classmates.

Clubs & After school activities

A full list of extra-curricular activities can be found on our website:
https://www.ranelagh.org.uk/Students/Clubs-Activities/

ROUTINE INFORMATION

Uniform

Thank you for the support you give the school in encouraging your children to look smart. In particular, students are reminded that:

- ✓ Shirts/blouses must be tucked in
- ✓ Skirts must be worn as they were designed
- ✓ No jewellery, except as stated on the website
- ✓ Long hair must be tied back off the face; no extreme hairstyles
- ✓ School shoes should be plain black, flat and logo-free. They must be leather or leather like
- ✓ All PE equipment/clothing should have a name label or initials
- ✓ The school office continues to sell Ranelagh school ties.

Religious and/or cultural items

Ranelagh School prides itself on its diverse and inclusive community. Should your child wish to wear items/clothing of religious and/or cultural significance, we are happy to provide guidance on an individual basis.

Jewellery/Earrings

Plain studs and one plain watch. No nose or tongue studs. Only one stud should be worn in the lobe of each ear. All other jewellery is inappropriate for school-wear and must not be worn. Please consider the time needed for piercings to heal if choosing to pierce during the holidays. All earrings must be removed for PE and are only permitted to be taped for a maximum of 6 weeks for which students must supply their own tape. We recommend that expensive items are not brought in to school.

Make Up

Neutral, discreet make up is permitted in Year 12 and 13 only. Heavy make-up, nail polish, acrylic/gel nails and false eyelashes are not permitted.

Contact details

In order to help us to accurately maintain our records, please ensure the school is informed immediately of any change of address, telephone number or email address.

Absence

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform the school early on the first day of absence (by sending an email to attendance@ranelagh.org.uk , or by telephone on 01344 421233 **before 8.30am** – select option 1 and leave a 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's Attendance Officer 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.

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 parent portal.

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

Religious observances

At Ranelagh School we celebrate and encourage students to celebrate their religious observances throughout the year. If you are celebrating a religious observance and wish your child to be included, please email attendance@ranelagh.org.uk

Free school meals

Free school meals are available to children whose parents/carers are in receipt of a qualifying benefit. More information is available from your Local Authority at either www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/ freeschoolmeals or www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools/schoolmeals/, or please telephone the school.

Pupil Premium

The school receives additional funding, called the Pupil Premium, for each student in receipt of free school meals, for each looked-after child and children from families with parents in the Armed Forces. This additional funding is used to help children in this group make the best progress possible.

If you would like more information, please contact Mrs Bester, Inclusion Manager.

Mobile telephones

Mobile telephones are not allowed in school. In exceptional circumstances permission to bring a phone into school may be obtained from the Headteacher. In such cases the mobile phone must be handed in at the school office for safekeeping during the day.

School Website

Students parents and carers new to Ranelagh are reminded that the school website is packed with useful information, including details of each 'half terms' menu choices (School Information – Catering), information about clubs and activities (School Information) and support for student well-being (School Information – Keeping Well – Staying Safe).

SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL AND OTHER NOTICES

PTA – Please see Appendix 1.

Ranelagh Prayer Group

Please contact our Chaplain, Adrian Laws: alaws@ranelagh.org.uk for further information.

SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY

Christmas Fun – Bracknell Forest Council
Free Holiday activities and food (HAF) for children and young people entitled to Targeted Free School Meals (FSM). – Appendix 2

Teen Writing Group at Wokingham Library – Appendix 3

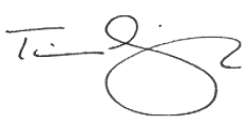
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 22 – Friday 30 October	Half term
Wednesday 28 October	Year 13 Morocco trip return
Monday 2 November	Professional training day
Thursday 5 November	Holy Communion 8.30am, Holy Trinity Church
Monday 9 November	Year 7-11 Flu Immunisations Year 11 GCSE mocks start
Tuesday 10 November	Year 13 Online Parent/Carer Consultation evening 5.00-8.00pm
Monday 16 November	Year 11 GCSE mocks continue
Friday 19 November	Year 11 GCSE mock exams end
Monday 23 November	Year 11 Work experience week
Thursday 26 November	Prizegiving 7.00-9.00pm, Main Hall
Wednesday 2 December	Christmas Concert 7.00-9.00pm, Main Hall
Friday 4 December	Year 7 Oakwood trip Sixth form Christmas Ball
Monday 7 December	Year 7 Oakwood trip
Tuesday 8 December	Year 7 Oakwood trip Year 10 French exchange depart
Wednesday 9 December	Year 7 Oakwood trip
Thursday 10 December	Year 7 Oakwood trip
Friday 11 December	Year 7 Oakwood trip
Tuesday 15 December	Carol Service 7.00-9.00p, Holy Trinity Church
Friday 18 December	End of term
Monday 21 December to Friday 1 January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4 January	Professional Training Day
Tuesday 5 January	Start of Term

And finally,

I hope you and your families enjoy a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for the next stage of what promises to be another exciting and successful term.

Yours sincerely



Mr TRS Griffith
Headteacher

Autumn Newsletter

Ranelagh PTA

pta@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk

The Team

Our Committee For 2026/27:

Chair : Position Vacant
Vice Chair : Asun – yr8 & 10
Treasurer : Ben – yr11
Secretary : Donna – yr9 & 6th
SHU Lead : Girate – yr8

Parent Volunteers:

Sergeo–yr10, Ruth–yr10, Leanne–y7, Val–yr8, Eda–yr7, Corrine–yr8, Luiza–yr8, Thanuja–yr7, Jay–yr8, Alina–yr7, Ric–yr7, Cleo–yr7

Fundraising Update

We are delighted to announce that the PTA managed to raise over £12,000 for our school last year! A huge THANK YOU to our hardworking volunteers and to each and every one of you who has supported us



Youth Line

We're proud to continue funding £5000 towards YouthLine, helping them support our young people throughout the year.



Mini Bus

We contributed £5000 towards the school minibus, helping our students travel to school events and activities. Just two more years of payments to go!



Curriculum Bids

Over £5,000 towards fitness equipment, History text books, video camera for the English department, goal posts for the PE department and many more!

This Season's Activities

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Our famous PTA Hamper Elves will soon be busy creating a fantastic selection of Christmas hampers, including a Family Night In, Spa Hamper, Traditional Christmas Hamper and many more.
If you're able to contribute, please choose an item suitable for one of the hampers:
https://signup.com/go/bBJtzYF

Christmas Fayre

It may only be October, but we're already busy getting everything ready for our Christmas Fayre! Our Bottle, Chocolate and Gift Tombolas are always incredibly popular, and we'll be adding a Christmas jumper stall! We will shortly be asking for your help with donations.

Thank you!!

A heartfelt thank you to Mel and Karen, who have been such a huge part of our PTA over the past few years. In their final year, they took on the roles of Chair and Vice Chair and helped make the PTA the warm, friendly and welcoming team it is today. We are incredibly grateful for all the time, energy and enthusiasm they have given to the PTA and our school community. Thank you, Mel and Karen, you will be greatly missed!

PTA Message

We need your help!
We're hoping to find one volunteer from every class to support our PTA fundraising events. It could be as little as one hour of your time, but that hour can make a huge difference. With more volunteers, we can raise more funds to benefit our children and enrich their school experience. Every little bit of help really does count.

Important Dates

Nov 13	**Hamper Donations** Yr 7's only
Nov 13	**Christmas Jumper Donations**
Nov 20	**Bottle/Chocolate/ Gifts Donations**
Dec 5	**Christmas Fayre** Time: 12–2pm

SHU uniformerly.co.uk

The PTA sells good–quality second–hand uniform online, all kindly donated by Ranelagh families.
The SHU team will prepare orders once a week during term time, and they will email you when your order is ready for collection from reception.
We also welcome clean donations of navy 'ASPIRE' uniform, PE kit, ties, lab coats and aprons. Items can be dropped off at school reception during school hours.
Thank you for donating and helping us keep the uniform shop stocked!

Appendix 2



Bracknell Forest Council

Christmas fun

Free holiday activities and food (HAF) for children and young people entitled to Targeted Free School Meals (FSM).

Bracknell Forest Council is working closely with local companies to help support a wide range of children's Christmas holiday clubs.

The holiday clubs provide:

- **sports**
- **music and drama**
- **swimming**
- **arts and crafts**

and so many more fun activities!



Booking is available from **Monday, 2 November 2026** for children registered for Targeted Free School Meals.

Most clubs provide a healthy meal and snacks. Check the clubs booking page for more information.

The holiday activities and food programme is a Department for Education funded programme to support children aged 4-16 years (Reception - Year 11) in receipt of Targeted Free School Meals.





Register for Free School Meals:
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals

Book your place on the HAF programme: eequ.org/bracknellforesthaf

Appendix 3

Teen Writing Group

AT WOKINGHAM LIBRARY

JOIN IGNITING WRITING,
WOKINGHAM LIBRARY'S TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

FACE TO FACE SESSIONS EVERY SATURDAY
(EXCEPT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS)

SESSION FOR YEAR 6-8 9.45AM TO 11.15AM
SESSION FOR YEAR 9-13 11.45AM TO 1.15PM

THE SESSIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL
YEAR 6 TO YEAR 13 STUDENTS

SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:
- FUN WRITING ACTIVITIES
- USEFUL WRITING TIPS
- GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON STORY IDEAS

ALL SESSIONS NEED TO BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE
TO SIGN UP FOR SESSIONS, VISIT THE EVENTS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.WOKINGHAM.GOV.UK/LIBRARIES

Wokingham Borough Libraries

Igniting

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL